

## 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*



*An Outdoor Overture*  
Aaron Copland

\* \* \*

*Symphony #6 "Pastorale"*  
Ludwig van Beethoven

Saturday, April 11, 2026 @ 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 12, 2026 @ 2:00 p.m.

THE MUSIC ROOM : 135 E MAIN IN ORANGE

FREE ADMISSION

## DR. BERGEY TEN YEARS ON

Just over ten years ago the Rapidan Orchestra's founding conductors, Kyle Ruempler and Tal Benatar let us know they were leaving the area. Thanks to our bass player Karen's connection to Jeff Bush of the JMU music department, we were able to ask him for suggestions, and he gave us Benjamin's name and said, roughly, "he looks like a youngster, but if you get him you'll be lucky." After mulling our offer for a couple of weeks, Benjamin agreed to take us on and here we are.

Benjamin is an exceptional character, combining deep musical skills with perhaps even deeper "people" skills. At any point in a rehearsal when someone is absent, he can sing that part flawlessly in an instant. When he explains how he wants things, and how they tie together, it's clear how thoroughly he's studied the score. Because he's an excellent string player, he has lots of suggestions about bow use and general technique in achieving his aims.

For Benjamin, music is not an end in itself, but a means of bringing people closer together. As a part of his doctorate at JMU he invited musicians from all over, including Rapidan, to perform the choral movement of Beethoven's Ninth. At EMU he initiated a Music and Peacebuilding area of study. At Rapidan rehearsals he is unfailingly patient, full of sly humor, and encourages positivity by example.

## 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.

## COMING EVENTS @ THE MUSIC ROOM

### Drum Circle

Saturday, April 25 from 6:00 p.m. til 78:30 p.m.

### Young Band Concert

Saturday, May 16 @ 2:00 p.m.

We started this group in the Fall of '25 by adapting Fun Band tunes for BRAVO students. Now, besides strings, we have guitars, banjo, bass, piano and drum kit. The repertoire is mostly songs the members asked to work up – fiddle tunes, spirituals, and 60's pop (Beatles, Mamas and Papas, Bob Dylan).

### BRAVO Spring Concert

Thursday May 21 @ 7:30 p.m.

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 #6 "Pastorale"* Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

At age thirty-eight, Beethoven premiered both his Fifth and Sixth symphonies at a concert he organized to raise funds for himself. Not much money came in, but both works became landmarks of the orchestral repertoire.

Like Brahms and Mahler after him, Beethoven did a lot of composing while on long walks through the countryside. He gave the Sixth its "Pastoral" subtitle, saying in the program it was, "more an expression of feeling than painting."

Here are his tempo markings and descriptions of the movements.

- I. Allegro ma non troppo* - Awakening of cheerful feelings on arriving in the countryside
- II. Andante molto mosso* - Scene by the brook
- III. Allegro* - Merry gathering of country folk
- IV. Allegro* - Thunderstorm
- V. Allegretto* - Shepherd's song: Grateful feelings and thanks to the divinity after the storm

Walt Disney used this music in his *Fantasia*, so if you saw that as a child, some of the melodies will be deeply familiar.

*An Outdoor Overture*  
Aaron Copland (1900-1990)

Copland was born and raised in Brooklyn, the son of Lithuanian immigrants. He showed early interest in music, improvising melodies on the piano around the age of ten and by age fifteen decided he wanted to be a composer. He studied with the legendary Nadia Boulanger in Paris for three years in his early twenties. She encouraged him to develop a distinctly American voice.

This overture was commissioned as a piece of "American music for American youth" by New York's High School of Music and Art in 1938, the same year Copland composed the music for the ballet *Billy the Kid*. These two pieces were among his first to use the open and wide harmonies, broad leaping fanfare melodies, irregular, jaunty meters, and optimistic tone to create an American sound.

Dr. Bergey programmed this piece as a tip of the hat to this year's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

## RAPIDAN MUSICIANS

### First Violin

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

### Second Violin

Carol Carr  
Natalee Coates  
Anna Dunn  
Kelly Harding  
Pam Whitaker

### Viola

Darlene Dawson  
Whitney Louchen

### Cello

Roger Carr  
Elizabeth Price  
Angela Lehman  
Ethan Wagner

### String Bass

Paul Fritz  
Karen Poehailos

### Piano

David Sullivan, Jr.

### Flute

Don Aittama  
Makayla Smith  
Lois Tickle

### Oboe

Charles Torian  
Sara Smith

### Clarinet

Heather Welch  
Shari Bedker

### Bassoon

A. J. Accardo  
Summer Davis-Brockman

### Trumpet

John Harding  
Don Brubaker

### French Horn

Jen Clark  
Alexander Fritz  
Lyle Sanford

### Trombone

James Allison  
Robert Graham  
Matthew Stough

### Timpani

Don Whitaker