

## 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 and seasoned professionals.

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.

We're on the web @ [rapidanorchestra.org](http://rapidanorchestra.org)



*Thank You For Your*

**DONATIONS**

# *Rapidan Orchestra*

*Dr. Benjamin Bergey, Conductor*



*Adagietto*  
Gustav Mahler

\* \* \*

*Symphony #1*  
Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

Friday, November 14, 2025 @ 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 16, 2025 @ 2:00 p.m.

THE MUSIC ROOM : 135 E MAIN IN ORANGE

FREE ADMISSION

*Adagietto*  
Gustav Mahler (1860-1911)

The *Adagietto* is the fourth of five movements in Mahler's Symphony #5. While writing it he was falling deeply in love with Alma Schindler (who he married shortly thereafter), and they both saw it as a sort of love letter to her. By calling it the diminutive of *adagio* and writing in the score "very slow, but not dragging", Mahler indicates more of a singing, lyrical quality than the doleful nature of a standard *adagio*. By scoring it for just strings and harp, Mahler allows for wonderfully soft passages and lush harmonies.

Over the years the *Adagietto* has taken on a life of it's own apart from the complete symphony, two examples being Luchino Visconti using it in his film *Death in Venice* and Leonard Bernstein conducting it at the memorial for Robert F. Kennedy in 1971.

**RAPIDAN MUSICIANS**

**First Violin**

Karl Durland, *Concertmaster*  
Michael Hanz  
Luke Lorenzo  
Heather Schoenborn  
Charles Winkler

**Second Violin**

Carol Carr  
Natalee Coates  
Anna Dunn  
Kelly Harding  
Pam Whitaker

**Viola**

Darlene Dawson  
Hannah Lorenzo  
Whitney Louchen

**Cello**

Amalya Lorenzo  
Elizabeth Price  
Ethan Wagner  
Stephen Witmer

**String Bass**

Paul Fritz  
Karen Poehailos

**Harp** (played on piano)  
David Sullivan, Jr.

**Flute**

Don Aittama  
Lois Tickle

**Oboe**

Charles Torian  
Sara Smith

**Clarinet**

Heather Welch  
Shari Bedker

**Bassoon**

A. J. Accardo  
Gail Lewis

**Trumpet**

John Harding  
Don Brubaker

**French Horn**

Jen Clark  
Alexander Fritz  
Lyle Sanford

**Trombone**

James Allison  
Robert Graham  
James Smith

**Timpani**

Don Whitaker

## COMING EVENTS @ THE MUSIC ROOM

CHRISTMAS SING ALONG  
Monday, December 8 @ 7:30 p.m.

BRAVO CHRISTMAS CONCERT  
Thursday, December 18 @ 6:30 p.m.

RAPIDAN CHAMBER PLAYERS HOLIDAY CONCERT  
Sunday, January 4, 2026 @ 2:00 p.m.

VALENTINE'S DANCE  
Saturday, February 14, 2026

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

Or follow us on FaceBook:  
The Music Room On Main

## *Symphony #1* Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908)

- I. Largo assai – Allegro*
- II. Andante*
- III. Scherzo: Vivace*
- IV. Allegro assai*

Rimsky-Korsakov was born into a family of naval aristocracy, and outside of a few years of childhood piano lessons received no formal training, even though he could play anything by ear. At age seventeen a critic showed some of his piano compositions to Mily Balakirev, the eccentric conductor, composer, and teacher who was working with Glinka, Cui, Mussorgsky and Borodin to establish a distinct Russian musical idiom.

The symphony was composed during Rimsky-Korsakov's late teen and early twenties while he was serving in the navy, including a three year world cruise. He and Balakirev mailed the manuscript back and forth during that time, and then Balakirev conducted the première when Rimsky-Korsakov returned to St. Petersburg. From the beginning the goal was, "a symphony in the German style with Russian tunes."

Rimsky-Korsakov said of the first movement, "The slow introduction is the soul of the symphony – everything grows from that folk chant." After that opening in E minor, the music accelerates to an allegro full of dance rhythms and the movement ends triumphantly in E major.

The second movement is a gentle andante in ABA form. The melody in the A section was inspired by Caucasian folk songs Rimsky-Korsakov heard in port, while the B section evokes a Tartar dance.

The third movement is another ABA form, with the A section being a scherzo in 3/8 time based on a peasant dance and, unusually, the trio switches to a lullaby in 2/4 time, and then returns to the scherzo in 3/8.

In his autobiography Rimsky-Korsakov said of the fourth movement:

*"The military music I heard in the fleet and on shore - trumpets, drums, and brass in  $\frac{3}{4}$  - left a deep impression . . . I wanted the finale to sound like a soldiers' march in festive dress."*

## BENJAMIN BERGEY

Benjamin Bergey is assistant professor and director of the Eastern Mennonite University Choirs and Orchestra. He is the assistant conductor for the Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival as well as music director of the Rapidan Orchestra in Orange, VA. Dr. Bergey is also the advisor of the new Music and Peacebuilding Major at EMU. He completed his Doctor of Musical Arts in Orchestral Conducting at James Madison University.

Dr. Bergey received the 2023 Excellence in Teaching Award at EMU, named "40 Under 40" in Yamaha's Music Educator Award, and won 2nd place in the American Prize for Orchestral Conducting in the University division. He is also active as a guest conductor, clinician, and worship retreat leader. He served as General Editor for Mennonite World Conference's International Songbook 2022; Music Editor for Voices Together; as well as compiler and editor for the hymnal's Accompaniment Edition.

He and his wife Kate have two children, and they love to garden, hike, and travel.