



cosmicsymphony.org



COSMIC SYMPHONY PRESENTS

A COSMIC HOMECOMING

DIRECTED BY WILLIAM F. ESTERLING III

**FREE CONCERT:
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FEATURING JULIA HENDERSON

PERFORMING DVOŘÁK'S CELLO CONCERTO



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2023 AT 3:00 PM

NANCY R. & NORTON T. DODGE

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND

47855 COLLEGE DRIVE

ST. MARY'S CITY, MD

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2023 AT 3:00 PM

HUNTINGTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

4125 SOLOMONS ISLAND ROAD

HUNTINGTOWN, MD



LOCAL TALENT · UNIVERSAL APPEAL

Welcome to the opening concert of COSMIC's 28th season. What an amazing season we had last year with your financial and concert support! We doubled our audience and social media engagement increased by over 300%. We are pleased to present A COSMIC Homecoming featuring one of COSMIC's own and the 2009 Young Artist Competition winner in our new home, the Nancy R. and Norton T. Dodge Performing Arts Center!

Special thanks to the COSMIC Symphony Board of Directors for their support this summer in grant submissions, sending private and corporate sponsorship requests, and researching and securing venues for our practices and performances.

Many thanks to Mindy Striep for volunteering her design talents to our posters, program, and social media accounts and many thanks to you for coming out to our concerts and supporting us with your generous donations!

Enjoy the performance and be sure to "Like" us on Facebook and "Follow" us on Instagram. Please help spread the word about COSMIC Symphony, Southern Maryland's only community orchestra! COSMIC Symphony is your community orchestra, and your support is overwhelming!

Musically yours,

Karen Roberts
President, COSMIC Symphony



Welcome to the COSMIC Symphony's 2023 October concert, "A COSMIC Homecoming." We are truly honored by your presence this afternoon.

In keeping with tradition, our first half features the enchanting COSMIC flute choir. Their music sets the stage for the emotional journey we embark upon tonight. We begin this with the Four Dance Episodes from Aaron Copland's iconic *Rodeo*. Copland, synonymous with American music, pioneered the "American sound" in orchestral music, a sonic reflection of our shared identity, making this performance a musical homecoming.

The second half showcases the remarkable Julia Henderson, a Southern Maryland native and former COSMIC Symphony member. Julia's return to our stage to perform Dvořák's Cello Concerto beautifully embodies the essence of our concert's title.

Thank you for joining us on this musical journey, celebrating the spirit of "Homecoming."

Sincerely,

William Esterling III
Music Director, COSMIC Symphony



PROGRAM

COSMIC Flute Choir

Sakura-Sakura

Traditional Japanese
arr. Melanie Thorne

Trio for Three Flutes, Opus 59

Alexander Tcherepnin (1899 - 1977)

1. Prelude
2. Scherzo
3. Reverie
4. Dance

COSMIC Symphony

Rodeo

Aaron Copland (1900 - 1990)

Buckaroo Holiday

Corral Nocturne

Saturday Night Waltz

Hoedown

Intermission

Cello Concerto in B minor

Antonín Dvořák (1873 - 1904)

This program is approximately two hours in length.



PLEASE OBSERVE THE BELOW PERFORMANCE SPACE POLICIES:

- NO FOOD, DRINK, GUM, OR TOBACCO PRODUCTS ARE PERMITTED WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION AND EVENTS.
- FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY DURING PERFORMANCES IS PROHIBITED.
- NO VIDEO OR AUDIO RECORDING OF EVENTS WITHOUT THE EXPRESSED PERMISSION OF THE PERFORMERS.
- 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 NOTES

FLUTE CHOIR SELECTIONS

Sakura-Sakura is a traditional Japanese folksong which dates back to the Edo period in Japanese history (1603-1868). The translation of the title is *Cherry blossoms, cherry blossoms*. The tune uses a pentatonic scale known as the “in scale” which could be described in western music terms as the Phrygian minor or Phrygian major mode with the third and seventh notes omitted. This melody of *Sakura-Sakura* is very well-known and, in addition to being sung and played as a folk song, has been used by many different kinds of people for the basis of their own musical compositions. One might hear this familiar tune in a concert hall or in a movie theater or in a video game.

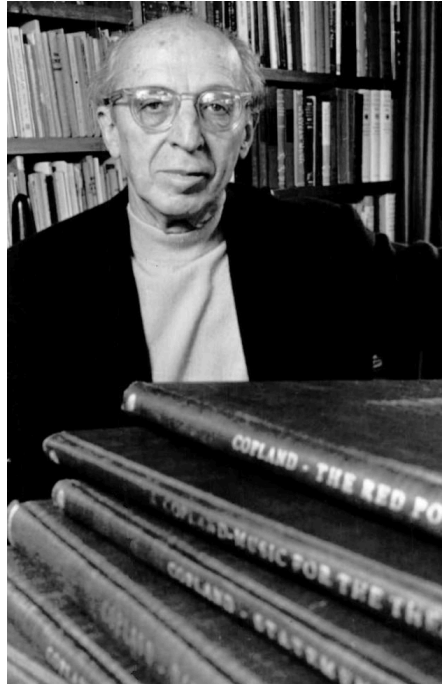


Trio for Three Flutes, Opus 59, is a four movement composition written in 1939 by the Russian-born pianist and composer Alexander Tcherepnin (1899-1977). He lived in Russia, Georgia, and France before moving to the United States in 1948. Between 1934-1937, Alexander made extended visits to China and Japan. The *Trio for Three Flutes* is not one of his most well-known works but it is definitely fun to play. The Chinese/Japanese influence can easily be heard in the melodies and harmonies, and the use of rhythmic patterns can be appreciated in several of the movements.

PROGRAM NOTES

COPLAND

Aaron Copland (November 14, 1900 – December 2, 1990) was an American composer, composition teacher, writer, and later a conductor of his own and other American music. Copland was referred to by his peers and critics as the "Dean of American Composers". The open, slowly changing harmonies in much of his music are typical of what many people consider to be the sound of American music, evoking the vast American landscape and pioneer spirit. He is best known for the works he wrote in the 1930s and 1940s in a deliberately accessible style often referred to as "populist." Works in this vein include the ballets *Appalachian Spring*, *Billy the Kid* and *Rodeo*, his *Fanfare for the Common Man* and *Third Symphony*. In addition to his ballets and orchestral works, he produced music in many other genres, including chamber music, vocal works, opera and film scores.



The 1940s were arguably Copland's most productive years, and cemented his worldwide fame. His ballet scores for *Rodeo* (1942) and *Appalachian Spring* (1944) were huge successes. The original ballet of *Rodeo* was choreographed by Agnes de Mille. The choreographer chose Aaron Copland as the composer after being impressed by his previous ballet, *Billy the Kid*. Though Copland was initially reluctant to compose "another Cowboy ballet," De Mille persuaded him that this show would mark a significant departure from his previous work. De Mille herself played the lead, and the premiere at the Metropolitan Opera House on 16 October 1942 received 22 curtain calls. Though de Mille herself was not entirely pleased with the premiere, it was attended by Rodgers and Hammerstein, who approached de Mille afterward to request that she choreograph their upcoming production of *Oklahoma!*

Copland arranged the music as a symphonic suite for orchestra titled *Four Dance Episodes from Rodeo*, which consisted chiefly of removing "Ranch House Party" and minor adjustments to the final two sections. With the middle section removed, the composition resembled the symphonic form with an ambitious opening movement, slow movement, minuet and finale. In this form, *Rodeo* found even greater success, premiering at the Boston Pops in 1943.

PROGRAM NOTES

DVOŘÁK

Antonín Leopold Dvořák (8 September 1841 – 1 May 1904) A Czech composer, Dvořák frequently employed rhythms and other aspects of the folk music of Bohemia and his native Moravia. Dvořák's style has been described as "the fullest recreation of a national idiom with that of the symphonic tradition, absorbing folk influences and finding effective ways of using them."

Dvořák displayed his musical gifts at an early age as violin student from age six. The first public performances of his works were in Prague in 1872. In 1892, Dvořák moved to the United States and became the director of the National Conservatory of Music of America in New York City. While in the United States, Dvořák wrote his two most successful orchestral works: the Symphony From the New World, which spread his reputation worldwide, and his Cello Concerto, one of the most highly regarded of all cello concerti.

The Cello Concerto in B minor, Op. 104, B. 191, is Dvořák's last solo concerto. It was written in 1894 for his friend, the cellist Hanuš Wihan, and premiered in London on March 19, 1896. Hanuš Wihan, among others, had asked for a cello concerto for quite some time, but Dvořák always refused, stating that the cello was a fine orchestral instrument but totally insufficient for a solo concerto. According to Josef Michl, Dvořák was fond of the middle register, but complained about a nasal high register and a mumbling bass. In a letter to a friend, Dvořák wrote that he himself was probably most surprised by his decision to write a cello concerto despite these long-held reservations.

Dvořák wrote the concerto while in New York City for his third term as the Director of the National Conservatory. In May 1894, one of the teachers at the Conservatory, Victor Herbert, also a composer, finished his Cello Concerto No. 2 in E minor, Op. 30, and premiered it in a series of concerts. Dvořák heard at least two performances of the piece and was inspired to fulfill Wihan's request in composing a cello concerto of his own. Herbert had been principal cellist in the orchestra that premiered Dvořák's "New World" Symphony in December 1893. Herbert's middle movement was in B minor, which may have inspired Dvořák to write his concerto in the same key. It was started in November 1894 and completed in February 1895.



MUSIC DIRECTOR:

William Esterling III

Will Esterling, a native of Wilmington, Delaware, is a passionate and dedicated music director, educator, and trombonist who has spent his life immersed in the world of music. His journey from a supportive musical upbringing to becoming the Music Director of the COSMIC Symphony is a testament to his unwavering commitment to the art of music.

Born and raised in Wilmington, Delaware, Will Esterling was fortunate to grow up in a household that encouraged and celebrated music. His journey as a musician began in the fourth grade when he picked up the trombone. This early connection to music sparked a lifelong passion that would define his career.

Will's educational journey led him to pursue music at a higher level. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Music from Ithaca College, where he majored in Music Education and Trombone Performance.

His dedication to his craft didn't stop there, as he continued his studies and achieved a Master's degree in Conducting from the Catholic University of America.

Throughout his career, Will Esterling has held several key roles in the world of music. He served as the assistant conductor to the New Orchestra of Washington (NOW), contributing to the orchestra's artistic vision and musical excellence. Additionally, he brought his talents and expertise to the Maryland Classic Youth Orchestra (MCYO) as their assistant conductor.

As the Pep Band Director at American University, Will's leadership and musical direction added an electrifying dimension to campus life. He also assumed the role of Coordinator for the Winds Department at the Levine Community Music School, where he guided and inspired young musicians to reach their full potential.

Currently, Will serves as a trombonist with the 287th Army Band of the Delaware National Guard, where he continues to share his musical talents and dedication to service. His educational journey brought him to Tyler Elementary in SE Washington, DC, where he teaches music, shaping the next generation of musicians.

Will Esterling's life is defined by his mission to serve people through music, both as an educator and performer. His commitment to music education and his passion for performing have touched the lives of many, making him a respected figure in the musical community.



Will's journey has been enriched by the guidance of notable mentors, including Marin Alsop, Murry Sidlin, James Ross, and Simeone Tartaglione. These influential figures have helped shape his understanding of music and conducting.

An advocate for modern music and progressive programming, Will Esterling is dedicated to expanding the horizons of musical exploration and ensuring that the art form continues to evolve.

Will Esterling's journey from a supportive home in Delaware to the role of Music Director of the COSMIC Symphony is a testament to his unwavering dedication, musical prowess, and passion for educating and inspiring others through music. His life's work is a harmonious fusion of artistic expression and community service, making him a dynamic force in the world of music.

FEATURING AWARD-WINNING CELLIST:

Julia Henderson

Recent performances have found cellist Julia Henderson at Disney Hall, National Sawdust, Bargemusic, Jazz at Lincoln Center, MoMA PS1, and elsewhere. A native of Leonardtown, MD, Julia is a member of the New Haven Symphony and the Sarasota Opera Orchestra, and is a founding member of chamber ensemble Desdemona. With Desdemona, she has premiered and recorded numerous new works and collaborated with classical, pop, and jazz artists. Julia tours regularly throughout the United States with chamber music theater group Core Ensemble, and is a frequent guest with the acclaimed, “genre-bending” Warp Trio. In addition to performing, she currently teaches at the Trinity School in NYC, and Point Counterpoint and Envision summer festivals. Julia holds degrees from Oberlin Conservatory and the Juilliard School.



COSMIC FLUTE CHOIR

Jennifer Anderson

Macy McCombs

Carrie Cooper

Kristen Moore

Sara Espinosa

Debbie Patterson

Linda Henry

Nicole Thompson



COSMIC SYMPHONY

First Violins

David Kung, concertmaster
Kaitlin Rose, asst. concertmaster
Allison Frere
Marcia Van Gemert
Gianna Heisey
Jane Liang
Ginny Norris
Darren Sakai

Second Violins

Carolyn Graessle, principal
Maria Heisey
Jerry Mobley
Alan Newhouse
Pierre Petitjean
Jacqueline Sickle

Violas

Holly Gutierrez, principal
Tristan Moore
Kori Olszewski
Aarav Sharma
Mindy Striep

Cellos

Stephanie Gleason, principal
Innes Borstel
Kathleen Hiner
Leroy Mrozowski

Basses

Bill Hones, principal
Kasey Ferm
Patricia Lafferty

Flutes

Linda Henry, principal
Carrie Cooper
Macy McCombs

Oboes

Karen Roberts, principal
Janet Gross

Clarinets

Tony Avak, principal
Takako Mato
David Schug

Bassoons

Benjamin Henry, principal
Rebecca Moore

Horns

Steve Woods, principal
Stefie Bartley
Skylar Schirtzinger
Nicole Thompson

Trumpets

David Roan, principal
Leigh DePiazza
Ross Thompson

Trombones

Greg Wallace, principal
Tyler Hutchinson

Percussion

Kevin Stevens, principal
Blaine Becker
Michael Waby

Keyboard

Tom Anderson, principal



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR MARQUEE AND CONCERTO SPONSORS!



This award was made possible in part by a grant from the St. Mary's County Arts Council, and the Maryland State Arts Council.



Joey A. Miller Foundation



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Jason Gousy

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Francis & Patricia Greenwell

Phoebe Griffiths

Janet Gross

Melanie Guy

Karen Heath

Bridget Heidelbach

Nicole Heisey

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Thomas Oakley

Kori Olszewski

Hiller Orav

James Osterhouse

Jerry Phifer

John Pope

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Maestro's Circle (\$5000+)

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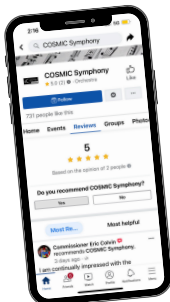


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COSMIC Symphony Orchestra

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Dec. 9, 2023, 3:00pm - SMCM Dodge PAC, St. Mary's City, MD

Dec. 10, 2023, 3:00pm, - Patuxent High School, Lusby, MD

FAMILY/YOUNG ARTIST CONCERT

Mar. 2, 2024, 3:00pm - SMCM Dodge PAC, St. Mary's City, MD

Mar. 3, 2024, 3:00p, - Southern High School, Harwood, MD

SEASON FINALE

May 4 2024, 3:00pm - SMCM Dodge PAC, St. Mary's City, MD

May 5, 2024, 3:00pm, - Patuxent High School, Lusby, MD



Play a String Instrument? **Join COSMIC Symphony!**

Rehearsals: Tuesdays 6:30 - 9:00 PM from September to May.

Showcase your talent and grow with an amazing group of musicians in your community!

We are currently in need of **strings**! All experienced musicians welcome to audition.

Questions? Email orchestra@cosmicsymphony.org or visit cosmicsymphony.org/new-members/





COSMIC Symphony Presents

WINTER Daydreams

Directed by William F. Esterling III

Saturday, December 9, 2023 @ 3:00pm

Nancy R. & Norton T. Dodge Performing Arts Center

St. Mary's College of Maryland

47855 College Dr. St. Mary's City, MD

Sunday, December 10, 2023 @ 3:00pm

Patuxent High School

12485 Southern Connector Blvd. Lusby, MD

**Free Concert;
Donations Welcome!**

