

COSMIC Symphony Newsletter

Vol. 22 - July 1, 2026

Tickets on Sale NOW for COSMIC's Season Kickoff Fundraiser!

COSMIC SYMPHONY
PRESENTS:



SEASON KICKOFF FUNDRAISER

FOURTH ANNUAL EVENT
2026-2027 SEASON

BAY DISTRICT VFD
46900 S SHANGRI-LA DR.
LEXINGTON PARK, MD 20653

SATURDAY, SEPT. 12, 6:00 - 9:00 PM

TICKETS ON SALE JULY 1, 2026

GIVEBUTTER.COM/COSMICSEASONKICKOFF

HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES • FRESH SQUEEZED
LEMONADE • DESSERTS • RAFFLES

PLUS THE INSIDE SCOOP
ON THE 26-27 SEASON!



Join us for our fourth annual Season Kickoff Fundraiser! Your \$75 event ticket includes complimentary appetizers and desserts, raffles, musical performances, and the full inside scoop on what is coming up for the 2026-2027 season! Your ticket purchase will help us continue bringing great music to our Southern Maryland community for another exciting season.

[Click Here for Tickets](#)

Videos from April 26 Performance of "Salute to the States" Now on YouTube!

COSMIC: "Salute to the States", Part 1

COSMIC SYMPHONY PRESENTS:

SALUTE TO THE STATES

CELEBRATING 250 YEARS OF AMERICAN HISTORY
AND HONORING OUR LOCAL MILITARY COMMUNITY

DIRECTED BY WILL ESTERLING

NANCY R. & NORTON T. DODGE PAC · APRIL 26, 2026

COSMIC: "Salute to the States", Part 2

COSMIC SYMPHONY PRESENTS:

SALUTE TO THE STATES

CELEBRATING 250 YEARS OF AMERICAN HISTORY
AND HONORING OUR LOCAL MILITARY COMMUNITY

DIRECTED BY WILL ESTERLING

NANCY R. & NORTON T. DODGE PAC · APRIL 26, 2026

Videos courtesy of Tony Avak

COSMIC Annual Young Artist Competition Applications NOW OPEN!

COSMIC SYMPHONY'S
YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION
2026

COSMIC Symphony of Southern Maryland 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 receive a cash prize!
This opportunity is open to all instruments and voice types.

APPLICATIONS DUE
SEPT. 15, 2026

Follow COSMIC Symphony on
Facebook and Instagram, and keep an eye on
www.cosmicsymphony.org/young-artists/ for the latest info!
Questions? Email orchestra@cosmicsymphony.org

Mission The Young Artists Competition (YAC) seeks to promote, encourage, and foster the musical development of young artists who reside in the state of Maryland. Secondly, to identify exceptionally talented young artists and provide them the opportunity to perform a solo in concert with a live orchestra.

Eligibility Requirements

Junior Division

- Contestant is 18 years of age or younger on the date of Sunday, 28 February 2027
- Contestant is an instrumentalist (string, woodwind, brass, percussion, piano, etc.) or vocalist
- Contestant is a state of Maryland resident
- Contestant is not contracted with professional management
- Contestant is not a previous winner of the COSMIC YAC Junior Division

Senior Division

- Contestant is between 19 to 24 years of age on the date of Sunday, 28 February 2027
- Contestant is an instrumentalist (string, woodwind, brass, percussion, piano, etc.) or vocalist
- Contestant is a state of Maryland resident
- Contestant is not contracted with professional management

- Contestant is not a previous winner of the COSMIC YAC Senior Division

Solo Requirements

These requirements apply to all divisions:

- Solo must not be listed on the "Solos Not Being Considered" list below.
- Solo must be approved (listing on the application will submit it for approval).
- Solo must have orchestral accompaniment available for purchase or rental.
- Solo must not exceed 20 minutes in total performance time.
- Solo may consist of a single movement or multiple movements.
- Instrumentalists should perform a concerto or similar style solo.
- Vocalists may select multiple songs/arias, song cycle, or other solo work.

If there is a cost associated with acquiring the orchestral parts (purchase or rental), the cost will be subtracted from the soloist's honorarium. If the cost to acquire the orchestral parts exceeds the honorarium, the soloist will be required to pay the difference.

Solos Not Being Considered

This list contains works that will NOT be considered for the 2026-27 YAC:

- Edouard Lalo – Symphonie espagnole, Op. 21
- Sergei Rachmaninoff – Piano Concerto No. 1
- Vaughn Williams - Concerto in F Minor for Bass Tuba and Orchestra

Audition Requirements

These requirements apply to ALL divisions:

- The winner will be selected by a panel of adjudicators based on artistic excellence.
- All contestants are encouraged to provide and perform with a piano accompanist on the day of the audition.

Instrumentalists (strings, winds, brass, percussion, and piano) should perform a concerto or equivalent style work that has orchestral accompaniment. If the piece totals more than 15 minutes, contestants will perform 15 minutes worth of their piece on the audition day. Contestants may choose which sections of their piece to perform on the audition day.

Vocalists should perform multiple songs or 1 solo that have orchestral accompaniment. If the piece(s) totals more than 15 minutes, contestants will perform 15 minutes worth of their piece(s) on the audition day. Contestants may choose which sections of their piece(s) to perform on the audition day.

Schedule

These dates apply to all divisions. Contestants must be available to rehearse and perform with the orchestra on the dates below.

- Application Opens: Wednesday, 01 July 2026
- Applications Due: Tuesday, 15 September 2026
- Audition Day Schedule Announced: Saturday, 17 October 2026
- Audition Day: Saturday, 21 November 2026
- Results Announced: Sunday, 6 December 2026
- Rehearsal 1 with Winners: Tuesday, 16 February 2027
- Rehearsal 2 with Winners: Tuesday, 23 February 2027
- Concert 1: Saturday, 27 February 2027
- Concert 2: Sunday, 28 February 2027

Fees (non-refundable)

- COSMIC Member: \$00.00
- Southern Maryland Resident (Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's County): \$40.00
- Maryland Resident: \$70.00
- Fees may be waived for those with demonstrated financial need.

Questions - contact the YAC coordinator at orchestra@cosmicsymphony.org

[Click Here to Apply](#)

European Riverboat Cruise Opportunity

Thank you to all who attended the info night recently for AMA Waterways European Riverboat Cruise opportunity!

Interested but missed our event? Don't worry, read on!

This cruise is Melodies of the Danube, from August 7-14, 2027, beginning in Budapest, Hungary and terminating in Passau, Germany. In addition to offering some spectacular stateroom savings, the sales rep is also offering a one cabin upgrade for certain stateroom categories. This offer (pricing and upgrade) will be in effect until August 30 of 2026. Additional savings are available to military personnel and past AMA travelers.

To make a deposit (all major credit cards accepted) or inquire about additional details, contact Mary Beth Brown at marybeth@bytheseatravel.com



The logo for By The Sea Travel, LLC features the company name in a blue, cursive-style font. The text is set against a background of stylized, flowing waves in shades of blue and yellow. The overall design is elegant and nautical in theme.

How COSMIC is Keeping Busy Over Summer Break

COSMIC horn player Skylar Schirtzinger marches with the DC Different Drummers marching band

For the last 3 years, Skylar has filled his summer vacation playing mellophone with the DC Different Drummers marching band. He is very proud and ecstatic to be a member of this ensemble. The summer schedule is full of parades and standing performances including DC, Baltimore and NYC, as well as DC sports including Nationals, DC United and Prodigies.



COSMIC percussionist Blaine Becker was featured in New Direction Community Theater's production of "The Glass Menagerie"

New Direction Community Theater is a nonprofit organization whose mission and purpose is to enrich, educate and entertain our Calvert County Community by providing a quality, live theater experience for all ages. Blaine played the role of Jim O'Connor, main character Tom's charming, everyday coworker. He is an old high school acquaintance whom Tom's sister, Laura, secretly had a crush on. Jim momentarily brings Laura joy and pulls her out of her shell, but he ultimately breaks her heart by revealing he is engaged to another woman. Blaine also serves on New Direction's Board of Directors.



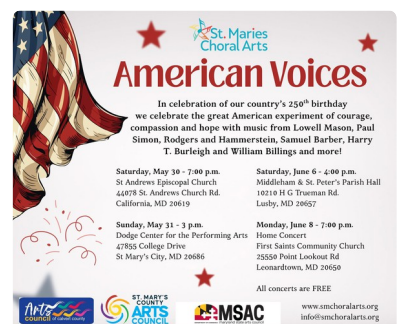
COSMIC horn player Felicita Rich participated in an exciting horn choir camp

The DC Horn Choir Camp is an exciting summer program for high school hornists, adult amateurs, and college students. Participants enjoy an immersive week of horn playing, including an opening faculty recital, masterclasses with multiple guest artists, large horn ensemble rehearsals, and a grand finale concert. The relaxed, encouraging environment allows students of varying experience levels to learn and grow! This year, Michael Hall, Principal Horn of the National Philharmonic will serve as our guest Principal Horn. Other special appearances will include Shona Goldberg Leopold of Towson University, Ken Bell of the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra and the Navy Band Horn Quintet! The workshop is directed by Dr. Brad Tatum, Co-Principal Horn of the Apollo Orchestra and Band and Orchestra Teacher at Elizabeth Seton High School.



COSMIC percussionist Michael Waby performed with St. Maries Choral Arts

The group performed a selection of pieces in celebration of America's 250th birthday under the direction of Dr. Bethany Alvey.



COSMIC cellist Innes Borstel has been awarded a scholarship to attend the American Cheese Society's annual conference

The conference will take place in Louisville, KY in July and Innes is super excited! It's a big deal! She works part-time at P. A. Bowen Farmstead in Brandywine making their artisan raw-milk cheeses, as well as making her own cheeses at home.



Save the Dates for Next Season!

SAVE THE DATES!

For more information:



linktr.ee/cosmicsymphony

ALL SHOWS FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING



Cosmic
SYMPHONY



LOCAL TALENT · UNIVERSAL APPEAL

OCTOBER
10 & 11
2026

SEASON OPENER

DECEMBER
12 & 13
2026

WINTER CONCERT

FEBRUARY
27 & 28
2027

**YOUNG ARTIST
CONCERT**

MAY
01 & 02
2027

SEASON FINALE

Support COSMIC Symphony with a Donor-Advised Fund (DAF)!

DO YOU HAVE A DONOR-ADVISED FUND?

You can support COSMIC Symphony
with just a few clicks!

RECOMMEND A GRANT TODAY!

Support COSMIC Symphony with a
Donor-Advised Fund (DAF)



Search: Chamber Orchestra of Southern Maryland in Concert, Inc.
EIN: 52-6129030



DAF grants help us keep live orchestral concerts free for the Southern Maryland community. Many donors give through:

- Fidelity Charitable
- Schwab Charitable
- Vanguard Charitable

Request your advisor recommend us by our official IRS name, Chamber Orchestra of Southern Maryland, In Concert

EIN: 52-6129030

Your generosity keeps the music playing!

[Click to Learn More](#)

COSMIC is Barrel 9's August Charity of the Month!

Order the COSMIC Cocktail all month long to raise money for COSMIC Symphony. Also, join us the evening of August 12th at Barrel 9 in Lusby, MD to enjoy some live music performed by COSMIC musicians and Barrel 9 will donate a portion of the evening's sales to COSMIC!



Like What You See? Share the COSMIC Newsletter With a Friend!

COSMIC Symphony Newsletter Sign Up

Share the link above with your loved ones so they never miss a thing!

Donate to COSMIC via PayPal

Set a Recurring Donation to COSMIC via Givebutter

Join COSMIC Symphony

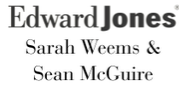
Follow COSMIC on Facebook

View Photo Booth Photos from Previous Concerts

Follow COSMIC on Instagram

Subscribe to COSMIC on YouTube

Provide Newsletter Feedback



Mindy Striep

Mindy is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

