



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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THE RHYTHM OF CHRISTYLEZ Concert on December 10 Brings Together the Harmony of Cultures and Music

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



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Alexandria, VA—The stage is set for a musical experience like no other as "The Rhythm of Christylez" takes center stage on Sunday, December 10, 2023, at 3 pm. This extraordinary event promises to captivate the hearts and minds of all who attend, celebrating the unifying power of music while honoring the work of talented American composers.

This unique concert, hosted at George Washington Masonic National Memorial, will feature a diverse selection of compositions that span different cultures and musical traditions, showcasing the rich tapestry of American music. The program boasts an impressive lineup, including:

VALERIE COLEMAN: *Umoja, Anthem of Unity*

EVAN MEIER & CHRISTYLEZ BACON: *Migrations in Rhythm:*

a Concerto for Beatbox and Rhyme featuring Progressive Hip-Hop Artist Christylez Bacon

FLORENCE PRICE: *Symphony No. 1*

Evan Meier and Christylez Bacon's *Migrations in Rhythm: A Concerto for Beatbox and Rhyme* stands as the centerpiece of the evening, created especially for Christylez Bacon, a GRAMMY-nominated progressive Hip-Hop artist hailing from Washington DC. The concerto weaves a musical tapestry that allows Christylez Bacon to share his stories and showcase his virtuosic rhythmic talents. Drawing inspiration from a variety of musical styles, including Hip-hop, Agbadza, ring shout, rumba, New Orleans jazz, funk, and Go-go, this composition promises to be a one-of-a-kind experience for the audience.

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Program funding provided by our donors, and in part by





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Valerie Coleman's *Umoja, Anthem of Unity* celebrates the Swahili word for "unity". Originally intended as a simple family sing-along song, "Umoja" has evolved into an uplifting anthem of togetherness.

The concert will conclude with Florence Price's Symphony No. 1, a groundbreaking composition that marked her as the first Black woman to have her symphony performed by a major American orchestra in 1933. This symphony beautifully bridges Western classical traditions with Black musical idioms such as the Juba dance and spirituals.

"The Rhythm of Christylez" promises to be an unforgettable journey through the soul of American music, celebrating the unity of cultures and the magic of harmony. Join us on Sunday, December 10, 2023, at 3 pm, at George Washington Masonic National Memorial, and experience the fusion of traditions, the power of unity, and the spirit of musical innovation.

About Christylez Bacon (*pronounced Chris-Styles*):

Washington DC native and Duke Ellington School for the Arts alum Progressive Hip-Hop Artist Christylez Bacon has created something totally new with this intersection of symphonic and hip hop tradition. CHRISTYLEZ BACON (pronounced: chris-styles) is a Grammy Nominated Progressive Hip-Hop artist and multi-instrumentalist from Southeast, Washington, DC. As a performer, Christylez multi-tasks between various instruments such as the West African djembe drum, acoustic guitar, and the human beat-box (oral percussion), all while continuing the oral tradition of storytelling through his lyrics.

With a mission towards cultural acceptance and unification through music, Christylez is constantly pushing the envelope – from performances at the National Cathedral, to becoming the first Hip-Hop artist to be featured at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, composing and performing with the National Symphony Orchestra and Princeton Symphony Orchestra on multiple occasions, collaborating with cellist Yo-Yo Ma, and creating an intentional culture exchange project and subsequent documentary between Washington, DC and Brasília, Brazil.

In Washington, DC, Christylez began a cross-cultural collaborative concert series, "Washington Sound Museum" (WSM). WSM is a monthly intimate celebration of music featuring guest artists from diverse musical genres with Christylez Bacon and his progressive hip-hop orchestra. Since WSM's inception, Christylez has collaborated with artists from various cultural backgrounds, ranging from the Hindustani & Carnatic music of India, the contemporary Arabic music of Egypt, and the music of Brazil. At the beginning for the pandemic, Christylez saw this socially-distant period as an opportunity to bring international artists and audiences together in an online video series titled, Beatbox Remix Series, which can be seen on Instagram, YouTube, and Facebook Watch.

[View Christylez website](#)

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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.



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

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*



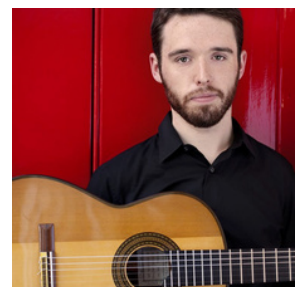
Saturday, February 4 @ 3 pm George Washington Masonic National Memorial
Anna Binneweg, conductor | [Crystal Lee](#), flute & [Heidi Sturniolo](#), harp
W. A. MOZART: *Flute and Harp Concerto K299*
[CAROLINE SHAW](#): *Entr'acte*
BERNARD HERRMANN: *Vertigo: The Nightmare, Scene d'Amour*
ERICH KORNGOLD: *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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About Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic:

WMP is dedicated to promoting and celebrating the diversity of American music and culture. We believe in the power of music to unite and inspire, and "The Rhythm of Christylez" is just one example of our commitment to this mission. 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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