THE FREDERICKSBURG SYMPHONY

"BRIDGING A GREAT COMMUNITY WITH GREAT MUSIC"

-Holiday Pops-



"HERE COMES SANTA CLAUS!"

DR. KEVIN P. BARTRAM, MUSIC DIRECTOR

With Special Guests:
Vocal Arts Ensemble of Fairfax - Michael Ehrlich, Artistic Director

Wednesday, December 18, 2024
Monroe Auditorium 7:30 p.m.

Sponsored by The Essig Family in memory of Ann Crowe Essig
(1948 – 2004)
"One of God's loveliest musicians."

Message from the Music Director



Happy Holidays Fredericksburg! We are excited that you have chosen to add us to your Holiday calendar, and we hope tonight's program will fill you with the joy of the season. As a special treat, the FSO will be performing several selections tonight (newly available) from the Boston Pops Christmas library, including our opener *Christmas Canticles, Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer*, and others. These are arrangements of the highest calibre, and with the addition of our superb guest choir, the Vocal Arts of Fairfax, was can also borrow from the esteemed Mormon Tabernacle Christmas catalogue.

For Holiday Pops, we like to feature some of our own great musicians, and this year we'll hear from concertmaster Robyn Bauer on the beautiful *Amazing Grace* by our friend Matt Riley, our entire flute section, and trumpet player Zach Smith, who arranged our title number tonight- *Here Comes Santa Claus*.

Next up for the FSO? Valentine's Day and our traditional Romantic concert, this time featuring the 100th Anniversary performance of Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with guest pianist Thomas Pandolfi and Elgar's masterwork *Enigma Variations*. Then it will be our new concert for kids "Lolli-Pops" on Saturday, March 15, and we'll conclude our season with a return of our Boadway superstars in a tribute to Rodgers & Hammerstein.

A special thank you to Michael Erhlich and the Vocal Arts of Fairfax for making the trip South to perform with the FSO. It's been a real pleasure. Thanks to the Essig Family for sponsoring tonight's concert. Thanks to Dr. Marci Catlett for hosting the FSO at James Monroe. and thank you to Auditorium Manager Mark Wright for running our lights and sound. Thanks to our FSO volunteers for assisting with decorations, ticketing, seating, and lobby. And finally, thanks to YOU for supporting your hometown symphony. Your generous donations make this all possible.

On behalf of the staff and musicians of the FSO and our Board of Directors, Merry Christmas!

Kevin P. Bartram

Dr. Kevin P. Bartram, Music Director
Fredericksburg Symphony Orchestra

Thank you to the Colonial Forge HS orchestra and Laura O'Konski their pre-concert performance in the lobby tonight! Look for other school groups to perform before upcoming FSO concerts.

PROGRAM

Christmas Canticles ..... Sean O'Laughlin

Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer ..... Marks, arr. Hayman

Chanukah Festival Overture ..... arr. Calvin Custer

Here We Come A-Caroling ..... arr. Hayman
Infant Holy.....arr. Mack
Vocal Arts Ensemble of Fairfax

Overture "Die Fledermaus" ..... Johann Strauss

A Visit from St. Nicholas ..... arr. Matt Naughtin
Chris Gray, narrator

INTERMISSION

Amazing Grace ..... Newton, arr. Matt Riley
Robyn Bauer, violin

The Polar Express Suite ..... Silvestri, arr. Brubaker
Benjamin Pereyra, conductor

White Christmas (Sing-a-long) ..... Berlin, arr. Chase

Deck the Hall .....Oliphant, arr. Mack
Gloria..... Randol Bass
Vocal Arts Ensemble of Fairfax

Here Comes Santa Claus ..... Autry, arr. Zach Smith

Use of recording devices is prohibited.

FSO PERSONNEL

VIOLIN I
Robyn Bauer
Concertmaster
-The Sheldon Lampert Concertmaster Chair-
Kelsey Payne
Assoc. Concertmaster
Rachel Pitts
Luz Recinos
Spencer Conroy
Charles Stout
Peter Wong
Kathy Buchanan

VIOLIN II
John-Rine Zabanal *-Principal*
Zachary Casebolt - *Ass't Principal*
Chris Dixon
Carly Steenstra
Anna Sammel
Michael Sienkowski
Michele Kucic
Tia Iverson

VIOLA
Sandy Goldie *-Principal*
Marta Perrine *-Ass't Principal*
Laura O'Konski
Benjamin Pereyra
Rob Leong
Kaylee Payne
Anita Williams
Jilleen Read

CELLO
Katherine Colburn *-Principal*
Christine Abeel *-Ass't Principal*
Anna Scully
Jacob Dean
Christine Hartigan
Debra Anker
Cameron Toler
Andreas Gould

BASS
Raymond Irving *-Principal*
Zachary Smith - *Ass't Principal*
Katherine Johnson
Bryan Haderlie
Joey Lane

FLUTE
Marla Snyder *-Principal*
Deborah Clare

PICCOLO
Ali Detmer

OBOE
Mary McClain *-Principal*
Laurel Siberts

ENGLISH HORN
Laurel Kuxhaus

CLARINET
Tony Moran *-Principal*
-The Mary Wynn and Richmond McDaniel Principal Clarinet Chair-
Nicholas Belby

BASS CLARINET
Jay Niepoetter

BASSOON
Walter Wynn *-Principal*
Jarrett Rodriguez*-Assoc. Principal*
Karen O'Donoghue

TRUMPET
Pat Neidich *-Principal*
-The Tessa and Wiliam Pou Principal Trumpet Chair-
Zachary Smith
Mike Huffman

HORN
Damien Bollino *-Co-Principal*
-The Mary Jane and Ron Branscome Principal Horn Chair-
Ryan Scott *-Ass't Principal*
Christopher Short
Elizabeth Deavers

TROMBONE
Eddie Steenstra *-Principal*
Douglas Haas

BASS TROMBONE
Sarah Thompson

TUBA
Gary Carper
-The Susan and Alfred Roth Principal Tuba Chair-

PERCUSSION
Kaitlin Gimm
Matthew Homoroc
Rainier Homoroc
Andrew Sheloski
David Vita

TIMPANI
Nora McIntire *-Principal*

HARP
Anastasia Pike

PIANO
James Pitts

CELESTE/ORGAN
Amy Shirk

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- Valentine's Special -

"What I Did for Love"
Thomas Pandolfi, piano
Friday, February 14, 7:30pm
Monroe Auditorium



What could be better than a romantic symphony orchestra concert on Valentine's Day? With sweeping string melodies and passionate playing from our fabulous FSO, this will be a night to remember. We'll feature the famous *Canon in D* by Pachelbel, coupled with the lovely Intermezzo by Masacgni and "Thais" from Massenet. Noted American pianist Thomas Pandolfi will perform a special rendition of Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* in celebration of its 100-year anniversary, and the evening will conclude with one of the great Romantic masterworks of all time, *Enigma Variations* by Edward Elgar.

TICKETS ON SALE
Symphony Supporters - Monday, January 6
General Public - Monday, January 13
Pre-concert lecture by pianist Thomas Pandolfi-Supporters Only

*Sponsored by Tricia and Thom Smelter



Mary Jane O'Neill Proudly Presents:
NEW! Lolli-Pops! etc.

"A Salute to Mother Earth"
Sat. March 15, 3:00-4:00pm
Monroe Auditorium

We're excited to launch our new children's concert series, Lolli-Pops! These one-hour concerts are a great introduction to the symphony. Free for children 12 and under, this is an opportunity to bring the entire family and hear great music.

Join us in the lobby at 2pm for our new FSO Learning Center!

Visit our website for the complete program.



Because this concert is free to children and has general seating, Lolli-Pops is not included in Season Ticket purchases.



Hugh Panaro with the FSO in 2024

- Guest Artist Series -

"A Rodgers & Hammerstein Celebration"
Saturday, May 17, 7:30 pm
Monroe Auditorium

The FSO concludes its season with yet another great show, again featuring not one but three famed Broadway artists. We're especially thrilled to welcome back Phantom Hugh Panaro along with legends Scarlett Strallen and Ben Davis for an unforgettable evening of Broadway classics. Among the great R&H shows you'll hear are *South Pacific*, the *King and I, Carousel, and The Sound of Music*. In fact, Broadway's Captain Von Trapp himself (Ben Davis) will sing selections from that classic show. Climb every mountain, indeed!

TICKETS ON SALE
Symphony Supporters - Monday, April 7
General Public - Monday, April 14
New! FSO Learning Center 2:00pm in lobby

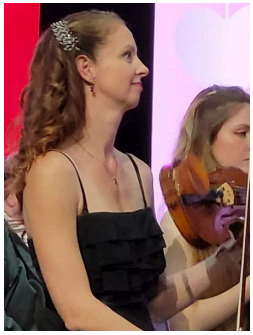
***Sponsored by Mary Jane and Ron Branscome & Anna and Rob Billingsley**

White Christmas

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
Just like the ones I used to know
Where the treetops glisten and children listen
To hear sleigh bells in the snow

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
With every Christmas card I write
May your days be merry and bright
And may all your Christmases be white

Robyn Bauer



Robyn Bauer grew up in King George, Virginia, studied violin beginning at age 6, and holds a Bachelor of Music degree from James Madison University. She is a founding member of the Fredericksburg Symphony Orchestra, and has performed with many local groups, including the UMW Philharmonic (concertmaster 5 yrs), Rappahannock Pops Orchestra, St. Paul's Masterworks Chorus, Fredericksburg Community Chorus, Stafford Regional Choral Society, and the Fredericksburg Chamber Chorale.

Robyn currently performs regularly as a freelance musician in Virginia, DC, Maryland, and North Carolina. In addition to playing with the FSO, she provides violin, guitar, and vocals for rock band Juniper Lights, and plays violin with tango/gypsy jazz combo Whiskey Django Foxtrot, classical/jazz group Ensemble Solaire, and occasionally NY-based jazz group Nuage Rhythm. Robyn has a small violin studio, and is the music director for Art Time 4 Kids, where she writes children's music, develops curriculum, and teaches parent/child music and movement classes for babies and toddlers. She lives in Spotsylvania with her husband and three children.

Vocal Arts of Fairfax



Vocal Arts of Fairfax provides community-focused, accessible and inclusive choral performances. We seek to build unity among our singers and to create an inspired environment for our audiences. Directed by Michael Ehrlich, our mission includes community care outreach initiatives as part of its core. Established on July 1, 2024, the Vocal Arts of Fairfax has a full schedule of performances for their 2024-2025 inaugural season.

With more than 120 singers, the two ensembles- the Vocal Arts Ensemble and the Vocal Arts Singers perform a variety of genres, including traditional choral literature, American folk songs and spirituals, music of different cultures, vocal jazz, and Broadway. Both ensembles, each with six years of experience, are thrilled to be part of the newly formed organization, Vocal Arts of Fairfax.

Along with bringing choral music to the community, the ensemble embraces the true meaning of community by seeking diversity in its make-up and in its repertoire. Additionally, the ensemble will embrace all elements of our community to foster inclusiveness, to help those in need, and to share our love of the choral art. All levels and voice parts are welcome.



Michael L. Ehrlich

Michael L. Ehrlich, Artistic Director of the Vocal Arts of Fairfax, conducts the Vocal Arts Ensemble and Vocal Arts Singers, which he founded in September of 2018. He has thirty-six years of experience as a choral director, directing six ensembles ranging from beginning through advanced levels, including tenor/bass, treble, and mixed choirs. Ehrlich moved to Northern Virginia in 1983 to teach private lessons and color guard for several Northern Virginia high schools.

He began at W.T. Woodson High School in 1988 with 35 students in the choral program and grew the program to over 260 students. After 30 years at Woodson, Ehrlich retired in June of 2018. Under his direction, the six choirs at Woodson consistently received superior ratings at the Virginia Music Educators Association (VMEA) district choral festival and the festivals for the annual spring trip. The Select Women's Ensemble performed for the VMEA convention in 1993, 1999, and 2014. In addition, the Select Women's Ensemble performed for the Southern Division, American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), convention in 1998, 2006, and 2012.

Mr. Ehrlich's leadership roles have included: district representative, vice president and president of the Virginia Choral Directors Association (VCDA) and the Virginia Music Educators Association (VMEA); twenty years working with the VCDA and VMEA boards; and nine years as Associate Conference Coordinator of the VMEA Professional Development Conference.

Mr. Ehrlich is past president of the Fairfax County Choral Directors Association. Ehrlich served as the assistant chorus master, working with Nolan Williams, preparing the chorus for the Andrea Bocelli concert in Baltimore in February 2024.

He is the former Artistic Director of the Fairfax Choral Society. Mr. Ehrlich has a Masters in Music Education and Choral Conducting from Florida State University, studying with Kevin Fenton, Judy Bowers, and André Thomas. He received a Bachelor of Music degree with a theatre minor from Indiana University. He has also studied with Anthony Maiello, Robert Fountain, Rodney Eichenberger, Jerry Blackstone, Eugene Rogers, and others.



Chris Gray - Narrator

Chris is a long-time performer in the region and is happy to be working with the Fredericksburg Symphony. He is a member of the Vocal Arts of Fairfax and the Vocal Arts Singers. He has also narrated for the Master Singers of Virginia. Chris has performed on stage at the Kennedy Center Opera House and Concert Hall as well as Constitution Hall. Primarily a musical Theatre performer, some favorite stage credits include Harold Hill in *The Music Man*, Caractacus in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, The Baker in Into the Woods, and Bobby in Company.



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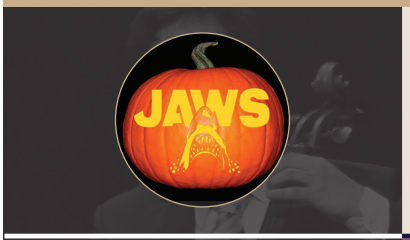
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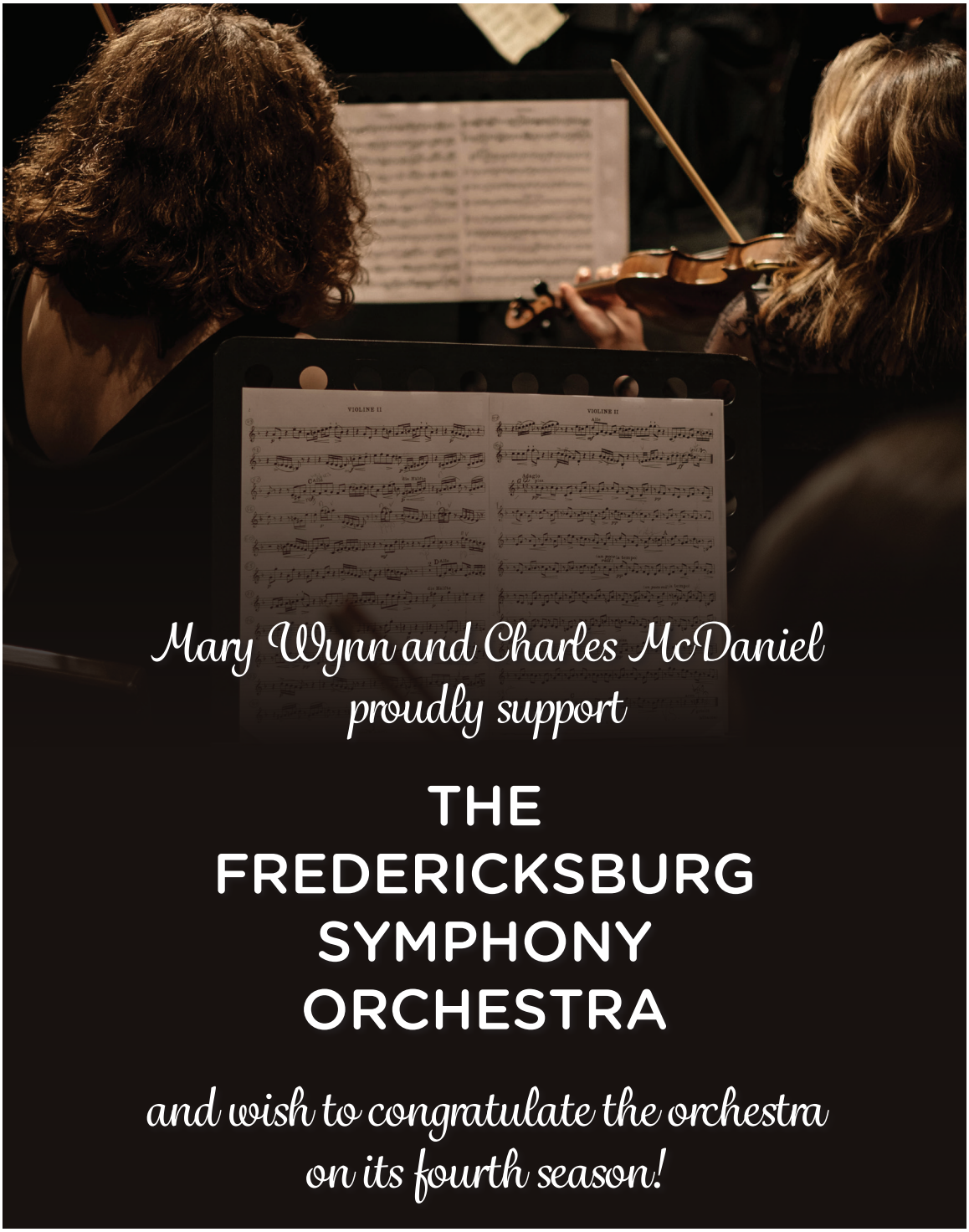


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The Fredericksburg Symphony Orchestra sincerely thanks our Symphony Supporters! Your generosity helps create a community where live music connects people from all walks of life, inspiring a more vibrant and creative region.

Did you know? Approximately 55% of this season's operating budget comes from ticket sales. The remaining 45% comes from the generosity of Symphony Supporters. Truly, YOU make performances like tonight possible. If you are not yet a Symphony Supporter, please consider joining like-minded community members to ensure the future of this great orchestra. All donations are tax-deductible. Thank you for your ongoing support, and we look forward to welcoming you back to Monroe Auditorium on Friday, February 14 for our Valentine's Concert.

For the young and young at heart, don't miss your chance to take a picture with Santa Claus at the FSO's North Pole station in the lobby immediately after the concert concludes!