



ROBERT SPANO CONDUCTOR YO-YO MA CELLO THE RHODE ISLAND PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

#### SATURDAY, MAY 31 THE VETS | 5PM



## THE WHITE FAMILY A MESSAGE FROM OUR GALA CHAIRS

Thank you for supporting the Rhode Island Philharmonic's 2025 Gala. In celebration of our 80th season, we welcome our Principal Conductor, Maestro Robert Spano, and world-renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma, to the stage for this historic anniversary. We are also thrilled to recognize Charles "Chuck" Royce, for his outstanding achievements in philanthropy with the John Hazen White, Sr. Leadership in the Arts Award.

Tonight is a celebration of our history, our future and our continued mission, which, in part, is to ensure accessibility to music and music education for everyone. As such, we are excited that talented students from the Rhode Island Philharmonic Music School—the next generation of musicians—will perform on stage alongside our professional Orchestra this evening. Your participation and patronage enable us to offer exceptional music to people of all ages in our community.

We hope that you enjoy this wonderful evening and we thank you for your support.



#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### OFFICERS

Susan Chung, President Malcolm Griggs, Immediate Past President Brendan McCorry, Treasurer Edward Wing, Chief Medical Advisor and Secretary Karen Pelczarski, General Counsel\* David Beauchesne, Executive Director

#### DIRECTORS

David Ames William Ash Ting Barnard Susan Chung Peter Costa Linda Diebold Shauna Duffy John Eustis Amy Goldstein Karen S.D. Grande Linda Griggs Glenna Hagopian Joanne Haworth James Low Brendan McCorry Marie Myers Karen Pelczarski Mary Reineman Daniel Rossignol Deming Sherman David von Hemert W. Scott Walker, MD Edward Wing, MD David Winoker

> \* Past President ‡ Emeritus \*\*Ex-Officio



#### **GALA SPONSORS**

We're so grateful to the following donors, who made gifts of \$10,000 or more:



Lisa Bisaccia and Robert Naparstek, MD Ms. Susan Chung and Mr. Noah Silverstein **Malcolm and Linda Griggs Almon and Suzanne Hall Family Fund** Herbert Rakatansky, MD and Ms. Barbara Sokoloff **Drs. Edward and Rena Wing** 

Providence Journal LOCALiQ











#### **SPONSORS**

CONDUCTING Almon and Suzanne Hall Family Fund

#### FORTISSIMO

Amica Insurance Lisa Bisaccia and Robert Naparstek, MD Ms. Susan Chung and Mr. Noah Silverstein Malcolm and Linda Griggs Herbert Rakatansky, MD and Ms. Barbara Sokoloff Drs. Edward and Rena Wing

#### FORTE

Anonymous Belvoir Properties, LLC Barbara J. Dreyer Ernst & Young, LLP Robert and Lynn Manning Karen Pelczarski and Rich Field University Orthopedics, Inc. The Washington Trust Company

#### CRESCENDO

Anonymous E.W. Burman, Inc. Kahn, Litwin, Renza & Company, Ltd. Robin Lansinger Mr. James Low Pamelee M. Murphy Rockland Trust Dr. and Mrs. Fred A. Rotenberg Mr. James DeRentis and Mr. Brett P. Smiley Troutman Pepper Locke Ms. Inna Walker and Dr. W. Scott Walker

#### MEDIA

WJAR NBC10 Providence Journal / LocaliQ WPRO/WWLI RIPBS WPMZ Poder

#### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



#### **RUTH REINHARDT** A MESSAGE FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR DESIGNATE

Welcome to tonight's Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra Gala concert! My best wishes to Principal Guest Conductor Robert Spano, the incredible Yo-Yo Ma and all of you on stage and in the hall this evening! I so much look forward to seeing all of you next season as I fully assume my duties as your new Music Director.

I am excited to lead concerts that include masterworks by Brahms, Haydn, Beethoven, Sibelius and Prokofiev, as well as newer works by Childs, Suk, Montgomery, the northeast premiere of a work by French composer Marie Jaëll and so much more. I'm particularly looking forward to featuring Concertmaster Charles Dimmick as soloist along with leading our Side-by-Side with the RI Philharmonic Youth Orchestra at the January concert, and to bringing saxophonist Steven Banks, cellist Andrei Ioniță and pianist Alessio Bax to Rhode Island for the first time.

Indeed, the 25-26 season brings many great artists and works to The VETS stage. The breadth and depth of the music selected is remarkable, and we hope and expect that you will love both the familiar and unfamiliar. The Orchestra and School continue to have an impact on students in our community. The Philharmonic's hugely successful Link Up education program continues in over 80 elementary schools around the region, and the Orchestra and I will have the pleasure of performing for and with over 10,000 Link Up students next May! Enrollments at the RI Philharmonic Music School are rising rapidly. Our Victoria's Dream Project in Pawtucket continues to tackle opportunity gaps for students in that city and research on its results may help us expand it.

It is a privilege for me to work with the musicians of the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra, Principal Guest Conductor Robert Spano, the staff, Music School faculty, families and students, Board Members and all of you who attend concerts and donate, to build a bright future for symphonic music, music education and the arts in Rhode Island. I cannot wait to see you all soon. Until then, thank you and enjoy the music!



#### DAVID BEAUCHESNE A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### Friends,

Welcome to the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra's 80th Anniversary Gala Concert with Principal Conductor Robert Spano and world-renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma! A decade ago, Mr. Ma joined us for our 70th Anniversary Gala, and also received our John Hazen White, Sr. Leadership in the Arts Award. We are thrilled that he is back, along with Robert Spano, and all of you to celebrate the past, and look forward to the future as we prepare for the start of the Ruth Reinhardt era this September.

For 80 years, the RI Phil has served this community through music: on stages, in classrooms, and beyond. The performances you will see tonight by our professional orchestra, Mr. Ma, and students from the RI Philharmonic Music School are a testament to our comprehensive mission. We hope you will leave this concert entertained and inspired. We are glad you are here to experience the music and support the largest combined professional orchestra and community music school in the United States.

In addition to celebrating our mission tonight, we also recognize the effort and impact of someone who shares our vision and values by awarding the 2025 John Hazen White, Sr. Leadership in the Arts Award to Charles "Chuck" Royce. Chuck led the way in creating the United Theatre and United Music School in Westerly, Rhode Island, his adopted home. The United has helped revitalize Westerly through expanded access to educational opportunities and the performing arts. Its efforts are entirely aligned with the mission of the RI Philharmonic. We are honored to have worked with Chuck and his team to bring his vision to fruition, and to recognize him for his efforts tonight.

As we look forward, we are excited at what the next 80 years hold for us, for you, and for music in our community. We could not be more grateful to share this journey with you, our tremendous, generous and supportive audience and sponsors.

We are honored to be here with you, in a city and state of the arts, to experience a bit of magic together as we listen, with pride, to Yo-Yo Ma and *our* Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra. Thank you for being a part of this wonderful evening. We hope to see you this summer and beyond at a concert, lesson, community event or class. Enjoy!

Sincerely,

## A PARTNERSHIP TO PROMOTE EQUITY RI PHILHARMONIC AND THE PAPITTO OPPORTUNITY CONNECTION









The RI Philharmonic Orchestra & Music School's mission is to enrich and transform Rhode Island and our region through great live symphonic performances and music education. To further this mission, we offer concerts and education programs that are of exceptional quality, relevant and accessible to all. We have worked for many years to use music as a tool to further equity and opportunity in our community.

Thanks to our ongoing partnership with the Papitto Opportunity Connection (POC), our efforts are taking a huge step forward. With major support from the POC, and continued support from existing funders, the RI Phil has increased our efforts to break down barriers, create opportunities, and make music education, symphonic performances and careers in music accessible. These efforts help us:

- Improve access to music education for under-served children, and partner with Brown University to study the impact on their musical, academic and social-emotional growth;
- Represent the diverse communities we serve on our stages through the repertoire we perform and the guest artists who perform it, and in our classrooms through what we teach and who we hire to teach;
- Join the National Alliance for Audition Support and modify audition practices for the Orchestra to keep the screen up through the finals to promote equitable hiring practices;
- Increase accessibility to our performances through streaming, neighborhood concerts, Link Up education programs and concerts, and ensure access to affordable tickets.

Together with POC, we are employing best practices and establishing new modes to ensure that every child in our community has access to a music education, every child and adult can access inspiring symphonic performances, and every person feels represented on our stages and served by our school.

#### VICTORIA'S DREAM PROJECT





Averaging 10,000 students annually at over 85 partner schools in the region.



Changing lives through access to quality music education.

Contact Hannah Ross for details on these programs HRoss@RIPhil.org | 401.248.7042



Papitto Opportunity Connection



RHODE ISLAND FOUNDATION

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



#### RHODE ISLAND PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA & MUSIC SCHOOL

#### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

David Beauchesne, Executive Director

#### EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Su D'Ambrosio Director of Education

Tony Petrucci Assistant Director of Education

Hannah Ross Assistant Director for Community Engagement

Elliott Eastman Ensembles & Summer Programs Manager

Louis Privitera Community Engagement Manager

Allison Meyette Student Services Specialist

Laura Rosario Student Services Specialist

Megan Sullivan Student Services Specialist

#### DEVELOPMENT & DONOR RELATIONS

Laurie Johnson-Carvalho Director of Development & Donor Relations

Robin Lansinger Grant Writer

Jenna Medeiros Development & Executive Director Coordinator

#### FINANCE

Jill Frechette Director of Finance

Darlene Rochon Finance Assistant

#### **OPERATIONS & ARTISTIC**

Mary Gerbi Director of Artistic Operations

Hyunjung Choi Orchestra Librarian

Kevin A. Virgilio Orchestra Personnel and Production Assistant

## MARKETING, COMMUNICATIONS & BOX OFFICE

Danielle Meath Assistant Director for Marketing & Communications

Amanda Mann Box Office and Sales Manager

Alli Sousa Brogan Customer Service Assistant

#### FACILITIES

Dave Melo Facilities Manager

## CONDUCTOR'S CIRCLE BENEFITS

The Conductor's Circle is our way of recognizing our donors for being generous supporters of the Philharmonic.

## DONORS AT ALL LEVELS OF \$3,000

(\$1,500 for one person) and above receive the following\*:

- The opportunity to purchase two seats in Mezzanine
- Invitations to special/exclusive events. i.e., Season Opening Reception/Annual Meeting, backstage tours
- Complimentary beverages at intermission
- Complimentary parking
- Complimentary bring-a-friend tickets for each of the Classical Concert performances

## DONORS OF \$5,000-\$7,499

all of the above plus:

### DONORS OF \$7,500-\$9,999

all of the above plus:

### DONORS OF \$10,000-\$24,999

all of the above plus:

## DONORS OF \$25,000-\$49,999

all of the above plus:

## DONORS OF \$50,000+

all of the above plus:



- Easy ticket return if you cannot attend a performance
- Complimentary tickets for the Rush Hour of your choice
- Complimentary tickets for an Open Rehearsal
- A listing in the program book
- The opportunity for a musician or faculty sponsorship
- Dinner with Conductor and Artist
- Guest artist sponsorship with recognition in the program book
- Dinner with Conductor and Artist
- Opportunity to sit backstage for rehearsal
- Dinner with Conductor and Artist
- The opportunity to sponsor a Classical Concert
- The opportunity to sit on stage

\*For tax purposes, you are only required to report the receipt of benefits if you take advantage of them. For information on the value of these benefits, please contact Laurie Johnson-Carvalho in the Development office.



#### PERMANENT MUSICIAN ROSTER

Ruth Reinhardt, Music Director Designate • Robert Spano, Principal Conductor

#### VIOLIN I

Collis Family Foundation Section Charles Dimmick Concertmaster Heidi & Chester Kirk\* Chair Katherine Winterstein Associate Concertmaster Omar Chen Guey Assistant Concertmaster Sasha Callahan Xiao Fu Barbara Lefkowitz Mina Lavcheva Allyson Michal Alexey Shabalin Zoya Tsvetkova Zoia Bologovsky

#### VIOLIN II

Amy Rawstron Watson Principal Lois Finkel Assistant Principal Antoaneta Anguelova Lisa Goddard Laura Gulley Ella Leone Yeolim Nam Rose Drucker

#### VIOLA

Abigail Cross Principal Susan Culpo Assistant Principal Noriko Futagami Christine Orio Katrina Smith Willine Thoe Harold Lieberman

#### CELLO

Brent Selby Principal Melanie Dyball Assistant Principal Jackie Ludwig Selby Aron Zelkowicz Steven Laven Rebecca Thornblade Megan Koch Claire Dresselhuis

#### BASS

Barry Boettger Principal Robert Caplin Assistant Principal Eliot Porter Anthony D'Amico Joseph Higgins Nancy Kidd

#### FLUTE

Ann Bobo Principal Marie J. Langlois Chair Kathleen Boyd

#### PICCOLO

Rachel Braude

#### OBOE

Cheryl Bishkoff Principal Denise Plaza-Martin

#### ENGLISH HORN Jane Murray

#### CLARINET

Librarian:

Hyunjung Choi

lan Greitzer Principal Lisa Bisaccia & Robert Naparstek Chair Steven Zhang

#### **BASS CLARINET**

Tom Parchman

#### BASSOON

Ron Haroutunian Principal Brooke Allen

#### HORN Kevin Owen Principal

Joshua Michal Whit Hill

#### TRUMPET

Joseph Foley Principal Mary-Lynne Bohn

#### **TROMBONE** Greg Spiridopoulos

Principal Alexei Doohovskoy

#### BASS TROMBONE Gabriel Rice

TUBA Stephen Lamb Principal

#### TIMPANI

Craig McNutt Principal Mr. & Mrs. George M. Sage Chair

#### PERCUSSION Rob McEwan Principal Nathan Lassell

**HARP** Hyunjung Choi *Principal* 

Sound Engineer:

Michael Moore

\*Deceased

Personnel &

**Production** Assistant: Kevin A. Virailio

Director of Artistic Operations: Mary Gerbi

Actual performance rosters vary. Go to riphil.org/2025-gala for a list of tonight's musicians.







#### RI PHILHARMONIC MUSIC SCHOOL SIDE BY SIDE PERFORMANCE

Students from the **RI Philharmonic Youth Orchestra**, **Alexey Shabalin**, Music Director, and the **RI Philharmonic Wind Ensemble**, **David Neves**, Music Director.

#### **VIOLIN I**

Brian Wei Emma Sheahan Nguyen Alexander McGrath Elizabeth Kalish Lillian Rimmer

**VIOLIN II** Ada McFadden

**VIOLA** Liam DeRosa Felicity Kushner **CELLO** Alejandro Quintero Cashore

**FLUTE** Ava Durfey Elanor Speredelozzi

**CLARINET** Desmond Roper Catherine Chiu **HORN** Vladimir Seale Sophia Francis Fracassa

**TRUMPET** Angel Gautreaux





# MAKE MUSIC WITH US THIS SUMMER & FALL!







PRIVATE LESSONS 

 EARLY CHILDHOOD • ENSEMBLES
 WORKSHOPS • FOR ALL AGES!
 401.248.7001





#### RECIPIENT OF THE 2025 JOHN HAZEN WHITE, SR. LEADERSHIP IN THE ARTS AWARD CHARLES "CHUCK" ROYCE

The Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra & Music School is honored to present Charles M. "Chuck" Royce with the 2025 John Hazen White, Sr. Leadership in the Arts Award. Like John Hazen White, Sr., Chuck Royce is a phenomenally successful businessman as well as a dedicated philanthropist who transforms the communities in which he lives through a visionary mix of for-profit and philanthropic investment. His focus, generosity and leadership in improving his community by expanding access to educational opportunities and the performing arts is entirely aligned with the Philharmonic's mission and vision, as well as the values and philanthropic priorities of the White family.



## **ROBERT SPANO** PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR

Robert Spano, conductor, pianist, composer, and teacher, is known worldwide for the intensity of his artistry and distinctive communicative abilities, creating a sense of inclusion and warmth among musicians and audiences that is unique among American orchestras. Spano has been Music Director of the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra since August 2022 and will continue there through July 2031;

this follows his tenure as Principal Guest Conductor with FWSO, which began in 2019. He is the tenth Music Director in the orchestra's history, which was founded in 1912. In February 2024, Spano was appointed Music Director of the Washington National Opera, beginning in the 2025-2026 season, for a three-year term; he is currently the WNO's Music Director Designate. An avid mentor to rising artists, he is responsible for nurturing the careers of numerous celebrated composers, conductors, and performers. As Music Director of the Aspen Music Festival and School since 2011, he oversees the programming of more than 300 events and educational programs for 630 students and young performers; he also directs the Aspen Conducting Academy, which offers participants unparalleled training and valuable podium experience. After twenty seasons as Music Director with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, he now serves as Music Director Laureate. He was appointed Principal Conductor of the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra & Music School in 2024, and will transition to Principal Guest Conductor in 2025-2026.

During the 2024-2025 season – Spano's third as Music Director of the Fort Worth Symphony – he led six weeks of symphonic programming, conducting works including Mahler's Symphony No. 9, Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman* in concert, and a world premiere by Jake Heggie, in addition to shaping the artistic direction of the orchestra and driving its continued growth. In the Fall of 2024, Spano led his first performances as WNO's Music Director Designate, including a new production of Beethoven's *Fidelio*. Additional highlights of the 2024-2025 season included a two-week residency with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, his first appearances as Principal Conductor with the Rhode Island Philharmonic, and engagements with the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra and Colorado Symphony.

Spano made his Metropolitan Opera debut in 2019, leading the US premiere of Marnie by American composer Nico Muhly. Recent concert highlights have included several world-premiere performances, including *The Sacrifice of Isaac* by Jonathan Leshnoff with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Steven Mackey's *Aluminum Flowers* and James Ra's *Te Deum* with the Curtis Symphony Orchestra, *Of Earth and Sky: Tales From the Motherland* by Brian Raphael Nabors with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra and Rhode Island Philharmonic, and *Voy a Dormir* by Bryce Dessner at Carnegie Hall with the Orchestra of St. Luke's and mezzo-soprano Kelley O'Connor.

With a discography of critically acclaimed recordings for Telarc, Deutsche Grammophon, and ASO Media, Robert Spano has garnered four Grammy™ Awards and eight nominations with the Atlanta Symphony. Spano is on faculty at Oberlin Conservatory and has received honorary doctorates from Bowling Green State University, the Curtis Institute of Music, Emory University, and Oberlin. Maestro Spano is a recipient of the Georgia Governor's Award for the Arts and Humanities and is one of two classical musicians inducted into the Georgia Music Hall of Fame.



IMAGE: JASON BELL

## YO-YO MA CELLO

Yo-Yo Ma's multi-faceted career is testament to his belief in culture's power to generate trust and understanding. Whether performing new or familiar works for cello, bringing communities together to explore culture's role in society, or engaging unexpected musical forms, Yo-Yo strives to foster connections that stimulate the imagination and reinforce our humanity.

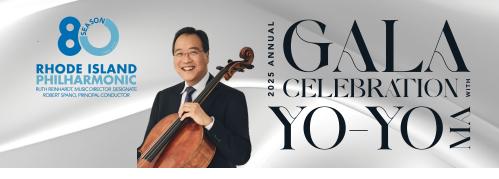
Most recently, Yo-Yo began Our Common Nature, a cultural journey to celebrate the ways that nature can reunite us in pursuit of a shared future. Our Common Nature follows the Bach Project, a 36-community, six-continent tour of J. S. Bach's cello suites paired with local cultural programming. Both endeavors reflect Yo-Yo's lifelong commitment to stretching the boundaries of genre and tradition to understand how music helps us to imagine and build a stronger society.

Yo-Yo is an advocate for a future guided by humanity, trust, and understanding. Among his many roles, Yo-Yo is a United Nations Messenger of Peace, the first artist ever appointed to the World Economic Forum's board of trustees, a member of the board of Nia Tero, the US-based nonprofit working in solidarity with Indigenous peoples and movements worldwide, and the founder of the global music collective Silkroad.

His discography of more than 120 albums (including 19 Grammy Award winners) ranges from iconic renditions of the Western classical canon to recordings that defy categorization, such as "Hush" with Bobby McFerrin and the "Goat Rodeo Sessions" with Stuart Duncan, Edgar Meyer, and Chris Thile. Yo-Yo's recent releases include "Six Evolutions," his third recording of Bach's cello suites, and "Beethoven for Three: Symphony No. 4 and Op. 97 'Archduke,'" the third in a new series of Beethoven recordings with pianist Emanuel Ax and violinist Leonidas Kavakos. Yo-Yo's latest album, "Merci," with pianist Kathryn Stott, features the music of Gabriel Fauré, following the arcs of Fauré's inspiration and influence in a deeply personal expression of gratitude for the relationships that make music magic.

Yo-Yo was born in 1955 to Chinese parents living in Paris. He began to study the cello with his father at age four and three years later moved with his family to New York City, where he continued his cello studies at the Juilliard School before pursuing a liberal arts education at Harvard. He has received numerous awards, including the Avery Fisher Prize (1978), the National Medal of the Arts (2001), the Presidential Medal of Freedom (2010), Kennedy Center Honors (2011), the Polar Music Prize (2012), and the Birgit Nilsson Prize (2022). He has performed for nine American presidents, most recently on the occasion of President Biden's inauguration.

Yo-Yo and his wife have two children. He plays three instruments: a 2003 instrument made by Moes & Moes, a 1733 Montagnana cello from Venice, and the 1712 Davidoff Stradivarius.



## 2025 Annual Gala Celebration with Yo-Yo Ma

Saturday, May 31, 2025, 5:00pm

Robert Spano, conductor • Yo-Yo Ma, cello

CHRISTOPHER THEOFAN	IDIS Rainbow Body
Side-by-Side performance with students from the RI Philharmonic Music School	
COPLAND	Appalachian Spring: Suite
	ΙΝΤΕΓΜΙΣΣΙΟΝ
DVOŘÁK	Cello Concerto in B minor, op.104 I. Allegro II. Adagio ma non troppo III. Finale: Allegro moderato
	Мг. Ма



The Rhode Island Philharmonic is funded in part through the General Operating Support Program of the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.



Mr. Spano appears by arrangement with Kirshbaum Associates Inc. Mr. Ma appears by arrangement with Opus 3 Artists.

#### Rainbow Body CHRISTOPHER THEOFANIDIS (1967-)

This is a RI Philharmonic Orchestra premiere. This piece is scored for piccolo, three flutes, three oboes, three clarinets, E-flat clarinet, bass clarinet, three bassoons, contrabassoon, four horns, three trumpets, three trombones, tuba, timpani, percussion, harp, piano and strings.

#### Appalachian Spring: Suite AARON COPLAND (1900-1990)

Last performed February 15, 2020, with Alexander Mickelthwate conducting. This piece is scored for piccolo, two flutes, two oboes, two clarinets, two bassoons, two horns, two trumpets, two trombones, timpani, percussion, harp, piano and strings.

#### Cello Concerto, op.104, B.191, B minor ANTONIN DVOŘÁK (1841-1904)

Last performed September 27, 2008, with Larry Rachleff conducting and soloist Alban Gerhardt. This piece is scored for piccolo, two flutes, two oboes, two clarinets, two bassoons, three horns, two trumpets, three trombones, tuba, timpani, percussion and strings.

#### A Rich and Varied Tapestry of American Music

Rhode Island Philharmonic Principal Conductor Robert Spano has described the first two pieces on tonight's Gala Concert program as "A rich metaphor for the varied tapestry of American music," but this description could easily be broadened to include the third piece. As surprising as it may sound, Dvořák's Cello Concerto has bona fide American roots as well.

Spano has long been a champion of the work of the American composer Christopher Theofanidis. After conducting the premiere of *Rainbow Body* with the Houston Symphony in 2000, Spano went on to make a celebrated recording of the piece on the Telarc label with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in 2003. Spano uses both that recording and tonight's Gala program as an opportunity to frame the younger work in a rich and meaningful context by pairing it with Copland's iconic *Appalachian Spring*: Suite.

Theofanidis himself is a firm advocate of this kind of pairing: "It helps you hear both repertories with a certain kind of open ear and freshness," he says. "They really help each other. It's not just a one-way thing where new music benefits from being paired with the old. It really goes both ways."

The sound world created by Aaron Copland in *Appalachian Spring*: Suite (and the original ballet from which it was adapted), is one of panoramic landscapes, fertile fields and broad prairies. It has, in fact, become a sound symbol of America itself. Its spacious harmonies, delicate suspensions and inescapable tunefulness never cease to resonate with audiences. And while the ballet tells the story of a young couple living on a farm in rural Pennsylvania in the early 1800s, the orchestral suite transcends any specific plotline, invoking a shimmering spirit of hope for an unknowable future. Looking at their vastly different sources of inspiration, it may then seem surprising that the same can be said for Theofanidis's *Rainbow Body*.

Unlike Copland, who drew on American folklore and the seemingly limitless

#### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

possibilities of the American experiment, Theofanidis has drawn from the deep wells of Medieval chant and Buddhist philosophy for the raw materials of tonight's concert opener.

"I have been listening a great deal to the music of the 12th-century German Benedictine abbess, writer, composer and mystic Hildegard von Bingen, and, as simple and direct as her music is, I am constantly amazed by its staying power," says Theofanidis. "Hildegard's melodies have memorable contours which set them apart from other chants of the period. They are very sensual and intimate, a kind of communication with the divine. *Rainbow Body* is based on one of her chants, *Ave Maria, O auctrix vite* ('Hail Mary, source of life'). "*Rainbow Body* begins in an understated, mysterious manner, calling attention to some of the key intervals and motives of the piece. When the primary melody enters for the first time about a minute into the work, I present it very directly in the strings without accompaniment. In the orchestration, I try to capture a halo around this melody, creating a 'wet' acoustic by emphasizing the lingering reverberations one might hear in an old cathedral."

The specific technique Theofanidis uses for this effect is worth a bit of exploration. "He creates resonance," notes Spano, "by having some instruments prolong a note after the tune has moved on to the next, and the next, and the next note." The result is a unique acoustic experience achievable only with a symphony orchestra.

The title, *Rainbow Body*, comes from the Tibetan Buddhist concept of enlightenment, wherein a dead body is absorbed as light and energy back into the universe, at which point it is known as a "rainbow body", meaning there is no decay or atrophy of any existing substance, merely a recycling of positive energy.

It was positive energy too, and of a distinctly American vein, that helped give birth to the final masterpiece on tonight's program: Dvořák's exquisite Cello Concerto.

When he came to the US in 1891 to become the head of the American Conservatory of Music in New York, Antonín Dvořák's patron, Mrs. Jeannet Thurber, intended him to be the founder of not only the first conservatory in the US but also the founder of a national musical identity. It was this outsider from Bohemia that made American composers stop looking toward Europe for inspiration and look closer to home, at the negro spirituals and other native music sources that were to form the inspiration for so much American music in the 20th century.

Within a year of his appointment to this post, Dvořák began writing four new works: Symphony in E-Minor (*From the New World*,) his "American" String Quartet No. 12, the fantastic String Quintet No. 3, Op. 97, and lastly his Cello Concerto.

Initially, Dvořák wasn't entirely keen on the idea of the cello as a solo instrument. "The cello is a beautiful instrument," he wrote, "but its place is in the orchestra and in chamber music. As a solo instrument it isn't much good because the upper voice squeals and the lower growls."

This opinion notwithstanding, Dvořák's friend and colleague cellist Hanuš Wihan had long pleaded for a concerto to be written for him. But it took a pair of essentially American experiences for the Bohemian to start seeing the potential of such an endeavor.

The first was a concert in Brooklyn, where Dvořák heard a cello concerto by Victor Herbert (best known today for the operetta *Babes in Toyland*), that opened his eyes and ears to ways of navigating some of the technical challenges to writing a cello concerto. The second was a visit to Niagara Falls, which engaged the rest of his senses and reportedly inspired Dvořák to exclaim out loud, "My word, that is going to be a symphony in B minor!" Though he never ended up writing a symphony in B minor, his resulting Cello Concerto in B minor is certainly symphonic in scope. Dvořák began work on the concerto in the spring of 1894, while on a brief visit home to Bohemia, completing it in February the following year when back in New York. While composing the concerto, he received a letter that his sister-in-law, Josefina Čermáková, was dying. Before Dvořák married her sister, Anna, he had been hopelessly in love with Josefina, but this love was unrequited. They had stayed close friends, however, and he was devastated upon receiving the letter. In an act of dedication, he quotes Josefina's favorite song of his, "Lass mich allein in meinen Träumen geh'n" ("Leave me to walk alone in my dreams"), in the *Adagio* second movement. The *Adagio* also contains a discreet funeral march with a triplet figure in the horns under the *cantabile* theme. The contemplative mood of the ending, too, is in reverence to her memory. One month after Dvořák returned home, Josefina died.

But despite the sad circumstances surrounding much of its creation (or perhaps owing to the depth of the emotions experienced during that time), the premiere of the work in London in 1896, with the composer at the podium, was a huge success. Much like Dvořák's experience with the Herbert concerto in Brooklyn, Johannes Brahms himself (not usually one to give high praise to other composers), was genuinely impressed; writing in a congratulatory letter to Dvořák, "How could I not have known that one can write a cello concerto like this? If I had known, I would have written one long ago!"

PROGRAM NOTES BY JAMIE ALLEN © 2025 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Congratulations to the **students**, **teachers**, and **everyone** at the **Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra & Music School** on accomplishing so much in this past year.

#### **DR. EDWARD AND RENA WING**

Best wishes to all the music makers and music lovers who make the RI Philharmonic and Music School so special.

Sally and Fred Rotenberg and Family Congratulations to the students, teachers, and everyone at the RI Philharmonic Orchestra & Music School!

**Jim Low** 

Gallery Belleau Gifts of Glass made in the Ocean State



424 Wickenden St. Providence www.gallerybelleau.com 401-456-0011

## Treating ALL athletes like CHAMPIONS

From professional, college and high school athletes, to rec player: and weekend warriors, University Orthopedics has you covered.



Proud to be a member of the team at The Miriam Hospital



70 orthopedic specialists at 15 convenient locations throughout Rhode Island ad Massachusetts

Rhode Island: Cranston | Cumberland | East Greenwich | East Providence | J Niddletown | Newport | North Providence | Partsmouth | Providence | Westerly Massachusetts: Nansfield | North Easton | Plymouth | Raynham



## LINDA AND MALCOLM GRIGGS



#### RHODE ISLAND PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

RUTH REINHARDT, MUSIC DIRECTOR DESIGNATE ROBERT SPANO, PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR



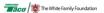


## Don't Touch That Dial: **TV CLASSICS!**

with Troy Quinn, conductor

NARRAGANSETT Friday July 11, 8PM PROVIDENCE Wednesday August 6, 7:30PM PAWTUCKET Saturday September 6, 6:30PM

## 401.248.7000 • RIPHIL.ORG/SUMMER-POPS





Pawtucket









## The Providence Journal is a Proud Supporter of the Arts and The Rhode Island Philharmonic



The Providence Journal and LOCALiQ combine the power of local-to-national reach through the USA TODAY NETWORK with a suite of digital marketing solutions backed by industry leading technology to help local businesses in the arts and entertainment industry grow and thrive throughout Rhode Island.

## Providence Journal LOCALiQ

We are grateful for President Susan Chung and the Board of Directors, Executive Director David Beauchesne and his exemplary staff, the musicians, faculty, and all who help to make the RI Phil Orchestra and Music School so exceptional. Bravo!!

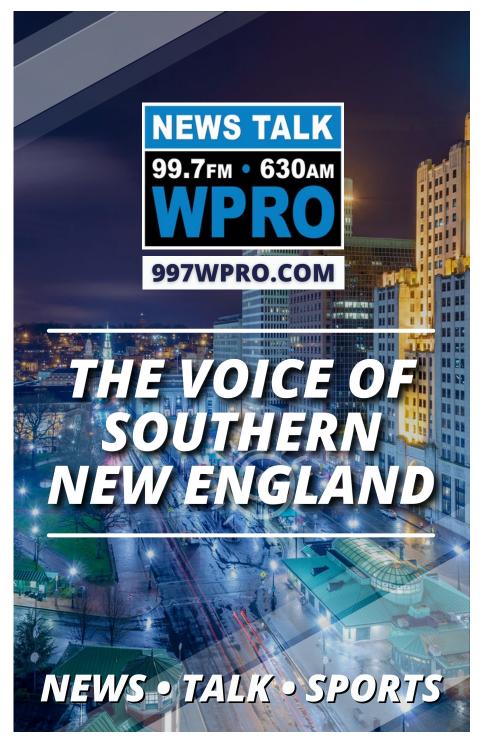
#### KAREN PELCZARSKI AND RICHARD FIELD



Congratulations to the **students**, **teachers**, **staff** and **members** of the **Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra** for all that you have accomplished and another spectacular season!

## SUSAN CHUNG AND NOAH SILVERSTEIN

# WEEKDAYS STARTING AT 4PM Turn To 10, com





## Helping you feel confident in your coverage is what we do best.

At Amica, we'll help protect what matters most to you.



Amica.com 866-51-Amica (26422) Amica Mutual Insurance Company, Lincoln, Rhode Island THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC!

> IT ENRICHES ALL OF US.

## INNA AND SCOTT WALKER

Best wishes to all the **musicians**, **teachers**, **staff**, and **Board** of **RIPO** 

on another successful year

ROBERT AND





FRIDAY, SEPT. 19, 2025 • 6:30PM Saturday, SEPT. 20, 2025 • 7:30PM

### OPENING NIGHT! RUTH REINHARDT INAUGURAL!

#### RUTH REINHARDT, CONDUCTOR Steven Banks, Saxophone

GERSHWIN: *Cuban Overture* BILLY CHILDS: *Diaspora*: Concerto for Saxophone BRAHMS: Symphony No. 4



SATURDAY, Oct. 18, 2025 • 7:30PM

## THE MOLDAU & More

#### RUTH REINHARDT, CONDUCTOR Andrei Ioniță, cello

BOULANGER: D'un matin de printemps HAYDN: Symphony No. 88 JAËLL: Cello Concerto (1882) SMETANA: "The Moldau" & "Šárka" from Má Vlast NIOSTE

SATURDAY, Nov. 22, 2025 • 7:30PM

## BEETHOVEN VIOLIN CONCERTO

EARL LEE, CONDUCTOR Elena Urioste, Violin

JESSIE MONTGOMERY: Overture BEETHOVEN: Violin Concerto SIBELIUS: Symphony No.2



SATURDAY, Jan. 24, 2026 • 7:30Pm

## THE NEW YEAR BEGINS: THE BLUE DANUBE

RUTH REINHARDT, CONDUCTOR Charles Dimmick, Violin

DVOŘÁK: Three Slavonic Dances SIDE-BY-SIDE PERFORMANCE WITH STUDENTS FROM THE RI PHILHARMONIC YOUTH ORCHESTRA CHAUSSON: Poème Johann STRAUSS: The Beautiful Blue Danube PROKOFIEV: Symphony No.5



FRIDAY, FEB. 13, 2026 • 6:30PM Saturday, FEB. 14, 2026 • 7:30PM

### VALENTINE'S DAY: Romantic Rachmaninoff

#### RUTH REINHARDT, CONDUCTOR Alessio Bax, Piano

SUK: A Fairy Tale WAGNER: Tristan and Isolde – Prelude and Liebestod RACHMANINOFF: Piano Concerto No.2

## SUBSCRIBE TODAY! BRING YOUR GROUP AND SAVE!



ANG

FRIDAY MAR. 13. 2026 •6:30PM SATURDAY. MAR. 14, 2026 • 7:30PM

## TCHAIKOVSKY'S FOURTH

#### MARCELO LEHNINGER, CONDUCTOR JOYCE YANG, PIANO

MISSY MAZZOLI: These Worlds In Us **BEETHOVEN: Piano Concerto No.1** TCHAIKOVSKY: Symphony No.4



**IASUR** 

SATURDAY, APR. 11, 2026 • 7:30PM

## **MOZART!**

#### **KEN-DAVID MASUR. CONDUCTOR ROBERT LEVIN. PIANO**

MICHAEL HAYDN: Symphony in G - I. Allegro (introduction by Mozart)

MOZART: The Marriage of Figaro: Overture MOZART: Piano Concerto No. 23 in A, K. 488 MOZART: Symphony No.38 (Prague)

Sponsored by







FRIDAY. MAY 1, 2026 • 6:30PM SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026 • 7:30PM

## **BEETHOVEN'S FIFTH!**

#### RUTH REINHARDT, CONDUCTOR

UNSUK CHIN: Subito con forza RACHMANINOFF: Isle of the Dead **BEETHOVEN: Symphony No.5** 



ADD ON: SUNDAY, DEC. 14, 2025 •3:00PM

## HANDEL'S **MFSSIAH**

JAMES BURTON, CONDUCTOR **PROVIDENCE SINGERS. CHRISTINE NOEL.** ARTISTIC DIRECTOR LAWRENCE JONES, TENOR DAVID SOAR, BASS

#### 401.248.7000 **BOXOFFICE@RIPHIL.ORG**

Bring your group & save! 401.248.7044 • BoxOffice@riphil.org

All Saturday concerts are held at 7:30pm and all Friday concerts listed are held at 6:30pm. All concerts take place at The VETS, Avenue of the Arts, Providence.

Congratulations Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra & Music School.

We thank everyone for another **wonderful year of music performance** and **accessible education** to all in our community.

We are proud to support your mission and this year's Gala with Yo-Yo Ma.

We look forward to next year's season under Ruth Reinhardt's leadership.

### ALMON AND SUZANNE HALL

## Take a bow for adding a bit of spice to the everyday.

Culture nurtures the spirit and the community. At EY, we applaud Rhode Island Philharmonic, because we believe the arts are not an afterthought. They are the foundation for a richer life.



#### Visit ey.com

© 2025 Ernst & Young LLP. All Rights Reserved. 2503-10354-CS | ED None.



## BARBARA SOKOLOFF AND HERBERT RAKATANSKY, MD

## YOUR LINK TO THE HISPANIC MARKET

WWW.PODER1110.COM (401)726-8413

## *To Life....with Love and Music.*

## Enjoy, Lisa Bisaccia and Robert Naparstek, MD

## ian travis **barnard**

## PROUD SPONSOR & CONTENT CREATOR FOR THE RHODE ISLAND PHILHARMONIC







iantravisbarnard.com | ian@iantravisbarnard.com

#### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



# Telling the stories that matter TO YOU!

Help inform the future of public media in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts.

Scan QR code below to participate in a quick survey.









## LITE105.COM

# LISTEN LIVE & DOWNLOAD THE APP!

Heather 105





## Welcome to Providence - Your Gateway to Creativity and Culture!

On behalf of the Providence Tourism Council, we extend an invitation to explore our creative capital, where culture, history and creativity converge to offer an unforgettable experience. Immerse yourself in our thriving arts scene, indulge in culinary delights and wander through our historic neighborhoods while you uncover the rich heritage that shapes our city's identity.

Congratulations to the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra & Music School as it works to enrich and transform our community through great music performance and education. Programs like this highlight the many local and national artists, musicians and cultural organizations that contribute to the vibrancy of our creative capital.

As a proud season sponsor, there is much to celebrate as we get to experience this year's concerts, guest artists and conductors that will usher in unique and diverse programs.

Enjoy the concert series!

Alexis Gorriaran Chair & Commissioner



ProvidenceTourism | www.PTCRI.org

## PAMELEE M. MURPHY

Thank you for bringing wonderful music to our community.

Anonymous

Thank you to the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra and Music School for 80 years of beautiful music.

### **BARBARA J. DREYER**

The Winoker Family congratulates the Philharmonic, the Music School, and all of the wonderful talent and joy it brings to our community.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO DONATE!

#### **OUR MISSION**

To enrich and transform Rhode Island and our region through great music performance and education.

667 Waterman Avenue, East Providence, RI 02914 MAIN **401.248.7070** BOX OFFICE **401.248.7000** MUSIC SCHOOL **401.248.7001** FAX **401.248.7071** WEB **riphil.org**