



Ulysses James, Music Director, **Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic**
David Weigert, Music Director, **Washington Metropolitan Youth Orchestra**
Randy Ward, Music Director, **Washington Metropolitan Concert Orchestra**
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Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Opens 51st Season with Guest Conductor Erin Freeman

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Alexandria, VA—Guest conductor Erin Freeman conducts the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic in its opening concert of the 2022/2023 Season on **October 16, 2022 at 3 pm at the George Washington Masonic Memorial Theater**. Erin is one of four Music Director Finalists in Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic's **current Music Director search**. Freeman is Artistic Director of The City Choir of Washington, Artistic Director of Wintergreen Music, and Resident Conductor of the Richmond Ballet.

"I'm looking forward to making music with the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic in October, says **Guest Conductor Erin Freeman**. Inspired by the root of the word "Philharmonic" ("for love of harmony", or music), **this program is ultimately about the power of Love**. In Joel Thompson's powerful *An Act of Resistance*, the concept of love is introduced as a radical solution to the divisiveness that pervades our culture. According to legend, Brahms wrote his double concerto for violin and cello as an act of contrition and reconciliation for his beloved friend Joseph Joachim. (Apparently it worked!) And, audiences will see first hand the brilliance of sibling affection with our featured soloists and brother/sister duo, Meredith and Britton Riley. Finally, the world premiere of *Moviola* for Orchestra by Daron Hagen is centered around the concept of love. From a theme and variations tribute to the cinematic kiss to Hagen's clear reverence for the legacy of Charlie Chaplin and Orson Welles, this work gets to the core of love as an emotion based in admiration, respect, joy, and even humor."

Featured soloists and brother/sister duo violinist Meredith Riley and cellist Britton Riley perform Brahms Double Concerto in A minor, Op. 102. Both Meredith and Britton perform with the National Symphony Orchestra. Meredith tours with the Sphinx Virtuosi and has worked with the Sphinx Organization, dedicated to the development of young Black and Latino classical musicians, for over 15 years. Britton joined the NSO in 2019 after serving as assistant principal cellist of the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra.

Black American Composer and winner of the 2017 Hermitage Prize Joel Thompson wrote *An Act of Resistance* to help "rebuild the strength necessary to love deeply" given the "ubiquitous divisiveness and turmoil in the world" in recent years. The piece is a "battle between selfishness and empathy - pride v. love - and because one is easier than the other, the victor is clear towards the end" when musicians are asked to put down their instruments and stand up and sing. "The act requires a certain vulnerability.... But such is the love that is required to truly change our current circumstance."

Freeman leads the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic in the world premiere of a piece dedicated to her. American composer Daron Hagen's *Moviola* is a 26-minute tone poem in three movements for large orchestra inspired by evenings Hagen spent as an adolescent in the Oriental Landmark Theater in Milwaukee. "Every day a different double bill (old, and new; arty, and dirty; sacred, and profane) was screened. I grew to adore not just the films but the ritual of going to the movies itself, not to mention the often lavish, always evocative, musical scores for them."

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"The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic's 2022/2023 Season honors the **legacy of Artistic Director Emeritus Ulysses James in presenting great works with a particular focus on championing underrepresented and American composers**. After experiencing the artistry of all four Music Director finalists in concert throughout the season, both audiences and orchestra members will be able to share their thoughts through surveys, which will be impactful in determining the Philharmonic's next Music Director," says WMPA Executive and Artistic Planning Director Caroline Mousset. The determination will be made in Spring 2023, and the new Music Director will begin leading the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic in the 2023/2024 Season.

WMPA is committed to a responsible concert experience. All performers and staff are fully vaccinated. To ensure health and maximize safety for all concert attendees, **masks are required at all times in indoor spaces** for all patrons regardless of vaccination status. WMPA no longer requires vaccine verification.

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

Tickets available at wmpamusic.org. Season Flex Pass (8 tickets): \$100; Single tickets: \$25; 18 and under: Free
View Full Season/Tickets:



About Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic:

Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic is a modern, diverse orchestra with a strong focus on presenting a wide diversity of composers, championing works by living composers, and featuring American works. As a firm proponent of diversity and inclusion, the Philharmonic is dedicated to creating innovative and exhilarating experiences through memorable performances for the community of both well-known and rarely played classical repertoire.

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.

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