



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 26, 2024

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## **A GOSPEL CHRISTMAS FEATURING A TRIBUTE TO RICHARD SMALLWOOD**

**HAMPTON ROADS, VA [November 26, 2024]**

WHO: Virginia Symphony Orchestra with Dr. Henry Panion, III, and Earl Bynum Jr.

WHERE: Chrysler Hall, 215 St Pauls Blvd, Norfolk, VA 23510

WHEN: Saturday November 30, 7:30PM

WHAT: Dr. Henry Panion, III, is back at Chrysler Hall to lead a soulful celebration of the season! Featuring a tribute to the beloved Richard Smallwood with a 100-voice community gospel choir led by Minister Earl Bynum (Director of The Mount Unity Choir) and guest soloists Peggy Britt, Earl Bynum Jr., Desmond Harrison, Naomi Kimberly Thomas, this concert is the perfect way to start the holidays.

TICKET PRICES: \$25/39/56/79/119. \$15 Student/Child Tickets

<https://tickets.virginiasymphony.org/gospelchristmas/chryslerhall>

**####**

As the region's most celebrated musical, educational, and entrepreneurial arts organization, the Virginia Symphony Orchestra continues to challenge expectations and push the boundaries of what an American orchestra can be. Innovation and excellence are at the heart of the VSO's narrative. The VSO has received national attention for its unique mission serving a home area of 1.7 million across the diverse communities of southeastern Virginia. Through appearances at the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall and its commitment to adventurous programming, the VSO and its musicians have been highlighted in the media including The New York Times, The Washington Post, National Public Radio, and BBC Worldwide News.

As the largest performing arts organization in southeastern Virginia, the VSO and VSO Chorus present more than 150 concerts and events annually for more than 100,000 residents and visitors. Recent innovations include health and wellness programs, including interactive therapeutic experiences for people living with Alzheimer's and dementia, and adopting welcoming concert environments for those who are neurodiverse. Since 2019, the VSO has been recognized nationally for striving to reflect the region's ethnic and racial diversity in its members, its programming, and its leadership.



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The selection of the young and dynamic conductor Eric Jacobsen as music director in 2021 was another bold step forward for the VSO, further expanding its vision to attract wider and larger audiences with engaging concert experiences and creative and relevant programming. Rounding out the artistic leadership team is Norfolk native Thomas Wilkins in the role of Principal Guest Conductor, reflecting the VSO's commitment to tell its community's stories and advance the important conversations that will promote understanding and belonging among all residents.