



*Home
for the
Holidays*

WITH THE RICHMOND SYMPHONY

**RICHMOND
SYMPHONY**

VALENTINA PELEGGI, MUSIC DIRECTOR



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A WELCOME FROM VALENTINA PELEGGI, MUSIC DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

Welcome to the Richmond Symphony's 2020-21 Season. It is such a joy to welcome you back and I am thrilled and honored to start our journey together, as your new Music Director.

I surely had imagined a quite different beginning, and I am sure you did too. But times like these make us reflect even more deeply on the role of the arts in a community. Now more than ever art has the incredible power to transform lives and to heal souls. Music is one of the greatest expressions of human values. It connects, it treasures the differences because it is based on balance and respect, it is a hymn to unity and inclusion. The Richmond Symphony has always been a light and an inspiration for its community: we are here for you, now more than ever.

Through the incredible success of the *Summer Recital Series* in July and August – with a sold-out live audience in the Dominion Energy Center and hundreds of new online subscribers – and the recent launch of the digital *Richmond Symphony School of Music*, we are looking to the future with enthusiasm while attracting widespread attention from performing arts groups across the nation and overseas.

We are excited to bring music on stage once again and have risen to the challenge of reimagining the programs to make the live experience meaningful and enjoyable while as safe as possible. Safety and artistic excellence have been our priorities. With this in mind, we wanted to be as inclusive as possible while shaping our new reality. We have expanded our offer to digital experiences, livestreamed concerts, and for the added comfort of those who prefer a shorter concert, we added Friday evening performances for Masterworks that will run less than 70 minutes, presented without intermission.

We are glad to announce that we have been able to honor our commitment with guest artists while we created programs that also respected the regulations on social distance between players. The season includes a greater number of diverse artists and composers, and marks the beginning of the Symphony's

involvement in New Music USA's *Amplifying Voices* partnership in order to increase support and promotion of composers of color and ensuring orchestra's engagement with new repertoire, past and present.

We wanted the music to be as relevant, meaningful and inclusive as ever, so we have exciting plans for our Classics, Currents and Community programs, our Pops and LolliPops, Metro and Rush Hour. We are excited to open the 2020-21 Season with a program around American classical music with the incredibly versatile classical-jazz pianist Aaron Diehl and George Manahan on the podium, performing Gershwin, Copland, Joseph Turrin, Adolphus Hailstork and acclaimed Leonard Bernstein Award recipient Jessie Montgomery.

Our 2020-21 season is an inspired tribute to Richmond's spirit of resilience, hope, and connection as we navigate these unprecedented times. We hope you will be surprised and delighted by the program as it unfolds.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, musicians and staff of the Richmond Symphony, thank you for being here today, and for helping us to bring great music, hope, and joy to everyone. Let's have a great season and I'll see you there!

Sincerely,



Valentina Peleggi
Music Director

GENERAL INFORMATION

Contact

Richmond Symphony Patron Services
612 East Grace Street, Suite 401
Richmond, VA 23219
804.788.1212
patronservices@richmondsymphony.com
Open Monday-Friday 9am-5pm
Voicemail and email are checked 2 hours
prior to concerts.

Ticket Information

- » Please note, at this time we are unable to offer discounted tickets for seniors, active military, students, or children. These discounts will resume post-Covid-19.
- » At this time, single ticket buyers who feel ill or have been recently exposed to Covid-19 may exchange tickets by contacting Patron Services at least 2 hours prior to the performance.
- » Subscribers may exchange tickets by contacting Patrons Services; some restrictions apply.
- » If you are unable to attend a concert and would like to donate your tickets, please contact Patron Services prior to the concert date and receive a receipt for your taxes.

Purchase Tickets & Subscriptions

By Phone

Subscribers/Groups of 8+: 804.788.1212
Non-subscribers: 1.800.514.ETIX (3849)

Online

Visit our website at richmondsymphony.com

In Person

Visit the Altria Theater box office to purchase tickets to any Richmond Symphony concert; call 804.592.3384 for hours. Tickets may also be purchased at the door at least 1 hour before any concert (subject to availability). Subscriptions and group tickets cannot be purchased at the box office.

Late Seating

Late arrivals will be seated by ushers at an appropriate break in the music as determined by management.

Photography

Feel free to take pictures **without a flash** during the concert and share them with us on Facebook or Instagram. We ask that you turn down the brightness of your screen and stay mindful of your neighbors.

Video or Audio Recording

Due to copyright laws, audio and video recording is strictly prohibited inside the concert hall.

Plan Your Visit

Check out our Plan Your Visit page at richmondsymphony.com or call Patron Services for information on restaurants and parking near the theater.

Donate

Donations can be submitted online at www.richmondsymphony.com/give, by phone at 804.788.4717 ext. 102, or mailed to the Richmond Symphony at the address above. We thank you for your support!

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Home for the Holidays

WITH THE RICHMOND SYMPHONY

Thanks to our generous sponsors:

LolliPops Series Sponsor



Let It Snow: The Brass Edition Concert Sponsors

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THE
LONDON
COMPANY

Baroque Holiday Concert Sponsor



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and First Responders made possible by:**



***Richmond Symphony also thanks the following funders
of the 2020/21 Season:***

The E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation

The Community Foundation for a greater Richmond





Home for the Holidays

The Snowman: Music with Narration
Saturday, November 28 @ 11am

Let It Snow: The Brass Edition
Saturday, December 5 @ 8pm

A Baroque Holiday
Saturday, December 12 @ 8pm

LIVESTREAM SUBSCRIPTION – \$45 FOR ALL THREE CONCERTS

Watch from Home subscription available all month long at richmondsymphony.com

**RICHMOND
SYMPHONY**

VALENTINA PELEGGI, MUSIC DIRECTOR

The Snowman: Music with Narration

Chia-Hsuan Lin, Conductor

Anthony Smith, Narrator

Jasmin Ward, Soprano

Saturday, November 28, 2020 at 11:00 AM

Dominion Energy Center

**TCHAIKOVSKY/
ARR. LYNNE LATHAM**

Overture from *The Nutcracker*

**LEONTOVICH/
ARR. MATTHEW NAUGHTIN**

Carol of the Bells

**TCHAIKOVSKY/
ARR. LYNNE LATHAM**

March from *The Nutcracker*
Waltz of the Flowers from *The Nutcracker*
Trepak from *The Nutcracker*

ANDERSON

Suite of Carols
Pastores A Belen
Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella

**STYNE/
ARR. MATTHEW NAUGHTIN**

Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow!

HOWARD BLAKE

The Snowman
Anthony Smith, Narrator
Jasmin Ward, Soprano

ANDERSON

Sleigh Ride

Concert Sponsor



*The costume pieces are provided by
Virginia Repertory Theatre.*

Patrons are requested to silence mobile devices. The use of recording devices and flash photography is prohibited, but we encourage you to take non-flash photos. Tag us on social media using @rvasympphony, /richmondsymphony and/or #rvasympphony. The Richmond Symphony is partially funded by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts and CultureWorks & the Arts and Cultural Funding Consortium - supported by City of Richmond and the Counties of Hanover & Henrico





Chia-Hsuan Lin

Associate Conductor & Jack and Mary Ann Frable Associate Conductor Chair

Hailed by the *Virginia Gazette* as “a rock solid” and “animated” conductor, Chia-Hsuan (“Joshwin”) Lin delights audiences throughout the world with her trademark energy and command.

Appointed Associate Conductor of the Richmond Symphony Orchestra in 2016, Lin begins her fifth season with the Richmond Symphony in 2020 and was recently named the Interim Music Director of the Contemporary Youth Orchestra of Cleveland. Clark Bustard wrote of Lin’s Brahms Fourth Symphony with RSO, “I’ve never heard a more compelling live performance than this one.” (*Letter V*) Other RSO highlights include Handel’s *Messiah*, the Metro Collection Series, Symphony Pops, family concerts, and a record crowd exceeding 19,000 for Henrico County’s “Red, White, and Lights” Independence Day celebration in 2018. Formerly the Assistant Conductor of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, Lin punctuated the end of her tenure in 2016 “with the command and energy of a soccer star” before a record crowd for a FWP subscription concert. (*larryhayes.com*)

Lin enjoys frequent guest appearances around the world. She made her Minnesota Orchestra debut in 2020, and has also led the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Virginia Symphony, Fort Wayne Philharmonic, Williamsburg Symphony, Richmond

Ballet, Peninsula Music Festival Orchestra, Virginia Commonwealth University Symphony Orchestra, Academy of Taiwan Strings and Taipei Philharmonic Chorus. Her recent performance of Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 6 with the Williamsburg Symphony was praised as “an exceptionally absorbing interpretation and rendering.” (*The Virginia Gazette*).

A champion of the next generation of music and musicians, her list of premieres continues to grow with new works by Stephen Prutsman, Laura Schwendinger, and Jennifer Jolley. Lin has also been a featured guest in Classical Revolution RVA’s Mozart Festivals, sharing orchestral music in non-traditional venues, and she conducted the “Land Dive Project” in cooperation with the Institute for Contemporary Art at the Virginia Commonwealth University, a live art installation including a chamber ensemble and a scuba diving team.

Lin previously served as Music Director of Richmond Symphony Youth Orchestra, University of Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, South Loop Symphony Orchestra (Chicago) and Assistant Conductor of Opera at the CCM Spoleto Music Festival in Italy. Fueling her passion for vocal works, Lin conducted a lecture concert as part of the Taiwanese premiere of Bach’s *St. Matthew Passion*, and assisted and led opera performances at Northwestern University and the University of Cincinnati.

Lin began her musical training with piano lessons in Taiwan at age three. She studied percussion and conducting at National Taiwan Normal University while performing with Taipei Percussion Group. Lin earned her master degree at College-Conservatory of Music of the University of Cincinnati, and completed her doctorate at Northwestern University. She studied with Apo Hsu, Mark Gibson, and Victor Yampolsky and has further refined her craft in workshops with the RSO, Baltimore Chamber Orchestra, and the Romanian Royal Camerata, and masterclasses with Günther Herbig, Jorma Panula, Imre Palló, Gábor Hollerung, Helmuth Rilling, Steven Smith, Mei-Ann Chen, Harold Farberman, Markand Thakar, Israel Yinon, and Douglas Bostock.

Lin is married to horn player James Ferree, and she enjoys traveling, gardening, and cooking.



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Anthony resides in Richmond with his spouse, fiber artist Michael-Birch Pierce, and their three dogs: Aurora, Bracket, and Gypsy.

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Narrator

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Formally educated in flute, piano, vocal, and percussion performance, Anthony has won several regional and national competitions on each of his instruments and has had the privilege of studying with and participating in masterclasses led by some of the top artists in the world.

An active proponent of new music, Anthony has been involved in the world premieres of several new musicals and operas, most recently “Atlantis” by Matthew Lee Robinson, Ken Cerniglia, and Scott Anderson Morris, “The Snow Maiden” by Andrew Haile Austin, and “Kept” by Kristin Kuster and Megan Levad. He’s also a frequent collaborator of the Chamber Music Society of Virginia, The Virginia Chorale, and the Virginia Arts Festival. Anthony is also an in-demand arranger and orchestrator, having recently created and conducted a two-piano version of “Porgy and Bess” for Red Mountain Theatre Company (Birmingham, AL) under the auspices of the Gershwin Estate.

Mr. Smith is a strong believer in the importance of music education, and in addition to his work with the Education Department at Virginia Rep, he maintains an active private studio comprised of flute,



Jasmin Ward

Soprano

Jasmin Ward is a recent graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) with a degree in vocal performance. Jasmin has performed the role of Ruth in VCU Opera's production of *The Pirates of Penzance* by Gilbert and Sullivan. She has also performed partial roles including Norina from Donizetti's *Don Pasquale*, Fiordiligi from Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, Malika from Léo Delibes' *Lakmé*, and Ellen Orford from Britten's *Peter Grimes*. During her time at VCU, Jasmin performed the *Domine Deus* solo from Vivaldi's *Gloria* with the Richmond Symphony Orchestra, the Richmond Ballet, and the Commonwealth Singers. She has also performed in a number of masterclasses with well-renowned singers such as Victoria Livengood, Brandi Sutton, Darryl Taylor, and Michael Harper. Three-time Virginia State NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing) first place winner, Jasmin Ward has recently won first in the Mid-Atlantic Region NATS competition. She now works as the alto section leader and soloist at First Presbyterian Church in Richmond.



Let It Snow! Brass Edition

Chia-Hsuan Lin, Conductor

Anthony Smith, Narrator

Saturday, December 5, 2020 at 8:00 PM

Dominion Energy Center

**HANDEL/
ARR. ANTHONY DILORENZO**

Joy to the World

**MENDELSSOHN/
ARR. ANTHONY DILORENZO**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

**HANDEL/
ARR. DAVID MARLATT**

“Hallelujah” from *Messiah*

**MARTIN/BLANE/
ARR. MICHAEL SIMPSON**

Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas
Richmond Symphony Chorus

DOUGLAS RICHARD

A Joyous Christmas

ANTHONY DILORENZO

’Twas the Night Before Christmas
Anthony Smith, Narrator

**GRUBER/
ARR. STEPHEN BULLA**

Silent Night

**TRADITIONAL/
ARR. JAMES ERB**

Shenandoah
Richmond Symphony Chorus
*In honor of James B. Erb, founder,
Richmond Symphony Chorus*

**TRADITIONAL/
JOSEPH TURRIN**

Three Carols
Infant Holy
What Child is This?
Cold December Flies Away

DOUGLAS RICHARD

Wintry Mix

OLA GJEILO

Away in a Manger
Brittany Brooks, Soprano
Richmond Symphony Chorus

**ROLLINS/NELSON/
ARR. SEAN O’LOUGHLIN**

Frosty the Snowman

ANDERSON /
ARR. DOUGLAS RICHARD

Bugler's Holiday

ANTHONY DILORENZO

Jingle Bells Swing-a-Ling-Ding

ANDERSON /
ARR. DOUGLAS RICHARD




Sleigh Ride

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ANDREWS KURTH

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RICHMOND SYMPHONY CHORUS

EST. 1971

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50 Years and Counting

3 & 4 &

As we celebrate the approach of our 50th anniversary, we reflect on our past and look towards the future.

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Chia-Hsuan Lin

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A Baroque Holiday

George Manahan, Conductor

Daisuke Yamamoto, Violin

Daniel Stipe, Harpsichord

Saturday, December 12, 2020 at 8:00 PM

Dominion Energy Center

VIVALDI *Winter* from *The Four Seasons* for Violin and Orchestra, R. 297
Aggiaciatto tremar tra nevi argenti: Allegro non molto
Passar al foco i di quieti: Largo
Camminar sopra il ghiaccio: Allegro
Daisuke Yamamoto, Violin

CORELLI Concerto Grosso, Opus 6, No. 8 (“Christmas Concerto”)
Vivace - Grave - Allegro
Adagio - Allegro - Adagio
Vivace
Allegro
Pastorale

J.S. BACH Concerto No. 1 in D Minor for Harpsichord and Orchestra,
BWV 1052
Allegro
Daniel Stipe, Harpsichord

Air from Suite No. 3 in D Major for Orchestra, BWV 1068

HANDEL Selections from *Messiah*

Selections from *Music for the Royal Fireworks*

Concert Sponsor



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George Manahan

Conductor

As Music Director of both the American Composers Orchestra and the Portland Opera, George Manahan's career embraces everything from opera to concert, and the traditional to the contemporary. He is the winner of the prestigious Ditson Conductor's Award for his support of American Music. Mr. Manahan served as Music Director of the New York City Opera for fourteen seasons. His guest appearances have included the Orchestra of St. Luke's, Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, and the symphonies of Atlanta, San Francisco, New Jersey, and the Hollywood Bowl. He is a regular guest with the Aspen Music Festival, and has appeared with the opera companies of San Francisco, Philadelphia, Seattle, Chicago, Santa Fe, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Opera National du Paris, Teatro de Comunale de Bologna, the Bergen Festival, and the Casals Festival.



Daisuke Yamamoto

Violin

Violinist Daisuke Yamamoto, known for exhibiting “immense virtuosity and probing musicianship,” is originally from Marietta, GA. Concertmaster of the Richmond Symphony since 2013, he has been featured as a soloist on several occasions since his arrival, including a performance of the Theme from *Schindler’s List* for the Holocaust Remembrance Concert, which was broadcast statewide. Other performances include Saint-Saëns’ *Introduction and Rondo capriccioso*, Ravel’s *Tzigane* and Vivaldi’s “Autumn” from *The Four Seasons*. Before coming to Richmond he was a member of the New World Symphony. While at New World, he soloed with the orchestra, performing Bruch’s *Scottish Fantasy*. He has also collaborated with Jaime Laredo in a performance of Vivaldi’s Concerto for Four Violins. He was also hand-picked by Michael Tilson Thomas to participate in the *Thomashefsky Project*, an homage to Tilson Thomas’s grandparents who were pioneers of the American Yiddish Theater. The project was recorded for DVD and was aired on PBS *Great Performances*. He was also invited to Medellín, Colombia, where he led sectionals and masterclasses as well as performed Mozart’s Violin Concerto No. 5 with the Orquesta Filarmónica de Medellín.

An avid orchestral performer, he has performed with many orchestras across the US, including The Cleveland Orchestra on numerous occasions both

on tour and in Cleveland, New World Symphony, and the Spokane Symphony. As a concertmaster, he has led the New World Symphony on several occasions both at the New World Center and the Adrienne Arsht Center, Louisville Symphony Orchestra, Spokane Symphony, Youngstown Symphony Orchestra, and the Blossom Festival Orchestra. His performances have taken him to many great concert halls in America and Europe, including Carnegie Hall, Severance Hall, Benaroya Hall, Suntory Hall, Festspielhaus and the KKL Luzern Concert Hall. He has worked with such notable conductors as Michael Tilson Thomas, Franz Welser-Möst, Fabio Luisi, Osmo Vänskä, Nicholas McGegan, Robert Spano, Jeffrey Tate and David Zinman. As a chamber musician, he has collaborated with Robert McDuffie, Ida Kavafian, Peter Wiley, Steven Tenenbom, Jasper String Quartet, members of The Cleveland Orchestra, Tokyo String Quartet, Duo Patterson and Jerry Wong.

Yamamoto currently resides in Richmond with his wife, who is a math teacher at Atlee High School, and their 2 cats.



Daniel Stipe

Harpisichord

Equally at home as a solo recitalist, collaborator and arranger on both the piano and the organ, Daniel Stipe's broad array of abilities lends a rare depth of understanding and excitement to his music-making. His large and varied concert repertory, with special focus on works of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, continues to delight audiences wherever he performs. He is a prizewinner in the William Hall Pipe Organ Competition in San Antonio (where he also garnered the Hymn-playing Prize), the Tulsa Crescendo Music Awards, the Fort Wayne National Organ Playing Competition, and the AGO/Quimby Region VII Competition for Young Organists. In 2006 he was featured in recital on the Rising Stars series at the National Convention of the American Guild of Organists; in 2007 he premiered his original organ transcription of Richard Strauss' Four Last Songs with soprano Lindsey McKee at the Texoma Convention of the National Association of Teachers of Singing; and in 2012 he performed his original transcription of the final movement of Skryabine's Second Symphony for the National Convention of the Association of Anglican Musicians.

Daniel, a native of Tulsa, Oklahoma, started playing the piano before he could walk, and studied piano in high school with Elwyn Ratliff and organ with Casey Cantwell. At the University of North Texas, where he studied organ with Jess Eschbach and piano with

Adam Wodnicki, he was named the 2004-05 Presser Scholar for outstanding achievement in the music department. While there he served as organist for Evensong services at St Mark's School in Dallas, Texas. He went on to earn a master's degree in organ performance from Westminster Choir College in 2012 as a student of Ken Cowan; while there he also studied improvisation with Bruce Neswick and Peter Richard Conte.

He was recently appointed Director of Music at Trinity Lutheran Church in Richmond, Virginia, where he will support and grow a vibrant program of traditional liturgical music. Previously he served as music director for the Episcopal Church at Princeton University, as assistant to Tom Whittemore at Trinity Episcopal Parish in Princeton, NJ, and as assistant to Robert Delcamp at the University of the South in Seawee, Tennessee. He has also served as organist at First Presbyterian Church in Denton, Texas, and Church of the Madeline (RC) in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Mr Stipe's passion for liturgical music of the highest quality has led him to produce numerous sacred choral, solo vocal and organ works, in addition to hymn arrangements and reharmonisations. His transcriptions of large orchestral works for the organ, including Elgar's Enigma Variations, Ravel's Mother Goose Suite, and Brahms' Fourth Symphony, are noted for their flexibility and elegant solutions. As a collaborator, he has served five times as the accompanist for choirs singing in residency or concerts at major English cathedrals, has accompanied countless vocal and choral ensembles, and has an extensive knowledge of the string and wind repertory. He maintains an active concert schedule, with recent performances in Tulsa, Cape May (NJ), Nashville, Chattanooga, Knoxville, Princeton, New York City, Worcester (MA), and Atlanta.

Daniel lives with his beautiful wife, Julie, in Richmond, VA. In his spare time his interests tend toward road cycling, hiking, role-playing games, and good literature.

ABOUT THE RICHMOND SYMPHONY

VISION

We change lives through the power of our music.

MISSION

The Richmond Symphony performs, teaches, and champions music, to inspire and unite our communities.

HISTORY

Founded in 1957, the Richmond Symphony is dedicated to excellence in both contemporary and traditional symphonic music. Its mission is to perform, teach and champion music, to enrich and entertain communities throughout Virginia.

Through the incorporation of classical, contemporary, and popular music, the Symphony makes great music interesting and accessible to everyone. The League of American Orchestras recognized the Symphony as a leader of innovation in the orchestral field by selecting the Symphony as one of their 21 national Futures Fund orchestras and awarding the Symphony the Catalyst Grant in 2020, to help implement effective practices to enhance diversity, equity and inclusion.

The Symphony includes an orchestra of 70 professional musicians and an all-volunteer chorus of 150, is overseen by a 42-member Board, and has a staff of 25. Ancillary but separate organizations include the Richmond Symphony Foundation, which manages the organization's endowment, and the volunteer Richmond Symphony League. In May 2020, RSO appointed its first woman Music Director, Valentina Peleggi.

Each season RSO performs more than 200 performances and reaches 200,000 patrons through concerts, educational programs, and radio broadcasts. Innovative and unexpected concert formats such as Rush Hour at Hardywood Park Craft Brewery and our mobile performance space, the Big Tent, help attract new and more diverse audiences.

The Symphony reaches 55,000 students each year through our educational programs, including our Musical Ambassadors Program and Discovery Concerts. Our Youth Orchestra Program provides the region's premiere orchestral experience for 250 college and conservatory-bound students. In July 2020, the Symphony launched the Richmond Symphony School of Music (RSSoM), which will house all of its education programs and extend service into the digital realm.

The Symphony is acting as the Lead Partner for Menuhin Competition: Richmond 2021. Also known as "the Olympics of the Violin," this international competition will bring 44 of the best young violinists in the world to Richmond for eleven days in May 2021 for performances, masterclasses, community engagement, and education activities.

MUSIC DIRECTOR TIMELINE



1957–1971
Edgar Schenkman



1986–1998
George Manahan



2010–2019
Steven Smith



1971–1986
Jacques Houtmann



1999–2009
Mark Russell Smith



CURRENT
Valentina Peleggi



Richmond Symphony Chorus

Erin R. Freeman

Director of the Richmond Symphony Chorus & James Erb Choral Chair

The Richmond Symphony Chorus is an award-winning, auditioned, all-volunteer ensemble of 150 members from the Richmond region. They perform regularly with the Richmond Symphony, Richmond Ballet, and in stand-alone performances around the community. The chorus members, ages 16-85, are a diverse group – teachers, medical professionals, attorneys, business leaders, students – all sharing a love of choral singing.

James Erb found the Richmond Symphony Chorus in 1971 to perform Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* under the baton of renowned conductor Robert Shaw. Erb, a professor at the University of Richmond and a scholar of Renaissance music, led the group for 36 years. Erin Freeman became director in 2007 and has led its singers in performances in Richmond, Wintergreen, Carnegie Hall, and Paris, France. (See Dr. Freeman's profile in the program.)

Repertoire ranges from classical masterworks to pops favorites. Annual performance of Handel's *Messiah* and *Let It Snow* Christmas Pops are highlights of the Symphony season. In 2018, the chorus was featured

in the Grammy-nominated recording of the premier performance of *Children of Adam* by American composer Mason Bates and Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*. Spring of 2019 found the Chorus moving from the Carpenter Theater stage to backstage to the lobby in a rousing performance of Bizet's *Carmen* with soloist Denyce Graves, while Fall included performances under the direction of celebrated conductors Marin Alsop and George Manahan.

So what is the Chorus doing during the coming months of social distancing and masks? We're singing, of course! Our members are attending virtual rehearsals from their home offices, guest bedrooms, dining rooms, and family rooms! Look for some virtual performances from us later this season, with each singer's voice combined with many others into a single video recording. We look forward to physically gathering and singing together as soon as we can safely do so.

(If you're interested in auditioning for the Chorus, please visit www.rschorus.com/auditions.)

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**RICHMOND
SYMPHONY**
VALENTINA PELEGGI, MUSIC DIRECTOR



Valentina Peleggi

Music Director & Lewis T. Booker Music Director Chair

Valentina Peleggi began her tenure as Music Director of the Richmond Symphony in Summer 2020. Described by the BBC Music Magazine as a “rising star”, Peleggi has led orchestras from around the world including most recently the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales and Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. In 2018 she joined English National Opera for 2 seasons as a Mackerras Fellow, conducting *Carmen*, *Bohème*, *Orpheus in the Underworld* and *Dido and Aeneas*. She returns as a guest in 2021, when she will also debut at Garsington Opera.

In 20/21 planned symphonic engagements include her debuts with the Quebec Symphony, Malmö Symphony, Brussels Philharmonic and European Union Youth Orchestra in Ferrara; also the release of her first CD, featuring a cappella works by Villa Lobos in a new critical edition for Naxos, guest edited by Ms Peleggi and performed by the São Paulo Symphony Chorus. Spring 2020 saw a string of engagements cancelled due to the pandemic, notably with the Bournemouth Symphony, Residentie Orkest Den Haag, Gulbenkian Orchestra, National Symphony in Dublin, New Zealand Symphony, Tasmanian Symphony, BBC Singers, and the Orquestra della Toscana in her home town of Florence, Italy.

Ms Peleggi previously served as Resident Con-

ductor of the São Paulo Symphony Orchestra and Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor of the São Paulo Symphony Chorus. During her years with the São Paulo Symphony Peleggi conducted many subscription concerts, created innovative community projects and continues to return as a guest. She won the APCA Prize in 2016 as Conductor of the Year from the São Paulo Society of Critics of the Arts and was voted “Young Talent of 2017” by readers of Brazil’s specialist music magazine *Revista Concerto*. She currently holds the position of Guest Music Director of the Theatro São Pedro, responsible for Italian opera.

The first Italian woman to enter the conducting programme at the Royal Academy of Music of London, she graduated with distinction and was awarded the DipRAM for an outstanding final concert as well as numerous other prizes, and was recently honoured with the title of Associate. She assisted Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Semyon Bychkov and Christian Thielemann, and furthered her studies with David Zinman and Daniele Gatti at the Zurich Tonhalle and at the Royal Concertgebouw masterclasses. She won the 2014 Conducting Prize at the Festival International de Inverno Campos do Jordão, received a Bruno Walter Foundation Scholarship at the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music in California, and the Taki Concordia Conducting Fellowship 2015-2017 under Marin Alsop.

Peleggi holds a Master in Conducting with honours from the Conservatorio Santa Cecilia in Rome, and in 2013 was awarded the Accademia Chigiana’s highest award, going on to assist Bruno Campanella and Gianluigi Gelmetti at Teatro Regio di Torino, Opera Bastille Paris, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Teatro Regio di Parma and Teatro San Carlo. She also assisted on a live worldwide broadcast and DVD production of Rossini’s *Cenerentola* with the Orchestra Nazionale della RAI. From 2005 to 2015 she was the Principal Conductor and Music Director of the University Choir in Florence and remains their Honorary Conductor, receiving a special award from the Government in 2011 in recognition of her work there. Ms Peleggi is passionate about the arts and holds a master in Comparative Literature.

Valentina Peleggi is represented by Intermusica worldwide.



Daniel Myssyk

Assistant Conductor

Assistant Conductor of the Richmond Symphony, Canadian-American conductor Daniel Myssyk was Music Director of the Montreal based Orchestre de chambre Appassionata from 2000 to 2016. A few years ago, he led his orchestra on its first American tour, which included two concerts in Richmond. The group also toured before enthused audiences in Ontario in January of 2014.

In recent years, he has made critically acclaimed appearances with Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, and the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra, among others. In 2015, Myssyk made his debut in Guanajuato (Mexico) where he has been returning every season since, and also conducted the Michoacan State Orchestra. In 2019, return engagements have brought him back to Canada to conduct the Orchestre symphonique de Trois-Rivières and the Orchestre de la Francophonie.

Myssyk conducts repertoire from the classical, romantic, modern and contemporary periods with great attention to stylistically appropriate detail. He maintains a continuous engagement with opera in a variety of styles ranging from Mozart to Menotti. Sensitive to the music of our time, he has contributed to the creation of many contemporary North-American works, including the world-premiere of Anthony Brandt's opera, *"The Birth of Something"* with Da Camera in Houston. Under his

leadership, three recent VCU Opera productions of *"The Gondoliers"* (2015), *"The Old Maid and the Thief"* (2012), and *"Hansel & Gretel"* (2011) won top prizes at the National Opera Association competition.

Myssyk's recordings have received widespread critical acclaim. In 2012, he completed the recording of *"Czech Serenades"* with works by Suk and Dvořák. The CD was in nomination for best recording of the year at the "ADISQ" awards, Quebec's equivalent of the Grammys and at the Prix Opus from the Conseil québécois de la musique. Jean-Yves Duperron of the Classical Sentinel wrote: *"Conductor Daniel Myssyk and the members of the Appassionata Chamber Orchestra ply their magic in this music, and shape each and every phrase, and infuse each and every note, with care and sincere expression. I've rarely heard these two works played with this much conviction."*

In 2010, his CD *"Idylla"* (on Fidelio label), was nominated for an Opus Prize as best recording of the year. A CD featuring American trumpet player and VCU colleague Rex Richardson playing Dana Wilson's *"Concerto for Trumpet and Strings"* was released on Summit Records, earning rave reviews from the International Trumpet Guild Journal. His most recent CD, on the Atma label, features works by Quebec composer François Dompierre and has earned excellent reviews from Radio-Canada and Magazine Son et image.

Professor Daniel Myssyk has been Virginia Commonwealth University's Director of Orchestral Activities since 2007. His involvement toward the youth reflects a well-honed passion for music education. In addition to his work at VCU, he is a regular collaborator with the All-Virginia State Orchestra, and the Hampton Roads Chamber Players, among many others. He is currently the music director of the Richmond Symphony Youth Orchestra.

In the early 2000s, Myssyk was a conducting fellow at the Aspen Music Festival and School where he spent two summers under the tutelage of David Zinman. A student of Larry Rachleff, he received his Masters Degree in Conducting from the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University in 2006.



Erin R. Freeman

Director of the Richmond Symphony Chorus & James Erb Choral Chair

Versatile, engaging, and spirited, conductor Erin Freeman serves in multiple positions throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia and maintains a national presence through guest conducting engagements. Freeman holds a joint position as Director of the award-winning Richmond Symphony Chorus and Director of Choral Activities at Virginia Commonwealth University. Additionally, she is the Artistic Director of Wintergreen Music, which presents the annual Wintergreen Music Festival in Blue Ridge Mountains, and Resident Conductor of the Richmond Ballet, the State Ballet of Virginia.

Guest conducting engagements include the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, South Carolina Philharmonic, Savannah Symphony, Charlottesville Symphony Orchestra, Virginia Symphony Orchestra, and additional ensembles in Massachusetts, Maryland, Virginia, Georgia, Missouri, North Carolina, and Illinois. She has conducted at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center, and has conducted and/or prepared the Richmond Symphony Chorus for multiple recordings, including the 2019 release of Mason Bates' *Children of Adam* on the Reference Recording label. The 2018-2019 season included her debut at Boston Symphony Hall with Berkshire Choral International, a performance

with the Orchestre Symphonique Bel'Arte and an internationally assembled chorus at La Madeleine in Paris, choral preparation for the Defiant Requiem Foundation, multiple engagements with the Richmond Symphony, and three productions with the Richmond Ballet. In 2019-2020, Freeman premiered with the Portland (Maine) Symphony Orchestra, conduct the Richmond Ballet in three grand productions, led the Richmond Symphony, and prepared the Richmond Symphony Chorus for performances with Marin Alsop and George Manahan.

Adapting quickly to the reality of the pandemic, Freeman created and led a 10 week Online Community with Wintergreen Music, including classes, interactive performances, musician-led masterclasses, special interest sessions, and a rare family conversation with Arianna Zukerman and Pinchas Zukerman. She also revamped Fall semester to create a choral film project called *Adaption*, led voices in Black Lives Matter protests and events, and overhauled the Richmond Symphony Chorus's schedule to keep singing alive and well in the city of Richmond.

A recent finalist for Performance Today's Classical Woman of the Year, Freeman has also been named one of Virginia Lawyers Weekly's "50 Most Influential Women in Virginia" and an "Extraordinary Woman Leader" by the VCU School of Business. Freeman holds degrees from Northwestern University (BMus), Boston University (MM), and Peabody Conservatory (DMA). Instructors include Gustav Meier, Victor Yampolsky, Helmuth Rilling, Murry Sidlin, Ann Howard Jones, and Robert Shaw.

Twitter: @ErinFreeman1

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The 20/30 Group is a collection of individuals between the ages of 21-39 who attend concerts, engage in networking and social activities, and provide feedback to help the Richmond Symphony enhance programming and reach new audiences in the Richmond community. To learn more contact 2030group@richmondsymphony.com

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The Community Council is a group of civic leaders and individuals from throughout Metro Richmond. Membership is intended to reflect every district of the City and surrounding counties. The Council advises the Symphony on methods to enhance the diversity, inclusivity, engagement and accessibility of its offerings.

DONOR LISTING

A warm thank you to all of the generous donors who gave to the annual fund during the 2019/2020 season. In an effort to ensure that these listings are kept as updated as possible, they will now be kept on our website. To view the most recent list, please visit www.richmondsymphony.com/donors

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

We welcome additional gifts to the endowed funds already established within the Richmond Symphony Foundation. Please contact Trish Poupore (804.788.4717, ext.115) for more information.

- Tom and Elizabeth Allen Concertmaster Chair Fund
- Lewis T. Booker Music Director Chair Fund
- The Braymer Family Music Library Fund
- Thomas P. Bryan, Jr. Fund (*Featured performance by a Richmond Symphony musician/s on a subscription series once each season*)
- Rudy Bunzl Fund for the Future (*formerly known as the Rainy Day Reserve Fund*)
- Cabell Fund for Artistic Excellence
- Quincy and Anne Owen Cole Chair Fund (*Principal Piano/Celeste*)
- The Dunkum Endowed Fund for Music Education
- James Erb Choral Chair Fund
- The David J.L. Fisk Special Events Fund
- Founders' Fund (*Unrestricted Endowment*)
- Jack and Mary Ann Frable Associate Conductor Chair Fund
- Florence Robertson Givens Guest Artist Fund (*Guest Pianist annually*)
- Stephen M. and Cheryl G. Goddard Fund
- Bob and Nancy Hill Assistant Principal Second Violin Chair Fund
- Hopkins-Eggleston Family Fund for Discovery Concerts
- The Linhart Foundation Fund
- The Joe and Caroline Murillo Fund for Artistic Excellence and Community Engagement
- Music Director's Commissioning Fund (*including the John Powell Fund*)
- Music Education Scholarship Fund (*including the Virginia Optimist Clubs' Scholarship Fund and the Dominion Resources Scholarship Fund for the Richmond Symphony Youth Orchestra Program*)
- Martha D. Newell Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Mary Morton Parsons Education Fund
- Kenneth and Bettie Christopher Perry Foundation Cello Chair Fund
- Edmund A. Rennolds, Jr. Fund (*Memorial Concert annually*)
- Mary Anne Rennolds Chair Fund (*Principal Viola*)
- Richmond Symphony League Chair Fund (*Assistant Principal Cello*)
- The Brian Szabo Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Emma Gray Trigg Fund
- The John R. Warkentin Fund
- The Watkins Big Tent Fund
- The Luzi & George Wheeler Second Horn Chair Fund
- Cheryl G. and Henry A. Yancey, Jr., M.D. Fund
- Tribute Fund (*Gifts in memory or in honor of people or event or events*)

GIFTS OF MERIT TO THE RICHMOND SYMPHONY LEAGUE

The Richmond Symphony League is a non-profit corporation with the sole purpose of supporting the operating and educational programs of The Richmond Symphony. The generosity of the League's donors and event attendees allows it to make annual donations to the Richmond Symphony. This listing acknowledges donors during the 2019/20 Season:

Gifts of \$5,000+

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THE RENOOLDS SOCIETY

Edmund A. Rennolds, Jr. (affectionately known as “Ned”) and his wife, Mary Anne, were founders of the Richmond Symphony with Brigadier General Vincent Meyer and Emma Gray Trigg. Ned and Mary Anne were synonymous with the Richmond Symphony. They worked tirelessly to help establish the orchestra – volunteering in many capacities, housing musicians, holding meetings and receptions in their home, supporting the orchestra financially, and giving valued guidance. They agreed to lend their name to the Rennolds Society hoping membership would grow and help sustain the future of the Richmond Symphony.

It’s easy to join the Rennolds Society – enjoy special events for members, use of the Dominion Energy Center for the Performing Arts Donor Lounge, and help secure the future of the orchestra! Members have an interest in the Symphony and have made provisions for the orchestra in their will or other estate planning vehicle.

The Richmond Symphony gratefully acknowledges the vision and foresight of the Rennolds Society members:

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	Chuck and June Rayfield	<i>As of October 13, 2020</i>
	Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Reed, Jr.	<i>† Deceased</i>

For information, please contact Trish Poupore, Donor Relations Director, tpoupore@richmondsymphony.com



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