

# ITEMS TO SPONSOR

Make your selection from the list below and return the enclosed form to:

The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra  
P.O. Box 400  
Williamsburg, VA 23187

1. Music Director/Conductor... **\$1,200**
2. Concertmaster... **\$750**
3. Principal Instrument (*1st chair*)... **\$500**
4. String Section... **\$300**
5. Wind Section... **\$300**
6. Brass Section... **\$300**
7. Percussion Section... **\$250**
8. Keyboard/Harp... **\$150**
9. One Individual Instrument of Your Choice... **\$100**
10. Conductor's Baton... **\$100**
11. String Player's Bow... **\$50**



Photo by Kim Keily

All proceeds benefit The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra. Just choose your selection and send in your check or credit card info. Your generosity will help pay the orchestra's costs for every concert.

*Haydn thrilled regular audiences and patrons alike with his music...  
Now you can be a "patron" for one season  
of our own Williamsburg Symphony!*

**\*Please note:** Your gift to "Own Your Own Orchestra" (OYOO) helps support The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra for the 2025–2026 season only.

Gifts for OYOO are not an endowment. Should you wish to endow a chair, please contact the symphony office at (757) 229-9857.

Author: Lynda Sharrett 2025

A stylized illustration of Franz Joseph Haydn, an 18th-century composer, wearing a powdered wig and a red coat with a white cravat. He is framed by an ornate oval gold border with intricate scrollwork. Below the portrait, a banner reads "FRANZ JOSEF HAYDN".

**OWN YOUR OWN ORCHESTRA!**

**OR PART OF IT ANYWAY.**

THANKS TO

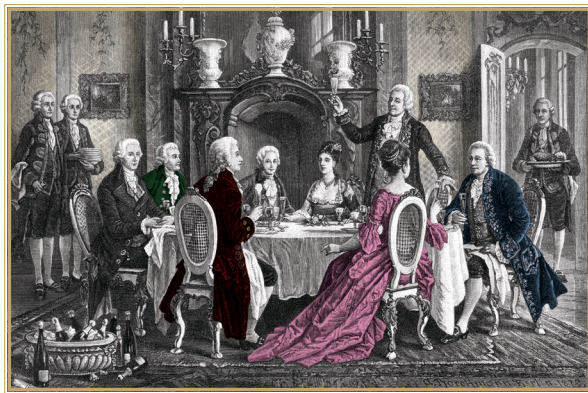
**WGO THE WILLIAMSBURG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

## MARCH 31, 1732 | SMALL VILLAGE IN AUSTRIA

*...a baby boy is born to a country wagon-maker/wheelwright and his wife in the rural town of Rohrau, on the border of Austria and Hungary. The father is an industrious folk musician and teaches himself to play the harp. The family sings together and enjoys making simple music with friends.*

Thanks to their appreciation of music, Franz Josef Haydn's parents recognized his musical talent at a very early age. When he was only six, they apprenticed him to a relative, Johann Frankh, the choirmaster in Hainburg, where Haydn lived and learned basic music. He played the harpsichord and violin and excelled as a boy soprano in the church choir. In a few years, he sang his way into the choir of St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna where he received further musical training. In both cities, he was never properly fed and clothed by his teachers and he later noted: "More flogging than food."

Despite this inauspicious and difficult beginning, Haydn studied music on his own and as a young adult, kept himself alive as a free-lance musician, singing and playing for his supper. He continually studied composition, the works of C.P.E. Bach and other musicians and soon became well known in Vienna and other cities as a brilliant composer.



Haydn's growing talent and reputation began to attract the patronage of wealthy aristocrats who owned their own private orchestras, as was common in the day. In 1761, he entered the service of the famous and wealthy Esterhazy family, following the family from palace to palace as they moved about Hungary during various social seasons. He

worked for the family for nearly thirty years, producing a flood of compositions.

Haydn was **"the"** composer of his time. Many spoke of him as "a nice man to know," industrious and generous, with integrity and intellectual honesty. He was a friend of Mozart and Beethoven and many deemed Haydn "the father of the symphony." His popularity was unrivaled during his lifetime.



Photo by Kim Keily

Haydn could not have been successful without the continuous, generous patronage of his employers. As a patron of our own Williamsburg Symphony, you can also "own" part of our symphony for a season. Choose an item to support from the following list and you will "own" that item for the concert season while providing vital support to our wonderful orchestra.\*

Your support through *Own Your Own Orchestra* assists The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra for the 2025–2026 concert year.

And: 🎵 your name will be listed in the concert programs

🎵 your gift is 100% tax deductible



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