



Ulysses James, Music Director, **Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic**  
David Weigert, Music Director, **Washington Metropolitan Youth Orchestra**  
Randy Ward, Music Director, **Washington Metropolitan Concert Orchestra**  
Caroline Mousset, Executive and Artistic Planning Director

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## The Ulysses James Celebration Concert and Toast Reception on May 20, 2023

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Alexandria, VA - The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association (WMPA) is proud to announce The Ulysses James Celebration Concert on Saturday, May 20, 2023 at 3 pm at George Washington Masonic National Memorial. This concert marks the 51st Season Finale of WMPA's 2022/2023 season.

The Ulysses James Celebration Concert is a tribute to Maestro James' many years of service to WMPA and the Alexandria community. The program will include a selection of American music that showcases Maestro James' love for this genre and his commitment to promoting living composers. The concert promises to be a memorable afternoon of exceptional music and heartfelt gratitude for Maestro James' dedication to the arts.

Maestro Ulysses James will conduct the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic in a program of American music featuring living composer friends featuring Lawrence Ries' *At First Light: Shadows and Contours* with soloists Philharmonic Principal Flute Crystal Lee and violist Will Hurd, Anthony Iannaccone's *Waiting for Sunrise on the Sound*, Samuel Barber's *Adagio for Strings*, Aaron Copland's *Rodeo*, and George Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, *A Symphonic Picture for Orchestra*.

Maestro James has been the Music Director of the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic for 38 of its 51 seasons and an integral part of the WMPA's growth and success, having grown two community orchestras into the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic and expanded the organization to reach even younger musicians with its Washington Metropolitan Youth Orchestra (grades 9-12) and Washington Metropolitan Concert Orchestra (grades 6-9). Maestro James has for 32 years directed WMPA's Lyceum Chamber Series, weekly chamber music concerts held throughout the summer at Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum, and offering more than 50 on-demand, full-length online concerts. He will present the 33rd Lyceum Chamber Series Season this coming summer. In 2022 Maestro James conducted musicians from the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic in the inaugural season of *Musical Stories for Kids!* bringing bilingual narrated childrens' concerts to the West End community of Alexandria. WMPA continues to grow and has earned a reputation for bringing adventurous and engaging programs to the community. In recognition of his contributions to the arts in Alexandria, he received the Alexandria Arts Award in 2012 and was further honored as a Living Legend of Alexandria in 2016.

At the conclusion of the May 20 concert, Maestro James will formally pass the baton to Music Director Designate Anna Binneweg. Binneweg was selected out of a pool of 50 applicants and four finalist candidates throughout a year-long search and will succeed Maestro James as the new Music Director. Her first concert will take place on October 15 at the George Washington National Masonic Memorial.

**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 the City of Alexandria, Office of the Arts' Arts Grant Program, and by





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A Toast Reception in the Grand Masonic Hall honoring Maestro James will immediately follow the 3 pm concert. All concert attendees are invited to attend the Toast Reception and are encouraged to RSVP to [concert@wmpamusic.org](mailto:concert@wmpamusic.org).

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

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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:**

The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association (WMPA) has been a contributor to the performing arts offered in the Washington metropolitan area since 1971. Based in Alexandria, VA, 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. In 2022 presented the inaugural season of *Musical Stories for Kids!* bringing bilingual narrated children's concerts to the Alexandria's West End community. 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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