

2024  
2025  
SEASON

CELEBRATING  
40 YEARS



## MUSICAL NOTES FOR YOU

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## WELCOMING OUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

by Michael Butterman

Dear Friends,

I'm looking forward to a 40th anniversary season filled with big, bold music, exciting guest artists, large, enthusiastic audiences and new artistic heights for our remarkable orchestra. I'm also keenly aware that The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra is able to reach these heights thanks to the incredible support of our board, staff and especially you—our indispensable League! We have an amazing team that is achieving tremendous success.

It's no accident that The WSO has been featured over a dozen times in nationwide public radio broadcasts throughout the past year. It's a testament to the quality of our product and the noteworthiness of our program offerings. This coming season, we continue to collaborate, innovate and celebrate our community, culminating in a season finale that includes a world premiere composition and collaboration with Leah Glenn Dance Theatre inspired by the history of the Brafferton Indian School.

We also start off with a bang, welcoming the Marcus Roberts Trio to play Gershwin's Concerto in F is a version that will knock your socks off. Wynton Marsalis called Marcus "the greatest American musician that you've probably never heard of." Collaborating with Marcus and his trio was one of my highest priorities when I arrived a couple of years ago. I think you'll understand why after you hear their performance to open our season in September.

I learned of bandonéonist Richard Scofano by listening to Performance Today. The sheer beauty of his playing and the serenity of his music impressed me greatly, and I'm thrilled that he'll be joining us as composer/soloist in October as he offers us a 'glimpse of paradise.' I'm also delighted to welcome back to Williamsburg Grammy-nominated violinist Tessa Lark, who will share a bluegrass-infused concerto written just for her, alongside Beethoven's own tribute to folksy fiddling—his Symphony No. 6 ("Pastoral").

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[williamsburgsymphony.org/league](http://williamsburgsymphony.org/league)

# WELCOMING OUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON, *continued*



Photo Credit - Rene Palmer

In March we'll assemble the largest orchestra in our 40-year history to present Holst's monumental *The Planets*, complete with video images from NASA. Although not yet confirmed, we hope to share several portions of this epic work with elementary students who will fill the hall in a sequel to our education presentation of *Ellis Island* last spring.

Speaking of young people, it's also a *Peter and the Wolf* year—fitting, as this work was the spark for the creation of The WSO 40 years ago—so we'll be presenting many performances of this iconic work in schools in early 2025. And we'll also be collaborating with The Williamsburg Youth Orchestra in our biennial *Side-by-Side* concert in May.

We'll also continue to offer programs with broad appeal to first-time symphony goers. I'm especially excited about our tribute to John Williams in November. For many, his music is the soundtrack of their lives, eliciting emotional highs and heartfelt memories. Through his scores, he has introduced millions of people to the sonic splendor of a symphony orchestra and has opened the door for them to further explore the music of composers who have influenced him—Elgar, Holst, Wagner and so many more. The program will be a cross-generational thrill for everyone, and I'm expecting to see a fair share of costumed 'characters' in the audience, as well.

Our Holiday Pops shows this season feature Broadway star (and hometown favorite) Tiffany Haas, and our Cabaret concert puts the spotlight on contemporary Broadway rep from shows like *Mamma Mia*, *Rock of Ages*, *Kinky Boots* and more. I hasten to mention that I'm thrilled that LaKisha Jones will be among the trio of singers joining us. LaKisha is an *American Idol* star with whom I've enjoyed working over the years. It will be so nice to have her with us in Williamsburg!

And, of course, Jennifer and I are looking forward to joining you for the League's gala in the spring. We so appreciate how fortunate we are to have such an enthusiastic, energized and organized group of partners like The WSO League. Your work is invaluable and really stands out above similar organizations around the country, believe me!

Here's to a relaxing summer's end and a fantastic 40th anniversary season!

-Michael 



## THE MARCUS ROBERTS TRIO

*Marcus Roberts, piano*

*Rodney Jordan, bass*

*Jason Marsalis, drums*

The Marcus Roberts Trio - a long-term musical partnership between pianist, Marcus Roberts, the phenomenal drummer Jason Marsalis, and gifted bassist Rodney Jordan.

The Marcus Roberts Trio is known for its virtuosic style and entirely new approach to jazz trio performance. While most jazz trios have the piano front and center, all members of the Marcus Roberts Trio share equally in shaping the direction of the music by changing its tempo, mood, texture, or form at any time. And they do this with lightning quick musical reflexes and creative imagination. The trio is known for having almost telepathic communication on the stage. And more than a few concert goers have been heard to say that it sounds like a lot more than three people up there on the stage!

The Marcus Roberts Trio believes in 'letting the music take over,' and the result is a powerfully rhythmic and melodic sound that is filled with rhythmic, harmonic, and dynamic contrast. One of the most enjoyable aspects of watching this trio perform is that it is so evident that these three musicians are really having fun playing together and listening to each other.

“One way Roberts individualizes his sound is by utilizing orchestral devices initially borrowed from the Ahmad Jamal Trio. In the course of a single piece, he constantly modulates grooves, tempos and keys, plays separate time signatures with the right hand and the left, and, as he puts it, ‘flips around the roles of the piano, bass and drums by giving everyone an equal opportunity to develop the concepts and themes, to change the form, to get us where we’re getting ready to go.’” Ted Panken, Jazziz Magazine.

Added to the logic and balanced trio style of Ahmad Jamal, is the swing and virtuosity of the Oscar Peterson Trio, combined with the buoyant joyous sound of Erroll Garner. These influences provide a rich foundation for the ever evolving and expanding sound of the Marcus Roberts Trio. The musical cues combine with musical inspiration from all over the world, which guarantees that audiences never know where this trio is heading; influences from Africa, Europe, and South America are combined with American traditions to give this group an infinite palate of styles, timbres and colors to draw from.



# 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

# Gala

PRESENTED BY  THE WILLIAMSBURG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA *League*

**Saturday, March 8, 2025 | 5:30 PM**  
**William and Mary Alumni House**

This “not to be missed” black-tie affair promises to be a memorable evening celebrating The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra’s 40 years. Join fellow supporters and patrons of The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra as we celebrate with fantastic food, an evening of music, and a night of celebration and fundraising.

*Please plan to join us at the Gala  
and mark your calendars now!*

# SHREVEPORT MUSICIAN, ACTRESS NOW HAS A SAY IN WHO WINS A GRAMMY AWARD

By Elizabeth Deal

Staff writer, Shreveport-Bossier City Advocate

July 20, 2024



Classically trained violinist and actress Jennifer Carsillo<sup>1</sup> of Shreveport has received - and accepted - an invitation to become a voting member of The Recording Academy, which hosts the annual Grammy music awards.

The Recording Academy is known as the world's leading society of music professionals.

“It wasn’t at all on my radar, being able to become a member of The Recording Academy, much less a voting member,” she said. “Which means I get to nominate and vote for artists in consideration for a Grammy — that is huge for me. It’s so exciting — to be able to influence the music industry is a huge privilege and honor.

“I am very happy to be part of such an esteemed organization that really cares about music education and fostering the next generations of music creators and performers.

<sup>1</sup> Wife of conductor  
Michael Buttermann

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## SHREVEPORT MUSICIAN, *continued*

As a part of The Recording Academy, I am looking forward to actively participating in its mission to make the music industry better for live human creators, as well as helping to expand their educational initiatives.”

She said she wouldn’t be a musician today if a group of upset 3rd grade moms didn’t create their own music program when the California public school she attended didn’t have one. That’s where she first saw and heard the violin up close.

Fortunately, the public school she attended in fourth grade did have a music program. “I was so excited, I couldn’t wait,” she said. “I used a school instrument and got put into our orchestra which felt like a huge deal to me. That started my journey that has taken me all over the world, and now this.”


She said she first met people associated with The Recording Academy when she attended as an actress The Valley Film Festival headquartered at the Television Academy in Hollywood.

Carsillo was nominated to be a Recording Academy member by other professionals in the music industry. “I think it was a combination of my many years as a performing violinist and most recently as a composer, arranger and performer for film scores.”

As just one part of the application, “I had to amass a collection of very recent work and it had to be commercially available right now for purchase or streaming,” Carsillo said. “It’s a very involved and thorough process,” she said.

“It has seemed in my acting and film life that my music — violin in particular — has often influenced my opportunities. This time, I really felt this musical honor was heavily influenced by my film work. That was kind of cool, to have that reciprocal moment where both disciplines are helping each other,” Carsillo added.

“You go along, have your career, do the best you can. Now you realize you can help others and make the music industry the best it can be and hopefully inspire future musicians and music makers. I’m so honored and grateful that this opportunity presented itself and excited to use my influence for good,” she said.

There’s also this. “Recording Academy members have the opportunity to purchase tickets to The Grammys, so that thought is very exciting - to be in the room where it happens,” she said. 

# THE WILLIAMSBURG YOUTH ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES A NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH WALLER MILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO PUT 3-D PRINTED VIOLINS IN THE HANDS OF GRADE 3-5 STUDENTS.

**Year-long afterschool program fills a need in York County Public Schools to develop young musicians starting in Grade 3. Use of innovative 3-D printed violins sparks enthusiasm and increases access to violins.**

*Jena Chenkin (pictured) is the teacher for the afterschool program and Ben Strohm (also pictured) of the Williamsburg Regional Library is printing the violins.*



*Mary Dart (not pictured) will be Jena's assistant. Twenty violins, in Waller Mill Elementary's colors of yellow and purple, will be printed. The program begins mid-October.*

WILLIAMSBURG, VA (April 29, 2024) – Through a new partnership with Waller Mill Elementary School, The Williamsburg Youth Orchestra (WYO) has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Charles S. & Millicent P. Brown Family Foundation to start a new afterschool music program that will begin in the 2024-2025 academic year. The generous funding will allow the WYO to provide two hours per week of basic violin technique as a foundation for future musical development.

With generous funding from another donor and the technical expertise of the Makerspace at the Williamsburg Regional Library, the WYO will create 3-D printed violins for all students who participate in the afterschool program. “This effort to develop the musical talents of young potential musicians is truly a community effort. We are engaging teachers and administrators, public and private donors, and musicians and makerspace creatives,” said President of the Board of Directors, Dr. Jason Chen.

Founded in 1995, the Williamsburg Youth Orchestra’s vision for impact through access and inclusion is to partner with the rich diversity of talent in the greater Williamsburg area to provide scaffolded music instruction for a diverse population of youth so that they may develop musically and reap the benefits of playing orchestral music. Waller Mill Elementary School is a Fine Arts magnet school in York County Public Schools. Free bus transportation is provided by the school, making the opportunity accessible to students in Grades 3-5 who are interested in learning the violin.

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

**WCO** THE WILLIAMSBURG  
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

MASTERWORKS CONCERT

# An American in Paris

**SEPT 26**  **7:30 PM**

WILLIAMSBURG COMMUNITY CHAPEL

*Pre-Concert Lecture at 6:30 PM*

Featuring  
Music Director  
Michael Butterman



and  
Guest Artist  
Marcus Roberts Trio

Gershwin - *Lullaby for Strings* ■ Gershwin - *An American in Paris*  
Gershwin - *Piano Concerto in F (Marcus Roberts Trio)*

Tickets: \$65 in-person | \$30 live stream only | \$10 for students

Scan QR Code To Purchase Tickets  
[williamsburgsymphony.org](http://williamsburgsymphony.org)



   @WMBGSymphony

TWO FRIENDS  
OF MUSIC



MULLINS  
FAMILY  
LIVING TRUST





2024-2025  
WSO & WSO LEAGUE EVENTS CALENDAR

- September 26, 2024**    **MASTERWORKS CONCERT #1 (7:30 PM)**  
*An American In Paris*
- Pre-Concert Lecture (6:30 - 7:00 PM)*  
Williamsburg Community Chapel  
Music Director: Michael Butterman  
Guest Artist: Marcus Roberts Trio
- October 30, 2024**    **MASTERWORKS CONCERT #2 (7:30 PM)**  
*Visions of Paradise*
- Pre-Concert Lecture (6:30 - 7:00 PM)*  
Williamsburg Community Chapel  
Music Director: Michael Butterman  
Guest Artist: Richard Scofano, Bandoneon
- November 22, 2024**    **THE MAGIC OF JOHN WILLIAMS (7:00 PM)**
- Williamsburg Community Chapel  
Music Director: Michael Butterman
- December 7-8, 2024**    **HOLIDAY POPS (1:30 PM & 3:00 PM each day)**
- The Kimball Theatre  
Music Director: Michael Butterman  
Guest Artist: Tiffany Haas
- February 2, 2025**    **CABARET & COCKTAILS (8:00 PM)**  
*Broadway Rocks!*
- Williamsburg Lodge, Virginia Ballroom  
Music Director: Michael Butterman  
Guest Artists: LaKisha Jones, Chloe Lowrey,  
and Dan Domenech



# CALENDAR

2024 - 2025

**February 25, 2025**    **MASTERWORKS CONCERT #3 (7:30 PM)**  
***Bluegrass and Beethoven***

*Pre-Concert Lecture (6:30 - 7:00 PM)*  
Williamsburg Community Chapel  
Music Director: Michael Butterman  
Guest Artist: Tessa Lark, Violin

**March 8, 2025**    **40th ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISING GALA**

William & Mary Alumni House (5:30 PM)

**March 18, 2025**    **MASTERWORKS CONCERT #4 (7:30 PM)**  
***The Planets***


*Pre-Concert Lecture (6:30 - 7:00 PM)*  
Williamsburg Community Chapel  
Music Director: Michael Butterman

**May 4, 2025**    **SIDE-BY-SIDE CONCERT (4:00 PM)**

Williamsburg Community Chapel  
Conductor: David Grandis

**May 14, 2025**    **MASTERWORKS CONCERT #5 (7:30 PM)**  
***From the New World***

*Pre-Concert Lecture (6:30 - 7:00 PM)*  
Williamsburg Community Chapel  
Music Director: Michael Butterman  
Guest Artists: R. Carlos Nakai, Native American  
flute; Leah Glenn Dance Theater

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