

# ITEMS TO SPONSOR

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

The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra League  
P.O. Box 1665  
Williamsburg, VA 23187-1665

1. Music Director/Conductor (*includes special gift*)... **\$1,000**
2. Concertmaster... **\$500**
3. Principal Instrument (*1st chair*)... **\$400**
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.

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

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Author: Lynda Sharrett 2024

A decorative poster for the Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra League. The background is a teal color with a repeating floral pattern. At the top, there is a large, ornate oval frame containing a black and white portrait of Gioacchino Rossini. Below the portrait, a white banner with a gold border contains the text "GIOACCHINO ROSSINI" in black. Below that, another white banner with a gold border contains the text "OWN YOUR OWN ORCHESTRA!" in red. Below that, a third white banner with a gold border contains the text "OR PART OF IT ANYWAY." in red. At the bottom, the text "THANKS TO" is written in white. Below that, the logo for the Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra League is displayed, featuring the letters "WCO" in a stylized font next to the text "THE WILLIAMSBURG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA" and "League" in a cursive font.

FEBRUARY 20, 1816 | ROME

...the newest opera from Gioacchino Rossini is in performance.  
The soprano is soaring, the bass is thundering.  
Suddenly another singer trips and hits his nose - it bleeds, he carries on...  
Enter stage R, an oblivious cat wanders across the stage, singers keep singing, cat exits stage L.

Opera – murder, mayhem, deceit, confusion, hilarity, and death. The human condition.



In spite of these crazy mishaps, Rossini's "Barber of Seville" ultimately becomes the towering comic opera benchmark of all time.

Born to a trumpeter father and singer mother in 1792 in Pesaro, Italy, Rossini studied horn with his father and music with a priest who inspired the young boy with works of Haydn and Mozart. His early talent in composition was famous for wit and soaring melodic lines.

In the early 1800s, the classic opera composition had evolved into a new style of composing and singing known as *bel canto* (literally, "beautiful singing"). This was Rossini's forte. He enjoyed tremendous

popularity with audiences throughout Italy and Europe. Both his comic and serious operas were in great demand, including *The Italian Girl in Algiers*, *Otello* (which preceded Verdi's version), *La Cenerentola* (Cinderella), and his magnificent and final opera opus, *William Tell*.

Inexplicably, at age 37 at the height of this popularity, Rossini quit composing opera. He had made a great deal of money, married twice and entertained a large variety of lovers. However, he was also

plagued with ill health. He retired to Paris where he held a musical salon attended by musicians, artists and the fashionable Parisian circles. To the delight of his fans, he continued composing numerous songs, chamber, sacred and piano pieces until his death in 1868.

Due to the many lucrative contracts received in Vienna, Paris and London, Rossini lived a very wealthy, comfortable life. However, many composers of the day were not so lucky and needed a continual flow of patrons to support their musical artistry.



Photo by Kim Keily

Many of us feel that The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra is our very own orchestra. And as a patron, you can "own" part of "our" symphony for a season. Choose an item from the list on the last page 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 2024–2025 concert year.

And:  your name will be listed in the concert programs

 your gift is 100% tax deductible



**\*Please note:** Your gift to the League through "Own Your Own Orchestra" (OYOO) helps the League support The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra for this one year only. Please direct questions on OYOO to [league@williamsburgsymphony.org](mailto:league@williamsburgsymphony.org).

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



Check your selection below and return this form with your method of payment to:

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P.O. Box 1665  
Williamsburg, VA 23187-1665

*Please print your name here as you would like it to appear in the program.*

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  - 9. One Individual Instrument of Your Choice... **\$100**  
*Please specify instrument* \_\_\_\_\_
  - 10. Conductor's Baton... **\$100**
  - 11. String Player's Bow... **\$50**

*Please print name clearly exactly as it appears on the credit card.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

#### METHOD OF PAYMENT

- By check, payable to: **The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra League**
- Visa       MasterCard      Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card No: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*A \$3 administrative charge will be added to all credit card payments.*