



Anna Binneweg, Music Director, **Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic**  
 Ulysses James, Music Director Laureate, **Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic**  
 Alberto Rodriguez, Music Director, **Washington Metropolitan Youth Orchestra**  
 Martin Garfield-Levine, Music Director, **Washington Metropolitan Concert Orchestra**  
 Caroline Mousset, Executive and Artistic Planning Director

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## WMP Opens Its 52nd Season With New Music Director Anna Binneweg and "superb young soloist" (*The New Yorker*) cellist [Nicholas Canellakis](#)

**IMAGE GALLERY:** High-resolution press images are available in [WMPA's Media Image Gallery](#).

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**Alexandria, VA**—Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic opens its 2023/2024 season at George Washington Masonic National Memorial on Sunday, October 15 @ 3 pm as it embarks on a new era of music-making with [new Music Director Anna Binneweg](#).

Binneweg was selected after an extensive year-long search and succeeds Alexandria Living Legend Ulysses "Ul" James, who retired this spring after a thirty-nine year tenure. Binneweg says, "I am thrilled and deeply grateful to the musicians, staff, and Board of WMPA for choosing me to be WMP's next musical leader. I want to also recognize the immense impact of outgoing Music Director Ul James, whose artistic vision shaped WMPA for almost four decades and paved the way for exciting new growth in the future. When I performed for the first time with WMP in December 2022, I was immediately struck by the orchestra's extremely high artistic quality and sense of pride, but also their desire to evolve, explore new repertoire, and adapt as the modern world continues to change. I am very much looking forward to the powerful, transformative work we will do together in the coming seasons."



**Celebrating a New Season!**  
**Sunday, October 15, 2023 @ 3 pm**  
**George Washington Masonic Memorial Theater**  
 followed by  
*AfterChats with Anna!*



WMP's season opener 'Celebrating A New Season!' features cello sensation [Nicholas Canellakis](#) (*"impassioned... with the audience seduced by Mr. Canellakis's rich, alluring tone" -The New York Times*) in the **Saint-Saëns Cello Concerto** No. 1 and continues to honor the progressive orchestral tradition of 19th century France. [Louise Farrenc](#) was a piano virtuoso and trailblazing composer who was the only female to hold a position at the esteemed Paris Conservatory during this time. Her overtures and symphonies have upheld their significance in the standard Romantic repertoire of today. To compliment the French influence, we will close the program with **Berlioz' masterpiece, *Symphonie Fantastique***. A work that transpired great advancement in the world of orchestration, musical story-telling, and compositional techniques that continue to captivate audiences of all ages today, and the final movement 'The Witches Sabbath' will be sure to capture the upcoming Halloween spirit for all!

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## Introducing AfterChats with Anna!

AfterChats are post-concert informal conversations with Music Director Anna Binneweg moderated by Executive and Artistic Planning Director Caroline Mousset featuring our special guest artists. Grab a glass of bubbly, bring your questions, and join us for these open sessions that offer insight into the music you just heard as well as meet-and-greet opportunities! AfterChats are free to any ticket holder.



## [A complete list of Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic's 2023/2024 season performances:](#)

**Sunday, October 15 @ 3 pm George Washington Masonic National Memorial**

**[Anna Binneweg](#), conductor | [Nicholas Canellakis](#), cello**

[LOUISE FARRENC](#): Overture No. 1

CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS: Cello Concerto No. 1

HECTOR BERLIOZ: *Symphonie Fantastique*



**Sunday, December 10 @ 3 pm George Washington Masonic National Memorial**

**[Anna Binneweg](#), conductor | [Christylez Bacon](#), multi-instrumentalist**

[VALERIE COLEMAN](#): *Umoja, Anthem of Unity*

EVAN MEIER: *Migrations in Rhythm: A Concerto for Beatbox and Rhyme*

[FLORENCE PRICE](#): Symphony No. 1



**Saturday, February 4 @ 3 pm George Washington Masonic National Memorial**

**[Anna Binneweg](#), conductor | [Crystal Lee](#), flute & [Heidi Sturniolo](#), harp**

W. A. MOZART: Flute and Harp Concerto K299

[CAROLINE SHAW](#): *Entr'acte*

BERNARD HERRMANN: *Vertigo: The Nightmare, Scene d'Amour*

ERICH KORNGOLD: *The Sea Hawk*



**Sunday, March 24 @ 3 pm at George Washington Masonic National Memorial**

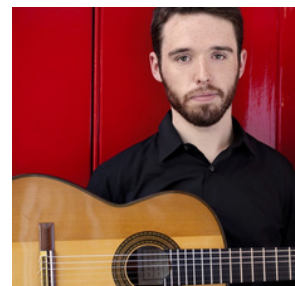
**[Anna Binneweg](#), conductor | [Thomas Pandolfi](#), piano**

[JENNIFER HIGDON](#): *blue cathedral*

SAMUEL BARBER: Symphony in One Movement

JOHN ALDEN CARPENTER: *Krazy Kat*

GEORGE GERSHWIN: *Rhapsody in Blue* turns 100!



**Friday, May 10 @ 7:30 pm at George Washington Masonic National Memorial**

**[Anna Binneweg](#), conductor | [Colin Davin](#), guitar**

[ANGLICA NEGRÓN](#): *Tornesol*

MANUEL PONCE: *Concierto del Sur*

AARÓN COPLAND: *El Salón México*

ALBERTO GINASTERA: *Estancia Suite*

ARTURO MÁRQUEZ: *Danzón No. 2*

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**About Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic:**

Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic is a modern, symphonic orchestra of approximately 65 professional and semi-professional musicians dedicated to creating innovative and exhilarating live music experiences through memorable performances for the community and adventurous programming of both well-known and rarely played classical repertoire. As a firm proponent of diversity and inclusion, its identity has been shaped by a strong focus on presenting American music, championing works by living composers, and presenting works by underrepresented composers.

**About Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association:**

A performing arts organization whose mission is to enrich, inspire, and educate through live performances of high-quality music, WMPA is comprised of several major programs, including Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic, [Washington Metropolitan Youth Orchestra](#) (grades 9-12), [Washington Metropolitan Concert Orchestra](#) (grades 6-8), the [Lyceum Chamber Music Series](#) presenting weekly concerts throughout the summer at Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum, and offering more than 50 on-demand, full-length online concerts. WMPA continues to grow and has earned a reputation for bringing adventurous and engaging programs to the community.

**WMPA's Mission.** To inspire enthusiasm for the live performance experience of both traditional classical and new music to people of all ages.

**WMPA's Vision.** Excellence in all we do. Championing contemporary and new works, particularly by American composers. Promoting inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility in our activities and initiatives. Honesty, fairness, and accountability . Actively engaging with the community.

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