

2022-23 SEASON

Beethoven's Eighth

Saturday, January 7, 2023

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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
RiverCenter Box Office: 706.256.3612 | CSO Office: 706.323.5059
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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





AIN – A Tribute to the Beatles

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Opera Silent Film with Ron Carter



My Fair Lady

Jesus Christ Superstar* October 8

Annie October 25 & 26

The Phantom of the Opera Silent Film with Ron Carter Cctober 29

> Click, Clack, Moo November 4

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

Junie B. Jones **Essential Survival** Guide to School Januarv 24

tour start-up

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Riverdance 25th Anniversarv Show Januarv 26

> Mv Fair Ladv January 31 & February 1

> > Atlanta Symphony Orchestra February 4

The Simon & Garfunkel Storv February 13

> The Peking Acrobats March 10

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

From Broadway to Hollywood 🦱 Āpril 29

RAIN – A Tribute to the Beatles Mav 4

> Tootsie May 6 & 7

Madaaascar the Musical Julv 1

Show features

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CONCERT TIPS

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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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VIOLIN

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Emory Clements Benjamin Crofut The Hardaway Foundation Chair Vadim Volynets David Weiss Patricia Weitzel*



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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Jim Zellers, Principal The Dr. & Mrs. Edward B. Kinner Chair

Erica Bass Pirtle, Flute & Piccolo The Dr. Catalina Aranas Chair

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OBOE

Erica Howard, Principal The Jack & JoRhee Pezold Chair

Barbara Cook The Mrs. Pamela Harmann Page & Dr. Edwin L. Page Chair

Susan Tomkiewicz, Oboe & English Horn The Mr. William & Dr. Bonnie Ellis Chair

CLARINET

David Odom, Principal The Mr. & Mrs. Alan C. Ramsay, Jr. Chair

Sandra Wade The Mrs. W. Mizell Alexander Chair

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

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HORN

Adam Pandolfi, Principal The Dr. & Mrs. Robert M. Patton Chair Jason Eklund

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timpani

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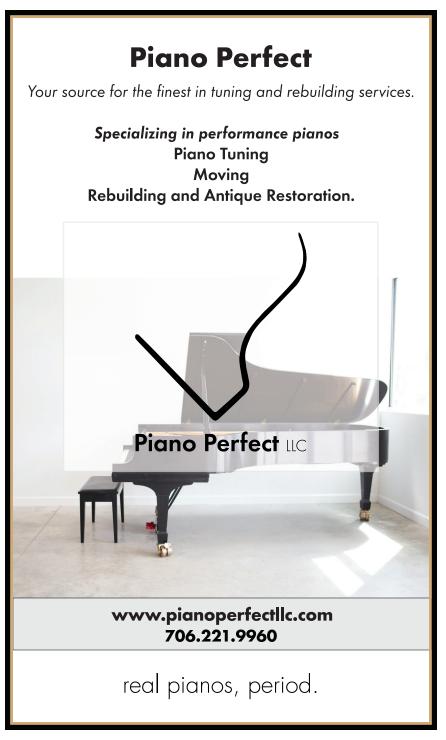
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*Temporary Leave of Absence

** Courtesy of William Pu Music Academy



BEETHOVEN'S EIGHTH

COLUMBUS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA George Del Gobbo, Music Director & Conductor The Dr. & Mrs. Steven Leichter Chair

Saturday, January 7, 2023 | 7:30 PM

PROGRAM

Jessie Montgomery	Strum for String Orchestra
Ralph Vaughan Williams	Concerto in A Minor for Oboe and Strings I. Rondo Pastorale (Allegro moderato) II. Minuet and Musette (Allegro moderato) III. Scherzo (Presto - Doppio più lento – Lento – Presto) Erica Howard, oboe -Intermission-
Ludwig van Beethoven	Symphony No. 8 in F Major, Op. 93 I. Allegro vivace e con brio (F Major) II. Allegretto scherzando (B-flat Major) III. Tempo di menuetto (F Major) IV. Allegro vivace (F Major)



Please silence all cellphones and noise making devices. Unauthorized cameras and recording devices are not permitted.



Erica Howard, oboe

Erica Howard has been a member of the CSO since 2011 and has served as Principal Oboe since 2014. They are also Principal Oboe of the Atlanta Ballet Orchestra and play English horn with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, and they regularly perform with a number of other ensembles, including the Atlanta Symphony, Atlanta Opera, Chattanooga Symphony, and Cayuga Chamber Orchestra. Erica is a Visiting Lecturer at Cornell University and previously was an adjunct music faculty member at the Alabama School of Fine Arts. They received their Bachelor's of Music degree from Indiana University, where they were a student of Linda Strommen. When they aren't making oboe reeds,

Erica enjoys hiking, knitting, cooking, and spending time with their wife and four cats.

PROGRAM NOTES

Strum for String Orchestra

Jessie Montgomery (b. 1981)

Jessie Montgomery is an acclaimed composer, violinist, and educator. She was raised in Manhattan's Lower East Side by parents working in music and theater. She holds a bachelor's degree in violin performance from the Juilliard School, and completed a master's degree in Composition for Film and Multimedia at New York University in 2012.

In 1999, Montgomery began working with the Sphinx Organization, a nonprofit based in Detroit that supports young African American and Latino string players. She continues to serve as composer-in-residence for the Sphinx Virtuosi. Her music interweaves classical music with elements of vernacular music, improvisation, poetry, and social consciousness, making her an acute interpreter of 21st century American sound and experience. The following is Jessie Montgomery's description of her piece Strum:

"Strum is the culminating result of several versions of a string quintet I wrote in 2006. It was originally written for the Providence String Quartet and guests of Community MusicWorks Players, then arranged for string quartet in 2008 with several small revisions. In 2012 the piece underwent its final revisions with a rewrite of both the introduction and the ending for the Catalyst Quartet in a performance celebrating the 15th annual Sphinx Competition.

Originally conceived for the formation of a cello quintet, the voicing is often spread wide over the ensemble, giving the music an expansive quality of sound. Within Strum I utilized texture motives, layers of rhythmic or harmonic ostinati that string together to form a bed of sound for melodies to weave in and out. The strumming pizzicato serves as a texture motive and the primary driving rhythmic underpinning of the piece. Drawing on American folk idioms and the spirit of dance and movement, the piece has a kind of narrative that begins with fleeting nostalgia and transforms into ecstatic celebration."

Concerto in A minor for Oboe and Strings

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Premiered on September 30, 1944 by the Liverpool Philharmonic featuring oboist Léon Goossens

British composer Ralph Vaughan Williams was seventy-two years old when he finished the Concerto in A minor for Oboe and Strings in 1944. Prior to this piece he had composed and arranged approximately 300 pieces of music. The most recent was his Symphony No. 5 (recently performed by the CSO in October), which was completed in 1943 and shares a lot of similarities with the concerto. The musical material from the last movement of the oboe concerto was originally intended for his fifth symphony as part of a revision of the second movement (Scherzo) before utilizing it for the concerto instead.

The concerto was scheduled to premiere at the Proms in London in July of 1944. However due to the threat of military rocket raids on the city during this time, the premiere was delayed until September 30, 1944 in Liverpool with oboe soloist Léon Goossens, to whom the score was dedicated.

The piece is scored for solo oboe and strings and is divided into three movements. The first movement (Rondo Pastorale) uses the warm and luxurious sound of the oboe to evoke the emotion and spirit of the English countryside. The oboe begins with a soft and rhythmically flowing line at a soft dynamic reaching a brief cadenza in only 10 measures into the piece. The melody is then passed around from soloist to orchestra until we reach a longer cadenza that closes out the movement.

The second movement (Minuet and Musette) is like a lilting waltz broken into two sections, one in C minor and the other in C major. The Finale movement moves at a rapid speed with quick key changes and constant movement in the oboe. The movement reaches a slower, more relaxed section in which Vaughan Williams reintroduces the idea of the English pastoral setting.

Symphony No. 8 in F Major, Op. 93

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Premiered on February 27, 1814 in Vienna

Ludwig van Beethoven often wrote his symphonies in pairs. His fifth and sixth symphonies were written around the same time and even premiered at the same concert. His seventh and eighth symphonies were also written around the same time with their premieres just 3 months apart. As you compare his symphonies, it seems as though his odd-numbered symphonies often push limits while his even-numbered symphonies retreat towards the more classical style. Because of this, his even-numbered symphonies often get overshadowed by their neighboring counterparts. Beethoven's Eighth Symphony was one of his favorites. He affectionately referred to it as "my little Symphony in F." When a student of his asked why the Eighth was less popular than the Seventh, Beethoven responded, "because the Eighth is so much better."

Symphony No. 8 in F Major, Op. 93 was completed in 1812 and is scored for two flutes, two oboes, two clarinets, two bassoons, two horns, two trumpets, timpani, and strings. It was premiered in Vienna in 1814 as part of a concert that included the Seventh Symphony. The piece is described as light and humorous despite the ongoing health issues and hearing loss that Beethoven was struggling with at the time.

The first movement (Allegro vivace e con brio) begins with a cheerful and buoyant opening theme with material that sounds like it should be used for a powerful ending rather than the opening of the piece. From this material a second theme emerges and Beethoven rushes through the movement until the extensive coda. Throughout the movement, Beethoven showcases a range of volume through his dynamics. The movement ends with hammer-like accents with the last measure matching the same material as that of the first.

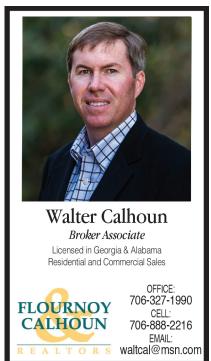
The second movement (Allegretto scherzando) is not the usual slow movement familiar in other symphonies. It begins with the constant ticking of wind instruments. It is as though this movement is a parody of the metronome, which was invented around the same time by a friend of Beethoven.

The third movement (Tempo di menuetto) reverts from the scherzo form typical of the Romantic period to the minuet and trio form of the Classical period.

However, Beethoven's version includes deliberate amusements with weird rhythm, unusual accents, and false downbeats.

The fast paced final movement (Allegro vivace) plays with a range of dynamics and continued humor. The movement begins with soft scurrying in the violins. Throughout the piece we hear unexpectedly loud notes that almost come off as wrong notes. The movement concludes with a long passage of loud tonic harmony in the coda.

Program Notes Written and Compiled by Eric Thomas





The Thrill of the Orchestra: A Family Matinee Concert February, 17, 2023 | 11:00 AM

Looking for a place to take the kids while they are home from school on this Teacher In-Service Day? Experience the "thrill" of the orchestra featuring **music from The Lion King, Frozen, and Stars Wars.** Russell Peck's educational piece, The Thrill of the Orchestra, colorfully illustrates the instruments of the orchestra and how they are played. This fun, family matinee performance is entertaining for all ages.

General Admission Ticket Prices: Adult: \$7.50 | Child (0-17): \$5.00

*School groups options available for schools outside of Muscogee County. For more information, please visit: https://csoga.org/22-23season/thrill





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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
Largo : broad or large, usually taken in a slow and dignified style	manner

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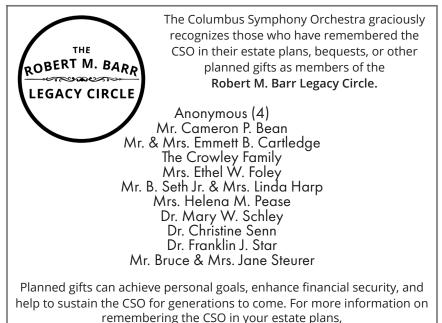
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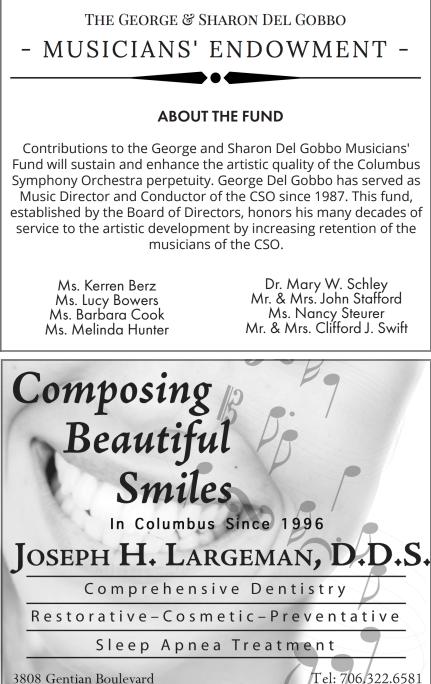
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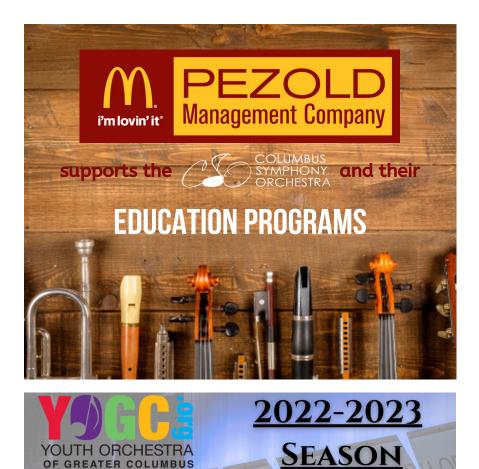
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