



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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Guest Conductor Glen Cortese conducts "Heroes and Legends" program featuring violinist Miranda Cuckson

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Alexandria, VA—Guest conductor [Glen Cortese](#) conducts the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic on February 11, 2023 at 3 pm at the George Washington Masonic Memorial Theater. Glen is one of four [Music Director Finalists in Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic's current Music Director search](#). He is Artistic Director of The Schenectady Symphony Orchestra and Artistic Director of the Western New York Chamber Orchestra.

HEROES AND LEGENDS

"I'm very excited to conduct this program "Heroes and Legends" with the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Orchestra. Each work on the program celebrates a reference to an historical a heroic or legendary character. Though Brahms generally did not write program music, he had tied with the idea of writing incidental music for Goethe's Faust and his "Tragic Overture" was the result of that attempt. The "Chaconne from the Red Violin" by John Corigliano (one of our foremost living American composers) is music that evolved from his film score for "The Red Violin". In this story, the violin itself is the hero as we follow its dramatic journey through centuries of history from the man who made it to the one who finally posses the instrument. Ravel's "Tzigane" is an incredibly virtuosic work for solo violin and orchestra which is a direct reference and tribute to the legendary and heroic violinists Paganini and Sarasate. The program ends with Stravinsky's "Suite from the Firebird (1919)" which the composer extracted from his groundbreaking ballet. The suite touches on the most important highlights of the legend of the mythical charter of the Firebird . Though the orchestration of the 1919 version is reduced form the original ballet, it's filled with astonishing and virtuosic instrumental effects; it's a true "tour de force" for the orchestra."

Featured soloist is violinist [Miranda Cuckson](#) performing Corigliano's "Chaconne from the Red Violin" and Ravel's Tzigane. Miranda Cuckson delights listeners with her playing of a remarkably wide range of music and styles, from older eras to the newest creations. Known for her organic expressivity, dexterous virtuosity, musical insight, brilliant programming, and love for music, she is acclaimed internationally as a soloist and collaborator. A violinist and violist, she performs at venues large and small, concert halls, and informal spaces.

As soloist these have included the Berlin Philharmonic, Suntory Hall, Casa da Musica Porto, Teatro Colón, Cleveland Museum, Art Institute of Chicago, Strathmore, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra's Liquid Music series, National Sawdust, and the Bard, Marlboro, Portland, Music Mountain, Ojai, West Cork (Ireland), SinusTon (Germany), Wien Modern (Austria), and LeGuessWho and Soundsofmusic (Netherlands) festivals. Miranda

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made her Carnegie Hall debut playing Piston's Concerto No. 1 with the American Symphony Orchestra. She recently premiered concertos written for her by Georg Friedrich Haas in Tokyo, Stuttgart and Porto, and by Marcela Rodriguez in Mexico City. Her upcoming solo performances include the Grafenegg Festival and San Francisco Performances.

While remaining very dedicated to the Western classical repertoire, Miranda has played countless concerts and premieres of new works and has played a far-reaching inspirational role bringing new creations more to the center of concert life. Reflecting her deeply felt perspective as a multiethnic American, Miranda works with an array of artists from many backgrounds. Composers who have written major works for her also include Jason Eckardt, Reiko Fütting, Michael Hersch, George Lewis, Wang Lu, Jeffrey Mumford, Aida Shirazi, Steve Lehman, Rand Steiger, Harold Meltzer, Dongryul Lee, and Stewart Goodyear. In addition to collaborating with many of today's emerging artists, she has worked with celebrated composers including Dutilleux, Adams, Carter, Sciarrino, Boulez, Crumb, Iyer, Glass, Saariaho, Davidovsky, Ran, and Murail. She is a member of the interdisciplinary collective AMOC, and founder/director of non-profit Nunc.

She has released eleven albums, all to much praise. They include the Ligeti, Korngold, and Ponce concertos; music by American composers Finney, Shapey, Martino, Sessions, Carter, Eckardt, Glass, Hersch; her ECM Records album of Bartók, Schnittke and Lutoslawski sonatas; *Melting the Darkness*, an album of microtonal and electronics pieces; and Nono's *La lontananza nostalgica utopica futura*, which was named a Best Recording of the Year by the New York Times.

Miranda teaches violin and chamber music at the Mannes School of Music at New School University. She is an alumna of The Juilliard School, having studied there from Pre-College through her doctorate. She won Juilliard's Presser Award and Richard French Prize.

"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.

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

VIEW FULL SEASON/TICKETS:



Tickets available at wmpamusic.org
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.

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.

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