

Changing **Lives** Through the **Power of Music**

Thank you for all you have made possible. Take a glimpse into the Richmond Symphony's past season and see the impact you have made on this community and the vision you have secured for the future. There is much to celebrate and look forward to!

*Forefront: Daisuke Yamamoto, Concertmaster and Tom & Elizabeth Allen
Concertmaster Chair. Background: Meredith Riley, Associate Principal
Second Violin, & Bob & Nancy Hill Associate Principal Second Violin Chair*

**RICHMOND
SYMPHONY**
VALENTINA PELEGGI, MUSIC DIRECTOR



OVERVIEW

Thank you for making the Richmond Symphony 2020/21 season possible! It has been a year unlike any other. Your enthusiasm, your support, and your participation allowed the Richmond Symphony to create, to innovate, and to continue to provide impact to Richmond and beyond. With the additions of Music Director Valentina Peleggi, and Executive Director Lacey Huszcza, the Richmond Symphony continues to invest in artistic growth and educational enrichment for Richmond and Central Virginia. The Richmond Symphony School of Music engaged hundreds of children and adults in online learning, and reshaped the future of music education at the Symphony.

Because of your unyielding support, the Richmond Symphony expanded its offerings, extended its reach, and remains an integral piece of the arts and culture fabric in the community. It is with great thanks to you that we share highlights of the year and our commitment to a bright future.

Your spirit never dulled, and the music never stopped!

This booklet is interactive! When you see a QR code, use your phone camera to scan it for digital extras from the Richmond Symphony as you read.



Music Director Valentina Peleggi conducting the Richmond Symphony for a Masterworks concert at the Dominion Energy Center. All musicians are 10 feet spaced apart and masked.

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A Special **THANKYOU**

Thank you to the following individuals for your increased financial support to the Richmond Symphony during the pandemic. Your generosity in this financially difficult year has made a huge impact. You have helped lay a solid foundation for the Symphony to continue to deliver live music, to provide educational opportunities and to continue thoughtfully connecting to our community. The Richmond Symphony extends its heartfelt gratitude to you. Thank you!



Valentina Peleggi, Richmond Symphony Music Director

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**If you feel your recognition has been missed, please
contact Frances Sterling at 804.788.4717 x120*

**100% participation from
Board, Trustees,
Musicians, and Staff!**

To view the full 2020/21
season donor listing, please
visit our website
richmondsymphony.com

RENNOLDS 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 passionate and tireless volunteers and this special society is named in their memory.

It’s easy to join the Rennolds Society – enjoy special events for members and attendance at the Symphony Annual Meeting, while helping to 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.



“We believe in the power of live orchestral music and its place in our community and want to play our part in making sure the Richmond Symphony continues to thrive for generations to come.” – Marcia and Harry Thalhimer

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As of June 15, 2021
*Deceased



The Chorus singing via Zoom

RICHMOND SYMPHONY CHORUS

50 Years & Counting...

Do Re Mi oh MY! What a year it has been!



The Chorus singing at Mile of Music

What did the Chorus do during the months of social distancing and masks? They sang, of course! Members attended virtual rehearsals from their home offices, guest bedrooms, dining rooms, and family rooms; rehearsed safely in outdoor spaces; all in preparation for their glorious return to the stage!

Despite the odds, the Richmond Symphony Chorus delivered **13 virtual performances** to our community, and gifted **\$34,000** to the Symphony's annual fund collectively. Thank you chorus members, for your talents, finances, and time. Much of what makes the Symphony shine comes from you.

Come celebrate the Chorus' 50th Anniversary with us next season and experience the magic of Haydn's Creation in April 2022.

Scan the QR code to hear the Chorus perform their virtual Spring season!



RICHMOND SYMPHONY
CHORUS
EST. 1971

RICHMOND SYMPHONY LEAGUE

The Richmond Symphony League hosted two successful fundraisers this year, **Autumn Allegro** - delivered via Facebook Live! And **Swing for the Symphony** - an in person golf tournament, collectively raising a fantastic **\$83,000** for the Richmond Symphony during the 2020/21 fiscal year!

"In a year when fundraising was very difficult, and gathering even harder, the Richmond Symphony League once again has gone above and beyond with their efforts to continue connecting its membership, and supporting the artistic and educational programs of the Richmond Symphony. It's been an honor to have worked so closely with the League and its wonderful leadership over the last two years."
- George Mahoney, Immediate Past Chair of Richmond Symphony Board of Directors.



Richmond Symphony League social event.



Richmond Symphony League volunteers at the Swing for the Symphony Golf Fundraiser



Lacey Huszcza, Executive Director - Richmond Symphony, Penny Tuthill - Richmond Symphony League Committee Member and Alison Eckis - Richmond Symphony League President



Richmond Symphony League social event.

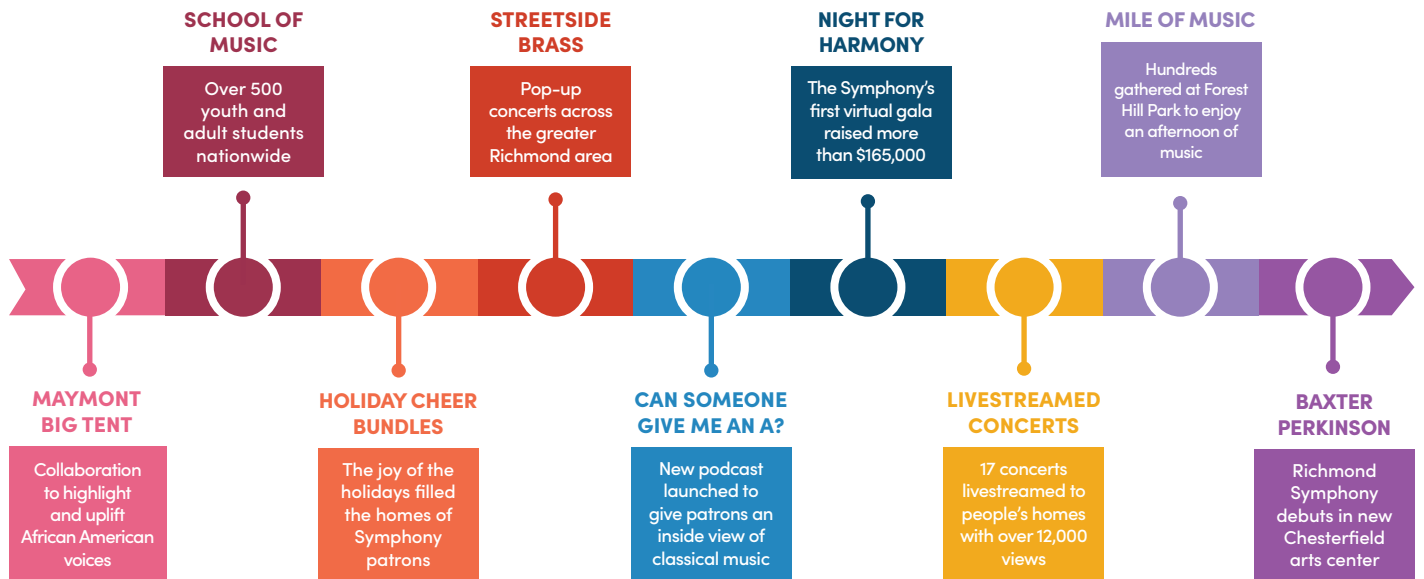
RICHMOND SYMPHONY



Photo of Symphony audiences taken during a masterworks concert. Audiences were masked and seated in socially distanced "pods".

In the past year, the Richmond Symphony experienced a lot of "firsts." Your engagement and support never wavered and you welcomed new ideas with an open mind. Thank you for making the Symphony's "firsts" and certainly not "lasts" possible this year!

"I think you have done a really great job in 2020 and would like to see the virtual option for performances to continue post COVID! I also have many friends and family who live outside of Richmond who have loved buying virtual tickets too. Thank you!"
 - Richmond Symphony Patron



Associate Conductor, Chia-Hsuan Lin directs the Masterworks livestream from inside the VPM production truck.

Socially Distanced Concerts

Thank you for supporting Valentina Peleggi's first year as Music Director. She worked tirelessly with the artistic planning and operations team to reimagine the season with musicians placed 10 feet apart on stage and masked. With your support, the Symphony became one of the only orchestras in the US to continue playing during the pandemic with deep care for health and safety. The soloists were of an incredible quality and audiences enjoyed music the Symphony might not have ordinarily programmed.

We would also like to thank VPM, Virginia's home for public media, which produced an excellent livestream experience for you to enjoy from your home.



Night for Harmony

This virtual reimaging of the Annual Gala was a huge success! The digital jukebox created a fun and unique way to celebrate you and the musicians together.

Over the course of the evening (with delicious food from Shagbark) audiences voted for their favourite piece of music, bid on exclusive recitals from Symphony musicians and the brilliant auctioneer Justin Swisher led everyone through a riveting raise the paddle moment!

You raised an amazing **\$165,000** towards the concerts and education activities this year.

Save the date for our upcoming Gala, March 3.

Scan the QR code to hear the Symphony perform *Adoration* by Florence Price!



Music Director Valentina Peleggi leads the Symphony in creating "click track" recordings to be played on the Night for Harmony virtual juke box.

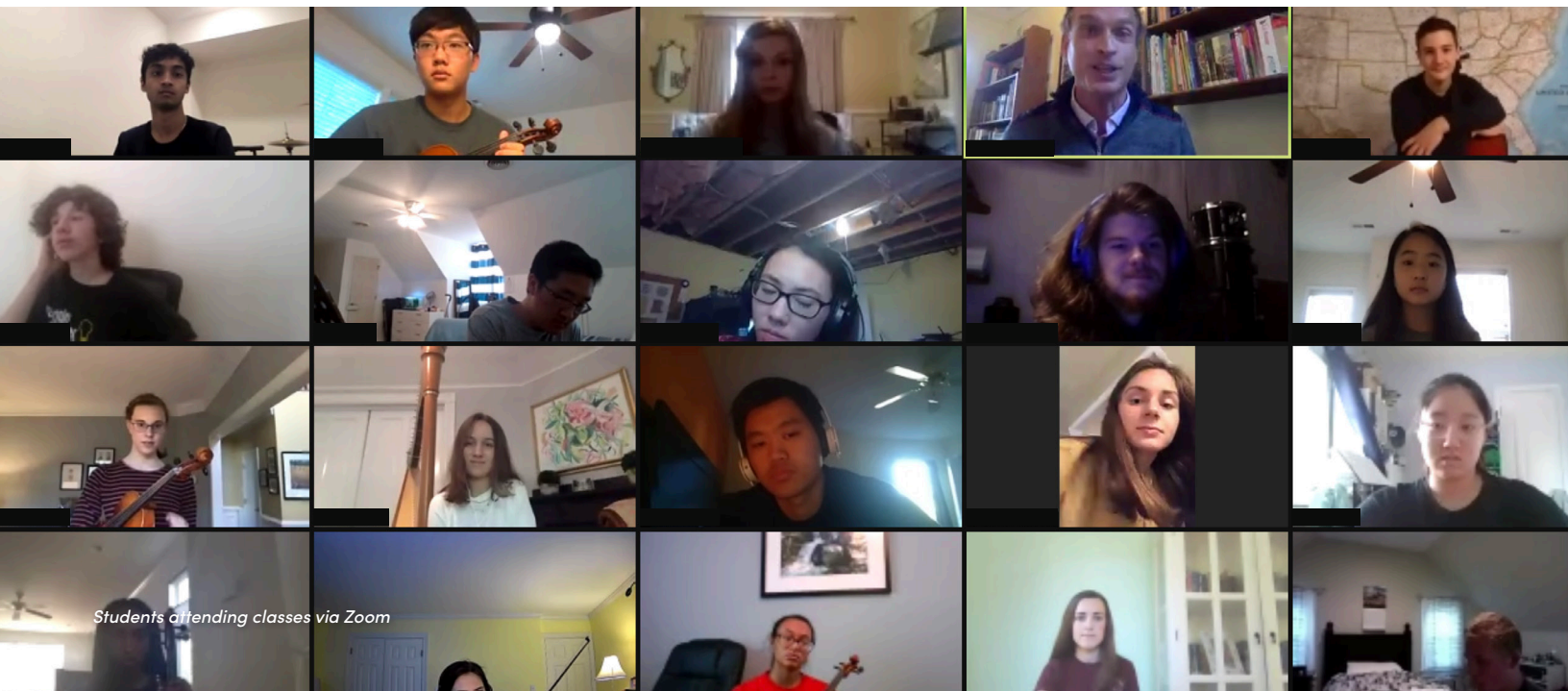
EDUCATION

The Richmond Symphony School of Music

The first of its kind in the US!

Richmond Symphony School of Music was launched in the summer of 2020 to respond to the needs of the young musicians in this challenging and unprecedented time. With your support the new school was able to virtually house Musical Ambassadors Programs, Youth Orchestra Programs, and Discovery Concerts, as well as provide supplemental music curriculum for teachers in need during their virtual teaching pivot.

Currently, **over 500 students** are enrolled in the school, which equates to over **4,000 hours of direct contact** time per semester. With representation in **fifteen states** and **two countries**, your support enables the Symphony to remove geographical barriers to participation, extends services to include adults and allows teachers and artists from all over the globe to deliver a world class curriculum.



Scan the QR code to visit the Richmond Symphony School of Music YouTube page!



RICHMOND SYMPHONY
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Youth Orchestra Program

As the premier orchestral training program of central Virginia, students participate in weekly rehearsals, coaching and masterclasses by Richmond Symphony musicians, chamber music performances, mentoring and other musical and social activities.

Solo Competition Winners



"...Any community music school seeks to serve as many people as it can," says Walter Bitner, the Richmond Symphony's director of education and community engagement. Bitner fully expects that some aspects of virtual learning will be part of the new normal." - Excerpt from "Lockdown Learning" in Symphony Magazine's Spring 2021 edition

Scan the QR code to view the full article:



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Maymont Big Tent

The Richmond Symphony and Maymont presented a unique Big Tent community festival on the spacious and picturesque Carriage House Lawn. The event, **African American Voices**, highlighted inspirational music of Black composers and poignant living history portrayals of the African American staff that worked at Maymont from 1893-1925. The Symphony and the Maymont Foundation collaborated with playwright Morgan Avery McCoy Harris to create a spoken word performance, interwoven with live music, which honored the lives, voices and perspectives of the Black people who worked at Maymont during the Gilded Age. Proceeds from this Big Tent festival supported music and art in Richmond Public School's 5th District.

Mile of Music

Mile of Music offered two-hour promenade concerts featuring live performances along a mile long route within Forest Hill Park.

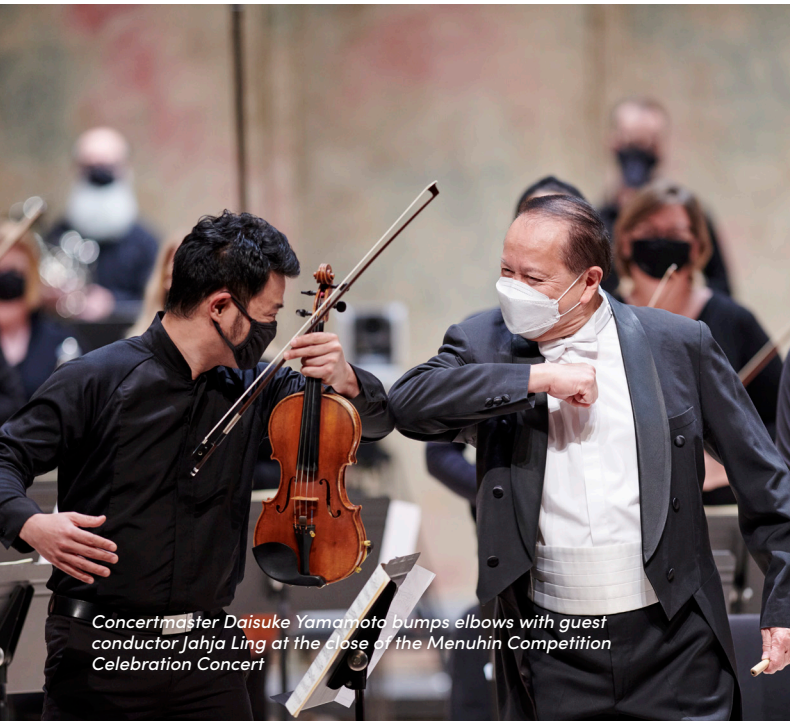
Performances included the Richmond Symphony Chorus, Brass Quintet, String Quartet, and Woodwind Quintet. Completely free for all to attend, audiences of all ages enjoyed four 30-minute performances each in a unique outdoor setting!



MENUHIN COMPETITION

From May 14-23, the Richmond region hosted the first all-virtual international Menuhin Competition celebrating the extraordinary skills of the world's most talented young violinists. The Menuhin Competition Richmond 2021 rolled out the red carpet and provided a fabulous virtual venue to welcome the world.

Scan the QR code to visit the Menuhin Competition Richmond 2021 website.



Concertmaster Daisuke Yamamoto bumps elbows with guest conductor Jahja Ling at the close of the Menuhin Competition Celebration Concert

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Competition Winners

Concerts were re-imagined, competitors recorded their rounds at local venues or at home, jurors watched their videos across at least eight different time zones, discussions and masterclasses moved to Zoom and ticket holders were given links to participate. The professionalism associated with the Menuhin Competition shined throughout the new virtual program, and the competitors experienced support, learning and personal opportunities unique to this new format. Richmond was one of the true stars as the virtual platform allowed a world of viewers to experience this vibrant cultural city and region.

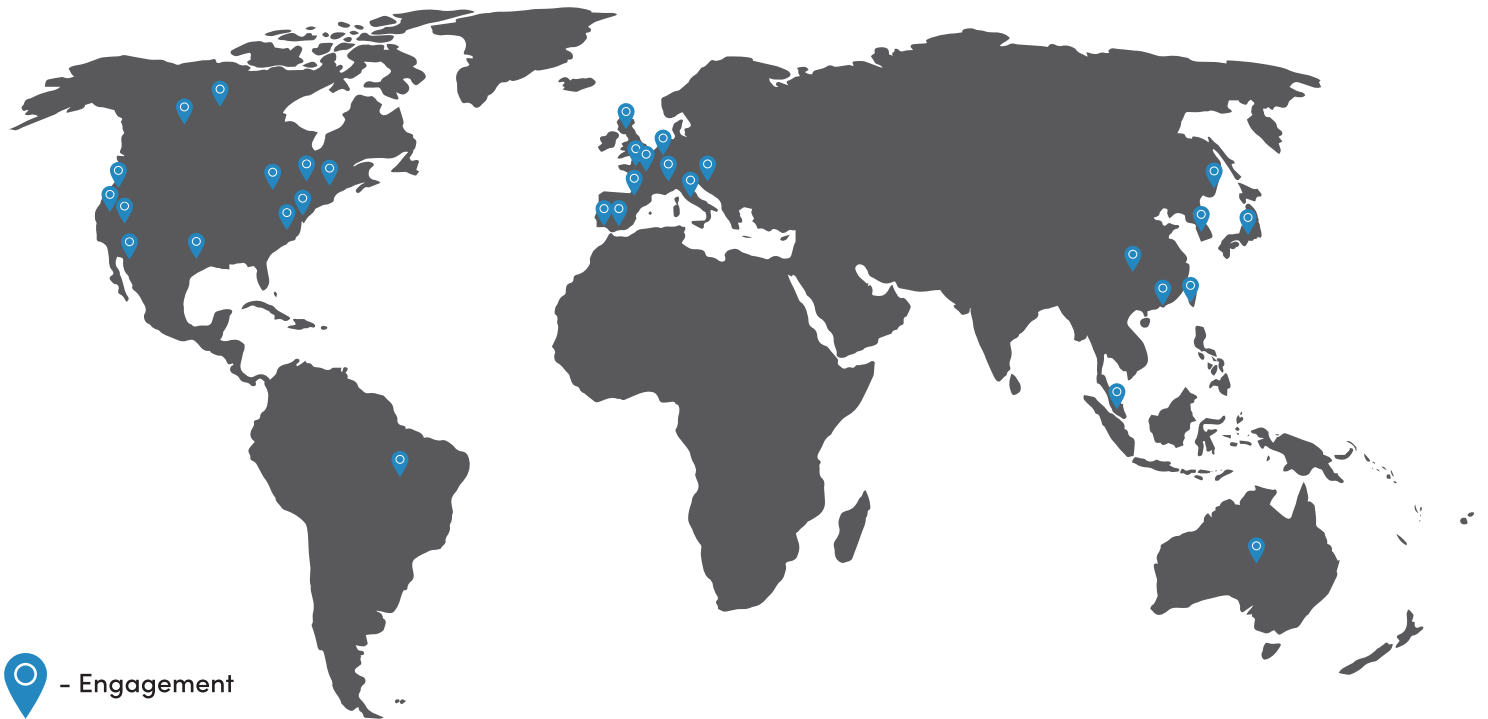


Maria Duenas - Senior 1st Prize



Kaito Wakao - Junior 1st Prize

Richmond 2021



Total Views: 1,131,300

MENUHIN COMPETITION



Did you know?

Competitor Kayleigh Kim hails from Virginia and was a winner of the Richmond Symphony Concerto Competition - congratulations Kayleigh!

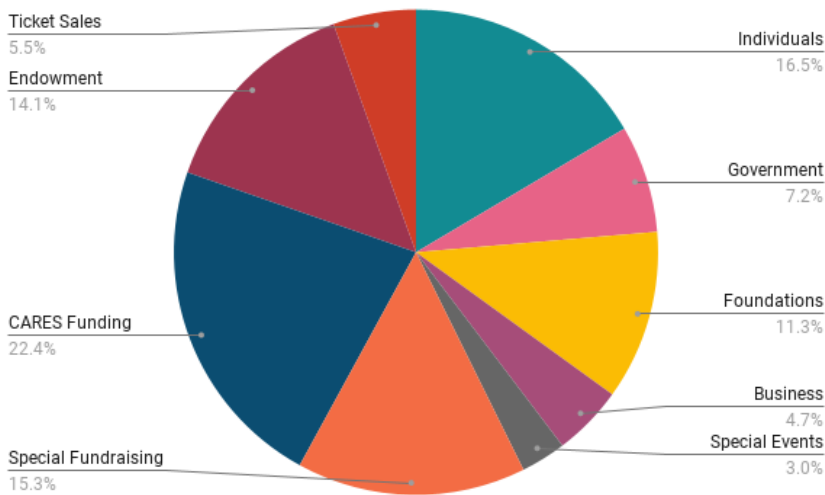
Two of our competitors, María Dueñas and Maya Anjali Buchanan, virtually visited and played for Thomas Dale High School's orchestra class.





Behind the scenes view of the Richmond Symphony preparing to play at Pocahontas State Park.

FINANCIAL REPORT



2020/21 Highlights

1. The Symphony gained **500 new donors** this year!
2. **75 donors** increased their annual gifts by at least **50%**
3. Over **\$100,000 worth of tickets** were donated back to the Symphony as the season was re-imagined and re-planned.
4. The Symphony sold **12,000 tickets**, with **348 new households** that watched both virtually and in-person!



Executive Director Lacey Huszcza congratulates Immediate Past Board Chair George Mahoney on his leadership during the pandemic at the Symphony annual meeting held at Hardywood Brewery.



Scan the QR code to watch our year in review.



5. The Symphony became a lead voice at **national level** being invited to speak on national panels regarding digital transformations and producing more inclusive music programs.

6. The Symphony Big Tent concerts attracted **2000 audience members**, with socially distanced pods.

7. Pilot project “Meeting of the Minds” is a free virtual discussion series for HBCU students designed to help navigate academic and industry challenges unique to Black orchestra musicians. It gained **students from across the US** in its first iteration.

8. The wind and brass musicians made their own custom masks to enable playing on stage - bravo to their ingenuity!



Shawn Welk, Principal Oboe playing through his customized mask.

SOCIAL MEDIA



97,407
engagements



21,852
engagements
7.6% increase since April 2020



7,956
engagements
53.6% increase since April 2020

/richmondsymphony
@rvasymphony

YOUR FEEDBACK

“Wonderful experience for all members of our party of three as we look for respites among this time of quarantine.”

“It was wonderful to hear high-quality music live and in person again! We are very happy to live in a city which is having Symphony concerts this season, when concert seasons have been cancelled all over the US. We think it is great that you are performing pieces written for small orchestras. My husband and I brought our children (aged 10 to 23) who enjoyed it very much. It was great that you included two more well-known pieces familiar to us all, along with new pieces.”

“Fantastic virtual experience! Thank you”



For information regarding our 2021/22 season please visit richmondsymphony.com

