



MELANIE YOUNG
HARP

SONIC AMERICA
SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2026 | 7:30 PM

For this all-American program, the MSO features its principal harpist, Melanie Young, in a performance of *Ennanga* by William Grant Still. This rarely heard work for harp, strings, and piano is a vivid reflection of the *ennanga*, an African harp-like instrument. Played on a modern harp, the piece has a calming, restorative quality that gently soothes the soul. The program continues with Edward MacDowell's *Suite No. 2*, which draws on motifs from the Iroquois, Iowa, and other Native American tribes to evoke Indigenous life, and concludes with Ferde Grofé's iconic and sweeping *Grand Canyon Suite*.



ANDREW SORDS
VIOLIN

GERMAN MASTERS
SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026 | 7:30 PM

First appearing with the MSO in 2011, violin virtuoso Andrew Sords returns to Merchant Hall for his third performance, this time showcasing Richard Strauss's vibrant and youthful *Violin Concerto in D minor* composed when Strauss was only seventeen. The concert opens with Leopold Stokowski's dramatic orchestral arrangement of J. S. Bach's *Tocatta and Fugue in D minor*, made famous by Disney's *Fantasia*. Inspired by a walking tour through the ruins of Holyrood Chapel in Edinburgh, Felix Mendelssohn's *Symphony No. 3 in A minor* ("Scottish") brings the program — and the MSO's season — to an exuberant close.

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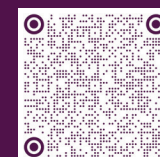
Individual tickets go on sale August 1, 2025

Adults \$35 (includes all fees)

Children/Students FREE

Groups of 10 or more \$30 (includes all fees)

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2025-2026 SEASON

MANASSAS
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JAMES VILLANI
MUSIC DIRECTOR

James Villani, Music Director of the Manassas Symphony Orchestra (MSO) since 2002, brings decades of leadership and dedication to the community. In recognition of his contributions, he received the 2022 Seefeldt Award for Outstanding Individual Artist from the Prince William Arts Council. An advocate for adult music education and volunteerism in the arts, Mr. Villani is deeply involved in community music organizations. He spent 10 years as an associate conductor and clarinetist for the Reston Chamber Orchestra. His conducting achievements have earned national recognition, including finalist for The American Prize in Orchestral Programming Award (2019–2020). Mr. Villani earned dual bachelor's degrees in Clarinet Performance and Music Education from Penn State University and his Master of Music in Conducting from Northwestern University, studying with the legendary John P. Paynter. Mr. Villani taught in public schools in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Virginia, including Stonewall Jackson (now Unity Reed) High School in Manassas. In addition, he serves on the Board of Directors for the Ferde Grofé Foundation and works as a Senior Manager of Software Engineering at Capital Financial One in McLean.

2022 Seefeldt Award
for Outstanding Artist

2019 Seefeldt Award
for Arts Excellence

2015 American Prize
for Orchestral Performance



THOMAS PANDOLFI
PIANO

ROMANTIC IMPRESSIONS
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025 | 7:30 PM

The Manassas Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Maestro James Villani, proudly launches its 33rd season with the return of renowned American pianist Thomas Pandolfi to perform Rachmaninoff's iconic *Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor*. Celebrated by The Washington Post as "a master of both the grand gesture and the sensual line" and lauded by D.C. Metro Arts for his "exhilarating... rare mix of technical accuracy and cool confidence," Pandolfi promises an evening of unparalleled artistry. The program includes Alexander Glazunov's enchanting Autumn from *The Seasons* and Amy Beach's trailblazing *Gaelic Symphony in E minor*, a cornerstone of American classical music.



MANASSAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
FREE CHAMBER MUSIC RECITAL
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2025 | 7:00 PM



DOREEN KETCHENS
CLARINET

HOLIDAY IN NEW ORLEANS
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025 | 3:30 PM

New Orleans legend and worldwide sensation Doreen Ketchens brings her inimitable style back to Manassas, once again accompanied by the full orchestra. This time, Doreen is swinging Merchant Hall with holiday classics in her exclusive Dixieland style. Doreen performed with Ellis Marsalis, Jon Faddis, Trombone Shorty, Al Hirt, Dorothy Donegan, the Black Crowes, and Jennifer Warnes, opened for Macy Gray and Dr. John, and performed at the Kennedy Center, featured on "CBS Sunday Morning" and "Jimmy Kimmel Live" and performed for four US presidents.

Do not miss this unforgettable start to the holiday season!

As always, we close with the kids' favorite – MSO's always wondrous and colorful Holiday Music and Light Show Spectacular!

MSO invites you to a delightful evening of chamber music at Old Town Manassas' historic Trinity Episcopal Church. Enjoy classical favorites performed by MSO's finest musicians.

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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**MANASSAS
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA**
2025-2026 SEASON



Beautiful Music Close to Home

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