2022-23 season

Valdosta Symphony Orchestra
This season will be our 33rd consecutive concert season for the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra. Our attendance continues to return and hopefully exceed the last two years’ difficult environmental and social concerns. Despite the understandably lower attendance, we continue to draw an audience from a quadrant that includes Atlanta, Bainbridge, Tallahassee, Madison (FL), and Southeast Georgia. We are a community orchestra that has a large geographical footprint. We are so grateful for all their participation. This season will feature our five regular concerts, a performance in Tifton, Georgia on Sept 25, Tunes for Tots, youth concerts, and special events.

Please welcome Dr. Isrea Butler, our new Music Department Head. Thanks to our members of the College of the Arts faculty and students for the original drawings of our concert cover programs. I keep all the concert programs and marvel at the professional level of graphics and design. The programs are creative art and the feedback from the public was that they look forward to each one. Thank you all so very much.

Our Symphony Board continues to support the Red Carpet program designed to welcome our newest Air Force arrivals to Lowndes County. They receive a magnificent southern supper and warm inviting hospitality. Nature is the setting at Ocean Pond Club in Lowndes County. A few of our board members attend the program and spread the word about the Symphony Orchestra Performances in South Georgia.

I always want to mention the Valdosta Symphony Guild, our major annual fundraising group and their Symphony Ball Program held the second Saturday of November each season. This year’s date is November 12, 2022. The event helps meet their large annual goal of supporting the Orchestra which helps cover costs of concerts and youth events. The youth concerts are for specific age groups and expose our school age children to the music and instruments of the Orchestra at their level of learning.
Many of you know Dr William R. Grow, a member of the Board for 25 years and two-term chairperson. He retired from the board this year and we all thank him for his dedication to our community as Director of the Department of Health and Welfare and advocate and supporter of great music through his work and service on the Symphony Board.

At the last concert and again this season we will place our photo backdrop in the lobby of Whitehead for that at-the-concert photo opportunity. Help us spread the visual of a night at the symphony and place those pictures on social media or share with friends and family. Besides creating your lasting memory photo this helps us get the message out -- there is a classical music event in South Georgia. Thank you.

All of us will miss H. Arthur McLane who passed a week after the April 23rd concert. He had been a board member and 100% supporter of the Symphony, served on the board, and was a pillar of this community. Our sympathy goes out to his wife Jane and the entire family.

Thanks to the strong commitment to excellence from our VSU Administration, Foundation, College of the Arts, faculty, students, and music fraternities for their support of your community Symphony Orchestra.

Reasons to support the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra

1. “Where words fail, music speaks”
   -Hans Christian Anderson

2. Brings the musical adventure of symphonic music to the children of South Georgia and North Florida early in their development. The “Tunes for Tots” and “South Georgia String Project” (SGSP) are all part of the teaching, development and performance for young people that are a result of the Symphony outreach programs.

3. Patrons can endow a chair for one of our Principals in the Orchestra. We have six so far with eleven available. A wall plaque will recognize donors at $100,000 or more. The plaque will be displayed in Whitehead auditorium.

4. Your name, chosen names or anonymous donation will receive digital and print recognition on a regular season basis.

5. The big picture of substantial community donations by individuals and/or corporations demonstrates to the world that classical symphonic music and the arts are one of the foundations of a humane society that receives and shares the spirit of caring. It is a gift that keeps on giving.
“We are so fortunate to have the sublime experience of hearing live classical music performed by a professional orchestra in our backyard, and we should keep letting others know about it.”

- Howard Hsu, Music Director
Dear Friends,

I have often referred to the VSO as a “beacon of the arts” for our region. Our patrons know that many cities larger than Valdosta don’t have an orchestra to call their own. Yet I (and many of you) regularly meet fellow Valdosta residents (some of them lifelong residents) who are surprised to hear that we have an orchestra! Word-of-mouth is still the best way of introducing the VSO to new audiences, so we thank you all for spreading the word about us. We strive to make the concertgoing experience one that is rewarding, down-to-earth, and welcoming.

Our 33rd season is packed with highlights that we will want to share with everyone! Our soloists include two superstars returning to Valdosta – pianist Awadagin Pratt with a newly commissioned piano concerto by acclaimed composer Jessie Montgomery and bass-baritone Nathan Stark as soloist in Brahms’s transcendent German Requiem. VSU faculty member Tamara Hardesty will join Stark as soprano soloist in the Brahms, and VSO Principals Kristin Pfeifer Yu and Laurel Yu will appear as the violin and viola soloists in Mozart’s brilliant Sinfonia Concertante. Finally, Avery Fisher Career Grant winner Geneva Lewis will make her VSO debut performing Tchaikovsky’s electrifying Violin Concerto.

The accomplished members of the VSO will be featured all season in masterpieces such as Mussorgsky’s stunning Pictures at an Exhibition (some patrons will recall that our previous performance of Pictures was interrupted by a fire alarm) and Mahler’s daring First Symphony. We are so fortunate to have the sublime experience of hearing live classical music performed by a professional orchestra in our backyard, and we should keep letting others know about it.

Thank you for your continued support!

Cordially,

[Signature]

Howard Han
one subscription concert

September 24, 2022 • 7:30 pm

Dvořák Carnival Overture, Op. 92 | 10 mins
Ravel Mother Goose Suite | 16 mins
Mussorgsky/Ravel Pictures at an Exhibition | 35 mins
… [Mussorgsky imagines himself] … roving through the exhibition, now leisurely, now briskly in order to come close to a picture that had attracted his attention, and at times sadly, thinking of his departed friend.

- Critic Victor Stasov describing Mussorgsky’s Pictures at an Exhibition

- Musical imagery – This concert presents musical conceptions of a raucous carnival scene at night, children’s stories, and a stroll through an exhibition of paintings by Viktor Hartmann.

- Children’s stories – Ravel’s Mother Goose features children’s stories such as Tom Thumb, Sleeping Beauty, and Beauty and the Beast.

- Orchestral wizard – Ravel was famed for his skill in exploiting the colors of the orchestra. The entire VSO is the star of this concert!

Whitehead Auditorium
Reservations Required
Tickets $28 each
www.valdostasymphony.org
or call (229) 333-2150

Concert Sponsor

First Federal Savings of Valdosta
two subscription concert

October 22, 2022 • 7:30 pm

Gluck *Orfeo ed Euridice* Overture | 4 mins

Mozart Sinfonia Concertante in E-Flat Major, K. 364 | 30 mins
Kristin Pfeifer Yu, violin
Laurel Yu, viola

Mozart Symphony No. 41 in C Major, K. 551
"Jupiter" | 31 mins

PRE-CONCERT RECEPTION AND TALK
sponsored by Stifel in UC Cypress Room
Maturing intellect – The Sinfonia Concertante, a work for solo violin and viola, was composed when Mozart was 23.

Inspiration – Mozart was greatly influenced by the operas of Gluck.

Pure genius – One of the most awe-inspiring moments in music occurs in the last movement of the Jupiter Symphony when Mozart sets five themes into motion simultaneously during the fugal section.

“His highest inspirations seem untouched by human labor.”
- Edvard Grieg on Mozart

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or call (229) 333-2150

Concert Sponsor
STIFEL
Investment Services Since 1890
PRECONCERT CHAT: 6:45 p.m.

February 25, 2023 • 7:30 pm

Balakirev *Overture on Three Russian Folk Songs* | 8 mins

Montgomery *Rounds* | 15 mins
  Awadagin Pratt, piano

Mendelssohn *Son and Stranger Overture*, Op. 89 | 8 mins

Schubert Symphony No. 8 in B Minor, D. 759 “Unfinished” | 26 mins
Pratt shows himself to be a Beethovenian of stature and originality.

– Stephen Johnson, *Gramophone*

**Contemporary** – Jessie Montgomery’s *Rounds* was premiered by Awadagin Pratt in 2022.

**T.S. Eliot** – *Rounds* is inspired by the imagery and themes from T.S. Eliot’s poem *Four Quartets*.

**Multi-talented** – Awadagin Pratt is also an accomplished conductor.

**Almost lost** – The score for Schubert’s “Unfinished” Symphony lay, unperformed, for over 30 years in a friend’s study.

Whitehead Auditorium
**Reservations Required**
Tickets $28 each
www.valdostasyphony.org
or call (229) 333-2150

**Concert Sponsor**
Houston and Tittle Family
CONTEMPLATION

PRECONCERT CHAT: 6:45 p.m.

three subscription concert

March 25, 2023 • 7:30 pm

Strauss Solemn Entrance | 7 mins

MacMillan Larghetto for Orchestra | 15 mins

Brahms A German Requiem, Op. 45 | 68 mins
   Tamara Hardesty, soprano
   Nathan Stark, bass-baritone

Valdosta State University Concert Choir
Valdosta State University Chamber Singers
Valdosta State University Musical Union
Clell Wright, Chorusmaster
“…gave pleasure in many gentle, fluent, well-shaped passages…”
- Andrew Porter, The New Yorker

“…unearthly power…”
- Washington Post

chasal connection – MacMillan’s Larghetto is an orchestration of his Miserere, a choral setting of Psalm 51.

Return to Valdosta – Nathan Stark was a soloist with the VSO in performances of Haydn’s Creation and Beethoven’s 9th Symphony.

Comfort – In his German Requiem, Brahms focused more on comforting the living than envisioning the afterlife of the departed.

Whitehead Auditorium
Reservations Required
Tickets $28 each
www.valdostasymphony.org
or call (229) 333-2150

Concert Sponsor
LADENBURG
AN ADVISOR GROUP COMPANY
four subscription concert

April 29, 2023 • 7:30 pm

Weber Der Freischütz Overture | 10 mins
Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto in D Major, Op. 35 | 33 mins
Geneva Lewis, violin
Mahler Symphony No. 1 in D Major “Titan” | 57 mins
**Tennis connection** - Geneva Lewis’s father is Chris Lewis, the former tennis pro who reached the 1983 Wimbledon singles final as an unseeded player.

**Hostile reception** - Critic Eduard Hanslick said the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto proved that “...music can exist which stinks to the ear...”

**Unappreciated master** - Known as one of the world’s leading conductors, Mahler composed in his spare time. His works were widely regarded as oddities during his lifetime.

“...clearly one to watch...”
- Musical America

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www.valdostasymphony.org
or call (229) 333-2150
Tunes for Tots
Introduces the instruments and the orchestra to younger children.
January 14, 2023 in Whitehead Auditorium, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

The South Georgia String Project (SGSP)
Provides exploratory experience of string instruments to children in Magnet Strings classes. Many children continue to perform and take lessons.

The Azalea String Quartet
Performs clinic concerts for high school musicians in Georgia and north Florida.

Concerto Competition
Provides outstanding performers at VSU with audition/competition experience and the opportunity to solo with the VSO at a Youth Concert.

VSO Honors Recital
January 29, 2023 in Powell Hall, 3 p.m.
High School Honors Program
Provides tickets for selected High School students with recommendation of Band Director.

Music Major Rush Ticket Program
Provides university music majors rush tickets for subscription concerts. The program is designed to support students’ studies in music literature.

VSO Graduate Performance Assistantship
Supported by the VSO, provides for advanced studies in strings and orchestra for a select graduate student. The graduate student also serves a key staff position in the orchestra.

Music Enrichment Grant (MEG)
Grant provided by the Valdosta Symphony Guild to fund special music projects by students in the VSO.
The mission of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra includes providing the youth of our region with significant cultural opportunities.

Teachers may reserve free seats for any program by contacting Outreach Office at (229) 333-2150. Seating is limited – please reserve early!

Jan Hatterman
Educational Coordinator
Whitehead Auditorium at VSU
1. Vivid
September 23, 2022 • 10 a.m.
Selections by Mussorgsky, Dvořák, and Ravel

2. Majesty
October 21, 2022 • 10 a.m.
Featuring Kristin Pfeifer Yu, violin; and Laurel Yu, viola
Selections by Gluck and Mozart

3. Creation
February 24, 2023 • 10 a.m.
Featuring Awadagin Pratt, piano
Selections by Balakirev, Montgomery and Schubert
A VSO Season Ticket includes a single admission to each of the 4 subscription concerts as well as a single admission to the February Special Concert. Other subscriber benefits include the opportunity to renew your seats before tickets go on sale to the general public, invitations to pre-concert buffets, and other VSO events.

Returning season ticket holders can save their seat location from the previous season by renewing their subscription before September 1, 2022. After that date, unsold seats will be sold in order of purchase. Please call if you would prefer to be contacted about your seats and receive reminders for concerts via email.

Outreach Office
Maggie Vallotton, (229) 333-2150

To order tickets, contact our ticket office: (229) 333-2150 or visit www.valdostasymphony.org. All online sales open August 1, 2022.
# Patron Packages

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<th>Level</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<td><strong>$270</strong></td>
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<td>Six Season Tickets&lt;br&gt;(and tax deductible gift of $750)</td>
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*Patron Packages include taxes and fees. Additional donations are welcome.*

*Pay by cash, check, or credit card.*

*Call ticket office for more information.*
Support the VSO through the endowment program
1. Gifts can be spread over a five-year, equal gift amount.

2. If you do not itemize deductions – your cash gift (up to $300.00) will be Allowable deduction.
   *Cares Act*

3. If you do itemize – your gift limited to a % of your Adjusted Gross Income has been lifted. *Cares Act*

4. A gift to the symphony through the VSU Foundation is a 501-[C][3] charitable non-profit organization recipient.

5. Contact Allan Dear or Dan Coleman by calling Maggie at the Box office for more gifting information.

*Always check with financial advisor first.*