

2026

SPRING



# WSO THE WILLIAMSBURG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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## WILLIAMSBURG YOUTH ORCHESTRA

*by Jason A. Chen  
President | Board of Directors  
Williamsburg Youth Orchestra*



Our Winter Concert, held on February 15, 2026, was a great success—we welcomed 451 people (not including children 5 and under), nearly 100 more than our Fall Concert! So, for WSO folks who came out to support us, thank you so much! During this concert, our Concerto Competition winner, Joshua Kang, performed his solo piece. We also surprised Dr. David Grandis (conductor of the Symphony Orchestra) with a gift and a tribute video to celebrate his 10th year conducting with us. Dr. Grandis has been an outstanding leader, doubling the size of the Symphony Orchestra since his arrival.! See the picture attached.

Because we have packed the house for our concerts, we are changing the format for our Spring Concert (May 3, 2026) so that all our guests can have a seat and enjoy the concert. Our younger musicians (Strings Orchestra and Concert Band) will perform from 2:00 to 3:00pm. Our older musicians (Symphony Orchestra and Wind Ensemble) will perform from 5:00 to 6:00pm.

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## WILLIAMSBURG YOUTH ORCHESTRA ...continued

As we noted in the Winter newsletter, we are applying for grants to help continue funding the M3loDy Makers project—expanding to another elementary school in York County. Earlier in February, we were successful in garnering about one-third of the necessary funding by winning a grant from the Williamsburg Community Foundation. We submitted another grant application and are delighted to report success (see below)! Of course, we are always grateful when our efforts are recognized and rewarded by the community and individuals. At the same time, we deeply appreciate anyone who is interested in supporting our efforts to provide 3D-printed violins and first-rate violin instruction for York County students in Grades 3-5 at no cost to students or schools, with a focus specifically on those who historically have not had the opportunity or resources to access symphonic music. We gladly welcome any gifts! Please visit our website here to make a donation:

[wyomusic.org/donate](http://wyomusic.org/donate) 

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## COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS LUNCH

On March 12, 2026, several local nonprofit organizations gathered for the Williamsburg Community Foundation Grant Awards Lunch at Ford's Colony. Each organization delivered a brief presentation summarizing its mission and how the awarded funds would support its programs and services. The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra and the Williamsburg Youth Orchestra were among the recipients of these grants, both of which highlighted their ongoing efforts to enrich the community through music education and performance.



*The Williamsburg Community Foundation brings together caring individuals, families, and businesses to support the causes that make our community stronger. Since 1999, the Foundation has awarded over \$12 million in grants, helping local nonprofits thrive. To learn more, visit [williamsburgcommunityfoundation.org](http://williamsburgcommunityfoundation.org) or call (757) 259-1660.*

## THE NUTCRACKER: LETTERS FROM THE STUDENTS

In December students from York County, who work with WSO violist Jena Chenkin, enjoyed a trip to see the Virginia Regional Ballet's performance of *The Nutcracker* at the Ferguson Center for the Arts in Newport News. Each year, the Virginia Regional Ballet and The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra partner for this stunning production.

Here are some of the wonderful thank you notes we received following the event:



SEASON FINALE:  
GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

WCO THE WILLIAMSBURG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

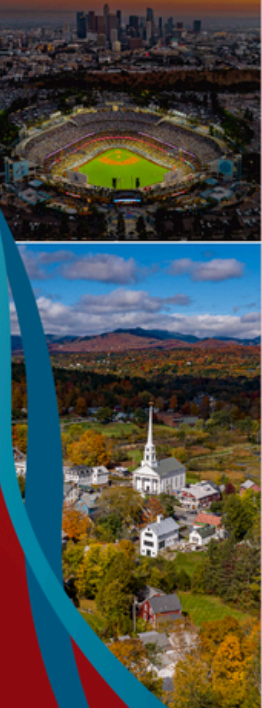
MASTERWORKS CONCERT



A Musical-Visual Celebration  
of America's 250th Anniversary

# AMERICAN MOSAIC

Join Music Director Michael Buttermann in celebrating the American spirit with a concert that honors history, resilience, and the power of music to tell our nation's story with music by Peter Boyer, imagery by Joe Sohm and narrated by Barry Bostwick.



**MAY 7 | 7:30 PM**

WILLIAMSBURG COMMUNITY CHAPEL

Pre-Concert Talk at 6:30 PM

Scan QR Code or Visit Website to Purchase Tickets  
**williamsburgsymphony.org**



Tickets: \$68/\$48 in-person | \$36 live stream only | \$15 for students

American Mosaic is a co-commission of the National Symphony Orchestra, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra for the Cincinnati Pops, Pacific Symphony, The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra, and other orchestras to be announced.

f @WMBGSymphony



Peter Boyer (photo credit Dario Acosta)



Joe Sohm (photo credit Deborah Lyon)

williamsburgsymphony.org

# COMING SOON

## 2026-2027 SEASON PROGRAMMING & SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL

Exciting updates are just around the corner! Season renewals and our 2026–2027 programming will be announced soon, so be sure to keep an eye on your email for all the details. If you have any questions in the meantime, feel free to call the symphony office—we're happy to help.

### PERCUSSION ART

Nearly 1,000 WJCC 4<sup>th</sup> graders make Percussion Art to play with Grammy-nominated Sandbox Percussion Quartet during the special educational concert March 3, 2026 at the Williamsburg Community Chapel. A special thanks to John Rasky, Arts Coordinator for WJCC for his partnership.



photo credit: Alana Carithers



photo credit: Kim Kiely

### STEVE PRINCE SKETCHES

Local artist with international acclaim—and member of the Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra Board of Trustees—Steve Prince has been capturing concert moments and musicians through his live sketches. Here are three sketches from the March 3, 2026, Waves and Wonder concert, held at the Williamsburg Community Chapel. For more on Steve's art, please visit [steveprincestudio.com](http://steveprincestudio.com), or check out his Instagram @onefishstudio.

Copyright 2026 Steve Prince (shared by permission)



# WSO: IN THE NEWS

Tanya Song and Alana Carithers participated in the CLS Arts Day along with Jon Martin from Virginia Arts Festival, Melody Matthey from An Occasion for the Arts, and Adelle Carpenter with Virginia Regional Ballet. Alana also recently spoke to a Kiwanis club.



## Kiwanis Club of Williamsburg

Alana Pritchard Carithers spoke at a recent Kiwanis Club of Williamsburg meeting. She became principal second violin of the Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra in 2015 after serving as a section violinist since 2005. She has had numerous guest soloist and concertmaster engagements, and she has performed in major concert halls around the world, including Carnegie Hall, Symphony Hall, Chicago, the Kimmel Center, Philadelphia and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Pictured are Alana and club president Lisa Cummings. ANN CHRISTIAN

Check out these other recent shout-outs in the paper!

### THANK YOU

The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra presented a spectacular concert, "Waves and Wonder," on March 3 at the Williamsburg Community Chapel. The musicians did a fantastic job of bringing the audience to the sea, experiencing the waves approaching the shores, the saltwater moving across our paths, and skies offering smiling stars. The "Sandbox Percussion Quartet" amazed us with their movements, interaction and tossing their sticks in the air with unbelievable twirling and acrobatic surprises. The foursome were smiling and laughing, and those of us watching were smiling and laughing also. "La Mer" was a perfect finale as we all pictured ourselves on the beach, enjoying the wind, waves and wonder. Thank you Michael Buttermann and your symphony orchestra for again giving us such pleasure. We loved it!

### WSO

The WSO's "Waves & Wonder" program on March 3 is a potpourri of selections suggestive of water, the feature being Vietnamese American composer Viet Cuong's "Re(new)al: Hydro, Wind, Solar" with the Sandbox Percussion Quartet. Cuong is known for his innovative blending of sounds and combination of instruments, such as tuba and dueling oboes, double reed sextet, solo snare drum and percussion quartets utilizing wine glasses and sandpaper.

Grammy-nominated Sandbox is considered a premiere ensemble in contemporary music. They've been around since 2011 and have amassed an international audience. Although they have a large repertoire of contemporary works, they consistently help promote Cuong's remarkable exploration of hydro, wind and solar power.

Also on the fare will be Mussorgsky's ethereal "Prelude to 'Khovantchina,'" Mendelssohn's "Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage," Sibelius' "The Oceanides" and the closing Debussy "La Mer." Each evokes the sea and its beauty, serenity and power.

A pre-concert talk begins in the Williamsburg Community Chapel at 6:30 p.m. and the main fare at 7:30 p.m. For tickets, visit [williamsburgsymphony.org](http://williamsburgsymphony.org).

program on March 3 was wonderful in playing to the theme of water and climate, another bit of innovative programming by conductor Michael Buttermann.

The opening "Prelude to 'Khovantchina'" of Mussorgsky was smooth and dreamy, flowing effortlessly (despite its connection to political turmoil of the opera's plot). Similarly was Mendelssohn's "Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage" — an auditory delight.

The program's guest artist moment was, by far, the most unusual presentation the WSO has staged. Viet Cuong's "Re(new)al" was inspired by hydro, wind and solar power.

That, in itself, was interesting. But, carrying out those themes was even more interesting.

The Sandbox Percussion Quartet performed on water glasses filled to different levels that were gingerly played as with handbells (hydro); on all forms of percussion objects, with very visual results (wind); and myriad percussive traps to provide the sensing of sun (solar).

Debussy's "La Mer," another of his gorgeously crafted impressionistic works, appropriately flowed with images of the water and its many reactions to climate. A sweeping sound scape.

### WSO

The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra presented an outstanding concert on Feb. 10 at the Williamsburg Community Chapel. It was a great pleasure to hear our symphony offer us an American musical performance entitled "Romance and Revolution." The guest 18-year-old violinist, Amaryn Olmeda, delighted us with her ability to play her treasured instrument totally by memory for more than 45 minutes. We thank Amaryn, the gifted music director Michael Buttermann and his superb orchestra for a delightful evening of American music.

### RECAP

The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra's "Waves & Wonder"

Have information about the arts in the Historic Triangle? Contact John Shulson at [johnshulson@gmail.com](mailto:johnshulson@gmail.com).





## LEAVE A LEGACY

MAKE A DIFFERENCE THROUGH PLANNED GIVING

Join the John Jamison Legacy Society and contribute to the vibrant future of The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra through planned gifts. In addition to the satisfaction that comes from knowing that your gift will continue to enrich and uplift future generations through music, members of the Legacy Society receive:

- Recognition in concert programs in perpetuity
- Invitation to an annual Legacy Society event
- Invitation to special events

A NON-BINDING ESTATE PLAN DECLARATION FORM IS LOCATED on our website at [williamsburgsymphony.org/support](http://williamsburgsymphony.org/support).

You can also contact the office at [info@williamsburgsymphony.org](mailto:info@williamsburgsymphony.org) or by phone at (757) 229-9857.

THANK YOU!

Scores of music lovers have generously contributed to The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra's success during their lifetimes. With a legacy gift, that support continues for generations to come. Your gift will become part of the orchestra's endowment, ensuring your place in the organization's future success.

Loyal and generous donors who choose to honor the WSO in their long-range giving plans become members of the WSO Legacy Society, named for John Jamison.

We invite you to learn more about our Legacy Society and the enjoyment that comes with providing a gift for the future. Planned giving can include:

- ❑ Bequests under a will or living trust
- ❑ Beneficiary designation for qualified retirement plan assets
- ❑ Pledges
- ❑ Charitable trust

Please consult your attorney or tax advisor to determine what is best for your philanthropic vision.

John Jamison and  
Marlene Ford  
circa 2008



# THAT'S A WRAP

In case you missed it, here's a quick wrap-up of recent events!

## HOLIDAY POPS

Each year, a member of the Williamsburg Youth Orchestra is given the opportunity to conduct the Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra during Holiday Pops. Adrian Anatolian took the podium this past December, leading the orchestra in Leroy Anderson's Sleigh Ride. He writes:

*"I apologize for being so delayed in thanking you, for I have been overwhelmed with exams. I am very grateful for the opportunity you gave me to conduct the Williamsburg Symphony. It means so much more than you can understand, as conducting is a dream for me. You have helped me achieve a small part of my dream, and you gave me a glimpse of what it is like to be a conductor. For the longest time, I have watched famous men like Karajan and Abbado conduct famous orchestras. They sparked my interest in conducting and the world of music. For years and years, I have waited for an opportunity like the one presented to me, and I finally received it. I cannot thank you enough. No gift has amounted to the one you gave me.*

*Sincerely,  
Adrian Anatolian"*

## CABARET & COCKTAILS

April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Paul Loren, guest artist  
Douglas Marriner, drums  
Brian Killeen, bass  
Oscar Rodrigues, guitar

## ANNUAL FUND

# \$240,000

**ALMOST THERE!!**

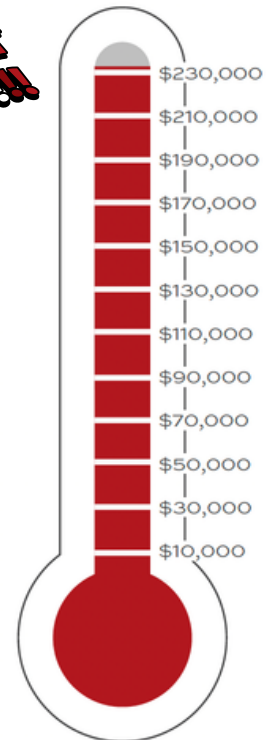


Photo credit: Kim Kiely Photography