



# SYMPHONICITY

DANIEL W. BOOTHE — MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Symphonicity Hits the Streets of Virginia Beach for its 40th Anniversary Season**

**Virginia Beach, VA (October 9, 2020)** - This year Symphonicity will be stepping into the streets rather than onto the stage to celebrate its 40th anniversary season. Virginia Beach's all-volunteer symphony orchestra will use this special year to highlight various areas of the city through safe public performances as well as shine a spotlight on those who have made significant contributions to its four-decade success. It will also feature ground-breaking partnerships and a Hampton Roads "first" through innovative art and music programming.

Symphonicity typically performs at the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts but due to COVID-19 and the Sandler's temporary closure, the orchestra amended its plans for the 2020-2021 season. A new and innovative series titled "**Symphonicity in the City**" will consist of a plethora of online events as well as safe indoor and outdoor public performances throughout the city.

"During these challenging times, we should embrace the powerful and essential enrichment that comes from the arts. This season promises to offer the most comprehensive musical and informational programming we have ever assembled both digitally and in-person. Our new partnership with Virginia MOCA will be truly something special. It will provide, what we believe, is our region's first-ever 'walk-thru' concert and visual art experience and it will intersect directly with the important conversations our society is having about race and personal experiences," said Daniel W. Boothe, the orchestra's Music Director and Conductor.

Although details are being finalized, the "**Symphonicity in the City**" season will offer a wide range of programming options for the community. This will include a new Digital Ovation Series online, chamber concerts at Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art (Virginia MOCA), Pop-Up concerts and a host of free online offerings including the popular Handel's Messiah Sing-Along and as many as 40 online interviews to celebrate this 40th anniversary season. Visit [Symphonicity.org](https://www.symphonicity.org) for the most updated information.



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It will all officially begin on Sunday, October 18th, with the first Digital Ovation Series program. This special series replaces the orchestra's traditional "live" masterworks season and instead will include five full online concerts hosted by Dr. Raymond Jones and Maestro Daniel W. Boothe. These concerts will consist of their personally curated selections from recent seasons along with commentary about the music. Live-streaming audiences will be invited to chat in real-time with Maestro Boothe and other Symphonicity musicians.

All Digital Ovations Series online concerts will take place via live-stream from 3-5 PM on the organization's website on Sundays October 18, November 22, February 21, March 21, and May 2. Also included will be the annual Lollipop Concert highlighting some of the best of its recent collaborations featuring Ballet Virginia. The 45-minute concert, scheduled for Saturday, January 9, at 3 PM, is designed especially for children and their families and will include interactive online musical engagement from Symphonicity musicians.

The content of the "Digital Ovation Series" is available for purchase via the website either by single concerts for \$10 per Household or as a package of 6 concerts for \$50 per Household.

In addition to the Digital Ovation Series, Symphonicity will offer CDC-compliant public performances. The first is an innovative chamber series of two concerts that will take place at Virginia MOCA in Virginia Beach. These concerts are exclusive to Symphonicity subscribers and MOCA members and will take place in indoor and outdoor spaces, utilizing masks, spatial distancing and customized programming. These "walk-through concerts" will provide an immersive 360-degree experience as guests enjoy the museum. The concerts will take place in November and possibly April.

"The Virginia MOCA partnership with Symphonicity is incredibly exciting -- literally thinking outside the box to create a multi-sensory art experience. Necessity is truly the mother of invention in this case, and we can't wait to share this co-creation," said Gary Ryan, MOCA's Executive Director.

Symphonicity's Pop-Up concerts will be held at varying locations throughout the city of Virginia Beach. These 10-15 minute "flash mob-style" concerts will not be announced in



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advance in order to accommodate changing weather, musician availability and COVID-19 regulations at the time. Some video recordings of the Pop-Ups will be shared by Symphonicity on social media. The public will be encouraged to “capture the moments” as they happen and to share them with others.

This year Symphonicity’s (Safe) Strolling Strings will be used for special outreach opportunities and private events following safe COVID-19 protocol measures. Under normal circumstances, all of Symphonicity’s small ensembles are available for hire. This year, however, their string ensembles are being highlighted for the safest indoor presentations. For more details about the outreach program or information on how to hire one of the Strolling Strings ensembles, please contact Becky Brown at [vivaviolas47@gmail.com](mailto:vivaviolas47@gmail.com).

In celebration of its 40th, Symphonicity will be conducting online video interviews over the course of the season with 40 of the many individuals who understood the value of an all-volunteer orchestra and contributed to its success. The interviews will be posted on the social media platforms and website twice per month on Sundays. The video series will be archived and available to the public for free via our website.

The Messiah Sing-Along is a favorite holiday tradition for thousands in our community. This will be the first time in 38 years that we will be unable to gather in one place to share it together. However, this year Symphonicity will provide a full pre-recorded video concert of its annual sing-along as featured in Hillery Schanck's book, "The Soul Feels Its Worth." This free virtual recorded performance will be accessible for free via Symphonicity’s website and social media platforms on December 23 at 8 PM and will be live-hosted by special guests from Symphonicity.

“We are grateful to still be able to celebrate our 40th anniversary and provide the community with high-quality musical experiences,” explained Executive Director, Lynette Andrews. “But it is only possible because of our strong base of volunteer musicians and the continued generosity of our patrons, supporters and sponsors including the city of Virginia Beach’s Cultural Affairs Department, Arts & Humanities Commission, and the Sandler Center Foundation.”



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For information about Virginia MOCA or MOCA memberships, please visit [www.virginiamoca.org](http://www.virginiamoca.org) or call 757-425-0000.

To purchase membership access to Symphonycity's new Digital Ovation Series or for the most updated information, visit Symphonycity's website, social media pages, website or call 757-671-8611.

High Resolution images are available at this link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/qx70kwosuvp8m0t/AABTmz3hamE-OclwliimaQ4Ha?dl=0>

## **About Symphonycity**

Since 1981, the mission of Symphonycity has remained the same: to provide high quality music for everyone, to afford an opportunity for performers, and to educate young musicians. The orchestra typically performs nine concerts annually at various venues in Virginia Beach, and is a resident company of the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts. Symphonycity's musicians come from different cities, states and countries. They are teachers, business professionals, homemakers, and composers, differing in age, race and religion. They do, however, have two things in common—a love of music and a love of this community. To learn more, please visit [symphonycity.org](http://symphonycity.org).

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