



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

Page 1 of 3

Anna Binneweg conducts Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony and composer/pianist Michael Stephen Brown plays his own Concerto for Piano and Strings

Posted November 9, 2022 | WMPA News & Press | contact@wmpamusic.org

Alexandria, VA—Guest conductor [Anna Binneweg](#) conducts the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic in its second concert of the 2022/2023 Season on December 11, 2022 at 3 pm at the George Washington Masonic Memorial Theater. Binneweg is one of four [Music Director Finalists in Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic's current Music Director search](#). Binneweg is currently Music Director/Conductor of the Londontowne Symphony Orchestra and the AACC Symphony Orchestra at Anne Arundel Community College in Annapolis, MD.

"This concert features composer/pianist [Michael Stephen Brown](#) in the regional premiere of his [Concerto for Piano and Strings](#) while honoring the rich orchestral traditions of the 19th century. Brown's piece pays homage to the spirit of the classical style concerto, written to commemorate the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth. While Beethoven as composer/pianist is the primary source of inspiration for Brown, his piece also illustrates modern orchestral sounds and techniques.

To compliment Brown's influence, the concert will open with Beethoven's Coriolan Overture – a piece that depicts a violent, unstable, irrational hero written in a manner that brings great urgency and energetic passion to the orchestra. The program closes with Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5 – a work that is about overcoming personal battles. It's a symphony that takes performers and audience members through an emotional journey from lifelong struggles and despair to noble victory and personal triumph.

I look forward to creating a collaborative, fulfilling artistic experience for the orchestra members and patrons of WMPA!"

Featured soloist is composer/pianist Michael Stephen Brown performing the regional premiere of his own work, Concerto for Piano and Strings. Brown writes, "Concerto for Piano and Strings is written to commemorate the 250th anniversary of Ludwig Van Beethoven's birth. Having spent innumerable hours of my life studying, performing, and obsessing over his ingenious creations, Beethoven has played a pivotal role in shaping my dual musical existence as a pianist and composer.

"My concerto seeks to integrate my own musical language with that of Beethoven, by weaving musical fragments of his various works into my own harmonic landscape. Structurally my work adheres to a similar form of Beethoven's Concerti with the first movement in sonata-form, followed by a slow movement, and a rondo finale. Specific Beethoven references include long, pedal markings blurring harmonies and sonorities as in the Largo of the Third Piano Concerto, extended use of trills, and the interweaving of small motivic fragments throughout the work. While his own motives are at times easily recognizable in my concerto, they appear at other times more subtly embedded into the texture. The

LIVING. BREATHING. MUSIC.

PO Box 16442 / Alexandria VA 22302 / 703-799-8229 / 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





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

Page 2 of 3

drama between the piano and strings, the virtuosic cadenzas and rhythmic pulsations are also elements that are inspired by Beethoven's monumental Piano Concerti. I have often dreamed of being a fly on the wall observing him playing his own creations, and I hope this work may pay homage to him from the perspective of my being both a composer and a pianist."

"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 May 2023 and conduct the 2023/2024 Season.

COVID Safety Plan: Masks are optional in all indoor performance spaces for visitors and staff. Protocol currently in place is subject to change in compliance with revisions to national and local guidelines regarding COVID-19. Ticket purchasers are responsible for communicating this policy to whomever they provide tickets. Patrons assume their own risk by entering the facility.

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

VIEW FULL SEASON/TICKETS:



Tickets available at wmpamusic.org

Season Flex Pass (8 tickets): \$100; Single tickets: \$25; 18 & under: free admission

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.

LIVING. BREATHING. MUSIC.

PO Box 16442 / Alexandria VA 22302 / 703-799-8229 / 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





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

Page 3 of 3

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 - including three free Family Concerts this fall especially for children, performed by musicians of the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic and presented with both English and Spanish narrations.

wmpamusic.org

LIVING. BREATHING. MUSIC.

PO Box 16442 / Alexandria VA 22302 / 703-799-8229 / 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

