

To: Music Teachers, Elementary School Principals, and Parent Coordinators
*Charlottesville City Schools; Albemarle, Buckingham, Culpeper, Fluvanna,
Greene, Louisa, Madison, Nelson, Orange, Rockingham, Staunton, and
Waynesboro Public Schools, Other Regional School Districts; Area Private
Schools; Area Homeschool Groups*

From: Elizabeth Roberts, Director of Youth Education, Charlottesville Symphony

Date: August 16, 2023

Re: INVITATION TO ANNUAL YOUTH CONCERT

Close Encounters of the Orchestral Kind

Welcome back to school!
The Charlottesville Symphony Invites
Fourth and Fifth grade students to attend its
Annual Youth Concerts
Thursday, October 12, 2023
Old Cabell Hall, University of Virginia
10:00AM and 11:30AM
Conductor and Narrator: Benjamin Rous

In the middle of his weekly bath, Alvin the Alien falls out of the Big Dipper and lands on the stage of Old Cabell Hall. Hear what happens when he finds a conductor's baton on the podium! The Charlottesville Symphony will present a fascinating tour of famous orchestral works with a science fiction theme. We will explore the families of the orchestra, enjoy the expressive nature of music, and learn how a beautiful melody can energize us. Join Alvin as he has a "Close Encounter" with an orchestra for the first time, and hear how we help Alvin find his way home!

Once again, the Charlottesville Symphony Youth Concerts are FREE. Funding is provided by the Mr. and Mrs. James L. Brown Fund for Youth Concerts, the Richard M. and Tessa G. Ader Endowed Fund for Music Education, the Joseph and Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation, Individual contributors to the Charlottesville Symphony Society Annual Fund, and the McIntire Department of Music at the University of Virginia.

Program (excerpts from the following works):

John Williams, Main Title from *Star Wars*
Jerry Goldsmith (arr. Morton), Main Title from *Star Trek: The Motion Picture*
John Williams, Jedi Steps and Finale from *The Force Awakens*
John Williams, Rey's Theme
Richard Strauss, *Also Sprach Zarathustra*
Modest Mussorgsky, *Night on Bald Mountain*
Molly Joyce, *Side by Side*
John Williams, The Flying Theme from *ET*
John Williams, Imperial March from *Star Wars*
John Williams, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*

Who is eligible to attend:

Fifth graders from the Albemarle, Buckingham, Culpeper, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, Madison, Nelson, Orange, Rockingham, Staunton, and Waynesboro Public Schools; and fourth graders from the Charlottesville City Schools are invited to attend. Additionally, we are pleased to welcome fourth and fifth grade students from private schools or who are home-schooled in the Charlottesville area. **Due to space limitations, we ask each school to limit to one grade level only.** Grade-combined classes, please contact us for special instructions. For homeschooled families, siblings are welcome, however no one under age five will be admitted. All students must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

The Charlottesville Symphony's Youth Concerts are designed to aid recruitment for local band and orchestra programs by targeting students the year before they begin studying band and orchestra instruments at school. By inviting students to our concerts in the academic year just before they start a school instrumental music program, we help them make more informed decisions about which instrument they will choose to play.

Reservations Procedure and Deadline:

We will offer two performances on **Thursday, October 12, 2023**, at **10:00AM** and at **11:30AM**. Advance reservations are required and will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis through Friday, September 22, 2023. To reserve seats, please email jk3xa@virginia.edu with all of the following information. **Incomplete reservations will not be accepted.**

- ❖ your name
- ❖ your school's name or homeschool group's name
- ❖ the total number of students who will attend from your school
- ❖ the total number of chaperones who will attend from your school (chaperone number should be separate from the above-requested student number)
- ❖ the grade level of the students attending (please see who is eligible to attend as described above)
- ❖ your contact information, including your daytime phone number and email address
- ❖ your preferred concert time and whether or not your school can attend the other concert
- ❖ how you will travel to the concert (car or bus)
- ❖ if you will travel by bus, how many buses will bring your students to the concert

SPECIAL NOTE: Reservations for the Charlottesville City Schools have already been made through Arts Coordinator Aaron Eichorst. All Charlottesville City School fourth grade students will attend the 10:00AM performance on Thursday, October 12th.

IMPORTANT: We generally have a waiting list of over 300 people each year. Any group that reserves a large number of seats that go unused during 2023 will receive lower priority when making reservations in 2024.

Preparatory Materials and Activities:

A pdf copy of the study guide will be posted on our website. For 2023, we are offering an electronic study guide only – there will be no print copies. The guides offer information about the orchestra and the music that will be performed in the concert. We have also posted on our website some YouTube links for each piece that will be performed. Please visit our website, open the document containing the links and enjoy listening. A list of suggested activities to help you fulfill a number of the Virginia state-mandated SOLs is also posted on the orchestra's website:

<https://cvilleSymphony.org/education-community/youth-concerts/> Please use all of these materials to prepare your students in advance of the performance.

Logistical Information:

Logistical information, including seating charts, directions, maps, bus drop-off, and parking information will be posted on the orchestra's website in last September.

<http://cvilleSymphony.org/education-community/youth-concerts/>

Please read this information carefully as it outlines important University of Virginia Policies:

- 1) **The University of Virginia does not permit picnics on the Lawn following the Youth Concerts.**
- 2) **Lunches cannot be brought into Old Cabell Hall by order of the Fire Marshall.**
- 3) Please follow the required traffic pattern posted in documents on our website. **Buses must unload along the EAST side of McCormick Road, facing the Lawn and Range;** for the children's safety, buses may NOT drop off students along the opposite side of the street. Any buses traveling the wrong direction on McCormick will be required to turn around before unloading.
- 4) **Buses must leave Grounds during each performance.** Buses may NOT wait along McCormick Road or anywhere else on-Grounds during either performance.

Questions:

Please direct questions to Elizabeth Roberts, Director of Youth Education, at education@cvilleSymphony.org.

Thank you. We hope to see you on Thursday, October 12th!