



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

Page 1 of 3

## Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue @ 100 and Alexandria VA's 275th Birthday Concert: A Musical Celebration of America's Rich Heritage

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



Posted February 19, 2024 | WMPA News & Press | [contact@wmpamusic.org](mailto:contact@wmpamusic.org)

**Alexandria, VA**—In honor of Alexandria's 275th birthday, join us for an unforgettable afternoon of music as Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic presents a special concert featuring Gershwin's timeless masterpiece, *Rhapsody in Blue*, celebrating its 100th anniversary. The event will take place on Sunday, March 24, 2024, at 3 pm.

The program promises to be a delightful journey through American musical history, showcasing a selection of works that highlight the diversity and richness of our cultural heritage. The featured compositions include **Jennifer Higdon's *blue cathedral***, **Samuel Barber's *Symphony in One Movement***, and **John Alden Carpenter's *Krazy Kat***, a groundbreaking piece that seamlessly blends jazz and Latin influences into the symphonic genre.

The grand finale of the evening will be **George Gershwin's iconic *Rhapsody in Blue***, a cornerstone of American classical music. **Pianist Thomas Pandolfi, a local sensation** renowned for his virtuosity and musicality, will take center stage to interpret Gershwin's epic concerto. The piece, known for its oscillating bluesy tunes, march-like melodies, and grandly romantic themes, promises an electrifying and jubilant experience for all in attendance.

**Rhapsody in Blue @ 100 and Alexandria VA's 275th Birthday Concert is a fitting tribute to the city's vibrant history and cultural tapestry.** The performance will take place at George Washington Masonic National Memorial, providing a captivating setting for an afternoon of musical celebration.

**LIVING. BREATHING. MUSIC.**

PO Box 16442 / Alexandria VA 22302 / 703-799-8229 / [wmpamusic.org](http://wmpamusic.org)

Program funding provided by our donors, and in part by





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

Page 2 of 3

Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of a once-in-a-lifetime concert experience that intertwines the beauty of Gershwin's masterpiece with the historical significance of Alexandria's 275th birthday.

**Event Details:**

- **Date: Sunday, March 24, 2024**
- **Time: 3 pm**
- **Venue: George Washington Masonic National Memorial**
- **Featuring: Thomas Pandolfi, pianist**

Tickets are available at [wmpamusic.org/tickets](http://wmpamusic.org/tickets). For more information, please visit [wmpamusic.org](http://wmpamusic.org).

Join us as we embrace the harmony of the past and the present, celebrating both George Gershwin's enduring legacy and the remarkable history of the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

**Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic's 2023/2024 season upcoming performances:**

**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: Crazy 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*  
AARON COPLAND: *El Salón México*  
ALBERTO GINASTERA: *Estancia Suite*  
ARTURO MÁRQUEZ: *Danzón No. 2*



**LIVING. BREATHING. MUSIC.**

PO Box 16442 / Alexandria VA 22302 / 703-799-8229 / [wmpamusic.org](http://wmpamusic.org)



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

Page 3 of 3

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

**Find out more about WMPA:** [wmpamusic.org](http://wmpamusic.org)

**Follow us! Facebook:** [@WashMetPhil](#) / **Instagram:** [@WashMetPhil](#) / **Twitter:** [@WashMetPhil](#)

**Don't miss a beat!** [Sign up for WMPA eNews](#)

#### **About Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic:**

WMP is dedicated to promoting and celebrating the diversity of American music and culture. Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic is a modern, symphonic orchestra of approximately 55 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 five major programs, including [Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic](#), [Washington Metropolitan Youth Orchestra](#) (grades 9-12), [Washington Metropolitan Concert Orchestra](#) (grades 6-8), and the [Lyceum Chamber Music Series](#) presenting weekly concerts throughout the summer at Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum. WMPA continues to grow and has earned a reputation for bringing adventurous and engaging programs with its newest series of free Children's Bilingual Concerts. ¡Musicales bilingües para niños! at Patrick Henry Recreation Center in Alexandria's West End neighborhood concludes with an instrument petting zoo, blending music, languages, and education.

**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.

#### **Media contact:**

Caroline Mousset, WMPA Executive and Artistic Planning Director  
[carolinemousset@wmpamusic.org](mailto:carolinemousset@wmpamusic.org)

**LIVING. BREATHING. MUSIC.**

PO Box 16442 / Alexandria VA 22302 / 703-799-8229 / [wmpamusic.org](http://wmpamusic.org)