



THE WILLIAMSBURG SYMPHONY  
ORCHESTRA  
*League*

## MUSICAL NOTES FOR YOU

WINTER 2024 | VOL. 12 | ISSUE 2

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## A NIGHT OF ELEGANCE AND IMPACT

**The League Annual Gala Raises Record Funds for Our Symphony**

*by Eloise Branden, League Vice President and 2023 Gala Chair*

Williamsburg's music lovers, supporters, and community leaders converged at the Two Rivers Country Club on November 3 for the Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra League's annual fundraising Gala. This dazzling event left an indelible mark on the attendees.

The glittering black-tie affair, attended by 143 guests, proved to be a resounding success as it raised a record-breaking \$53,700 for The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra. This represents a 34.25% increase in fundraising vs. 2022. The evening was a harmonious blend of sophistication, purpose, and generosity.

Attendees chatted with old friends and made new ones during a cocktail reception with passed hors d'oeuvres before entering the River Room at sunset where they were treated to a gourmet dinner, ensuring that every aspect of the evening was a sensory delight.

The evening's fundraising began with a live auction, where attendees bid enthusiastically on a range of items, from jewelry to one-of-a-kind experiences. The paddle raise for the WSO educational and performance programs



All Photos: Kim Kiely  
Photography

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THE GALA ALSO  
FEATURED A  
CAPTIVATING  
PERFORMANCE  
BY OUR VERY  
OWN MUSIC  
DIRECTOR,  
MICHAEL  
BUTTERMAN,  
PIANO AND HIS  
WIFE, JENNIFER  
CARSILLO,  
VIOLIN.

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had bids from every corner of the room. The generosity displayed by the attendees was truly heartwarming.

The Gala also featured a captivating performance by our very own music director, Michael Buttermann, piano and his wife, Jennifer Carsillo, violin. Their passion and artistry added a touch of magic to the night. Our student performer, Corinne Lombardo was acclaimed as wonderful as her fingers danced across the keys.

Among the prominent figures in attendance was Amber Price, President of Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Center, our presenting sponsor, who spoke passionately about the important connection between music and healthcare. Her humor and message resonated with the audience.

The funds raised at the Gala positively impacts the League's fundraising initiatives for The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra. 2023 Gala Chair, Eloise Branden expressed her gratitude on behalf of the League to the attendees, sponsors, and volunteers whose collective efforts made the event an overwhelming success.

As the night came to a close, attendees left with a sense of fulfillment, knowing that their contributions would have a meaningful impact on The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra. The Annual Fundraising Gala not only showcased commitment and support but also served as a reminder that when a community comes together, remarkable things can be achieved.

The success of this year's Gala has set the bar high for future events, leaving anticipation and excitement for the 40th Anniversary Gala to be held during the 2024–2025 season.



## ANNUAL FUNDRAISING GALA

A Special Thank You to Our 2023 Sponsors, Bidders and Donors

Your support means the world to us, and it positively impacts our fundraising initiatives for The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra. We deeply appreciate your commitment to making a difference.

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**Mari Ann Banks  
Tom and Diane Stanley**

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MUSIC CAN  
PUT US IN  
THE MOOD OF  
THOUGHTFUL-  
NESS AT  
MODERATO  
OR SLOWER,  
DANCING AT  
ALLEGRO, AND  
INTO A WIDE  
VARIETY OF  
MOODS WITH  
ALL ITS TEMPI.

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### 2023 GALA COMMITTEE

Eloise Branden,	Joan Brockenbrough	Terry Murphy
2023 Gala Chair	Dan Dutcher	Diane Stanley
Debbie Monark,	Donna Herman	Susan Strock
League President	Jackie Kennedy	
Georgianna Avioli	Marie Mamikonian	

### VOLUNTEERS & SUPPORT

Callie Adkins (Two Rivers CC)	Connie Matthews	Kim Kiely (Photography)
Dennis Branden	Harshaw	Sue Klepac
JB Crowley (Marketing)	Roger Heer	Nancy Norton
	Bill Herman	Tom Phelps

### WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO

**Michael Buttermann & Jennifer Carsillo**

For your support and for generously sharing your musical talents with us

**Carolyn Keurajian**

Our exceptional partner, who always goes the extra mile



## MUSIC & THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE

*By Richard Dunn*

Dear Leaguers, I'd like to share some thoughts with you. As I said before, it is impossible to say in words the meaning of a musical phrase, section, or composition. There are a few things in music, however, which have an affinity to human experience, even human biology.

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PERHAPS  
THE MOST  
SIGNIFICANT  
PARALLEL IS  
THE MATTER  
OF POETRY.  
BOTH USE  
METRICAL  
CONSTRUCTION.  
AND WE  
USUALLY SING  
OR CHANT IN  
METER, TOO.

---

Has anyone noticed that the human heartbeat is equivalent to “moderato” in the metronome, and that “allegro” is simply a faster human activity? Music can put us in the mood of thoughtfulness at moderato or slower, dancing at allegro, and into a wide variety of moods with all its tempi. Another “mood maker” is in the major-minor choice: we associate minor with sadness or tragedy, and major with happier situations. In addition to mood and human biology, human experience has other parallels in music. We associate trumpet signals with military activities or perhaps the beginning of day (*reveille*), and horns with forests, sylvan scenes or the hunt.

The composer is able also to present visual phenomena in sound. For example, Maurice Ravel describes dawn not as a visual experience but as an aural one [referring to the 2nd Suite from *Daphne et Chloe*, as I described before. In this case we already knew that the “depiction” is dawn, because of directions in the score]. The dynamic content of the event is the same in both visual and aural interpretations. In this case the composer speaks to us by giving us the aural “picture” of an experience.

Yet another mode is exemplified by the beginning notes of Wagner’s *Tristan und Isolde* where Wagner tells us in music that there is a conflict in the ensuing drama, namely of unconsummated passion. The first notes that he wrote do not find a normal chord—a musical resolution; no key is set or even attainable. This points to the legend to follow, to something unfulfilled, to longing or searching. Tristan has a duty to his liege, King Mark, but he is torn at the same time by the love between himself and Isolde, Mark’s intended. Two separate medieval codes of chivalry are in conflict within Tristan. Of course, only Wagner would be able to verify this ‘mode of previewing’ in music, even though it seems certain. The whole work is a lengthy opera, but many major conductors and orchestras have programmed or recorded this *Prelude* and *Liebestod* (lovedeath) separately.

Perhaps the most significant parallel is the matter of poetry. Both use metrical construction. And we usually sing or chant in meter, too. A simple example is Happy |**birth**day to |**you** – happy | **birth**day to |**you**, happy |**Bir**th ..., [the important syllables are shown here in boldface, corresponding to the first beat of the bar, and I have shown the bar lines, too (bars = the metrical ‘feet’)]. The repetition serves to increase emphasis. I remember a professor saying about repetition ‘When my father called me the second time, you can be sure that it sounded differently to me than the first time.’ The good professor wanted to stress the significance of repetition in music, but I doubt that there is any example with such a feeling of urgency.

In any case it is clear that music is a human phenomenon and is directed to human understanding.



# LEGACY SOCIETY LUNCHEON

October 19, 2023

by Terry Murphy

The Williamsburg Symphony Legacy Society held its annual luncheon on October 19 with special guests Michael Buttermann and Philippe Quint, our Masterworks 2 soloist. After a sumptuous buffet lunch, we celebrated and recognized seven new members! Linda Baker talked about John Jamison who inspired the founding of the society of dedicated patrons of the Williamsburg Symphony and Carolyn highlighted the importance of such a giving community.



*The annual Legacy Society lunch was held at Ford's Colony on October 19th. The piano keyboard cake was a highlight!*



Michael Buttermann and Phillipe Quint gave an enlightening talk about Phillipe's Charlie Chaplin project, inspired by the song, "Smile". Phillipe discovered that Chaplin wrote all the music for his many films and was inspired to record it for his YouTube channel. Our members loved the chocolate keyboard created by Chef Eric of Ford's Colony Country Club and were invited to take a portion of it home as a remembrance of a special day.

Thank you to all our very special Legacy Society members!



## WSO LEAGUE SPONSORS HOLIDAY POPS

by Debbie Monark, President

At the November meeting of the WSO League's Board of Directors, a proposal from the Finance Committee for the League to sponsor the 2023 Holiday Pops concerts was unanimously approved. The sponsorship, in the amount of \$10,000, was presented to WSO President and CEO Carolyn Keurajian by Treasurer Tom Phelps. The board is delighted to be able to sponsor such a lovely holiday tradition in Williamsburg. The concerts were held December 2 and 3 at the Kimball Theater in Merchant's Square featuring Music Director Michael Buttermann and John Riesen, tenor. This sponsorship is made possible by the wonderful generosity of League members and supporters. The League is very happy to be in a position to sponsor the Holiday Pops for 2023, and we look forward to more such opportunities in the future.

## INSTRUMENTS FOR KIDS...AT CIRQUE!

It was an incredible afternoon at the Instrument Petting Zoo at The Ferguson Center for the Arts prior to the Cirque Goes to the Movies concert! Instruments were provided from the Instruments for Kids inventory. Young and old alike enjoyed!



## WELCOME TO NEW LEAGUE MEMBERS

Thank you to all who have renewed their memberships and welcome new members! We are ever grateful for the continuing support. We couldn't do it without you!

Scott & Monique Stevens

L. Gary & Gail King



MASTERWORKS CONCERT 4

# ELLIS ISLAND & RACHMANINOFF

*Music Director Michael Buttermann and  
guest artist Asiya Korepanova, piano*

*Peter Boyer's GRAMMY®-nominated  
production, Ellis Island, featuring stories  
of seven immigrants who came to America  
through Ellis Island from disparate  
nations between 1910 and 1940.*

**MAR. 15  
7:30 PM**

WILLIAMSBURG  
COMMUNITY CHAPEL

Pre-Concert Lecture  
6:30 PM

Rachmaninoff - Piano Concerto No. 3  
Asiya Korepanova, piano

Boyer - Ellis Island: The Dream of America

**WILLIAMSBURG**  
THE  
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Tickets: \$65  
\$30 view from home  
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# CALENDAR

2023-2024

## THANK YOU 2023 WSO LEAGUE VOLUNTEERS

The WSO began its 39th season on September 8. All through the prior week, warm-up music could be heard floating through the halls of the Williamsburg Community Chapel as musicians prepared for rehearsal sessions. Our guest artist was greeted at the airport and musicians were welcomed by their hosts. On concert day, flowers were picked up, dinners for the orchestra were delivered for the final rehearsal, Chapel seating was set up, and ushers arrived for duty. All this and much more takes place for every concert before Maestro Buttermann raises the baton and a note is played, and it's all done by WSO League volunteers. At each concert, before we applaud our orchestra, we thank all of our WSO League volunteers.

### MARCH 15, 2024, Masterworks Concert #4

#### Ellis Island & Rachmaninoff

Music Director: Michael Buttermann

Guest Artists: Asiya Korepanova, piano

Williamsburg Community Chapel | 7:30 p.m.

Pre-Concert Lecture 6:30-7:00 PM

### APRIL 11, 2024, Masterworks Concert #5

#### America the Beautiful: Copland & Bernstein

Music Director: Michael Buttermann

Williamsburg Community Chapel | 7:30 p.m.

Pre-Concert Lecture 6:30-7:00 PM

### MAY 14, 2024, Masterworks Concert #6

#### Passion & Virtuosity

Music Director: Michael Buttermann

Guest Artists: Aldo López-Gavilán, piano

Williamsburg Community Chapel | 7:30 p.m.

Pre-Concert Lecture 6:30-7:00 PM

The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra League  
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