Making Music Matter in Hampton Roads

Virginia Symphony Orchestra

2017-2018 Annual Report
VSO WELCOMED NEW ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR GONZALO FARIAS
After an extensive nation-wide search, the VSO welcomed a new face to the stage. Before accepting his new role at the VSO, Mr. Farias held the prestigious Conducting Fellowship position at the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra under Music Director Marin Alsop. He was born in Santiago de Chile and in addition to playing piano since the age of 5, Mr. Farias has a love for chamber and contemporary music. He also enjoys cooking and practices Zen Buddhism.

GRAMMY-WINNING BASSIST VICTOR WOOTEN OPENED THE 97th SEASON, VSO HONORED NASA MATHEMATICIAN KATHERINE JOHNSON
Celebrating NASA’s 100th anniversary, the VSO opened its 97th season with Holst’s The Planets and The Bass Whisperer, performed by Grammy Award-winning Newport News native Victor Wooten. The VSO honored NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson who was recently portrayed in the blockbuster hit Hidden Figures. (Fun Fact: Mrs. Johnson is the aunt of the VSO’s own principal viola Beverly Baker!)

VSO PERFORMED WORLD PREMIERE OF NIGHT OWL BY GRAMMY-WINNING COMPOSER MICHAEL DAUGHERTY, CELEBRATING VIRGINIA HISTORY
The VSO performed the world premiere of Night Owl for orchestra by Grammy Award-winning composer Michael Daugherty. Commissioned by Susan and David Goode, Night Owl was inspired by the nocturnal steam locomotive photography of O. Winston Link. The performance featured Link’s photography choreographed to the Night Owl music. The VSO will release a CD of Night Owl in December 2018 on its own label, Hampton Roads Classics.

OVER 10,000 PEOPLE ENJOYED THE VIRGINIA SYMPHONY AT 9 FREE OUTDOOR CONCERTS IN GLOUCESTER, YORKTOWN, WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA BEACH, CHESPAPEAKE, AND NORFOLK.
NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH CHKD
VSO musicians performed in the hospital to help enhance the environment and increase patient well-being.

COMMUNITY CONCERT
Over 700 community members came together to celebrate diversity through our CommUNITY concert, uniting people of all ages, faiths, and backgrounds through side-by-side performances with VSO musicians and the Virginia Symphony Chorus.

GENERATIONS IN UNISON
The VSO created a new music therapy-informed program that aids memory care patients in assisted living facilities, improving their quality of life and cognitive function.

LAST YEAR, VSO MUSICIANS PROVIDED COACHING AND MENTORSHIP TO 532 STUDENT MUSICIANS in public schools across Hampton Roads. These programs offer personalized music instruction to students who would otherwise not have access.

VSO LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ODU AND CNU allow participants to hear music in an entirely new way, learn about the background and preparation of each musician, and discuss the various styles and eras as both the music and instruments evolved.

MORE THAN 25,000 STUDENTS in grades 3-5 across eleven school districts enjoyed VSO Young People’s Concerts.
2017-2018 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Revenue

Tickets & Performance Fees $ 2,702,192
Private Contributions $ 2,922,804
Public Support $ 608,175
VSO and Other $ 359,309
Vision Forward Campaign $ 1,362,347
Total Revenue $ 7,954,827

Expenses

Orchestra $ 3,276,753
Artistic $ 412,206
Production $ 1,125,357
Education $ 96,869
Marketing & Box Office $ 574,999
Development $ 301,969
Administration $ 815,612
Vision Forward Campaign $ 81,955
Total Expenses $ 6,685,720

VSO BY THE NUMBERS!

35,000 STUDENTS REACHED

136 CONCERTS PERFORMED

10,021 MILES TRAVELED BY VSO TRUCKS OVER THE PAST SEASON