

# COSMIC Symphony Newsletter

Vol. 14 - Nov. 1, 2025

"Keeping classical music alive in the communities we've lived in has been a core part of our family for years. Thank you to the entire COSMIC family for being so welcoming. I am happy that my dad gets to contribute to your legacy of creating music, culture and connection in Southern Maryland."

- Nikki Nesbary, Daughter of COSMIC Musician & Board Member Dale Nesbary

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**THANK YOU for a Great Season Opener Concert Weekend!**

COSMIC Symphony Celebrates 30 Years of Music with Stravinsky's "Greeting Prelude"



## Happy Birthday to COSMIC!

COSMIC Symphony performed its 2025-2026 season opener, "Birthday Bash," on October 11th (Calvert County) and 12th (St. Mary's County) to celebrate 30 years of COSMIC! Thank you for attending and celebrating with us!



## Save the Dates for our Next Performance!

**Cosmic SYMPHONY**  
LOCAL TALENT - UNIVERSAL APPEAL  
• CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF MUSIC •

COSMIC SYMPHONY PRESENTS

# GLORIA

FEATURING ST. MARY'S CHORAL ARTS  
DIRECTED BY WILL ESTERLING & BETHANY ALVEY

SATURDAY, DEC. 13, 2025 IN CALVERT COUNTY  
**TIME & VENUE COMING SOON!**

SUNDAY, DEC. 14, 2025 AT 3:00 PM  
NANCY R. & NORTON T. DODGE PAC  
47855 COLLEGE DR. ST. MARY'S CITY, MD 20686

FREE CONCERTS  
DONATIONS ACCEPTED

Arts Council MSAC Arts Education Edward James Joey A. Miller Foundation SMECO NSI Walmart S.J. JOHNSON KELLY RMC

**CALVERT COUNTY POSSIBLE TIME & VENUE CHANGE**



We are so glad our first Calvert County performance of this season had such a great turnout - so great, in fact, that it was standing room only! To ensure we are providing our audience with the best concert experience possible, COSMIC is actively working on securing an alternate venue for our remaining Calvert County performances this season. We anticipate that we will be able to share the official details on this by the end of November - stay tuned!

#### Event Information

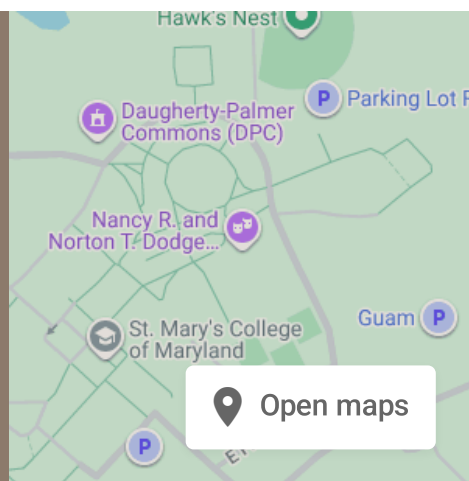
### **COSMIC Symphony Presents "Gloria" - ST. MARY'S PERFORMANCE**

When?

**Sunday, Dec 14, 2025, 03:00 PM**

Where?

**Nancy R. and Norton T. Dodge Performing Arts Center,  
47855 College Drive, Saint Marys City, MD, USA**



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**"I was born and raised in St. Mary's. Played the violin from an early age. Got a degree in music from Kentucky and then moved back. I loved playing in the orchestra. So when Sally and Gene put forth the effort, I was happy to join. It has been a lot of fun. I am so glad to see the progress and success."**

*- Ginny Norris, COSMIC musician and founding member*

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## **COSMIC Symphony Awarded Rural Maryland Council Grant**

### **COSMIC Symphony is honored to be among the select Maryland non-profit organizations awarded the highly competitive RMC grant!**

"Despite limited resources this year, the Rural Maryland Council remains committed to investing in projects that strengthen our rural communities. We are inspired by the dedication of so many organizations working to improve the quality of life across rural Maryland, and we are proud to support their important efforts," -Susan O'Neill, Board Chair

The MAERDAF grant program provides capacity-building support to rural-serving nonprofit organizations and community colleges. These grants strengthen efforts that advance statewide and regional planning, economic and community development, youth engagement and leadership development, energy, and agricultural and forestry education.

The Rural Maryland Council was allocated \$6,000,000 in the Fiscal Year 2026 state budget. However, this represents a \$3 million reduction to their competitive grant programs. As a result, grant decisions were particularly challenging this year due to the limited available funding and the highly competitive pool of applicants.

## Fiscal Year 2026 Grant Awards

Total Requested: 170 Applications requested \$14,147,476

Total Awarded: 62 Organizations were awarded \$5,468,485

COSMIC will use the funds awarded by RMC for concert expenses such as venue rentals, music royalties, concert supplies, and advertising.

[Click Here for More Info from RMC](#)

"Before COSMIC, I played clarinet in a community band in St. Mary's County for several years. That eventually broke up from lack of regular players, so I was happy to join COSMIC when that was first forming in 1995. My high school had a marching band but no orchestra, so (aside from my high school's production of "Fiddler on the Roof") this was my first time playing with string instruments. I welcomed the opportunity that COSMIC gave me to play some of my favorite classical music and also challenge me to become a better musician. It has also greatly expanded my group of friends and allowed me to express creativity in making YouTube videos of our performances. I look forward to performing with COSMIC for many years to come."

- Tony Avak, COSMIC Musician & Board Member

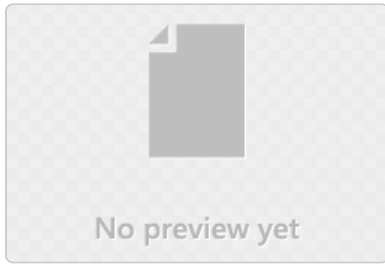
## Join Us for the First Annual Southern Maryland Day of Giving!

### December 2, 2025 - Giving Tuesday

We're excited to share some wonderful news! This year, COSMIC is participating in the first-ever Southern Maryland Day of Giving on December 2, 2025 - a regional celebration of generosity and community spirit across Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's counties taking place on Giving Tuesday.

This special day is an opportunity for everyone who loves Southern Maryland to come together and support the nonprofits that make our community thrive. As a proud local nonprofit, COSMIC is honored to take part. Your donation on this day will help us keep bringing music to Southern Maryland!

Support us through the Southern Maryland Day of Giving Campaign starting on November 15th! Visit the link below for more information.



## SoMD Day of Giving - Leadership Southern Maryland

Help local nonprofit organizations by donating today!

🔗 [leadershipsomd.org](https://leadershipsomd.org)

### Giving Tuesday 🔄 Donor Advised Funds

If you give through a Donor Advised Fund, now's the perfect time to recommend a grant to COSMIC Symphony for Giving Tuesday!

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**"In the Beginning...there was COSMIC rehearsing at Esperanza Middle School. I was asked to join by Laura Theofilis and the legendary Jack Rue (whose sons put up the cash prizes for our first young artist competition as a memorial to him). Laura and her Mom, Lynn Keates pushed our nonprofit status through. My jobs were music acquisition from the DC library and other sources, tympani hauling, stage management and venue search. We were fortunate to be first to use new halls at Ryken, Huntingtown High, St. John Vianney and Crossroads Church. Anything that could happen often did and it was always the tension going into concert time that elevated the musicianship. Of course, Vladimir's expectations were on all of our minds. Happy to be with everyone still as we go forth with Will piloting and a great new venue!"**

*- Kevin Stevens, COSMIC Musician*

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### Save the Dates for This Season!

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