

COSMIC SYMPHONY PRESENTS



Love and Loss

DIRECTED BY WILLIAM F. ESTERLING III

**FEATURING INTERNATIONAL
AWARD-WINNING TENOR**

DAVID W. COOK



*With music from "Carmen," "Turandot,"
"West Side Story," and much more!*

**SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023 @ 3:00 PM
NANCY R. AND NORTON T. DODGE
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
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ST. MARY'S CITY, MD**

**SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2023 @ 3:00 PM
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105 VIANNEY LN.
PRINCE FREDERICK, MD**



Cosmic
SYMPHONY

LOCAL TALENT · UNIVERSAL APPEAL

Wow, what an amazing comeback season for COSMIC Symphony, your community orchestra! We are thrilled with the community's donations and audience support. Our March concert had record attendance at almost 400 people! Please continue sharing about COSMIC to your friends, family, and colleagues. Community support keeps the concerts FREE and provides much-needed opportunities for local musicians to share their talent.

We are delighted to partner with David W. Cook. David is relatively new to the Southern Maryland community but has amassed an amazing following in such a short time. Working with David on this performance has been a treat. His professionalism and genuine love of music shines through all he does. We look forward to possible future collaborations! His buttery smooth voice will have you swooning!

As always, we are thankful to our many behind-the-scenes volunteers, Board of Directors, and Mindy Striep for her fabulous graphics and program design this season! Thanks again to you, our audience, for coming to our concerts and supporting us with your generous donations! We are hoping to make the Nancy R. and Norton T. Dodge our St. Mary's County home for the 2023-2024 season.

Be sure to check Facebook, Instagram, and our website, www.cosmicsymphony.org, for the latest news about the upcoming 2023-2024 season.

Musically yours,

Karen Roberts

President, COSMIC Symphony



It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to COSMIC's concert titled "Love & Loss." We are thrilled to present this concert featuring the voice of David W. Cook, an operatic tenor soloist and Southern Maryland local. All the music you'll hear today relates to the concert's title, and expresses emotions related to love and loss.

The symphony will perform Bizet's *Carmen Suite*, featuring music from the opera by the same name. *Carmen* is widely regarded as one of the most compelling and evocative operas of all time. It tells the tragic story of Carmen and Don José, whose passionate but ultimately doomed love affair captures the essence of the concert's theme.

The symphony will accompany David W. Cook in a few arias, to include *Maria* from Leonard Bernstein's *West Side Story*. This beloved classic tells the story of America's *Romeo & Juliet*, seamlessly weaving together themes of love, loss, and the search for belonging in a way that is both timeless and deeply moving.

From all of us at the COMIC Symphony, we're confident you'll find the concert to be an unforgettable experience that speaks to the heart of what it means to be human. Thank you for joining us, and we look forward to sharing our music with you.

Sincerely,

William Esterling III

Music Director, COSMIC Symphony



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- NO FOOD, DRINK, GUM, OR TOBACCO PRODUCTS ARE PERMITTED WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION AND EVENTS.
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- DO NOT PLACE YOUR FEET ON THE SEAT IN FRONT OF YOU.
- SILENCE ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES.
- PLEASE REMOVE DISRUPTIVE/NOISY CHILDREN FROM THE PERFORMANCE.
- EVENTS WILL BE BROADCASTED IN THE LOBBY FOR THOSE WHO MUST LEAVE THE AUDITORIUM.

PROGRAM

COSMIC Flute Choir

Scarborough Fair

Traditional English Folksong
arr. Rice-Young

I'll Love My Love

Gustav Holst (1874 - 1934)
arr. Louke

For Love of Swans

Catherine McMichael (b. 1954)

COSMIC Symphony

O' sole mio

Eduardo di Capua (1864 - 1917)
arr. Chiaramello

Carmen Suite

Georges Bizet (1838 - 1875)

Prélude

Aragonaise

Intermezzo

Séguedille

Les Dragons d'Alcala

Les Toréadors

Marche des Contrebandiers

Habanera

Nocturne

Chanson du Toréador

La Garde Montante

Chanson Bohème

Intermission

Nessun Dorma

Giacomo Puccini (1858 - 1924)

Maria

Leonard Bernstein (1918 - 1990)

Selections from *West Side Story*

Leonard Bernstein (1918 - 1990)
arr. Mason

This program is approximately two hours in length.

PROGRAM NOTES

FLUTE CHOIR SELECTIONS

Scarborough Fair is a traditional English folksong dating back to the Middle Ages and referring to an old fair in Scarborough, North Yorkshire. It was often sung to various melodies but usually contained refrains resembling “parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme” and “Then she’ll be a true love of mine”. It is traditionally a love song that requests the lover to perform certain impossible tasks, which have changed over the years. The melody that is used in this version of Scarborough Fair was made famous by Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel in the 1960s.

I’ll Love My Love is a Cornish folksong that tells the story of a young woman whose lover was sent off to sea by his parents in an attempt to ruin their relationship. He eventually returns and they live happily ever after. Each stanza ends with the refrain “I love my love because I know my love loves me!” This arrangement of the song is inspired by the settings that Gustav Holst wrote for his *Second Suite in F* for Military Band and for his four-part SATB vocal version of *I’ll Love My Love*.

For Love of Swans was commissioned by the National Flute Association to honor the memory of Phil Swanson who holds a place in many peoples’ hearts as teacher, mentor, and friend. It premiered in 2019. This piece embodies his sense of humor, his generous spirit, his love of Celtic music and of low flutes, his support of those needing a boost, and his giving of praise and encouragement to all around him. Catherine McMichael calls it “Greensleeves, for Phil.”

PROGRAM NOTES

DI CAPUA

Eduardo Di Capua (12 March 1865 – 3 October 1917) was an Italian composer of Neapolitan ballads. He earned his living by playing in small theaters and cafes in and around Naples, and later also gave piano lessons. His most famous work was *O sole mio* (1898); its popularity was immense, and never abated. Other celebrated songs were *Maria Mari* (1899), *Torna maggio* (1900); and *Canzona bella*. Di Capua sold these songs to publishers outright, and so did not benefit by their popularity. He unfortunately died in extreme poverty.



O sole mio is a well-known Neapolitan song written in 1898. Its Neapolitan language lyrics were written by Giovanni Capurro, and the music was composed by Eduardo Di Capua and Alfredo Mazzucchi (1878–1972). The title translates literally as "my sun" or "my sunshine." The lyrics have been translated to other languages.

***O sole mio* Lyrics, Translated to English**

What a beautiful thing is a sunny day!

The air is serene after a storm,

The air is so fresh that it already feels like a celebration.

What a beautiful thing is a sunny day!

But another sun, even more beautiful, oh my sweetheart,

My own sun, shines from your face!

This sun, my own sun,

Shines from your face; It shines from your face!

Your window panes shine;

A laundress is singing and boasting about it;

And while she's wringing the clothes, hanging them up to dry, and singing,

Your window panes shine.

When night comes and the sun has gone down,

I almost start feeling melancholy;

I'd stay below your window

When night comes and the sun has gone down.

PROGRAM NOTES

BIZET

Georges Bizet (né Alexandre César Léopold Bizet; 25 October 1838 – 3 June 1875) was a French composer of the Romantic era. Best known for his operas in a career cut short by his early death, Bizet achieved few successes before his final work, *Carmen*, which has become one of the most popular and frequently performed works in the entire opera repertoire.

During a brilliant student career at the Conservatoire de Paris, Bizet won many prizes, including the prestigious *Prix de Rome* in 1857. His keyboard and orchestral compositions were largely ignored; as a result, his career stalled, and he earned his living mainly by arranging and transcribing the music of others. Restless for success, he began many theatrical projects during the 1860s, most of which were abandoned.

The production of his final opera, *Carmen*, was delayed because of fears that its themes of betrayal and murder would offend audiences. After its premiere on 3 March 1875, Bizet was convinced that the work was a failure; he died of a heart attack three months later, unaware that it would prove a spectacular and enduring success.

When rehearsals began in October 1874, however, the orchestra had difficulties with the score, finding some parts unplayable. The chorus likewise declared some of their music impossible to sing and were dismayed that they had to act as individuals, smoking and fighting onstage rather than merely standing in line.

The opera's first performance extended to four-and-a-half hours; the final act did not begin until after midnight. Much of the press comment was negative, expressing consternation that the heroine was an amoral seductress rather than a woman of virtue. There was, however, praise from the poet Théodore de Banville, who applauded Bizet for presenting a drama with real men and women instead of the usual *Opéra-Comique* "puppets." The public's reaction was lukewarm, and Bizet soon became convinced of its failure; "I foresee a definite and hopeless flop."



PROGRAM NOTES

PUCCINI

Giacomo Puccini (22 December 1858 – 29 November 1924) was an Italian composer known primarily for his operas. Regarded as the greatest and most successful proponent of Italian opera after Verdi, he was descended from a long line of composers, stemming from the late-Baroque era. Though his early work was firmly rooted in traditional late-19th-century Romantic Italian opera, he later developed his work in the realistic verismo style, of which he became one of the leading exponents.

Turandot, Puccini's final opera, was left unfinished at the composer's death in November 1924, and the last two scenes were completed by Franco Alfano based on the composer's sketches. The libretto for Turandot was based on a play of the same name by Carlo Gozzi.

The music of the opera is heavily inflected with pentatonic motifs, intended to produce an Asiatic flavor to the music. *Turandot* contains a number of memorable stand-alone arias, among them *Nessun Dorma*.



***Nessun Dorma* Lyrics, Translated to English**

*None shall sleep! None shall sleep!
Not even you, oh Princess,
in your cold bedroom,
watching the stars
that tremble with love, and with hope!*

*But my secret is hidden within me;
no one will know my name!
No, no! On your mouth,
I will say it when the light shines!*

*And my kiss will dissolve
the silence that makes you mine!*

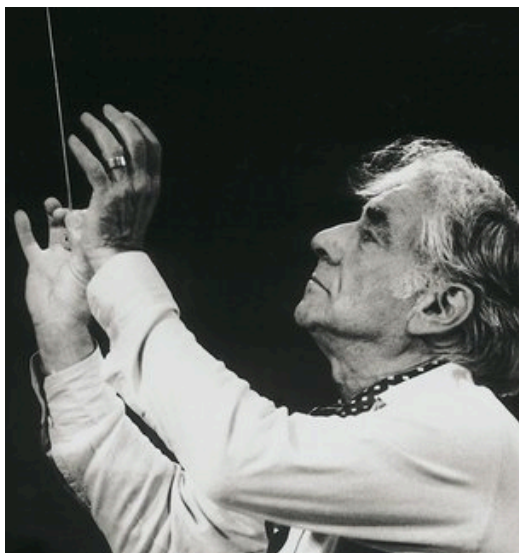
*Vanish, o night!
Fade, you stars!
Fade, you stars!
At dawn, I will win!
I will win! I will win!*

*Laugh and sing in the sun
Our infinite happiness!
Glory to you! Glory to you!*

PROGRAM NOTES

BERNSTEIN

Leonard Bernstein (August 25, 1918 – October 14, 1990) was an American conductor, composer, pianist, music educator, author, and humanitarian. Considered to be one of the most important conductors of his time, he was the first American conductor to receive international acclaim. Bernstein was the recipient of many honors, including seven Emmy Awards, two Tony Awards, sixteen Grammy Awards including the Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Kennedy Center Honor.



As a composer he wrote in many genres, including symphonic and orchestral music, ballet, film and theatre music, choral works, opera, chamber music and works for the piano. His best-known work is the Broadway musical *West Side Story*, which continues to be regularly performed worldwide, and has been adapted into two (1961 and 2021) feature films.

Bernstein was the first American-born conductor to lead a major American symphony orchestra. Through dozens of national and international broadcasts, including Young People's Concerts with the New York Philharmonic, he sought to make music both intelligible and enjoyable to all. Through his educational efforts, including several books and the creation of two major international music festivals, he influenced several generations of young musicians.

Bernstein collaborated with director and choreographer Jerome Robbins, book writer Arthur Laurents, and lyricist Stephen Sondheim to make *West Side Story*. The story is an updated retelling of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, set in the mid-1950s in the slums of New York City's Upper West Side. The original Broadway production opened at the Winter Garden Theatre on September 26, 1957, and ran 732 performances.

Bernstein's score for *West Side Story* blends "jazz, Latin rhythms, symphonic sweep and musical-comedy conventions in groundbreaking ways for Broadway." In 1960, Bernstein prepared a suite of orchestral music from the show, titled *Symphonic Dances from West Side Story*, which continues to be popular with orchestras worldwide.

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

William Esterling III

William Esterling III is excited to take on the position of Music Director at the COSMIC Symphony. Will is an advocate for music as both a performer and educator. As a conductor, Will serves as the assistant conductor at the New Orchestra of Washington (NOW) and the Maryland Classic Youth Orchestras (MCYO). As an educator, Will is an adjunct professor at American University and serves as the Wind & Brass Department Chair at Levine Music. As a trombonist, Will serves as a musician in the 287th Army Band of the Delaware National Guard.



FEATURING INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING TENOR:

David W. Cook

David W. Cook, is an International Award-winning American Tenor, Recitalist, & Philosopher whose work has been described as singing with “artistic vision, commitment, and a superb stage presence.” In Concert works, David has most recently recorded a debut cycle of compositions from British composer, Tristan Latchford, titled “Celebrating Women in the Bible;” this CD project is in partnership with the published poetries by retired bishop, The Right Reverend, Dr. Graham Kings, inspired by the paintings of renowned painter, Silvia Dimitrova.





**Catch *Sax Appeal* performing in the atrium
prior to today's performance and in
COSMIC Symphony's performance of
*Selections from West Side Story!***

Mark Strayer, soprano/alto

Maureen Wysham, alto/soprano

Don Mumbert, tenor

Geoff Wysham, baritone



Check them out on Facebook:

Sax Appeal of Southern Maryland

Contact Sax Appeal: (410) 610-0173

COSMIC FLUTE CHOIR

Piccolo

Carrie Cooper

Alto Flute

Linda Henry

Bass Flute

Christa Benner

Contrabass Flute

Patty Lafferty

C Flute

Sara Espinosa

Faith Mason

Debbie Patterson

Nathalie Yi

Gina Yingling



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COSMIC SYMPHONY

First Violins

David Kung, concertmaster
Kaitlin Rose, asst. concertmaster
Allison Frere
Marcia Van Gemert
Jane Liang
Ginny Norris
Zoë Ziebell

Second Violins

Carolyn Graessle, principal
Mia Cassetta
Gianna Heisey
Jerry Mobley
Alan Newhouse
Pierre Petitjean

Violas

Kori Olszewski, principal
Heidi Mickey
Mindy Striep
Alison Treglia

Cellos

Philip Hopko, principal
Innes Borstel
Stephanie Gleason
Kathleen Hiner
Leroy Mrozowski
Sebastian Raymundo

Basses

Bill Hones, principal
Kasey Ferm
Patricia Lafferty

Flutes

Linda Henry, principal
Christa Benner
Carrie Cooper, piccolo

Oboes

Karen Roberts, principal/english horn
Janet Gross, english horn
Amy Hones

Clarinets

Tony Avak, principal
David Schug
Michael Sullivan

Bassoons

Ben Henry, principal
Rebecca Moore

Horns

Steven Woods, principal
Stefie Bartley
Skylar Schirtzinger
Nicole Thompson

Trumpets

David Roan, principal
Leigh DePiazza

Trombones

Greg Wallace, principal
Richard Stattel

Tuba

Rob Benner, principal

Percussion

Kevin Stevens, principal
Blaine Becker
Shane Musgrove
Michael Waby

Keyboard

Tom Anderson, principal

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NOTE: You must give a PRINTED copy of the flyer to your server for COSMIC to receive the contribution!

Find it in your program!



Try the
COSMIC Cocktail!



23415 Three Notch Rd. California, MD 20619

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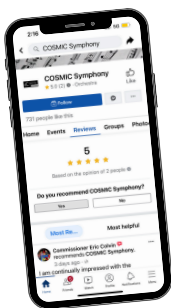
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COSMIC SYMPHONY'S

YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION

COSMIC Symphony is looking for outstanding musicians ages 24 and younger interested in competing for the chance to perform a solo in concert with COSMIC Symphony and a \$250 cash prize!

REQUIREMENTS:

- *Open to all instruments and voice types*
- *If the piece(s) totals more than 15 minutes, contestants will perform 15 minutes worth of their piece(s) on the audition day - may choose which section(s) to perform*
 - *Instrumentalists should perform a concerto or equivalent that has orchestral accompaniment*
 - *Vocalists may perform multiple songs or one solo that has orchestral accompaniment*
- *All contestants must provide and perform with a piano accompanist at the audition*

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LOCAL TALENT · UNIVERSAL APPEAL

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SEASON FINALE: 05/04/24 & 05/05/24



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information!*

