



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

Page 1 of 5

Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Unveils Exciting Season with New Music Director Anna Binneweg



Highlights of WMP's 52nd Season include:

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

Six phenomenal guest artists: "The superb young soloist" (*The New Yorker*) cellist [Nicholas Canellakis](#), multi-instrumentalist [Christylez Bacon](#), WMP principals Crystal Lee and Heidi Sturniolo on flute and harp, local sensation pianist [Thomas Pandolfi](#), and guitarist phenomenon [Colin Davin](#).

Five concerts each featuring works by a diverse group of composers including SIX women: [Angélica Negrón](#), [Valerie Coleman](#), [Caroline Shaw](#), [Jennifer Higdon](#), [Louise Farrenc](#), and [Florence Price](#).

A new work by American composer [Evan Meier](#)'s *Migrations in Rhythm: A Concerto for Beatbox and Rhyme* provides a musical setting for local GRAMMY-nominated Hip-Hop artist [Christylez](#) (pronounced: Chris-Styles) Bacon's storytelling and virtuosic rhythmic explorations in the styles of Hip-hop, Agbadza, ring shout, rumba, New Orleans jazz, funk, and Go-go.

Birthday Bash! Honoring the 275th birthday of the City of Alexandria PLUS the centennial of George Gershwin's timeless, iconic masterpiece [Rhapsody in Blue](#)

Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic has unveiled details of their 2023/2024 season as it enters a new era of music-making and welcomes [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."

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Program funding provided by our donors, and in part by





Ulysses James, Music Director, **Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic**
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Page 2 of 5

For its 52nd Season, Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic explores a vast catalog of music - one that will challenge, delight, and ignite the senses - inviting audiences to explore a world of new music and artists. The Season showcases innovative pieces by women composers and music of The Americas in each concert, paired with works by great masters of classical music. Altogether, the 2023/2024 Season highlights a breadth and depth of music for which the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic is known.

Celebrating a New Season!
Sunday, October 15, 2023 @ 3 pm
George Washington Masonic Memorial Theater

Our 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. The concerto provides a musical setting for Christylez's storytelling and virtuosic rhythmic explorations in the styles of Hip-hop, Agbadza, ring shout, rumba, New Orleans jazz, funk, and Go-go. 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!

The Rhythm of [Christylez](#)
Sunday, December 4, 2023 @ 3 pm
George Washington Masonic Memorial Theater

'The Rhythm of Christylez' is a concert inspired by American composers that have embraced the point of musical intersection between different cultures throughout our country. We are honored to feature *Migrations in Rhythm: A Concerto for Beatbox and Rhyme* composed by Evan Meier for [Christylez Bacon](#), a GRAMMY-nominated progressive Hip-Hop artist based in Washington DC. This program includes other works by two female composers. [Valerie Coleman's](#) *Umoja, Anthem of Unity* is the Swahili word for "unity" and is the first day in the African American celebration of Kwanzaa and was first meant to be a simple family sing-along song. The concert concludes with [Florence Price's](#) *Symphony No. 1*, her first full-scale composition and first symphony by a Black woman to be performed by a major American orchestra in 1933. This work is inspired by both the [Western classical tradition](#) and Black musical idioms such as the [Juba dance](#) and spirituals.

Mozart and the Movies
Sunday, February 4, 2024 @ 3 pm
George Washington Masonic Memorial Theater

Proudly featuring WMP artists, Crystal Lee and Heidi Sturniolo in Mozart's Concerto for Flute and Harp, our production of 'Mozart and the Movies' will be a crowd favorite! This concert brings to life many

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Page 3 of 5

moments inspired by dramatic scenes in film such as Pulitzer Prize Winner, [Caroline Shaw's](#) deeply-affecting *Entr'acte* for string orchestra which is a soulful work inspired by the classical traditions of Haydn. Shaw says, "I love the way some music (like the minuets of Haydn's Op. 77) suddenly takes you to the other side of Alice's looking glass, in a kind of absurd, subtle, technicolor transition". For those drawn to mid-century Hollywood film, Bernard Hermann's (composer extraordinaire) *Scene d'Amour* from 'Vertigo' is a lush, timeless classic sure to jog some movie memories. The program will conclude with Erich Korngold's music from *The Sea Hawk* – a film score that continues to captivate listeners and bring audiences together for a heroic, victorious finale.

Happy Birthday Alexandria!
Sunday, March 24, 2023 @ 3 pm
George Washington Masonic Memorial Theater

As we celebrate 275 years of this terrific city entrenched with a vibrant, rich history, we are delighted to perform an All-American program to include favorites new and old. [Jennifer Higdon's](#) *blue cathedral* has become a staple in the modern-day orchestral repertoire known for its spiritual expression and symbolism for life's journey. Barber's *Symphony in One Movement* is an expressive and lyrical, yet synthetic treatment of the traditional four-movement scheme compressed into one movement. By contrast, John Alden Carpenter's *Krazy Kat* was one of the earliest works to incorporate jazz and Latin/Spanish-flavored "popular" music into the symphonic genre that brings verve and panache to the popular Concertino for piano and orchestra. Also influenced by jazz idioms, our finale includes a timeless, iconic, American masterpiece – [Rhapsody in Blue](#) featuring local sensation, [Thomas Pandolfi](#). Gershwin's epic concerto presents forthright thematic material from an oscillating bluesy tune, a brazen march-like melody, and finally, a grandly romantic, jubilant theme enjoyed by all.

Music of the Americas
Friday, May 10 @ 7:30 pm
George Washington Masonic Memorial Theater

WMP's electrifying season finale 'Music of the Americas' features a splendid array of music from North, Central and South America. Puerto Rican composer [Angélica Negrón's](#) (currently based in Brooklyn, New York) work has been described as "wistfully idiosyncratic and contemplative". Her piece *Tornasol* (Spanish for *sunflower*) is a work that focuses on the vibrancy of color and how it changes through scientific experimentation, all portrayed in various sections of the orchestra. In contrast, guest artist [Colin Davin](#) will perform *Concierto del Sur*, a masterpiece for guitar and orchestra by Mexican composer Manuel Ponce. The second half of the program includes music that is lively, rhythmic, and exciting. *El Salón México* by Aaron Copland depicts scenes and imagery from his experience at a popular dance hall in Mexico City. Four Dance Episodes from Alberto Ginastera's ballet *La Estancia* incorporates Argentinian folk music that represent dance, character, and settings of life on the ranch. We conclude the program with Danzon No. 2 by Arturo Marquez – a seductive, yet melancholy and irresistible ballroom dance inspired by the Cuban Habanera performed by full orchestra.

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Page 4 of 5

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

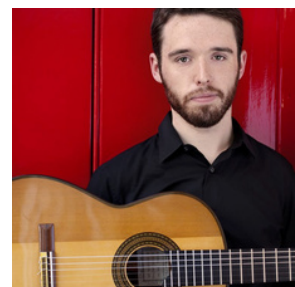
ANGLICA NEGRÓN: *Tornesol*

MANUEL PONCE: *Concierto del Sur*

AARON COPLAND: *El Salón México*

ALBERTO GINASTERA: *Estancia Suite*

ARTURO MÁRQUEZ: *Danzón No. 2*



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Page 5 of 5

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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 6-9), 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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