



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

PRESS RELEASE: WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN PHILHARMONIC ANNOUNCES 2022/2023 SEASON

Five concerts to be led by Guest Conductors/Music Director Finalists [Erin Freeman](#), [Anna Binneweg](#), [Glen Cortese](#), and [Michelle Di Russo](#), with Season Finale Concert celebrating Music Director Laureate Ulysses James.

Four world-class soloists: violinist [Miranda Cuckson](#), brother/sister duo violinist [Meredith Riley](#) and cellist [Britton Riley](#), composer/pianist [Michael Stephen Brown](#), and cellist [Nick Cannelakis](#).

Featuring works by a diverse group of living composers: Joel Thompson, Daron Hagen, John Corigliano, Michael Stephen Brown, Jessie Montgomery, Carlos Simon, and Caroline Shaw.

The world premiere of American composer Daron Hagon's Symphony No. 6 'Moviola', based on the recently discovered work print of Orson Welles' 1938 silent film comedy Too Much Johnson starring Joseph Cotton.

Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic has unveiled details of their 2022/2023 season, exploring 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 living composers paired with works by great masters of the past. Enhancing the programs are the talents of four Guest Conductors/Music Director Candidates and five world-class soloists. Altogether, the 2022/2023 Season highlights a breadth and depth of music for which the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic is known.

In making the announcement, Executive Director Caroline Mousset said, "After 50 seasons of enriching the community with high-quality, live music performances, our audiences expect ambitious repertoire that spans eras and musical styles. As part of our search for the next Music Director, we challenged each of our guest conductor candidates to craft programs that celebrate the artistic philosophy inherent to Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic in championing strong diversity of living composers and presenting American works, while exploring the brilliant offerings of the traditional classical repertoire.

Our 2022/2023 Season encapsulates the results of their work and is a thrilling and inclusive season that will delight and intrigue all music lovers. In addition, concerts by our Washington Metropolitan Youth Orchestra and Washington Metropolitan Concert Orchestra expand our offerings to the community, allowing the younger generation to experience and embrace the many aspects that music and WMPA has to offer."

Highlights of the 2022/2023 include:

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A Talented Set of Conductors

The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic continues its search for its next Music Director with FOUR finalists who will guest conduct four concerts during the 2022/2023 Season. They include (in order of appearance) Erin Freeman, Anna Binneweg, Glen Cortese, and Michelle Di Russo. After announcing his retirement after 38 years of outstanding leadership, Alexandria Living Legend and Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Music Director Laureate Ulysses James will return to the podium to lend his experience and expertise in the Season Finale of his favorite works and featuring celebrated local musicians.

Performances By Five World-Class Soloists

As part of the 2022/2023 Season, Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic will showcase performances by critically acclaimed artists. The season opens with brother/sister duo violinist Meredith Riley and cellist Britton Riley lending their rich sounds to Brahms Double Concerto in A minor, Op. 102. Hailed by *The New York Times* as "one of the leading figures in the current renaissance of performer-composers", pianist Michael Stephen Brown brings his own Concerto for Piano and Strings in December. A "fearless, visionary and tremendously talented artist" (*Sequenza21*) violinist Miranda Cuckson makes her debut in February performing John Corigliano's haunting *The Red Violin: Chaconne* for Violin and Orchestra. In March, hailed as a "superb young soloist" (*The New Yorker*), cellist Nick Canellakis makes his Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic debut with Saint-Saëns' sumptuous Cello Concerto No. 1 in A minor, Op. 33.

Presenting Works by a Diverse Group of Living Composers

As a modern orchestra, Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic embraces the opportunity to perform works by American, living, BIPOC, and female composers alongside classical masterworks. The juxtaposition of new, lesser-known, and familiar highlights the best of classical music while weaving a multi-layered tapestry of music that challenges and entertains. In the 2022/2023 Season, Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic is honored to perform stunning and moving modern compositions. Best known for the choral work, *Seven Last Words of the Unarmed*, Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic presents Atlanta-based composer Joel Thompson's *Act of Resistance*, the *world premiere* performance of Daron Hagen's Symphony No. 6 '*Moviola*', Michael Stephen Brown's Concerto for Piano and Strings inspired by the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth, John Corigliano's *The Red Violin: Chaconne* for Violin and Orchestra, "One of the most distinctive and communicative voices in the US, as a player and a creator" (BBC) Jessie Montgomery's *Overture*, Kennedy Center Composer-in-Residence "...with an ear for social justice" (NPR) Carlos Simon's *Fate Now Conquers*, and Pulitzer Prize- and Grammy-winning composer Caroline Shaw's *Entre'acte*.

Educational Performances

Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Youth Orchestra (grades 9-12) and Washington Metropolitan Concert Orchestra (grades 6-9) will present three concerts as part of its 2022/2023 Season, highlighting the accomplishments of our student musicians. These concerts are free with no required reservations needed. WMPA offers need-based scholarships, sibling discounts, and audition tutelage by members of the Philharmonic.

Fall Concert: October 30 @ 3 pm - Annandale United Methodist Church

Winter Concert: February 12 @ 3 pm - George Washington Masonic Memorial

Spring Concert: May 7 @ 3 pm - Greenspring Retirement Center

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As part of its community engagement, musicians from Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic will present three Family Outreach Concerts on Saturday evenings October 22, November 12, and December 10 - free and open to the public - throughout the fall season, offering an exciting lineup of performers and programs such as Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* at the Patrick Henry Recreation Center in Alexandria's West End neighborhood.

A complete list of Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic's 2022/2023 season performances:

Sunday, October 16 @ 3 pm George Washington Masonic National Memorial
Erin Freeman, conductor | Meredith Riley, violin and Britton Riley, cello
Joel Thompson: *Act of Resistance*

Daron Hagen: Symphony No. 6 'Moviola' - *world premiere* based on Orson Welles 1938 silent film
comedy *Too Much Johnson*
Brahms: Double Concerto in A minor, Op. 102

Sunday, December 11 @ 3 pm George Washington Masonic National Memorial
Anna Binneweg, conductor | Michael Stephen Brown, piano
Beethoven: *Coriolan Overture*, Op. 62
Michael Stephen Brown: Concerto for Piano and Strings
Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 5 in E minor, Op. 64

Saturday, February 11 @ 3 pm George Washington Masonic National Memorial
Glen Cortese, conductor | Miranda Cuckson, violin
Brahms: *Tragic Overture*, Op. 81
John Corigliano: *The Red Violin*: Chaconne for Violin and Orchestra
Ravel: *Tzigane*
Stravinsky: Suite from *The Firebird*

Sunday, March 26 @ 3 pm at George Washington Masonic National Memorial
Michelle Di Russo, conductor | Nick Canellakis, cello
Jessie Montgomery: *Overture*
Gershwin: *An American in Paris*
Carlos Simon: *Fate Now Conquers*
Caroline Shaw: *Entr'acte*
Saint-Saëns: Cello Concerto No. 1 in A minor, Op. 33

Saturday, May 20 @ 3 pm at George Washington Masonic National Memorial
The Ulysses James Celebration Concert
Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Music Director Laureate Ulysses James returns to the podium
for a Season Finale program of his favorite works with musician friends.

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About Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic

Having celebrated its 50th Anniversary Season in 2021/2022, 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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