



VIRGINIA SYMPHONY LEAGUE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE VIRGINIA SYMPHONY LEAGUE

October 2016

Two Exciting Upcoming Events: October 19 and December 3

We hope you can join us for two exciting events that are coming up in the next couple of months. The first is our first Concert Preview Luncheon of the 2016-2017 season. Please join us from 12:30 to 2:30 on Wednesday, October 19 in Freemason Harbour's Southgate Room, 255 College Cross, Norfolk. Benjamin Rous will be giving us background and insight into the next VSO concert of the season.

The next concert will be at 8:00 on Friday October 21, at the Ferguson Center for the Arts in Newport News, and Saturday, October 22, at Norfolk's Chrysler Hall, also at 8:00. The Orchestra will be performing music with a distinctive Latin flair. On the program are pieces by the inimitable George Gershwin, and Mexican-born composers Manuel Ponce, Jose Pablo Moncayo, and Silvestre Revueltas. The winner of the 2012 JoAnn Falletta International Guitar Competition, the multi-talented Celil Refik Kaya, will be featured as soloist.

The second event is the annual Holiday Luncheon with the Virginia Opera Guild. We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, December 3 at 11:30 at the Norfolk Yacht and Country Club, for good food, good music, and good company.

Recent Events: Prelude to the Season

The League celebrated the beginning of its 2016-2017 season on Sunday, September 11 with a Prelude to the Season meeting and social. Many thanks to Immediate Past-

President Fran Pedersen for hosting, to those who arranged for the delicious food, and to members who contributed home-made sides and desserts.

In addition to a rundown of some of the League's exciting upcoming events, we were treated to a wonderful musical



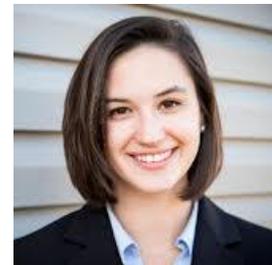
interlude performed by VSO Assistant Concertmaster Amanda Gates Armstrong. In addition to beautiful renditions of music by

Vivaldi, Bach, and Paganini, we learned a little bit about what it's like to be a member of a first-class orchestra like the VSO.

Meet Hannah Baumer

The VSO League has a new liaison. Her name is Hannah Baumer, and she is the VSO's new Development & Marketing Assistant. A native of Virginia Beach, Hannah joins the VSO after finishing her degree from Virginia Tech in Public Relations with a

Theatre Arts Minor. Her most recent experience includes being the Development Intern for the Kennedy Center



and working with Rubin Communications.

A Note of Thanks and Three Opportunities for Volunteers

Thank you to members who helped out with mailings, the Artist Merchandise Table, and assembling carnations for subscribers. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated.

The VSO often has opportunities for volunteering. The Artistic Operations Department is looking for volunteers to assist with airport pickups and ground transportation for the VSO's many guest artists. If interested, contact B.A. Ciccolella at bciccolella@virginiasymphony.org

Additionally, the VSO's Development Department needs volunteers to help sell guest artist merchandise at various times throughout the season. Volunteers don't need any special equipment or knowledge to help. The dates will be determined and distributed at a later date. If you are interested, contact Hannah Baumer at hbaumer@virginiasymphony.org or 757.213.1411.

And finally, the VSO's Education Department will host Young People's Concerts this spring and will be looking for volunteers to model participatory behavior and conduct those children who are seated too far from the stage to see the conductor. Volunteers with previous music experience would be great but everyone is welcome. The dates will be determined and distributed at a later date. If you are interested, contact Hannah at hbaumer@virginiasymphony.org or 757.213.1411.

Save the Date

10-19: Concert Preview Luncheon
10-21/22: Latin Rhythms
11-19: The Gala
12-3: Holiday Luncheon

Who's Who in the League

Every member of the VSO League is important, and we could not function without you. Your participation and support is invaluable. This year, as it has in the past, the League is fortunate to have the leadership of our wonderful officers and Board of Directors. This year's officers include: President, Cyndi Brown, Vice-President Tom Meurer, Treasurer and Membership Chair Jaci Meurer, and Secretary Alice Titus.

Our Board of Directors includes: our Volunteer Coordinator Jeanne Steffanelli, our Parliamentarian Thelma Oser, our Corresponding Secretary Gloria Brown, our Social Chairperson and VSO Support Person Tina Pagley, our two Members-at-Large Linda Martinez and Marilyn Richardson, and our Fundraising Chairperson and Immediate Past-President, the redoubtable Fran Pedersen. Our new VSO Staff Liaison is Hannah Baumer. We look forward to getting to know Hannah.

Our thanks go out to our officers and board and to all our members who give their time and effort to make the League such a vibrant and important partner and supporter of our very talented Virginia Symphony Orchestra.

Gala

This year's Gala, held jointly with Young Audiences of Virginia, will be held on November 19 at the Norfolk Yacht Club. Invitations should be in your mailbox soon (if they haven't arrived already). Proceeds from the Gala help to make it possible for our VSO musicians to work with young people in our community through school visits and concerts geared to their needs. Supporting the Gala is a way of helping the VSO and Young Audiences educate the next generation of musicians and music lovers.

This year, we are honoring two long-time supporters of the arts in this region, Susan and Marty Einhorn. Mark your calendars for this event in honor of two of Tidewater's leading citizens.

Renewal Reminder

Our treasurer, Jaci Meurer, will be available at the Concert Preview Luncheon on October 19 to accept new memberships and renewals.

Kudos to Our Wonderful Orchestra

Once again, the VSO performed brilliantly in what was truly a spectacular September concert. The orchestra and the talented



Virginia Symphony Orchestra Chorus treated concertgoers to a magnificent first night of the regular 2016-2017 season.

The title *Russian Fireworks* was no

exaggeration for a program featuring music by Borodin, Stravinsky, and Rachmaninoff. Soloist Conrad Tao's masterful performance in Rachmaninoff's third piano concerto brought the audience to its feet.

Congratulations to the VSO's JoAnn Falletta and our wonderful musicians.

VSO's Holiday Performances Promise Enjoyment for Music Lovers of All Ages

Here's a rundown of the VSO's marvelous programming for the 2016 holiday season.

Home Alone – Film with Live Orchestra
(In partnership with the Virginia Arts Festival and Governor's School for the Arts)

Saturday, November 26, 2016 – 7 PM –
Chrysler Hall

Produced in partnership with the Virginia Arts Festival and the Governor's School for the Arts, this true holiday favorite features renowned composer John Williams' charming and delightful score performed live by the VSO. Macaulay Culkin stars as Kevin McCallister, an 8-year-old boy, accidentally left behind when his family leaves for Christmas vacation, who must defend his home against two bungling thieves. Hilarious and heart-warming, *Home Alone* is holiday fun for the entire family.

The Snowman and The Gift of the Magi

(The VSO and The Virginia Children's Chorus)

Sunday, November 27, 2016 – 3 PM –
Sandler Center for the Performing Arts

Kick off the holiday season with the Academy Award-winning movie *The Snowman*. This charming, animated film tells the story of a young boy's magical friendship with a snowman. The VSO performs Howard Blake's score, including the popular song "Walking in the Air." *The Gift of the Magi*, based on O. Henry's beloved short story, tells the story of Jim and Della, a young couple living in a shabby New York tenement, who sacrifice what they each hold most dear in order to give each other very special Christmas gifts. Joining the VSO on stage will be the Virginia Children's Chorus and a narrator, combining forces to bring to life this profound message of love and generosity.

The Richmond Ballet and the VSO Present *The Nutcracker*

Friday, December 2, 2016 | 7PM
Saturday December 3, 2016 | 2PM & 7PM

Sunday, December 4, 2016 | 2PM
Chrysler Hall

Tchaikovsky's brilliant ballet score comes to life in this magical collaboration between the VSO and the Richmond Ballet. Heralded as "perfect" by *The New York Times*, Stoner Winslett's production of *The Nutcracker* returns by popular demand.

Holiday Pops!

Wednesday, December 9, 2015, 8PM,

Ferguson Center for the Arts

Saturday, December 10, 2016, 8PM,

Chrysler Hall

Sunday, December 11, 2016, 7PM, Sandler
Center for the Performing Arts

JoAnn Falletta, conductor

Virginia Symphony Orchestra Chorus

Robert Shoup, chorusmaster

Join us for the must-see holiday tradition of the season – Holiday Pops. There's no better way to lift your spirits than with seasonal songs and traditional carols delivered in full sound and spectacle by the VSO, the inspirational voices of the Virginia Symphony Orchestra Chorus, and special guests. This year, as a special treat, Music Director JoAnn Falletta conducts the Holiday Pops with all the magical elements you've come to expect—high energy, familiar carols, lots of holiday warmth, and even a surprise or two.

Jingle Bell Jam

Sunday, December 11, 2016 -- Sandler
Center for the Performing Arts

Santa Claus is coming to town, and he's stopping by to be a part of the VSO's ever-popular Jingle Bell Jam. Celebrate the magic of the season with an afternoon that

showcases the music of the holidays performed by the best talent in Hampton Roads. You won't want to miss this holly jolly concert! Get your tickets early—this family favorite is sure to sell out!

Holiday Brass

Thursday, December 15, 2016, 8 PM, Phi

Beta Kappa Hall, Williamsburg

Friday, December 16, 2016, 8PM, TCC

Roper Performing Arts Center, Norfolk

Benjamin Rous, conductor

The bold sounds of the Virginia Symphony brass section ring in the holidays with a blast. Experience the festive sounds of the season in a concert filled with wit, virtuosity, and the glorious music of the holidays featuring the VSO brass and percussion sections. Conducted by Resident Conductor Benjamin Rous, you'll hear music from a variety of styles that make this concert one holiday delight you won't want to miss!

Handel's Messiah

Thursday, December 15, 2016, 8PM, Regent

University, Virginia Beach

Friday, December 16, 2016, 8PM, First

Baptist Church of Newport News

Saturday, December 17, 2016, 8PM,

Harrison Opera House, Norfolk

Robert Shoup, conductor

Virginia Symphony Orchestra Chorus

Robert Shoup conducts the VSO and the Virginia Symphony Orchestra Chorus in this time-honored Christmas tradition. Get in the spirit of the season with this distinguished performance of Handel's sacred masterpiece.