WashMetPhil Presents *Myth & Majesty*:
First Concert of 55th Season featuring Robert McDuffie, Violin

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The **Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic** (WashMetPhil) is proud to announce the first concert of the 2026-2027 55th Anniversary Season, *Myth & Majesty*, featuring Robert McDuffie on violin, on Sunday, October 4, 2026 at 3 pm in the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

Myth & Majesty
Sunday, October 4, 2026 | 3 pm
Anna Binneweg, Conductor | Robert McDuffie, Violin
George Washington Masonic National Memorial | 101 Callahan Dr, Alexandria, VA 22301
Tickets are on sale now: wmpamusic.org/concerts

About Guest Artist Robert McDuffie

Emmy Award–winning violinist Robert McDuffie has appeared as soloist with leading orchestras on five continents. He has collaborated with artists ranging from major classical ensembles to iconic rock musicians such as R.E.M. bassist Mike Mills and Rolling Stones keyboardist Chuck Leavell. In addition to his performance with WashMetPhil, McDuffie will also perform Glass' Violin Concerto No. 1 in celebration of the composer's 90th birthday at the Philharmonie de Paris, Carnegie Hall in 2027 and additional venues worldwide. McDuffie's relationship with composer Philip Glass is significant as Glass dedicated his Violin Concerto No. 2, The American Four Seasons to McDuffie, which he recently performed in Tokyo.

About the Program

Unsuk Chin's *Subito con Forza*, takes its name from the frequent Beethoven marking in his scores, meaning 'suddenly with power'. The rapid shifts of mood or texture in Beethoven's music are reinvented through the volatility of Chin's score and its glittering orchestration.

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Philip Glass's *Violin Concerto No. 1*, performed by **guest artist Robert McDuffie on violin**, was originally commissioned by the American Composers Orchestra. "The search for the unique can lead to strange places. Taboos - the things we're not supposed to do - are often the most interesting. In my case, musical materials are found among ordinary things, such as sequences and cadences. All that I threw out in 1965 I've gradually brought in again, making it my own," says Philip Glass.

Claude Debussy's *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune*, or Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun in English, was written in 1894 and premiered December 22, 1894 in Paris. Based on Stéphane Mallarmé's 1865 poem *L'après-midi d'un faune,* Debussy described this hypnotic piece as "a very free interpretation of Mallarmé's poem. It has no pretensions of presenting a synthesis of the poem. It is rather a series of scenes against which the desires and dreams of the Faun are seen to stir in the afternoon heat."

Concluding the concert is **Ottorino Respighi's *Pines of Rome***. It is cast into four movements, all using the conceit of pine trees that happen to be growing by various evocative Roman locations to tie everything together. This musical journey begins in a beautiful, cheerful villa that abruptly ends presenting the dark catacombs. The piece then brings us to the hills of Janiculum and ends with the Roman Soldiers marching through the Appian Way.

Upcoming Concerts in WashMetPhil's 2026|2027 Season: ILLUMINATE THE SPIRIT

Festival of Light
Saturday, December 12 | 7 pm |George Washington Masonic National Memorial
Anna Binneweg, Conductor
Alexandria Choral Society | Kathryn Harsha, Artistic Director

Ritual & Renew
Sunday, February 7 | 3 pm | George Washington Masonic National Memorial
Anna Binneweg, Conductor

Landscapes of the Spirit
Sunday, March 21 | 3 pm | George Washington Masonic National Memorial
Anna Binneweg, Conductor| Laura Metcalf, cello & Rupert Boyd, guitar

Power & Possibility
a Side-By-Side Concert with Washington Metropolitan Youth Orchestra
Sunday, May 23 | 3 pm| Schlesinger Concert Hall
Anna Binneweg, Conductor| Ieva Jokubavičiūtė, piano

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About Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association (WMPA):

WMPA's purpose is to unite and uplift our community through the transformative power of music.

Our mission is to provide programs to:

- Educate and engage students through our Youth Orchestras
- Perform and promote orchestral music through the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic
- Connect and communicate chamber music through our summer Lyceum Series
- Expand and enlighten newcomers to classical music through our Community Concerts

Our vision is to create and serve the future audience of orchestral music.

WMPA is…

- **Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic:** an adult orchestra for local professional, semi professional, and dedicated amateur musicians
- **Washington Metropolitan Youth Orchestra:** an inclusive youth orchestra for grades 9-12
- **Washington Metropolitan Concert Orchestra:** a beginner's orchestra for grades 6-8
- **Lyceum Chamber Series:** a summer series of weekly chamber music concerts at the Alexandria History Museum at the Lyceum
- **Community Concerts:** A variety of free concert programs presented in underserved communities featuring members of the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic

For more information, visit wmpamusic.org.

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