APRIL 2016

Spring into Spring!

Sunday, April 10
The Church of the Epiphany (DC) 3 pm
and
Sunday, April 17
The George Washington Masonic
National Memorial (VA) 3 pm

Maestro James leads us into April with the familiar and beloved *Appalachian Spring* by Aaron Copland. Originally orchestrated for only 13 instruments, the Philharmonic will perform Copland's rich and colorful full orchestra version. Appalachian Spring has become one of the most iconic and inspiring pieces of American music.

Also iconic in capturing the essence of spring is Danish Composer Carl Nielsen's enchanting *"Springtime in Funen,"* performed by the acclaimed NOVA Community Chorus conducted by Dr. Mark Whitmire. Funen, the third largest island of Denmark and the composer's birthplace, is the inspiration for his lyrical tribute to the joy of springtime. Full of pastoral light, dancing, folk tunes, and humor, it is Nielsen's most popular choral work.

Finally, the Philharmonic will showcase Robert Schuman's joyful and lyrical "Spring" symphony, his *Symphony #1*. This beloved romantic work captures the joy and freshness of spring after the trials of winter. From the first movement, where spring gracefully unfolds from the cold earth, to the last movement, where spring is in its full glory, this symphony celebrates the changing of the seasons.

JUNE 2016

A Taste of Italy and Virginia

Saturday, June 4
The Church of the Epiphany (DC) 3 pm
and
Sunday, June 5
The George Washington Masonic
National Memorial (VA) 3 pm

Celebrating the end of the 2015-16 season, Donald Harrington, principal violist of the Philharmonic, will join WMP in a performance of Berlioz's symphony, *Harold in Italy*, written in 1834 shortly after Berlioz had spent several years in Italy. Paganini had asked Berlioz to write a piece for viola. As a result, Berlioz states,

> "I conceived the idea of writing a series of scenes for the orchestra, in which the viola should find itself mixed up, like a person more or less in action, always preserving his own individuality.

In addition, the Philharmonic will present *From Time to Time, Fantasias on Two Appalachian Folksongs* by last year's WMPA Composition Competition winner, Anthony Iannaconne. This delightful piece, based on two memorable Appalachian folksongs, *Black Is the Color of My True Love's Hair* and *Shenandoah*, is a buoyant and celebratory expression of hope for the 21st century.

Finally, the Philharmonic will perform a piece by this year's WMPA composition competition winner.

About WMPA

Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association (WMPA) is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization of musicians and music lovers dedicated to making high-quality musical performances and opportunities accessible to the community.

WMPA sponsors three orchestras, WMP and two youth orchestras, WM Concert Orchestra and WM Youth Orchestra, a free summer concert series, and a composition competition. Through its unique and diverse programming and initiatives, WMPA celebrates the living, breathing nature of music—music that moves with time, moves its audiences, and makes a difference.

Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association
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Concert Locations

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial
101 Callahan Drive
Alexandria, VA 22301
www.gwmemorial.org
Free parking
Minutes from King Street Metro.

The Church of the Epiphany
1317 G St., NW
Washington, DC 20005
www.epiphanydc.org
Discount parking is available at the public garage next to the church with validation. The church is 1/2 block from the Metro Center 13th Street exit.

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OCTOBER 2015

Beginnings and Endings: A Concert of Prayer, Evocation, and Passion

Sunday, October 18
The Church of the Epiphany (DC) 3 pm
and
Sunday, October 25
The George Washington Masonic
National Memorial (VA) 3 pm

The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic launches it's 44th season with a concert of sublime music. Bruch's ***Kol Nidre*** (meaning "All Vows"), is a prayer sung on the eve of Yom Kippur. This beautiful Jewish melody, normally performed by a cellist, will be performed by celebrated bass clarinetist Martin Gold. Ries' ***At First Light*** showcases two of the orchestra's principals, flutist Lynn Ann Zimmerman-Bell, and violist Donald Harrington, in Ries' tone poem that evokes the shadowy time of stillness and quietness just before dawn, ending with the gentle tranquility of the brightening light. Finally Maestro James leads the orchestra in Tchaikovsky's final ***Symphony #6, (Pathetique)***. Translated correctly into English, it would be called "The Passionate Symphony." This is one of Tchaikovsky's most moving and beautiful works. As the composer himself wrote, "The ultimate essence of the symphony is LIFE. The first movement is all forceful passion, confidence, thirst for action. The finale is DEATH, the result of destruction. Second movement, love; third, disappointment. The fourth ends dying away."

DECEMBER 2015

Two Concertos and a Celebration

Saturday, December 5
The George Washington Masonic
National Memorial (VA) 3 pm
and
Sunday, December 6
The Church of the Epiphany (DC) 3 pm

Celebrate the joy and festive spirit of the holiday season with Handel's glorious and uplifting ***Messiah***, a favorite since its first performance in 1741, and one of the most frequently performed works in the entire classical music canon. The NOVA Community Chorus with the Washington Philharmonic directed by Dr. Mark Whitmire will ring in the holidays with beloved highlights such as "And the Glory of the Lord" and the "Hallelujah" chorus. In contrast, the remainder of the program features 20th and 21st century jewels. Past WMP Composition Competition winner Weiss' ***Six Past Midnight, the Forest Wakes,*** is a concerto for bassoon performed by renowned bassoonist Arnold Irchai. And finally, award-winning pianist Lydia Frumkin performs Kanacheli's ***Valse Boston for Piano and Strings*** (1996), a montage of yearning melodies and enigmatic harmonies. Theatrical and brooding, mysterious and atmospheric, the musical language of this haunting piece will be an unforgettable experience for the performers and audience alike.

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FEBRUARY 2016

Twentieth Century Favorites

Sunday, February 7
The Church of the Epiphany (DC) 3 pm
and
Sunday, February 14
The George Washington Masonic
National Memorial (VA) 3 pm

Acclaimed Washington area pianist Shaun Tirrell joins WMP for a scintillating performance of Gershwin's unique ***Concerto in F***. One of the most striking and original pieces of the 20th century, it packs emotional introspective depth combined with rhythmic vigor and joy in a modern idiom. The program continues with Rachmaninoff's last original composition, written in 1940, the ***Symphonic Dances.*** The ***Dances*** have come to be acknowledged as one of his finest works. Spectacularly orchestrated, the three ***Dances*** showcase Rachmaninoff's trademark gorgeous melodies, rhythmic acrobatics, haunting visions, and finally his belief in the triumph of faith over death. Rounding out this exciting program is the fourth movement from Walton's music for Shakespeare's play, the ***Henry V Suite***. This movement titled "Touch her soft lips and part," is one of Walton's most tender and expressive pieces of music. A special light-hearted treat, not from the 20th but from the 18th century will be the Philharmonic's principal tubist, Karl Hovey, performing the baritone solo aria, "Largo al factotum" (Make way for the factotum) from Rossini's Barber of Seville.