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TABLE OF CONTENTS







- 5 A Note from the Conductor About the Concertmaster 7 **Concert Tips** 9 10 Season Dedication CSO Officers, Board, & Staff 11 Orchestra Personnel 12 15 **Concert Pages** 21 Glossary of Musical Terms 23 How to Support
- 24 Donors & Sponsors
- 30 Hotel Partners
- 33 Education Programs



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COLUMBUS SYMPHONY INFORMATION

Venue: RiverCenter for the Performing Arts | 900 Broadway, Columbus GA
 Ticket Sales: RiverCenter Box Office, Monday - Friday, 10:00 AM - 5:30 PM
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A NOTE FROM THE CONDUCTOR

Greetings, and welcome to this performance by the Columbus Symphony Orchestra.

Let me ask you a question: Why are you here?

There are many answers to this question, some better than others. (I love music. Good. I was trapped into it by my significant other. Not quite as good, but okay.)

Here are some reasons why we respond to music and, therefore, seek to hear it:

1. Listening to music releases "pleasure chemicals" like dopamine, among others, into a key part of our brain's reward system. (Why go on? Okay, we will.)

- 2. Music transcends walls and boundaries with its universal language.
- 3. Music can help reduce anxiety and depression.
- 4. Music allows you to experience the full range of human emotions.
- 5. Music can lighten the mood.
- 6. Music can stave off fatigue and improve our response to pain.
- 7. Music can bring back memories.
- 8. All that and much, much more.

Whatever the reason for your presence at this concert, we are most happy to see you, to play for you, and to help make live orchestral music a meaningful part of your life. Come back soon.

George Del Gobbo, Music Director & Conductor

Young George was always interested in music. From his earliest years he preferred musical toys. This proclivity remained undefined until the seventh grade when he decided he wanted to play the violin in the school orchestra. This turn down the dark path was sealed when he began studying the violin privately. It was a short step from there to the decision to make music his life, and his fate was sealed when he made the irrevocable choice to become an orchestra conductor. He was fortunate to attend the Eastman School of Music for five years on a four-year scholarship. (To date no statues of him have been erected outside that school.) From there it was on to a stint with the U.S. Army Band in Washington, D.C and simultaneously the graduate school at Catholic University. After leaving the army , it was on to Rome, Italy and the tutelage of Maestro Franco Ferrara at the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia. After a dozen years working with the Fort Worth Symphony and Ballet, he came to Columbus and discovered the orchestra, the people, and the city that would enrich his life forever.

Hear us out, and you'll never miss a beat.

THE COLUMBUSITE ⊕ **f** ⊠ **Ø**

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Kerren Berz's talents span the musical spectrum. Currently in her 21st season as CSO Concertmaster, she has also performed, recorded, and toured with the Atlanta Symphony, the Harlem Festival Orchestra, and the Nashville Chamber Orchestra, whose "music without boundaries" mission produced critically acclaimed performances and recordings of music by Aaron Copland, Conni Ellisor, and Jay Ungar, among others.

In addition to the classical music genre, Ms. Berz is well respected in the popular music industry. Performances include a national concert tour with Amy Grant and Vince Gill and shows with Stevie Wonder, Joni Mitchell, The Eagles, Earth Wind and Fire, and many other iconic artists.

As a music arranger and performer, she has worked with Kristian Bush (Sugarland), and is featured on albums by Outkast, Goodie Mob, Pink, Sinead O'Connor, and on the hit single "Survivor," by Destiny's Child. Ms. Berz is a voting member of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences and has participated on nominating committees for the annual Grammy Awards.

Ms. Berz has degrees from Florida State University, where she studied with Eliot Chapo, and the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, with additional studies at Boston University and with Israeli violinist Yair Kless. She credits her public school music program with giving her the opportunity to play the violin.

As a music educator, Ms. Berz has worked with the Columbus Urban League, TORCH Academy, the Youth Orchestra of Greater Columbus, and strings students throughout the Atlanta area. She is currently on faculty at The Galloway School in Atlanta.

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2022-2023 SCHEDULE





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Annie October 25 & 26

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A Magical Cirque Christmas* November 15

> Step Afrika! November 19

Anastasia November 29 & 30

2022 Gingerbread Village November 29-December 18

Christmas with The Wave December 3

> Julius Caesar* January 12

> > Pride and Preiudice* January 13

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Riverdance 25th Anniversarv Show Januarv 26

> Mv Fair Ladv January 31 & Februarv1

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The Simon & Garfunkel Storv February 13

> The Peking Acrobats March 10

The U.S. Army **Field Band and** Soldiers' Chorus Date TBD

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RAIN – A Tribute to the Beatles Mav 4

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Show features

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CONCERT TIPS

Accessible Seating: Seating for those in wheelchairs is available. Please state your specific need when arriving to the venue.

Ushers are available to take your tickets, provide you with a program, and direct you to and from your seat.

Restrooms are located in the RiverCenter lobby. Ushers can help direct you to the closest restroom.

Smoking and vaping are not allowed inside the building.

Lost and Found: If you lose an item in the theatre, please notify an usher. Items may be turned in to the RiverCenter Security.

Arrive Early: Although there are occasions when arriving later is considered stylish, a concert isn't one of them. Once the music has begun, latecomers will be asked to remain in the lobby until the first performance break.

Phones: Flash photography and noise disturbances are strictly prohibited. We love engaging with our audience on social media so feel free to check-in on Facebook and take selfies and photos PRIOR to the performance. Before the concert starts, be sure to silence your phone and turn down those brightness settings.

Quiet Company: Unless the concert is deemed a "sing-a-long", you will want to leave the music making to the ensemble... even if you really do know the whole first movement of Beethoven's Seventh. The people around you probably know it too and would rather hear the orchestra's rendition. Silence all cell phones, alarms, or other audible devices before the concert begins.

Applause: Don't know when to clap and cheer? We can make it easy! In classical music concerts, applause is usually held until the conductor faces the audience. Some pieces contain several movements and there will be a brief applause-less pause between them. If you ever feel the overwhelming need to clap and cheer between movements... the orchestra won't mind the appreciation!

Enjoy Each Note: You may simply want to avoid the crowd by leaving five minutes early, but the musicians may mistake that as a sign of disapproval. Sit back, relax, and enjoy every last note!



RiverCenter for the Performing Arts, a 501c3 not-for-profit entity, proudly supports the Columbus Symphony Orchestra as a resident company through generous in-kind donations which include rent-free office and meeting space, reduced fees for use of performance spaces and related services and amenities for the benefit of the Orchestra. For information on renting the facility and how to support the work of RiverCenter, please call 706-256-3607 or visit www.rivercenter.org The Columbus Symphony Orchestra would like to dedicate the 2022-2023 Season to the memory of

Dr. Mary W. Schley



Dr. Mary Schley was the first person I met when I arrived in Columbus in April of 1987 to interview to be the conductor of this city's orchestra. She graciously allowed me to lodge in her home for the duration of the interview process. During the intervening decades I came to know her not only as a compassionate caretaker of the city's children, but also as a champion of the value of the arts in the life of the community. She played in the viola section of the orchestra for half a century and was a patron of all the arts her entire life. She was one of a kind. We wish to honor her life and remember her in the best way we know: by playing the music she loved in her memory. And so the Board of Directors, the musicians, and the staff of the CSO humbly dedicate this symphony season as a celebration of this remarkable woman.

George Del Gobbo



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Musicians employed in this production are represented by the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada.

The CSO uses the revolving seating method for section string players who are listed alphabetically in the roster.

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Sandra Wade The Mr. & Mrs. W. Mizell Alexander Chair Staci Culbrath, Claringt & Bass Claring

Staci Culbreth, Clarinet & Bass Clarinet The Mr. Wilson Blackmon Chair

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Myles Yang, Principal Mark Lauer The John & Sandra Thomas Chair

John Grove, Bassoon & Contrabassoon The Cindy & Spencer Garrard Chair

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Adam Pandolfi, Principal The Dr. & Mrs. Robert M. Patton Chair Jason Eklund The Mildred Miller Fort Foundation Chair

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timpani

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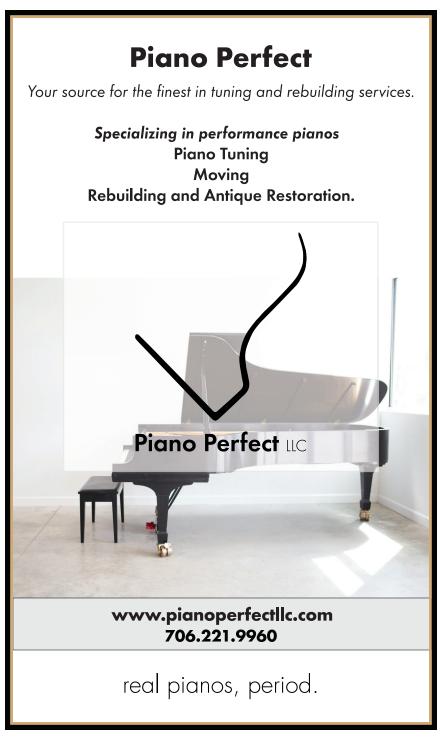
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*Temporary Leave of Absence

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MYTHS, LEGENDS, & FOLK TUNES

COLUMBUS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA George Del Gobbo, Music Director & Conductor

Saturday, September 17, 2022 | 7:30 PM

PROGRAM

Mily Balakirev	Overture on Three Russian Themes	
lgor Stravinsky	The Firebird Suite (1919) I. Introduction - The Firebird and its dance - The Firebird's Variation II. The Princesses' Khorovod III. Infernal Dance of King Kashchei IV. Berceuse (Lullaby) V. Finale	
-Intermission-		
Modeste Mussorgsky (arr. Ravel)	 Pictures at an Exhibition Promenade I. Gnomus (The Gnome) Promenade II. Il vecchio casstello (The Old Castle) Promenade III. Tuileries (Shrieking Children in the Palace Gardens) IV. Bydlo (Oxen/Ox-Drawn Wagon) Promenade V. Ballet of the Unhatched Chicks VI. Samuel Goldenburg and Schmuÿle VII. Limoges. Le marché (The Marketplace - "Important News") VIII. Catacombae. Sepulcrum romanum - Cum mortuis in lingua mortua (Catacombs. Roman Tomb. With the Dead in a Dead Language) IX. The Hut on Hen's Legs (Baba Yaga) X. The Great Gate of Kiev 	

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TONIGHT'S PERFORMANCE SPONSORED BY:



PROGRAM NOTES

Overture on Three Russian Themes

Mily Balakirev (1837-1910) Premiered in January 1859 in St. Petersburg

Mily Alekseyevich Balakirev was born in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia in January 1837. He began composing at the age of 15 combining traditional folk music and experimental classical music practices similar to that of Mikhail Glinka. He is known primarily for his contribution to musical nationalism and his influence on other Russian composers like Tchaikovsky, Rimsky-Korsakov, and Stravinsky. In the late 1850s and early 1860s, Balakirev brought together Alexander Borodin, César Cui, Modest Mussorgsky, Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, and himself to form a group called The Mighty Five. Their objective was to create a distinct national style of classical music utilizing Russian folk song and dance, church chants, and exotic scales and styling.

Balakirev arranged and published collections of folk songs that would later serve as source material for other composers. His Overture on Three Russian Themes was composed in 1858 and features three main folk songs. Their titles when translated into English are The Silver Birch, In the Fields Stands a Birch Tree, and There was at the Feast. It is scored for two flutes, two oboes, two clarinets, two bassoons, two horns, two trumpets, three trombones, timpani, and strings.

The Silver Birch serves as a graceful introduction and epilogue of the overture. After a brief burst of energy at the beginning of the piece, the slow melody of The Silver Birch is introduced in the woodwinds, passed to the strings, and then flows through the orchestra.

The overture then shifts to a new Allegro moderato section with the other two folk songs on display. The first subject, In the Fields Stand a Birch Tree, is introduced in B minor in the clarinet melody. The melody is transported around the orchestra until modulating to the key of D major, introducing a contrasting second subject based on the folk song There was at the Feast. Both of these folk songs were later featured in well-known works. In the Fields Stand a Birch Tree was used in the finale of Tchaikovsky's fourth symphony while Stravinsky utilized There was at the Feast in his work Petrushka.

The piece ends with the slow and elegant reappearance of The Silver Birch. The work later went on to inspire Rimsky-Korsakov's composition of the same name.

The Firebird Suite (1919)

Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971)

Arranged in 1919 for Swiss conductor Ernest Ansermet

After losing funding for his opera ventures in 1909, Russian impresario Sergei Diaghilev decided to make a move towards the less expensive art form of ballet. He and his colleagues dreamed of creating a work that combined music, theater, and visual art that reflected the ideals and innovation of Russian art. They settled upon the Russian folklore of the Firebird symbolizing rebirth, beauty, and magic.

Diaghilev struggled to find a composer, but finally turned to a less established composer, Igor Stravinsky. A former student of Rimsky-Korsakov, the twenty-seven year old Stravinsky was so excited about the project that he began composing the score weeks before he was officially hired.

Diaghilev and his team created a story that combined Russian fairy tales, including the Firebird, Prince Ivan Tsarevich, and the ogre-like figure, Kashchei the Immortal. The entire 50-minute ballet is like an opera set to dance. Shortly after completion of the orchestra score, Stravinsky wrote a piano solo reduction of the entire ballet. He also arranged three suites for concert performance which date from 1911, 1919, and 1945. The 1919 suite was created in Switzerland for conductor Ernest Ansermet. It is scored for two flutes (second doubling piccolo), two oboes (2nd doubling English horn), two clarinets, two bassoons, four horns, two trumpets, three trombones, tuba, timpani, percussion, harp, piano, and strings. When it was originally published, the score contained many mistakes that were later fixed in 1985.

The introduction of the 1919 suite opens with a melodic figure in the cellos and double basses that sets the nocturnal scene in the Enchanted Garden of Kashchei. The mysterious music of the opening continues with foreshadowing of Kashchei the Immortal in the bassoon. Suddenly the Firebird appears with glistening strings and woodwinds performing a lively dance heard in the high, bird-like interjections of the upper woodwinds. The loud chords in the horn demonstrate the bird being briefly captured by Prince Ivan. Near the end of the movement, the bird is freed and Ivan takes one of its magical feathers.

The second movement introduces thirteen enchanted princesses who are captives of the evil Kashchei. Ivan falls in love with one of the princesses and they all dance a khorovod or a stately, slow round dance. The melody is first introduced by the solo oboe.

The third movement tells of the journey of the heroic lvan in pursuit to free the captives with the help of the Firebird. After being summoned by lvan with the magical feather, the Firebird puts a spell on Kashchei and his minions causing them to dance the "Infernal Dance" with wild syncopation and striking energy. The dance exhausts the villains and puts them into a deep sleep.

The fourth movement begins the "Berceuse" or lullaby of the Firebird with a haunting melody in the bassoon. While the villains sleep, the Firebird directs Ivan to Kashchei's soul hidden in a magic egg. Ivan destroys the egg, killing Kashchei and his minions.

All is returned to normal and the survivors all take part in a dance of celebration first heard in the horn solo at the beginning of the "Finale". The theme builds into a joyous and magical ending.

Pictures at an Exhibition

Modest Mussorgsky (1839-1881) Arranged by Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

Ravel's orchestration premiered in October 1922 in Paris

Modest Mussorgsky was widely considered the most unique member of The Mighty Five due to his defiance of Western musical standards. His works were often inspired by Russian history, folklore, and other national themes. He earned a living as a clerk in civil service while receiving his musical training from his peer, Mily Balakirev.

After the death of his dear friend and artist Viktor Hartmann, Mussorgsky composed a set of short piano pieces in 1874 titled Pictures at an Exhibition. The music was based on a memorial exhibition that honored the work of Hartmann. It depicts Mussorgsky's experience of walking through the gallery and contemplating the significance of each painting. There is no record of a public performance of the piece during Mussorgsky's lifetime.

In 1922, French composer Maurice Ravel was commissioned by Russian conductor Serge Koussevitzky to arrange the piece for full orchestra. The piece is scored for three flutes (third doubling piccolo), three oboes (third doubling English horn), two clarinets, bass clarinet, two bassoons, contrabassoon, alto saxophone, four horns, three trumpets, three trombones, tuba, timpani, percussion, and strings. This new orchestration became one of the standard pieces of the orchestral repertoire.

The piece begins with a recurring theme heard in each of the Promenade sections that represents walking through the gallery. This theme can be heard throughout the entire work in between various movements depicting the viewer walking from one painting to the next. The solo trumpets initiate the first Promenade which is transported through the full orchestra throughout the piece.

The first painting Gnomus, which is Latin for "The Gnome," depicts a carved wooden nutcracker in the form of a little gnome with crooked legs and large teeth. The music jerks and snaps as though he is cracking the shells of nuts in his jaw. The frequent starts and stops of the lurching music suggests the movements of the gnome.

The second Promenade is initiated by the solo horn as we move towards II vecchio castello, which is Italian for "The Old Castle." This movement depicts a watercolor painting of a troubadour singing in front of a medieval castle. The melody can be heard in a duet between the bassoon and alto saxophone. The movement is followed by another iteration of the Promenade, this time in the trumpets and trombones with full orchestra.

Tuileries (Shrieking Children in the Palace Gardens) sets the scene with children frolicking in a Parisian garden near the Louvre. You can hear the children

playing and quarreling in the sassy string figures and taunting wind chords.

Bydlo, the Polish word for "oxen," depicts an ox-drawn wagon with enormous wheels. The music starts quietly, building gradually, then subsiding, representing the approach and passing of Bydlo. The Promenade returns again in the woodwinds.

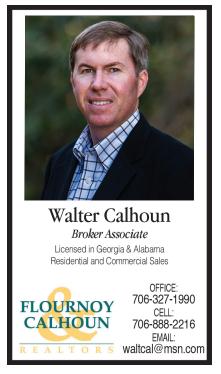
Ballet of the Unhatched Chicks is inspired by a sketch of a young ballet dancer in a canary costume with an eggshell suit of armor. It is followed by Samuel Goldenberg and Schmuÿle depicting two separate paintings: a rich patriarch heard in the winds and strings and a poor, nervous beggar heard in the stuttering trumpets.

Limoges. Le marché or "The Marketplace - Important News" depicts a peasant woman amidst the chatter of the French city's market. After the quick, scurrying movement of the market, we enter the Catacombae or "Catacombs." The music is divided into two sections: Sepulcrum romanum or "The Roman Tomb" and Cum mortuis in lingua mortua or "With the Dead in a Dead Language." A ghostly transformation of the promenade theme is heard in this second section.

The Hut on Hen's Legs (Baba Yaga) shows a fourteenth-century metal clock in the shape of a hut supported by a pair of fowl's legs. Mussorgsky associated this with the Russian folktale of Baba Yaga, a witch who flew through the air chasing her victims, which can be heard in the whirlwind of sounds of the orchestra.

Finally, The Great Gate of Kiev brings back a celebratory version of the promenade theme creating a grand ceremony with priestly chanting, ringing of bells, and crashing of cymbals. The music propels the listener to a climactic conclusion.

Program Notes by Eric Thomas







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GLOSSARY OF MUSICAL TERMS

Cadenza (It. Cadenza): an improvised or written-out decorative passage performed by a soloist, with accompaniment, usually near the end of a concerto movement.

Concerto (fr. Lat. Concertare, to contend): a composition for featured instrument(s) and orchestra often cast in three movements marked fast-slow-fast. The contrast in sound between the soloist(s) and the large ensemble is the principal characteristic of the genre.

Concerto grosso (It. large concerto): a type of concerto common to the Baroque era in which a small group of solo instruments (concertino) is contrasted to the large ensemble (ripieno)

Finale (Lat. Finalis, to end): the name sometimes given to the last movement of a longer composition.

Minuet: a stately court dance in three-four time which is often used as the third movement of the classical symphony. It was replaced in the nineteenth century by the scherzo and other dance-like movements.

Movement: an independent section of a larger work, usually separated by a brief pause.

Opus (Lat. Opus, work): a number assigned to a musical composition either by the composer or by the work's publisher (abbreviated as Op.)

Orchestra: the generic name for an ensemble of diverse instruments. The modern orchestra includes instruments from the four major groups: strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion.

Rondo: a musical form in which a theme recurs three or more times with each occurrence separated by a contrasting episode.

Scherzo (It. Scherzo, joke): a fast moving piece, usually in triple meter. Scherzos became common with the symphonies of Beethoven and eventually replaced the Minuet.

Suite: a succession of related movements, often dance inspired, sometimes extracted from larger works.

Symphony (Gr. Symphonia, sounding together): an elaborate musical composition for full orchestra, typically in four movements

Tempo: Many words are used to designate the speed and/or character of a piece of music. Here are some of the most commonly encountered terms for tempo and style modifiers:

Adagio: on the slow side	Lento: slow
Allegretto: a fairly brisk tempo	Maestoso: majestically
Allegro: "lively," the most common indication for a fast tempo	meno: less
Andante: "to walk or go," interpreted as moderately slow.	molto: much
moderately slow.	mosso: moved
Andantino: a bit faster than Andante	non troppo : not too much
Cantabile: in a singing fashion	piu : more
con brio: with spirit and vivacity	poco: little
con fuoco : with fire	Presto : very fast, sometimes modified as Prestissimo, meaning as fast as possible.
con moto: with movement	Scherzando: lightheartedly
Grave: more a style than speed, but often interpreted as slow and serious	Sostenuto: in a sustained manner
Grazioso: graceful	Vivace : "vivacious," a lively and brisk manner
Largo : broad or large, usually taken in a slow and dignified style	

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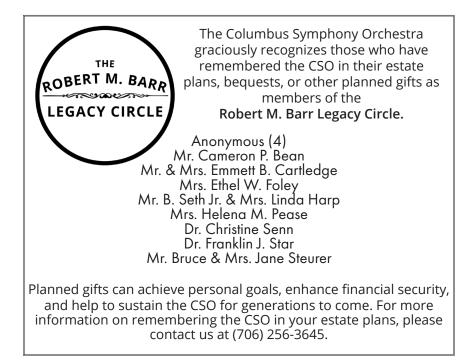
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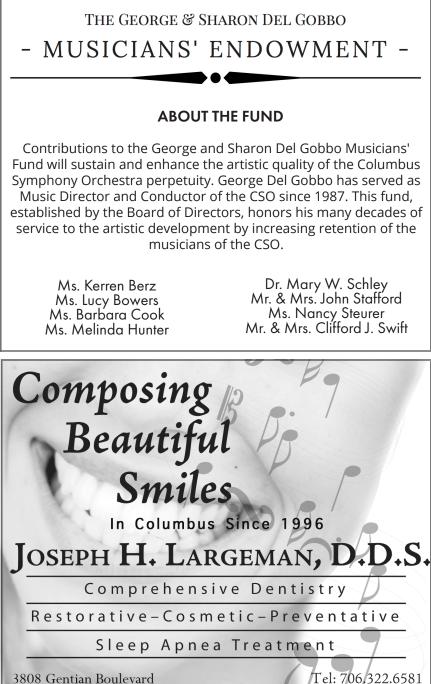




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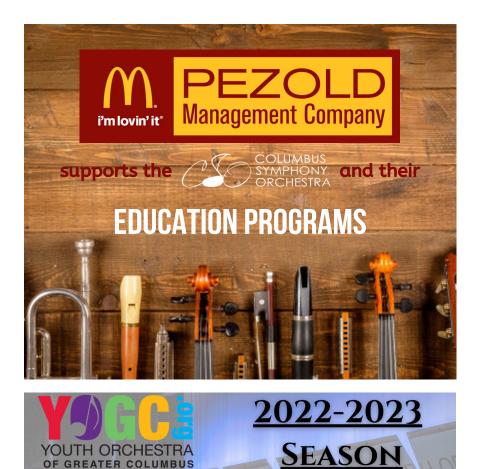
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For questions regarding our educational programming, please contact Thomas Trinh at (706) 256-3642 |operations@csoga.org

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