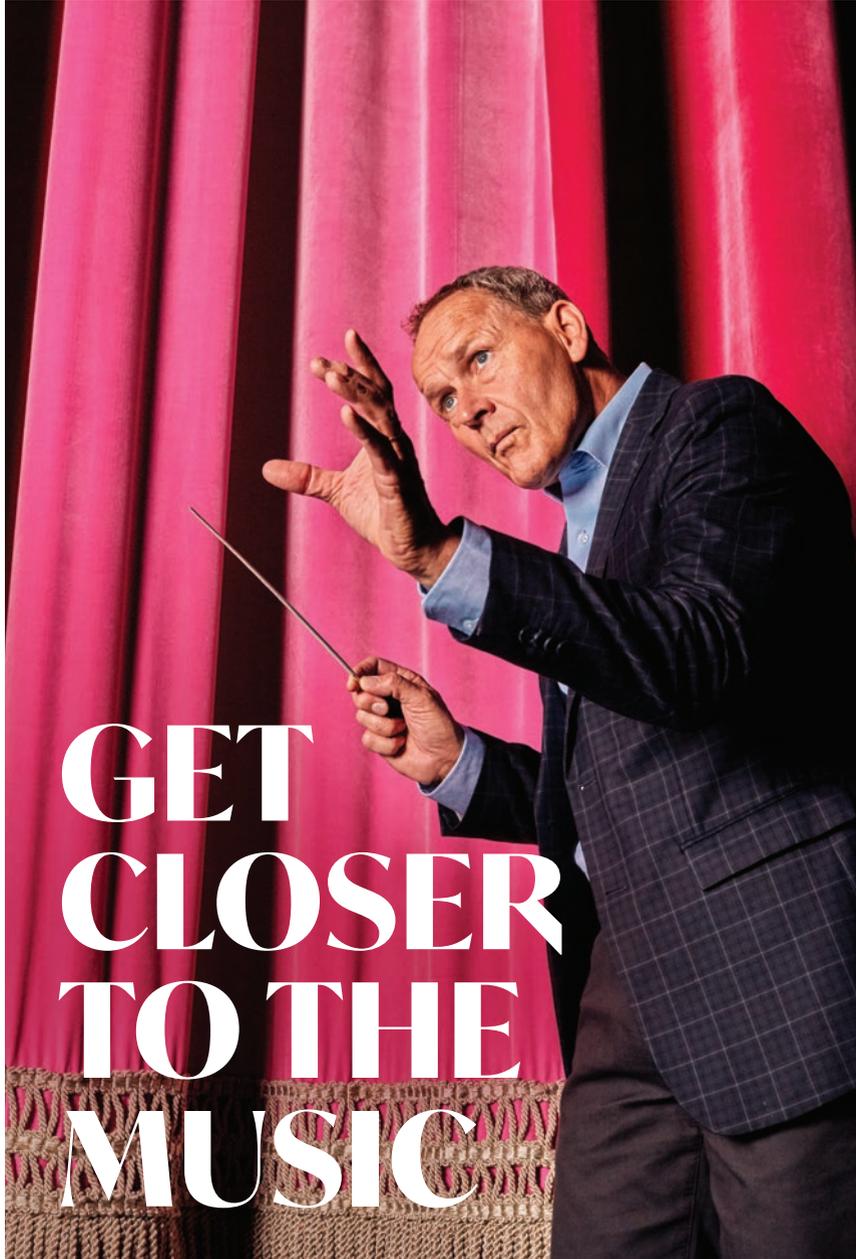




MASTERWORKS SERIES



GET
CLOSER
TO THE
MUSIC

2021

WISCONSIN
CHAMBER
ORCHESTRA

2022

COMING HOME TO THE CAPITOL

As the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra enters our 61st season, I want to thank you for sticking with us the past 18 months through a very challenging time. Your unwavering support and encouragement have helped us sustain and evolve as a leading arts organization while also fulfilling our mission of enriching communities through the transformative power of music.

During the upcoming Masterworks season, we will ensure you have a safe and enjoyable concert experience in the performance hall, public spaces, or out of the comfort of your home. The season is filled with world premieres, digital performances, local and cross-cultural collaborations, and a heightened focus on community engagement and education.

Thank you for letting us continue to be a part of your lives. I invite you this season to again get closer to the music with your Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra.

Joe Loehnis

CEO



Since our last live Masterworks concert in February 2020, a sea change has shifted us all, in society, community, and art. Our season reflects that. We look at each Masterworks season as unique, and this season is a mix of the familiar, the masters, and the unfamiliar finds so worthy of illumination.

Our return home to the Capitol Theater melds new works by the orchestra's first-ever Composer in Residence Dr. Bill Banfield, with his impressive contemporary, Patrice Rushen, to the belated birthday boy himself, Beethoven.

In his honor, we dedicate our first Masterworks and our finale to Beethoven's war horses: the rarely performed *Triple Concerto* and the *Emperor*. The Triple is a 37-minute feat, the only concerto Beethoven completed for more than one soloist. And ours will be performed by virtuosos as compatible as a hand and glove, concertmaster Suzanne Beia, principal cellist Karl Lavine, and UW-Madison Professor of Piano Christopher Taylor.

Our second season of the digital Musician Sessions returns this fall with three one-hour programs of chamber music performed by ensembles.

Thank you for your support of the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, your belief in our work, and for preserving and sustaining this premier ensemble for future generations.

Andrew Sewell

Music Director





21/22

MASTERWORKS SERIES



PRE-CONCERT EVENT & DISCUSSION

Enjoy a lively pre-concert discussion with cocktails and appetizers held in the Wisconsin Studio at the Overture Center. Maestro Andrew Sewell, Wisconsin Public Radio's Norman Gilliland, and our concert guest artist will share insights and inspiration for the evening's Masterworks concert repertoire.

Reservations for the intimate pre-concert event must be made at least one week prior to the concerts.



Pre-concert event tickets are \$45. Cash bar is available. To reserve your spot, call 608.257.0638.

Doors open at 5:30 PM

Discussion begins at 6:30 PM

CAPITOL THEATER

MADISON, WI

7:30 PM

I: The Triple

January 28, 2022

WCO + UW Soloists | Suzanne Beia, violin, Karl Lavine, cello, and Christopher Taylor, piano

II: Harp and Haydn

February 25, 2022

Yolanda Kondonassis
HARP

III: Paganini Passion

March 25, 2022

Eric Silberger
VIOLIN

IV: The Emperor

April 22, 2022

John O'Connor
PIANO

Subscribe at wcoconcerts.org/subscribe, by phone at 608.257.0638, or by mail.

Please Note: We are committed to ensuring the safety of our patrons, musicians, and staff. For Handel's *Messiah* in December 2021 and Masterworks I in January 2022, we will be requiring proof of vaccination against COVID-19 and to be fully masked while in the venue. Please visit wcoconcerts.org for more information.

MASTERWORKS I: THE TRIPLE

Friday, January 28, 2022

Suzanne Beia
VIOLIN

Karl Lavine
CELLO

Christopher Taylor
PIANO

REPERTOIRE

Patrice Rushen | *Sinfonia*

William Banfield | *Symphony No. 8, Here I Stand* (world premiere)

Ludwig van Beethoven | *Triple Concerto*

Run Time: 1 HR, 45 MINUTES



Photo: Paulius Musteikis

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Opening the season is Patrice Rushen's *Sinfonia*. Patrice is a Grammy-nominated musician of the highest caliber straddling R&B, jazz, and classical genres as the triple crown of performer, conductor, and composer. She is the first woman music director and the first African American producer of The Grammy Awards.

Composer in Residence Dr. Bill Banfield's *Symphony No. 8, Here I Stand*, in honor of the work of Paul Robeson, will receive its long-awaited world premiere on January 28.

Beethoven's *Triple Concerto* is one for the record books as we celebrate Beethoven's delayed 250th anniversary. Concertmaster Suzanne Beia, principal cello, Karl Lavine, and UW Professor and Van Cliburn prize winner Christopher Taylor join forces to conclude our first concert of 2022.



COMPOSER IN RESIDENCE



WILLIAM BANFIELD

William Banfield is an award-winning composer whose symphonies, operas, and chamber works have been performed and recorded by major symphonies across the country. He is one of the most performed, recorded composers of his generation. Banfield's work to date includes twelve symphonies, seven operas, nine concerti, chamber, as well as jazz and popular forms.

“ Bill Banfield is one of the most original voices on the scene today. He tunes us into the conversation happening worldwide between the notes of contemporary musical culture.”

– Henry Louis Gates

Banfield joined the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra for a three-year residency partnership starting in July 2021. We are commissioning two major works for the WCO and the greater Madison community as well as significant community outreach while Bill is in residence.



MASTERWORKS II: HARP AND HAYDN

Friday, February 25, 2022

Yolanda Kondonassis

HARP



REPERTOIRE

Sergei Prokofiev | Sinfonietta

Alberto Ginastera | Harp Concerto

Joseph Haydn | Symphony No. 88

Run Time: 1 HR, 30 MINUTES

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

We welcome the return of harp virtuoso Yolanda Kondonassis to perform Alberto Ginastera's *Harp Concerto* of 1965, written for the great harpist of the twentieth century, Nicanor Zabaleta. Written in an idiomatic style for the harp including many special effects, it is a spectacular work to enjoy live.

Prokofiev's *Sinfonietta* is an early work from 1909 and was dedicated to his conducting teacher, Nikolai Tcherepnin of the St. Petersburg Conservatory. Following further revisions, this version from 1930 shows a lighter, more humorous side to Prokofiev's nature.

Haydn's *Symphony No. 88* from 1787 follows his six Paris Symphonies and is one of his more popular symphonies with an exciting moto perpetuo finale. Combining two twentieth century works and finishing with Haydn is classic WCO fare, inspiring our musicians to come alive with spectacular vitality.



MASTERWORKS III: PAGANINI PASSION

Friday, March 25, 2022



Eric Silberger

VIOLIN

REPERTOIRE

Christopher Blake | Kotuku (world premiere)

Niccolò Paganini | Violin Concerto No. 1

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor | Petite Suite de Concert

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart | Symphony No. 34

Run Time: 1 HR, 50 MINUTES

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

It is with great pleasure to introduce violin phenom Eric Silberger. This is our third attempt at a concert date as with many of our guest artists, the pandemic has forced us all to be very patient. The wait has been worth it with Paganini's tour-de-force *Violin Concerto No. 1*. The program opens with a world premiere performance of Christopher Blake's *Kotuku*, commissioned by Andrew and Mary Sewell in 2019, and featuring an original lament with indigenous flute. The work tells the story of the native white heron of New Zealand and its spiritual significance to Maoridom.

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor has been featured on numerous Concerts on the Square for larger orchestra forces. We welcome his four-movement *Petite Suite de Concert* for chamber orchestra. Mozart's *Symphony No. 34* in C major has just three movements yet packs a punch, as C major was considered a triumphal key in classical psyche.



MASTERWORKS IV: THE EMPEROR

Friday, April 22, 2022

John O'Connor
PIANO



REPERTOIRE

Leoš Janáček | Suite for Strings

Luigi Cherubini | Symphony in D major

Ludwig van Beethoven | Piano Concerto
No. 5, *Emperor*

Run Time: 1 HR, 45 MINUTES

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

John O'Connor's gift for Beethoven never disappoints. Loved by our orchestra and audience alike, O'Connor is a statesman and musical icon. Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 5, Emperor* is gargantuan, so named for its grandeur and highly sophisticated form. This is Beethoven at his most intense, personal, and sublime. So much so that in this capacity we are treating it as the main course or the steak, putting it in the second half, more like a symphony, with Janáček and Cherubini as appetizers and a salad.

Czech composer Leoš Janáček's *Suite for Strings* (1877) was inspired by his friendship with Dvořák. A work in six movements, it joins a growing list of forgotten yet brilliant string compositions performed by the WCO in recent years.

Luigi Cherubini's *Symphony in D* was commissioned by the London Philharmonic Society in 1815. A composer mainly of operas, he was well respected in Paris and other world capitals and was in the employment of Napoleon while in Vienna. Cherubini's symphonic literature reveals much more about this often overlooked composer.



SPECIAL PERFORMANCES

VERONA AREA PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

November 20, 2021 at 7:30 PM
Verona High School Performing Arts
Center

REPERTOIRE

Tchaikovsky | Souvenir de Florence
A Set of Popular Songs with Sarah
Lawrence, Soprano
Schubert | Octet
Copland | Appalachian Spring for 13
Instruments

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

December 8, 2021 at 7 PM
First Congregational Church, Madison

THE NUTCRACKER WITH MADISON BALLET

December 17–26, 2021
Overture Hall

FAMILY SERIES I: "EL SALÓN MÉXICO"

April 2, 2022 at 10 AM

MOZART'S REQUIEM

May 21, 2022
Hamel Music Center

THE MUSICIAN SESSIONS

The Musician Sessions are an eclectic array of music performed in traditional and unusual ensembles, solo percussion to trios, quartets, quintets, and nonets. This recorded online concert series emphasizes works by contemporary composers, women, and composers of color and focuses the lens on conversations with our core musicians.

PRICING

3-Concert Pack: \$75

Single Concert: \$30

DIGITAL CONCERT ACCESS

Access will be granted on Fridays, with viewing open for 72 hours.

Concert I: Bach to Banfield

November 12–14, 2021

Bach to Banfield takes us on a journey from the Baroque period to the present day. The series opens with the third of Bach's six famous *Brandenburg Concerti Grossi* from 1722. We perform two modern works from our Composer in Residence Dr. Bill Banfield's woodwind quintet, entitled *Four in a Car* with some jazz influences, and a commissioned work for steel drums by Cliff Alexis, written specifically for our principal percussionist, Lana Wordel.

REPERTOIRE

J.S. Bach | Brandenburg Concerto No. 3

William Banfield | Four in a Car

Cliff Alexis | Solo for Lana

Bohuslav Martinů | Quartet, H. 139

Louise Farrenc | Piano Quintet No. 1

Concert II: Bohemian Blueprint

February 18–20, 2022

Bohemian Blueprint takes its title from two works on this program which features three living women composers. Stacy Garrop's *Bohemian Café* is a wind quintet with bass in a popular style and Caroline Shaw's *Blueprint* for string quartet, a rigorous and engaging tour de force. We conclude with the early nineteenth century German composer Louis Spohr's *Nonet*, a grand work with virtuoso writing for all the instruments.

REPERTOIRE

Joseph Bologne | String Quartet No. 5

Gabriela Lena Frank | Quijotadas

Stacy Garrop | Bohemian Café

Caroline Shaw | Blueprint

Louis Spohr | Nonet in F major



Concert III: Forgotten Gems

March 18–20, 2022

Forgotten Gems showcases an early *Piano Trio in D minor* by Fanny Mendelssohn, sister of Felix Mendelssohn, and Florence Price's *String Quartet No. 2 in A minor* from 1935, exploring elements of the spiritual and folk song.

REPERTOIRE

Fanny Mendelssohn | Piano Trio in D minor

Eric Ewazen | Mandala

Florence Price | String Quartet in A minor

Adolphe Blanc | Septet in E major





YOUTH & EDUCATION



SUPER STRINGS

Developed by Maestro Sewell in 2016, the Super Strings Program connects early-elementary school children with a WCO musician who provides the students with violin lessons. While the context is music, the aim is to develop life skills and self-awareness using a strong mentor relationship as the foundation. We established a new partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters during the COVID-19 pandemic.

SUMMER 2022

CONCERTS RETURN HOME TO THE SQUARE!

The Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra's 39th Season of Concerts on the Square® returns to the Capitol Square next summer. We are eager to perform live for the community from the steps of the Capitol on Wednesdays beginning June 29, 2022.

2022 SAVE THE DATES

June 29 / July 6 / July 13 / July 20 / July 27 / August 3

RESERVE YOUR TABLE TODAY

Contact Elliott Valentine / 608.257.0636 / elliottvalentine@wcoconcerts.org

FAMILY SERIES

WCO's Family Series is a free program for families with children of all ages. The format is different from typical concert settings, so moving around or making noise during the show is welcomed and encouraged! Join us for our next performance on April 2, 2022, "El Salón México," a fictional story of two good friends, Aaron Copland and Carlos Chávez.



SUPPORT THE WISCONSIN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

For six decades, your support of the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra has made life-affirming performances accessible to thousands. Together, we can strengthen the future of our community through the transformative power of music. Join us today by making a donation in support of this mission.

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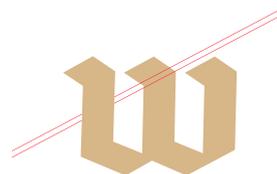
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