

RICHMOND SYMPHONY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Richmond Symphony Welcomes Third Music Director Candidate, Laura Jackson

Richmond, Va. (Jan. 6, 2020)—The Richmond Symphony is pleased to host its third **Music Director Candidate, Laura Jackson**, from Jan. 31-Feb. 9, 2020. Jackson will lead a series of Symphony concerts and pre-concert talks in the community, including:

- Special Concert on **Fri., Jan. 31 at 7 p.m.** at Midlothian High School (Midlothian, Va.) with Julian Schwarz, cello
- Altria Masterworks concert on **Sat., Feb. 1 at 8 p.m.** at Dominion Energy Center, Carpenter Theatre, with Julian Schwarz, cello; pre-concert talk with Jackson at **7 p.m.**
- Rush Hour at Hardywood concert on **Thurs., Feb. 6 at 6:30 p.m.** at Hardywood Park Craft Brewery, Scott's Addition
- Metro Series concert on **Sun., Feb. 9 at 3 p.m.** at Randolph-Macon College, Blackwell Auditorium (Ashland, Va.); pre-concert talk with Jackson at **2 p.m.**

Jackson is currently music director and conductor of the Reno Philharmonic and has received praise for her artistry, leadership, innovative programming and creative community engagement over her 11-year tenure. She has also served as assistant conductor of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra—the first female ever appointed to that position—and was selected by the U.S. State Department to lead the Algerian National Orchestra in 2013. In addition to guest-conducting engagements both nationally and internationally, Jackson also recorded Michael Daugherty's "Time Cycle" on Naxos in partnership with Marin Alsop.

Jackson is the third of five music director candidates leading the Symphony in the 2019-20 season and interviewing to follow former Music Director Steven Smith, who stepped down from the position at the end of last season. The other candidates are Valentina Peleggi; Farkhad Khudiyev; Roderick Cox, who appeared last October; and Ankush Kumar Bahl, who is conducting concerts in January.

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The Richmond Symphony search committee, comprised of symphony musicians and board members, received more than 200 applications before selecting the final five candidates. The committee is considering various criteria for each candidate, including musicianship and commitment to the community, but mutual chemistry between the audience and the orchestra will be paramount, according to David Fisk, executive director of the Richmond Symphony. The announcement of the new music director is expected in May 2020.

Interview opportunities with Laura Jackson are available, and all events are open to the media.

For more information about Laura Jackson, please visit: www.laurajackson.net

For more information about Julian Schwarz, please visit: www.julianschwarz.com

About the Richmond Symphony (www.richmondsymphony.com):

Kicking off its 62nd Season in September 2019, the Richmond Symphony is the largest performing arts organization in Central Virginia. The organization includes an orchestra of more than 70 professional musicians, the 150-voice Richmond Symphony Chorus and more than 260 students in the Richmond Symphony Youth Orchestra programs. Each season, more than 200,000 members of the community enjoy live concerts and radio broadcasts. The Symphony also provides educational outreach programs to over 55,000 students and teachers each year. The Symphony was recently named one of 21 American orchestras selected as a leader in orchestra innovation by the League of American Orchestras through its Futures Fund Initiative. The Richmond Symphony is partially funded by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. Visit www.richmondsymphony.com for more information.

Full concert listings:

<https://www.richmondsymphony.com/calendar/>

Fri., Jan. 31, 2020 at 7 p.m.
Midlothian High School
(401 Charter Colony Pkwy, Midlothian)

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Special Concert

Laura Jackson, Conductor and Music Director Candidate
Julian Schwarz, Guest Artist and Cellist

Michael Gandolfi: Selections from "The Garden of Cosmic Speculation"
Tchaikovsky: Variations on a Rococo Theme, Opus 33
Mahler: Symphony No. 1 in D Major

Sat., Feb. 1, 2020 at 8 p.m.

Dominion Energy Center, Carpenter Theatre

(600 E. Grace St., Richmond)

**pre-concert talk at 7 p.m.*

Altria Masterworks

Laura Jackson, Conductor and Music Director Candidate
Julian Schwarz, Guest Artist and Cellist

Michael Gandolfi: Selections from "The Garden of Cosmic Speculation"
Tchaikovsky: Variations on a Rococo Theme, Opus 33
Mahler: Symphony No. 1 in D Major

Thurs., Feb. 6, at 6:30 p.m.

Hardywood Park Craft Brewery- Scott's Addition

(2408-2410 Ownby Ln, Richmond)

Laura Jackson, conductor and music director candidate
Daisuke Yamamoto, violin
Molly Sharp, viola

Gabriela Lena Frank: *Concertino Cusqueño*
Mozart: Sinfonia Concertante in E-flat Major, K. 364
Britten: "Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge," Opus 10
Bartók: "Romanian Folk Dances"

Sun., Feb. 9, 2020, at 3 p.m.

Randolph-Macon College, Blackwell Auditorium

(205 Henry St., Ashland, Va.)

Metro Collection

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Laura Jackson, conductor and music director candidate
Daisuke Yamamoto, violin
Molly Sharp, viola

Gabriela Lena Frank: *Concertino Cusqueño*
Mozart: Sinfonia Concertante in E-flat Major, K. 364
Britten: Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge, Opus 10
Bartók: Romanian Folk Dances

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