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Far Left: Debbie Monark, League President, conducts the 2023-2024 Annual Meeting

Center: League members gather for the meeting at Two Rivers Country Club

Far Right: Debbie Monark presents Doug Wood with a thank you gift for his many years of service to the League

LEAGUE HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING BRUNCH

by Debbie Monark

The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra League held its annual meeting on Sunday, May 19, 2024, at Two Rivers Country Club. Guests enjoyed a sumptuous brunch buffet and mingled with other members while enjoying the view of the Chickahominy River. Board members provided a review of the League’s season, which saw membership grow to 205 members.

League volunteers donated more than 7,000 hours of service in various ways, such as ushering at each and every concert, including a special daytime concert for 900+ Williamsburg-James City County 5th-grade students. Volunteers also labeled seats, stuffed envelopes, or picked up flowers and assisted with planning the Gala and other events as well as serving on the Board.

It was a very good fundraising year for the League, with our most successful Gala yet. This season, the League was delighted to sponsor the 2023 Holiday Pops at the Kimball Theater, and at their March meeting, the Board of Directors approved providing additional funds over and above the budgeted amount to the symphony. At the May 14 concert, a check in the amount of \$75,000 was presented to The WSO President and CEO, Carolyn Keurajian.

Retiring Board members Georgianna Avioli and Doug Wood were recognized and thanked for their long service to the League. Standing for election for his first 3-year term was Roger Heer, and standing for election for a second 3-year term were Tom Phelps and Sam Eure. Sue Klepac and Joan Brockenbrough were both elected to third terms.

The League looks forward to an exciting year ahead as we plan to celebrate the 40th anniversary of The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra.



SPECIAL ELLIS ISLAND PERFORMANCE

“The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Michael Butterman, recently outdid itself. Not only did the orchestra perform its Friday evening concert at the Williamsburg Community Chapel, but at 11:30 in the morning, the orchestra performed Ellis Island, an orchestral piece complete with Colonial Williamsburg reenactors and antique video shots of arrivals to Ellis Island from Europe at the turn of the century for 900 fifth grade students from local elementary schools.”



Photo credit: Kim Kiely Photography

LUNCH AND LEARN WITH CAROLYN KEURAJIAN

by Debbie Monark



On Wednesday, April 24, the League hosted a delightful meal and informative discussion for 39 people at Opus 9. The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra President and CEO Carolyn Keurajian enlightened attendees on the complicated process of pulling together a symphony concert. What does it take to bring a concert to the stage?

For example: What dates are available at the venue? Do those dates mesh with the Music Director's schedule? Is the Concertmaster available, and what about the other musicians? Is the guest artist available? Which composers and pieces of music to play? What instrumentation is required for each piece...how many strings, horns, percussion, etc.? Did you know there is a “bible” of classical music (similar to a Physician's Desk Reference) with information on over 19,300 orchestral works by more than 3,200 composers? Given the instrumentation parameters for the music, does the budget support the chosen program? Musicians, guest artists, and sheet music are expensive. How are the individual parts prepared for each musician before rehearsals? We learned about the process of “bowing” for the strings to create the desired sound. Carolyn filled us in on this complex process that results in the spectacular performances we enjoy.

Many thoughtful questions were posed and answered, and it made us appreciate the significant level of effort required to put these concerts together. As a special treat, Carolyn also shared plans for the upcoming 40th Anniversary Season of The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra, which created lots of excitement!

We hope to offer another Lunch and Learn opportunity next season, so stay tuned!



THE “OPERA BALL”
STARTS WITH A LONG
PARADE OF DANCE
COUPLES—THE
YOUNG LADIES ALL IN
WHITE GOWNS, THE
MEN IN TAILS WITH
WHITE GLOVES. THEY
WALTZ, THEN THE
AUDIENCE JOINS IN.
IT IS A MOST
ELEGANT EVENT.

VIENNA AND MUSIC

by Richard Dunn

Dear Leaguers,

Since so much of the music we hear is by Viennese composers, you might be interested to look at it all as a batch – and at the same time get a bit of a view of life there. Let’s focus first on the 18th and 19th centuries; that gives us Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) the principle composers of the “Vienna Classic”, and Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) and Franz Schubert (1797-1828) in what is known as the early Romantic period. Some of the lesser composers we should name are Antonio Salieri, official composer of the Austrian Court, and Süssmayr, a student of Mozart, who completed Mozart’s Requiem after Wolfgang’s death. Also, Leopold Mozart, the father of Wolfgang, should be named since some of his compositions, from Salzburg, are included in our repertoire. Also, Leopold is credited by some as the progenitor of the Austrian style of music-making. After Beethoven and Schubert is Anton Bruckner (1824-1896), composer of eight much loved symphonies (a 9th was unfinished).

Then comes the enormous basket of the music of Richard Strauss (1864-1949) and Gustav Mahler (1860-1911) and finally the modernists, Arnold Schoenberg, Anton Webern, and Alban Berg (whose opera *Wozzeck* plays internationally).

On the lighter side was Johann Strauss, Jr. (1825-1899), who provided a great deal of entertainment with his waltzes, marches, polkas, operettas and *Die Fledermaus*. In addition to all the balls in the ball season at the end of the year are main events featuring his music: the opera ball, the year-end concerts by the Philharmonic, and the broadcast of the *Blue Danube* at precisely the beginning of the new year. The “Opera Ball” starts with a long parade of dance couples—the young ladies all in white gowns, the men in tails with white gloves. They waltz, then the audience joins in. It is a most elegant event. At all the private parties at New Year’s time, all is quiet as the hour approaches, then the Philharmonic is heard on the radio with the *Blue Danube*, and a glass of champagne follows. There are two concerts by the Phil for the enjoyment of the audience—featuring the music of guess who: the first concert is called *Sylvester Abend* (the evening before New Year), and the second (*Neujahrs Konzert*) is the morning of the new year. There is always some fun with the music such as a masked man prowling around in the orchestra during the playing of Strauss’ *Banditen Polka*.

(continued next page)

VIENNA...IS BLESSED
WITH A PASSION
FOR BEAUTY AND
ALL THE ARTS.

VIENNA AND MUSIC

by Richard Dunn (continued)

But it's more than music. There's the librettists like Da Ponte (see Mozart's Don Giovanni, Figaro, and Cosi Fan Tutte) or Hugo von Hoffmansthal (see R. Strauss' Der Rosenkavalier, Elektra, and Ariadne), or the poets Franz Grillparzer, Arthur Schnitzler, Rainer Maria Rilke, and Stefan Zweig.

Vienna (and Austria in general) is blessed with a passion for beauty and all the arts. Most everywhere one looks are examples of fine architecture, statues, or fountains. Principal concert halls are the Musikverein (containing also two smaller halls), the Konzerthaus, and the Redouten-Saal in the Hofburg (the castle). Vienna supports five symphony orchestras, two opera companies, and two ballet companies, not to mention the Burgtheater (probably the most important German-speaking stage in the world), the Singverein (chorus), the Wiener Sängerknaben (boys' choir), orchestral masses in the churches, and much more. With its great enjoyment of music goes great politeness; a lady is Gnädige Frau (respected lady); a title is important: a letter might begin "Sehr geehrte Herr Professor" (very honored Mr. Professor). A man could greet a lady by saying "I kiss your hand" (but without doing so). With all that is a sense of humor. If you plan to go skiing, you could hear the wish in jest that you get a broken neck and leg. ❧

LEAGUE PRESENTS CHECK TO THE SYMPHONY

After another successful fundraising year, the Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra League Board of Directors approved funds to be given to the symphony in support of its musical programs and educational endeavors. At the final Masterworks concert of the season on May 14th, a check was presented to Carolyn Keurajian for \$75,000. This amount included \$10,000 for League sponsorship of the Holiday Pops 2023 and \$65,000 in support of other symphony programs and outreach. We are most grateful to our League members, volunteers, symphony patrons, friends and sponsors for your generosity of time, talent, and treasure in furthering our efforts to support Our Symphony! Thank you!



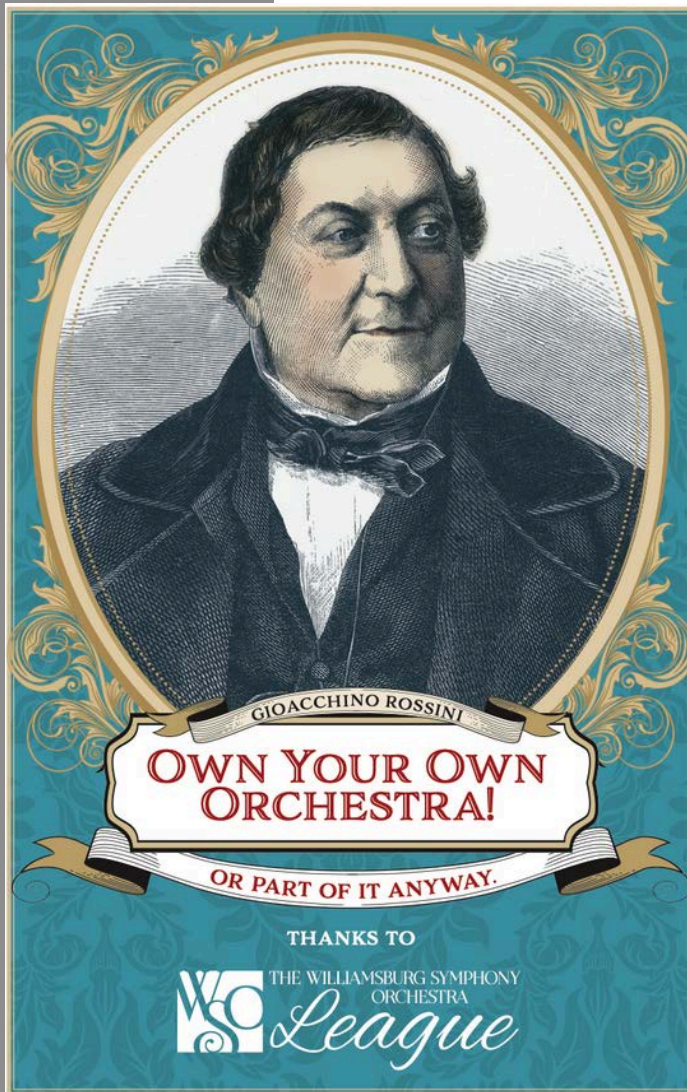
Photo credit: Kim Kiely Photography

GALA TO CELEBRATE THE
40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
WILLIAMSBURG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Announcing a very special Gala honoring the Symphony's 40th anniversary. We've moved our Gala back to the spring of 2025 and you don't want to miss it! Please plan to join us for a spectacular evening of celebration and mark your calendars now!

W.S.O. THE WILLIAMSBURG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
League
PRESENTS
W.S.O. THE WILLIAMSBURG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
40TH
SAVE
the
DATE
ANNIVERSARY
Gala
MARCH 8, 2025
WILLIAM & MARY ALUMNI HOUSE

OWN YOUR OWN ORCHESTRA!



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. You can view the brochure [HERE](#) and choose an item from the list on the last page. Then 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.

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



Masterworks 1

AN AMERICAN IN PARIS

Thu., September 26, 2024 | 7:30 p.m.

Guest Artists: Marcus Roberts, piano; Jason Marsalis, drums; Rodney Jordan, bass

Gershwin- Lullaby for Strings

Gershwin- An American in Paris

**Gershwin - Piano Concerto in F
Marcus Roberts Trio**

Masterworks 2

VISIONS OF PARADISE

Wed., October 30, 2024 | 7:30 p.m.

Guest Artist: Richard Scofano, bandoneon



DEBUSSY - Prelude to The Afternoon of a Faun

**SCOFANO - La Tierra Sin Mal
Richard Scofano, bandoneon**

BRAHMS - Symphony No. 1



Masterworks Bonus

THE MAGIC OF JOHN WILLIAMS

Fri., November 22, 2024 | 7:30 p.m.

A captivating concert celebrating the timeless music of legendary composer John Williams. From the heroic themes of Star Wars to the enchanting melodies of Harry Potter, the concert showcases a diverse range of musical styles that have made John Williams a master of his craft.



Masterworks 3

BLUEGRASS & BEETHOVEN

Tue., February 25, 2025

Guest Artist: Tessa Lark, violin

BARTOK - Romanian Folk Dances

TORKE - Sky (violin concerto)
Tessa Lark, violin

BEETHOVEN - Symphony No. 6 ("Pastoral")

Masterworks 4

THE PLANETS

Tue., March 18, 2025 | 7:30 p.m.

HEINS - Moons Of The Giants

HOLST - The Planets



Masterworks 5

FROM THE NEW WORLD

Wed., May 14, 2025 | 7:30 p.m.

Guest Artists: R. Carlos Nakai, Native American Flute, and Leah Glenn Dance Theatre

NAKAI - Inner Voices
Kokopelli Wind
Amazing Grace
R. Carlos Nakai, Native American Flute

AVERY-Secrets: A Tribute to the Brafferton Indian School
Leah Glenn Dance Theatre

DVORAK - Symphony No. 9 (From the New World)

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