

The background is a dark, textured composition featuring a large, stylized white treble clef. Scattered throughout are various musical notes in white and teal. Numerous thin, golden, streamer-like lines swirl across the image, creating a sense of movement and energy. The overall color palette is dominated by dark blues, oranges, and yellows.

VSO

2023-24

VALDOSTA
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA



A Word From **David Cummings**

Welcome to the 34th season of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra!

Since 1990, the VSO has positively impacted the cultural life of our region by bringing excellent orchestral music to the Valdosta community. The symphony works hand in hand with Valdosta State University to serve the academic mission of the university by bringing a high standard of performance to the stage. The Symphony Orchestra Board, the Valdosta Symphony Guild, corporate sponsors, and many individual patrons join to support this American Prize-winning orchestra. Under the direction of Dr. Howard Hsu, the VSO blends resident artists, faculty, select regional musicians and students pursuing instrumental music disciplines into a first-class, professional orchestra.

Without the sale of season tickets and the financial backing of our patrons and sponsors, this would not be possible. We invite you to take part in this ongoing musical endeavor by becoming a subscriber, patron, or corporate sponsor. Please consider joining us at some level of support. If you are already supporting the symphony, why not increase that patronage to the next level? The rewards are great, including the knowledge that you are helping make possible the experience of live classical music here in Valdosta. Learn more about how you may become involved financially with the continued success of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra.



***Chairman,
Valdosta Symphony
Orchestra Board***

Finally, help spread the word! Not everyone knows about the precious jewel that is the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra! This coming season promises to be another in a long line of exciting seasons. There will be something for all music lovers, from Tchaikovsky and Beethoven to your favorite movie themes, and much more. The 2023-2024 season of the Valdosta Symphony begins on September 30, so tell your friends and get ready!

We thank the Symphony Board and Guild, our sponsors, patrons, the VSU Administration, Foundation, College of the Arts, faculty, and students for their strong commitment to the excellence of our community symphony orchestra and its many music education programs. And thank you for supporting the arts and classical music!

Sincerely,



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 seven so far with ten 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.





“ On VSO nights there are often multiple events to consider, so we are grateful you chose to spend the evening with us. ”

- Howard Hsu, Music Director

PHOTO COURTESY: PAUL LEVY

Dear Friends,

A common complaint I have heard is “There’s nothing to do in Valdosta.” I must most respectfully disagree. In addition to the VSO and other numerous concerts by the Music Department, our colleagues in VSU’s College of the Arts produce an impressive array of art exhibitions and theatre, musical, and dance shows each year. And of course the Turner Center of the Arts keeps a busy schedule, as does Theatre Guild Valdosta and Peach State Summer Theatre. And this is just a partial listing of arts events! On VSO nights there are often multiple events to consider, so we are grateful you chose to spend the evening with us.

This is my fifteenth season with the VSO (where has the time gone?). The orchestra and audience feel like my extended family! We need more people in the community to see and hear what the VSO is all about and to join our “family.” Let everyone know that we have an orchestra and they can experience the rush of hearing live classical music, including incredible guest artists such as violinist Melissa White and pianist Natasha Paremski.

Or perhaps they would love to hear their favorite movie soundtracks to blockbusters such as *Star Wars*, *Harry Potter*, or *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. We definitely would want to share spectacular moments such as the ending of Respighi’s *Pines of Rome*, in which a vision of the Roman Army triumphantly marches on the Appian Way back to Rome.

We thank you for your continued support, which allows us to bring live classical music and life-enriching experiences to our region.

Cordially,



Howard Hsu
Music Director



PRECONCERT CHAT: 6:45 p.m.

ONE

subscription concert

September 30, 2023 • 7:30 pm

Tchaikovsky Polonaise from
Eugene Onegin, Op. 24 | **5 mins**

Price Violin Concerto No. 1
in D Major | **24 mins**
Melissa White, violin

Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 5
in E Minor, Op. 64 | **44 mins**

RUSH



MELISSA WHITE

- * The music of American composer Florence Price has recently gained worldwide popularity and recognition after decades of neglect.
- * Melissa White has received acclaim for solo performances with leading ensembles such as the Cleveland Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, and Pittsburgh Symphony.
- * This performance of the Tchaikovsky Fifth Symphony marks the 10-year anniversary of the VSO's performance of this work that won the American Prize.

“... absolutely breathtaking...”

- Katie Gaab, Maryland Theatre Guide

Concert Sponsor



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



PRECONCERT CHAT: 6:45 p.m.

TWO

subscription concert

November 4, 2023 • 7:30 pm

Mozart Allegro from Serenade
No. 13 in G Major, K. 525 “Eine kleine
Nachtmusik” | **4 mins**

Mozart *Don Giovanni* Overture,
K. 527 | **7 mins**

Neruda Concerto for Trumpet
in E-flat Major | **16 mins**

Javian Brabham, trumpet

Beethoven Symphony No.8
in F Major, Op. 93 | **27 mins**

Beethoven & BLUE JEANS



JAVIAN BRABHAM

- * The Neruda is one of the most popular trumpet concertos, but was originally composed for French horn.
- * Beethoven's student asked why the Seventh Symphony was more popular than the Eighth, and Beethoven replied "...because the Eighth is so much better."

Break out your blue jeans, have some BBQ (courtesy of Stifel and the VSO) on the Fine Arts lawn before the show, and then sit back and enjoy your Valdosta Symphony Orchestra!

Concert Sponsor

STIFEL

Whitehead Auditorium
Reservations Required

Tickets \$28 each
www.valdostasymphony.org
or call (229) 333-2150



PRECONCERT CHAT: 6:45 p.m.

THREE

subscription concert

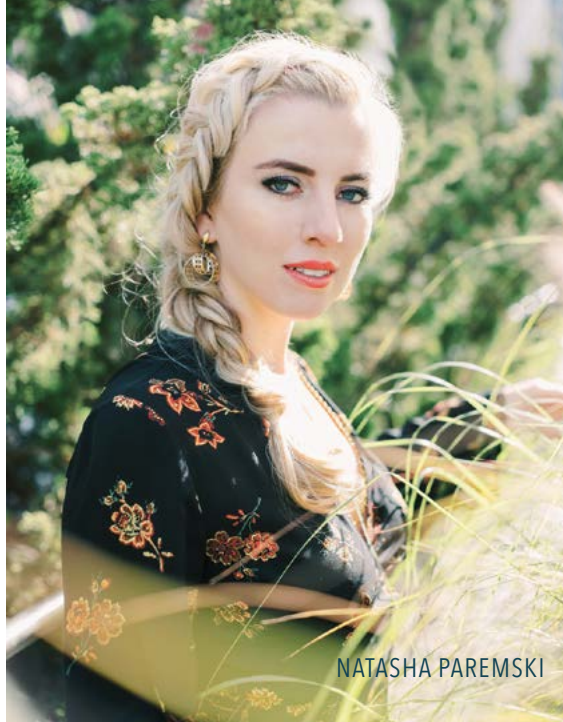
February 17, 2024 • 7:30 pm

Schumann *Manfred* Overture,
Op. 115 | **12 mins**

Hindemith *Nobilissima visione*
Suite | **21 mins**

Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 3
in D Minor, Op. 30 | **40 mins**
Natasha Paremski, piano

TURBULENT



- * Rachmaninoff performed his Third Piano Concerto with the New York Philharmonic under the baton of Gustav Mahler.
- * The Third is considered one of the most difficult and demanding piano concertos.
- * Natasha Paremski won the Gilmore Young Artist Prize when she was eighteen.

Whitehead Auditorium
Reservations Required

Tickets \$28 each
www.valdostasympphony.org
or call (229) 333-2150

“...Paremski outdid herself, tossing off diabolically complex passages as if they were child’s play...”

– Howard Reich, *Chicago Tribune*

Concert Sponsor
LADENBURG
AN ADVISOR GROUP COMPANY

PRECONCERT CHAT: 6:45 p.m.

March 30, 2024 • 7:30 pm

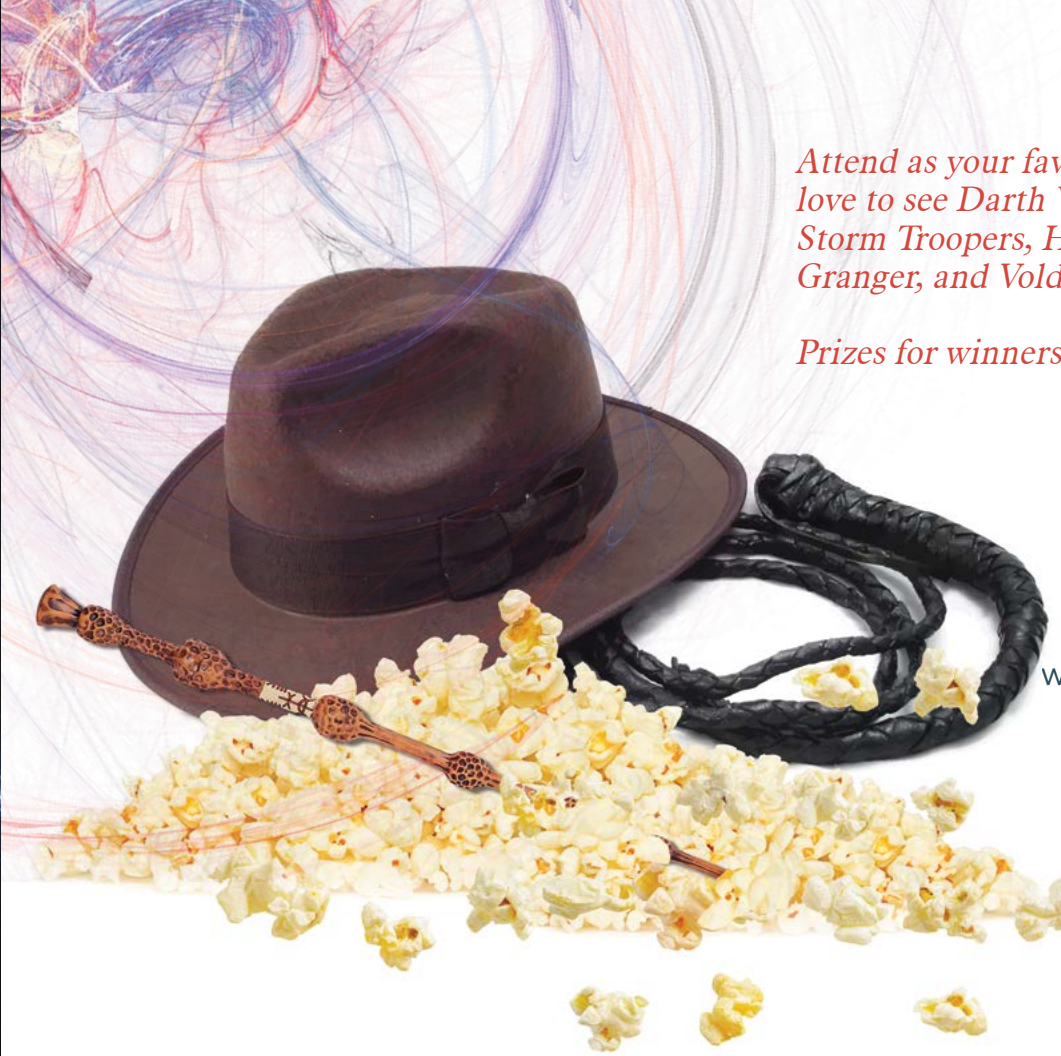
*REMEMBER THE THRILL OF HEARING STIRRING
MUSICAL SCORES AT THE MOVIES?*

*EXPERIENCE THE EXCITEMENT AGAIN,
BUT THIS TIME WITH THE VSO LIVE!*

*STAR WARS, RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK,
HARRY POTTER, AND MORE!*

casual classics

MOVIE MUSIC MANIA



Attend as your favorite character. We would love to see Darth Vader, Princess Leia, Storm Troopers, Harry Potter, Hermione Granger, and Voldemort in the audience!

Prizes for winners of the Costume Competition!

Whitehead Auditorium
Reservations Required

Tickets \$28 each
www.valdostasympphony.org
or call (229) 333-2150

Concert Sponsor

**Houston and
Tittle Family**



PRECONCERT CHAT: 6:45 p.m.

FOUR

subscription concert

April 27, 2024 • 7:30 pm

Wagner *Tristan und Isolde*:
Prelude and *Liebestod* | **17 mins**

Strauss *Don Juan*,
Op. 20 | **19 mins**

Liadov *The Enchanted Lake*,
Op. 62 | **7 mins**

Respighi *Pines of Rome* | **23 mins**

EVOCATIVE



- * Legendary Iothario Don Juan comes to life in Strauss's swaggering tone poem.
- * Wagner's lush scoring captures the longing and doomed love between Tristan and Isolde.
- * Respighi recalls visions of Italy's past in his stunning *Pines of Rome*.

Whitehead Auditorium
Reservations Required

Tickets \$28 each

www.valdostasymphony.org
or call (229) 333-2150

Concert Sponsor





Valdosta Symphony Orchestra

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Tunes for Tots

Introduces the instruments and the orchestra to younger children.
January 13, 2024 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.

Youth Concerts

Provides free concerts to young students in the South Georgia region.

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 28, 2024 in Powell Hall, 3 p.m.



PHOTOS COURTESY: LAUREL YU

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.

YOUTH

CONCERT SERIES

2023-2024

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!

Emily Smith
Educational Coordinator
Whitehead Auditorium at VSU



PHOTO COURTESY: PAUL LEVY

1. RUSH

September 29, 2023 • 10 a.m.

Featuring Melissa White, violin
Selections by Tchaikovsky and Price

2. *Beethoven* & BLUE JEANS

November 3, 2023 • 10 a.m.

Featuring Javian Brabham, trumpet
Selections by Mozart, Neruda, and Beethoven

3. TURBULENT

February 16, 2024 • 10 a.m.

Featuring Natasha Paremski, piano
Selections by Schumann, Rachmaninoff, and Hindemith



PHOTO COURTESY: PAUL LEVY

MEMBER
League
of American
Orchestras

Season Tickets

A VSO Season Ticket includes a single admission to each of the 4 subscription concerts as well as a single admission to the March 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, 2023. 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, 2023.**

PATRON PACKAGES

❑ \$135 **PATRON**
One Season Ticket
(tax deductible gift optional)

❑ \$270 **PATRON**
Two Season Tickets
(tax deductible gift optional)

❑ \$300 **GUILD MEMBER/BRONZE**
One Season Ticket
(and tax deductible gift of \$175)

Two Season Tickets
(and tax deductible gift of \$50)

❑ \$320 **BRONZE**
One Season Ticket
(and tax deductible gift of \$185)

Two Season Tickets
(and tax deductible gift of \$50)

❑ \$540 **SILVER**
Two Season Tickets
(and tax deductible gift of \$175)

Four Season Tickets
(tax deductible gift optional)

❑ \$790 **GOLD**
Two Season Tickets
(and tax deductible gift of \$520)

Four Season Tickets
(and tax deductible gift of \$250)

❑ \$1,040 **PLATINUM**
Two Season Tickets
(and tax deductible gift of \$770)

Four Season Tickets
(and tax deductible gift of \$500)

❑ \$1,560 **DIAMOND**
Four Season Tickets
(and tax deductible gift of \$1,020)

Six Season Tickets
(and tax deductible gift of \$750)

***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. Endow a Principal Chair in the orchestra for \$100,000. Seven chairs are already endowed, ten remain.
3. A gift to the symphony through the VSU Foundation is a 501-[C][3] charitable non-profit organization recipient.
4. Contact David Cummings or call Maggie Vallotton at 229-333-2150 for more giving opportunities..

****Always check with financial advisor first.***



PHOTOS COURTESY: PAUL LEVY



Department of Music
Valdosta State University
1500 N. Patterson St.
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