

## THE RAPIDAN ORCHESTRA

The Rapidan Orchestra is a non-profit volunteer ensemble that draws members from all walks of life through our doors from surrounding counties to as far away as Rockingham County.

We welcome all ages and abilities of performers, as our personnel currently includes talented young musicians to seasoned professionals, ages 14-84.

The orchestra is a wonderful gathering of musicians who enjoy the opportunity to rehearse and perform for the community, with an emphasis on ensuring a welcoming atmosphere for all.

Memberships and performances are free of charge, operating solely on generous donations.

With only 20 musicians meeting in Fall 2014, we have grown to over 30 members. Before moving into our permanent home, the Music Room in downtown Orange, the orchestra performed in local venues including: churches, wineries, and even a fire station! The orchestra has collaborated with and featured our own solo musicians, JMU students, local chorales, and international recording artists, offering concerts twice a year. The local community has been enthusiastically supportive of The Rapidan Orchestra since the beginning, and we are grateful.



*Thank You For Your*

# DONATIONS

## *The Rapidan Orchestra*

*Dr. Benjamin Bergey, Conductor*



*Academic Festival Overture*  
Johannes Brahms

\* \* \*

*D'un matin de printemps*  
Lili Boulanger

\* \* \*

*Piano Concerto in C (#21)*  
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Jun Kanno - Piano Soloist

\* \* \*

Friday, May 3, 2024 @ 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 4, 2024 @ 7:30 p.m.

*Academic Festival Overture*  
Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

The friend and fellow composer, who arranged an honorary degree for Brahms from the University of Breslau, angled for a major work in return. "Compose us a fine symphony for us! But well orchestrated, old boy, not too thick!"

Instead, Brahms wrote this overture, using rowdy student drinking songs as source material, gently mocking any academics taking themselves too seriously. With his gift for orchestral writing, Brahms turned a medley of "pop" songs into a gorgeously crafted overture that became one of his most performed works. Whether or not the composer friend thought the full wind section and the rich brass passages were "too thick" has not come down to us.

*D'un matin de printemps*  
(Of a spring morning)  
Lili Boulanger (1893-1918)

Lili Boulanger was a sensation on the Parisian music scene during the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when galleries were full of Impressionist paintings and Debussy and Satie were writing music self-consciously French, rejecting what they saw as Germanic/Wagnerian excess.

Boulanger was the daughter and granddaughter of professors at the Paris Conservatory and the first woman to win its highest honor for composition, the *Prix de Rome*. Her sister Nadia, feeling she couldn't match Lili's genius, gave up composing, and instead became one of the most influential teachers of composition in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with students like Walter Piston, Aaron Copland, Roy Harris, Virgil Thompson, Quincy Jones and Phillip Glass.

**RAPIDAN MUSICIANS**

**First Violin**

Karl Durland, *Concertmaster*  
Jane Getchell  
Michael Hanz  
Heather Schoenborn  
Tiffany Yawgel  
Charles Winkler

**Second Violin**

Penelope Bryant  
Carol Carr  
Pam Whitaker  
Lisa Willow

**Viola**

Darlene Dawson  
Kelly Harding  
Forrest Burtnette

**Cello**

Stephen Witmer  
Joe Bailey  
Roger Carr  
Elizabeth Price

**String Bass**

Karen Poehailos  
Carlos Banda Montes

**Timpani & Percussion**

Don Whitaker  
Lucas Smith

**Flute**

Don Aittama  
Makayla Smith  
Lois Tickle

**Oboe**

Charles Torian  
Sara Smith

**Clarinet**

Heather Welch  
Shari Bedker

**Bassoon**

Summer Davis-Brockman  
Annie Meng

**Trumpet**

John Harding  
Don Brubaker  
Mike Price

**French Horn**

Jen Clark  
Katrina Bryant  
Lyle Sanford

**Trombone**

Robert Graham  
James Smith  
Steve Sanford

**Piano**

David Sullivan



## THE RAPIDAN FAMILY

From time to time members of the orchestra have commented on the feeling of family we have in the group. Some of that is surely because of all the familial relationships among the players. Our married couples are Roger & Carol Carr, John & Kelly Harding, and Don & Pam Whitaker. Katrina and Penelope Bryant are mother and daughter; Mike and Elizabeth Price are brother and sister; Steve and Lyle Sanford are cousins; and this concert makes the first time we have three members of a family playing with us, James & Sara Smith and their son Lucas.

### COMING EVENTS @ THE MUSIC ROOM

BRAVO Youth Orchestra Concert  
Tuesday, May 21 @ 7:00 p.m.

Rapidan Chamber Players  
Saturday, May 25 @ 2:00 p.m.

Music Room Dance Party  
Saturday, June 22, 2024 @ 7:30 p.m.

For info on Music Room events,  
opt into our occasional newsletter at:  
[TheMusicRoomOnMain@gmail.com](mailto:TheMusicRoomOnMain@gmail.com)

This piece began as a duet for violin and piano in 1917 and was orchestrated in 1918, just before Boulanger's untimely death. The writing mixes and matches various instrumental colors of the orchestral palette. Some of her instructions to players are "without pressure", "outside", "mysterious, sustained", "a little tight", "with a little elbow room", and "without heaviness". The structure is an episodic series of scenes and impressions, with the tempo often slowing and then returning to a previous pace to mark the transitions.

### *Piano Concerto in C (#21)* Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Jun Kanno - Piano Soloist

*Allegro maestoso*  
*Andante*  
*Allegro vivace assai*

Mozart wrote this concerto at age 29 and would have played the piano part himself. The three movements follow the *fast - slow - fast* formula of the time. The first and third movements have several large and small *cadenzas*, improvisatory passages for the piano alone, where Mozart could display his virtuosity and musical imagination.

The slow middle movement may sound familiar, as it seeped into popular culture as the theme of the movie *Elvira Madigan*, the basis of Neil Diamond's *Song Sung Blue*, and the background music in television commercials.

## BENJAMIN BERGEY

The Yamaha Corporation recently recognized Benjamin as one of "40 Under 40" making a difference in music education:

*He established an interdisciplinary major called Music and Peacebuilding . . . "While many musicians and ensemble directors know on various levels that music helps to bring people together and make our world better, this is the first undergraduate major in the U.S. that combines the theories and practices of peacebuilding and conflict transformation with musical training."*

*Students take core music and peacebuilding courses, and through colloquiums, concerts and community events, they experience and practice the applications of music in building peace, which increases their empathy and their ability to engage in dialogue.*

*"I also designed a course called Music and Peacebuilding to engage with the growing field and networks of arts-based peacebuilders, and to explore the theories and practices to use music to help transform conflict since making music together can help bridge divides and create common ground"*

The Music Room is hoping to have Benjamin do some events for us this summer.

## JUN KANNO

Jun Kanno is one of the most internationally acclaimed and respected Japanese pianists performing today. A graduate of University of Toho in Tokyo, Jun Kanno was invited to France by Olivier Messiaen and Yvonne Loriod, wife of the famous composer, who became his teacher at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris.

He settled in Paris and has given many recitals at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées and the Salle Gaveau; and has performed as soloist and chamber musician in London, Rome, Geneva, Tokyo, Brussels, Salzburg, Barcelona. He performs regularly with the Vienna String Quartet, composed of top players from the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra.

A chance meeting with a couple from Culpeper, at a restaurant in Italy over twenty years ago, led to his performing for the Culpeper Music Society several times, and then with the Orange Music Society. Thanks to a generous benefactor, this is his third performance with the Rapidan Orchestra.

## HEATHER WELCH

As the Rapidan Orchestra celebrates its tenth season, there are a lot of people to thank for getting us here. Foremost among them is Heather Welch, our principle clarinet. She and Mary Dykes (violin) had the idea of expanding their chamber sessions into an orchestra, and they proceeded to do just that, with our first conductors Kyle Ruempler and Tal Benatar.

Ever since then, Heather has been, behind the scenes, the one most active keeping us all together and moving forward. She's also one of the strongest players in the orchestra, always well prepared and playing beautifully.