Wilkins returns to Hampton Roads

Maestro Thomas Wilkins, a Norfolk native, returned to his hometown to lead the orchestra in three memorable performances of Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 in January with amazing guest violinist Sirena Huang. This celebrated concert came on the heels of Wilkins receiving the Dreamer Award at the VSO's annual "Songs for a Dreamer" concert. "Songs for a Dreamer" pays homage to the visionary civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and recognizes an individual who promotes a positive image, exemplifies community service and demonstrates the values that characterized Dr. King's life.

Young People learn how the Orchestra “Rocks”

The VSO's annual Young People’s Concert tour is underway! This program provides a 4-month-long curriculum through Carnegie Hall entitled The Orchestra Rocks. The program is geared toward 3rd-5th grade students across 11 school districts throughout Hampton Roads, and this spring more than 25,000 students will hear a culminating, full-orchestra performance in one of our local venues.

A special thank you to the Camp Foundation for increasing their support to ensure more than 2,000 students in Southampton County, Franklin City, and Isle of Wight have access to this important curriculum and performance.

Opening Night Dazzles

From L to R: Sandy Cameron, Danny Elfman, and JoAnn Falletta take a bow on opening night at Chrysler Hall. Music Director JoAnn Falletta opened the VSO’s extraordinary 98th season by featuring the brilliant Sandy Cameron performing the US debut of famed composer Danny Elfman's “Eleven Eleven” violin concerto. Sandy dazzled the crowd and Elfman himself made an appearance at the Chrysler Hall performance. Audiences applauded the performance as a wonderful kickoff to the VSO's season.

Holidays with the VSO!

16 performances in 15 days – it truly was the most wonderful time of the year! From The Nutcracker, Holiday Pops and Jingle Bell Jam, to the Messiah and Holiday Brass, the VSO was hustling and bustling right into Christmas! We expanded our Holiday Brass this season to perform at Vanguard Brewpub and Distillery (our first-ever brewery concert!) and CBN’s Christmas Village event. In addition, CBN continued as a strong partner and sponsor this season for our Messiah performances.

Hogwarts Hullabaloo

The VSO cast a spell on audiences with the magical Hogwarts Hullabaloo in February. The special performance featured Harry Potter activities including a photo booth of the famous platform 9 3/4 at King’s Cross Station. In addition, audience members were challenged to remember their knowledge of Harry Potter and his wizarding world through our first-ever live-tweet trivia that took place before the show.
SOAR Update

This winter our musicians began their School/Orchestra Artistic Residency (SOAR) program visits to Portsmouth Public Schools' Port Town Magic after-school program to provide mentoring and instrument-specific coachings to band and orchestra students. Thanks to a grant from the Hampton Roads Community Foundation, the VSO was able to meet the requests of Portsmouth Public Schools for a VSO musician in each instrumental section and invaluable professional development for Portsmouth music teachers.

March is All About our Donors!

In March, the VSO celebrated Donor Appreciation Month – Donors who attended select concerts in March received special tokens of appreciation in recognition of their kind support! In addition, donors at the Orchestra Level ($250 and above) were invited to attend open rehearsals to get a behind-the-scenes look at the creative process. The VSO is grateful for all of those who support our work both on and off the stage.

Night Owl

Night Owl is now available for purchase at concerts and through the VSO's website (virginiasymphony.org/hear-your-orchestra/).

Looking ahead:

April

- **Mahler Symphony No 2** – The VSO Classics series comes to a close on Thursday, April 18 and Friday, April 19 with one of the greatest symphonies of all time. Join JoAnn Falletta, the VSO Chorus along with the F. Ludwig Diehn Chorale and the ODU Concert Choir for a powerful performance you won't want to miss!
- **The VSO is back at the zoo!** After a brief hiatus, the VSO will once again play at the Norfolk Zoo on April 28. Thanks to Bank of America for making this opportunity possible!

May

- **May the Fourth Be with You!** Don't miss our upcoming Music of Star Wars concert, May 4, 2019 at the Ferguson Center, Newport News at 7:30pm.
- **Treble Society Dinner** - On May 15, the VSO will celebrate the generosity of its Treble Society donors (individuals who give $3,000 or more annually). The event is sponsored by Baldwin & Associates, LLC and will feature a special musical presentation by VSO musicians and presentation of the first-ever “Instruments of Change” Award. To join the Treble Society, please contact Emily Barnhill, Senior Director of Development at 757-213-1412.
- **On May 17 and 18**, as a part of the Virginia Arts Festival, rediscover a Shakespeare classic, Antony & Cleopatra, enhanced by a long-lost musical score—in the East Coast premiere of a lavish production that has made headlines! With costumed actors and the VSO conducted by JoAnn Falletta, you'll hear Shakespeare's lush language in a new way as you discover music that stirs the pulse.
- **The VSO will present its first ever Symphony of Wines** fundraising event on May 31. Guests will be treated to symphonic musical selections that will be paired with wine – the music notes and the tasting notes will work together to enhance the overall experience! Don't miss out – go to VirginiaSymphony.org/SymphonyofWines and purchase your tickets today!

757.892.6366

virginiasymphony.org

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