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## **CHARLOTTESVILLE SYMPHONY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA FIRST OF THREE MUSIC DIRECTOR FINALISTS TO LEAD ORCHESTRA**

CHARLOTTESVILLE – The Charlottesville Symphony at the University of Virginia continues its 2016-17 season with concerts on Saturday, November 19, 8:00pm, at Old Cabell Hall on the Grounds of the University of Virginia and Sunday, November 20, 3:30pm, at Charlottesville High School’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Performing Arts Center. Both performances will be conducted by Benjamin Rous, the first of three Music Director finalists who were selected following Kate Tamarkin’s decision to retire at the end of the current season.

The program, selected by Rous, includes György Ligeti’s Concert Românesc (Romanian Concerto); Claude Debussy’s Prelude to *The Afternoon of a Faun*; the 1919 suite from Igor Stravinsky’s brilliant *Firebird*; and Wolfgang Amadè Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 24 in C minor with Israeli pianist Tomer Gewirtzman.

Benjamin Rous is Resident Conductor of the Virginia Symphony Orchestra where he appears annually on every VSO series including Classics, Pops, Young People’s Concerts and state tours. Recent guest engagements include debuts with the National Symphony, the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, the Long Beach Symphony, the Hartford Symphony Orchestra and the Santa Fe Symphony. Each summer, he serves as the faculty conductor at Greenwood Music Camp in western Massachusetts.

Tomer Gewirtzman has been hailed by The Washington Post as an artist of “formidable virtuosity and stylistic sensitivity.” He was the 2015 Young Concert Artists International Auditions First Prize winner and appears with the Charlottesville Symphony as part of YCA’s Orchestra Partners Project. Other accolades include top prizes at piano competitions throughout the United States, Israel, Greece and Poland. He has performed solo recitals in London and Paris, and appeared at Colorado’s renowned Aspen Music Festival, the Musica Mundi Chamber Music Festival in Belgium and the International Keyboard Institute Festival in New York, among others.

The orchestra’s 2016-17 season is supported in part by a major grant from the Joseph and Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation.

For those who want to “Know the Score,” pre-concert lectures are presented 45 minutes prior to each Saturday night concert. Free of charge, these popular lectures by UVA McIntire Department of Music Associate Professor Richard Will offer a lively and informative behind-the-scenes look at classical music.

Charlottesville Symphony at the University of Virginia  
November 19 and 20, 2016 Concerts  
Page two

In-depth program notes are posted on the orchestra's website, [www.cvillesymphony.org](http://www.cvillesymphony.org) two weeks prior to each Masterworks concert.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Free parking is available in the UVA Central Grounds Parking Garage, located on Emmet Street, on Saturday nights and at Charlottesville High School on Sunday afternoons. The Charlottesville Free Trolley stops at McCormick Road near the UVA Amphitheater, in close proximity to Old Cabell Hall. Both venues are wheelchair accessible.

Pro-rated season tickets are available and the best way to see all three Music Director finalists, as well as Kate Tamarkin's Farewell Concerts. To purchase a subscription by phone or to request a 2016-17 season brochure, please call 434-924-3139. Subscription orders are also accepted in person at the orchestra's office located at 801 West Main Street, Suite 201, Charlottesville, Monday-Friday, from 9:00am to 5:00pm.

Single tickets are priced at \$10-\$45 for adults, and \$10 for students. UVA students may request one complimentary ticket in advance. Single tickets may be purchased at The University of Virginia Arts Box Office, (434) 924-3376, 12:00-5:00pm, Monday through Friday in the lobby of the Drama Building at 109 Culbreth Road, or online at [www.artsboxoffice.virginia.edu](http://www.artsboxoffice.virginia.edu).

All University of Virginia employees (all faculty and staff of all UVA departments and professional schools) are entitled to a 20% discount on tickets to individual performances. This offer does not apply to subscriptions, the December Family Holiday concerts or previously purchased tickets.

#### **Remaining concerts on the Charlottesville Symphony's 2016-17 include:**

##### **MUSIC DIRECTOR FINALIST: ADAM BOYLES**

**Saturday, February 18, 8:00pm, Old Cabell Hall, UVA Grounds**

**Sunday, February 19, 3:30pm, Martin Luther King, Jr. Performing Arts Center at Charlottesville High School**

JEAN SIBELIUS – Violin Concerto in D minor, Op. 47  
Bella Hristova, *Violin*

CARL NIELSEN – Symphony No. 4, Op. 29 "The Inextinguishable"

*The February 18 performance is sponsored by McGuireWoods LLC.*

*Bella Hristova's appearance is underwritten by the Angus Macaulay Visiting Artists Fund.*

Charlottesville Symphony at the University of Virginia  
November 19 and 20, 2016 Concerts  
Page three

**MUSIC DIRECTOR FINALIST: CHEUNG CHAU**

**Saturday, March 25, 8:00pm, Old Cabell Hall, UVA Grounds**

**Sunday, March 26, 3:30pm, Martin Luther King, Jr. Performing Arts Center at Charlottesville High School**

MAURICE RAVEL – Bolero

ROBERT SCHUMANN – Cello Concerto in A minor, Op. 129  
Cicely Parnas, *Cello*

PIOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY – Symphony No. 6 in B minor, Op. 74 “Pathétique”

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**KATE TAMARKIN: THE FAREWELL CONCERTS**

**Saturday, April 22, 8:00pm, Old Cabell Hall, UVA Grounds**

**Sunday, April 23, 3:30pm, Martin Luther King, Jr. Performing Arts Center at Charlottesville High School**

RICHARD WAGNER – Prelude to *Die Meistersinger*, WWV 96

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN – Piano Concerto No. 4 in G Major, Op. 58  
Anne-Marie McDermott, *Piano*

*Sponsored by Vesta Gordon*

*with additional support from the Office of the Provost and the Vice Provost for the Arts at the University of Virginia*

AND

**Family Holiday Concerts**

with the UVA University Singers, Michael Slon, Conductor

**Saturday, December 3, 8:00pm, Old Cabell Hall, UVA Grounds**

**Sunday, December 4, 3:30pm, Old Cabell Hall, UVA Grounds**

Program to be announced; recommended for children five years of age and older

*Sponsored by the Office of the Provost and the Vice Provost for the Arts at the University of Virginia*

**All artists, programs and venues are subject to change.**

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