



Young People's Concert 2024

The Orchestra Rocks

The Virginia Symphony Orchestra's (VSO) Young People's Concert (YPC) program provides elementary aged students throughout Hampton Roads a hands-on music curriculum and, for some, their first experience attending a professional symphony orchestra concert. We do these concerts in partnership with Carnegie Hall's award-winning "Link Up" program. This supplementary music education curriculum provides teachers with musical lessons, such as music literacy, music fundamentals, and music history, and culminates in the final live performance. Elementary music teachers attend a professional development workshop with VSO staff to gain awareness of Carnegie Hall's immense resources. Lesson plans and concert repertoire are also presented in this PD to help teachers prepare their students for this highly participatory field trip. This flexible curriculum allows teachers to choose what to prepare for the concert. When students attend the concert, they are encouraged to sing, move and play with the VSO.

In Winter-Spring 2024, the VSO will be performing "**The Orchestra Rocks**". Here is how Carnegie Hall describes the concert:

"Music rocks when it is powerful and edgy, and when it propels both audiences and performers into motion. Rhythm, defined as the organization of sounds in silence, is a key element in music that rocks as composers and musicians use patterns and grooves to drive music forward. Rock music embodies this propulsive quality with its amplified and electric sounds. Through the Link Up repertoire, hands-on activities, and a culminating interactive performance with a professional orchestra, we will experience how it feels when the orchestra rocks."

Key Objectives

- Students will: perform by singing and playing the soprano recorder or string instruments with the orchestra.
- analyze and interpret the essential structures of rhythm and groove.
- connect with the orchestra and explore instruments, families, and orchestration.
- compose and notate new music using the concert melodies as models.
- develop their imaginative capacities and make personal connections to music.

Music selections

Thomas Cabaniss “Come to Play”

Antonio Vivaldi “La Follia”

Giuseppe Verdi “Anvil Chorus” from Il trovatore

Igor Stravinsky “Dance of the Adolescents” from The Rite of Spring

Antonin Dvorak “Slavonic Dance No 8”

Curtis Stewart re-composition of Dvorak’s “Slavonic Dance No 8” called “M. Bett”

Thomas Cabaniss “Drumlines”

Jessica Meyer “Go BIG or Go HOME”

Chuck Berry “Johnny B. Goode”

(The pieces in blue are being substituted for some of the pieces in the original repertoire)

Students are also introduced to all the sections of the orchestra through online materials provided by Carnegie Hall and reinforced in the concert. This is a highly engaging first orchestral concert experience that has lasting effect.

See the Carnegie Hall “Link Up” website for more information.

<https://www.carnegiehall.org/Education/Programs/Link-Up>

Check out the Carnegie Hall “Link Up” resource link about “The Orchestra Rocks”.

<https://www.carnegiehall.org/Education/Programs/Link-Up/National-Program/The-Orchestra-Rocks>

Check out the VSO’s webpage about our Young People’s Concerts

<https://virginiasymphony.org/young-peoples-concerts/>

Here is a video from 2022.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZTgySM0aNFingTfkyr3OR4WM3ZCStJ85/view?usp=sharing>

For more information, please contact Helen Martell, Director of Education,
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To schedule a concert for your district, please contact Christy Havens, Executive Vice President & General Manager. chavens@virginiasymphony.org, 757-213-1421