

## Upcoming VCU Music Events

**Faculty Recital: COLLEEN POTTER THORBURN, HARP**

Tuesday, March 15, 2016, 7:30 p.m.

Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall - W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts  
Free admission

**VCU WOMEN'S CHOIR with Longwood University Women's Choir**

Friday, March 18, 2016, 7:30 p.m.

Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall - W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts  
Tickets \$5. Free for VCU students with ID.

**HORSZOWSKI TRIO**

Saturday, March 19, 2016, 8 p.m.

Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall - W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts  
Tickets: \$34 general admission  
\$31 for seniors/VCU Alumni Association members

**VCU GUITAR ALUMNI CONCERT**

Sunday, March 20, 4 p.m.

Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall- W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts  
Tickets: \$15 general admission, \$10 for VCU students

**For tickets and information, visit  
ARTS.VCU.EDU/MUSIC/EVENTS**

Department of Music | School of the Arts | Virginia Commonwealth University  
922 Park Avenue, Room 132 | P.O. Box 842004 | Richmond, VA 23284-2004  
(804) 828-1166 | music@vcu.edu | arts.vcu.edu/music

DEPARTMENT OF  
**MUSIC**

# VCU SYMPHONY

*Daniel Myssyk, Conductor*

*Caleb Paxton, Viola*

**Thursday, March 3, 2016 | 7:30 p.m**

Virginia Commonwealth University  
Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall  
W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts  
922 Park Avenue | Richmond, VA

arts.vcu.edu/music



**vcu** | **vcuarts**

VCU Symphony

**FLUTES**

Kayla Hanvey, piccolo  
Thomas Keel

**OBOES**

Samantha Hoster  
Amanda Hanlon, English horn

**CLARINETS**

Julia Lougheed (rotating), bass  
clarinet  
Nathan Frost (rotating)

**BASSOONS**

Carly Griffith  
Anthony Kavanagh

**HORNS**

Kevin Newton  
Valerie Perham  
Noah Fotis  
Kayla Modlin

**TRUMPETS**

Jonathan Forbes  
Cameron Bessicks  
Zach Forbes

**TROMBONES**

Gabriel Luciano-Carson (rotating)  
Jason Garland (rotating)  
Michael Dickinson

**TUBA**

Jami Hagood

**HARP**

Erin Roukous

**PERCUSSION**

Gilson Fearnow, timpani  
Sam Bradshaw  
Andrew Diehr

**VIOLIN 1**

Marissa Resmini, concertmaster  
Kayla Tilghman  
Alanna North  
Max Lincoln  
Jae Deok Kim  
Susan Bedell\*  
Simon Lapointe\*

**VIOLIN 2**

Nadine Delano  
Grace Kim  
Sean Arzaga  
Terralynn Mikell  
Emma Willis  
Christian Ruiz  
Julia Dugger  
Heejin Weisbrod\*

**VIOLA**

Melissa Miller  
Quinton Folks  
Scott Waterland  
Jasmine Harris  
Tiffany Wong  
Caleb Paxton

**CELLO**

Stephanie Barrett\*  
Madison Erskine  
Dylan Cloyd  
Jack Flores\*

**BASS**

Andrew Brunson  
Kevin Eichenberger  
Andrew Ballard  
Ben Kelly  
Alexander Kehayas  
Brianna Carter

\*guest

**PROGRAM**  
VCU Symphony  
March 3, 2016

**WILLIAM  
WALTON**  
(1902 - 1983)

Concerto for Viola & Orchestra (rev. 1962)

I – Andante comodo

**CALEB PAXTON, VIOLA**

**JEAN  
SIBELIUS**  
(1865 - 1957)

Symphony No. 1 in E minor (1899)

I – Andante, ma non troppo – Allegro  
energico

II – Andante (ma non troppo lento)

III – Scherzo. Allegro

IV – Finale (Quasi una Fantasia)  
Andante



## Program Notes

In 1899, Sibelius left Helsinki seeking solace in his country residence in Kerava, just north of the city. His daughters and wife Aino remained behind. Tsar Nicholas II had moved to claim control of Finland with his 'February Manifesto' of that year, flatly ignoring the 500,000 signatures of protest from Finland. In Kerava, Sibelius continued work on his *First Symphony* along with *Song of the Athenians*. *Song of the Athenians* captured an emerging spirit of protest to Russian rule. Both compositions, as well as the tone poem version of *The Wood-Nymph*, premiered at the University Hall in Helsinki. He conducted the Helsinki Philharmonic, and afterwards made revisions to produce the score used in most performances today. Sibelius and his music became symbolically intertwined with Finland's fight for independence.

A few major influences in Sibelius's works include references to the Nordic national epic poem, the *Kalevala*, as well as nature. As a child, Jean Sibelius found a unique freedom in his summers spent in the coastal town Loviisa: "For me, Loviisa represented sun and happiness, Hämeenlinna was where I went to school. Loviisa was freedom."

Sibelius' *Symphony No. 1 in E minor, Op. 39*, was completed over the course of 1898-99. The first of the four movements is widely regarded as its most successful. The opening clarinet solo and timpani roll are a highly original feature.

*Program notes prepared by Harrison Holland*

## Biographies

Violist **Caleb Paxton** is a second year student in performance at VCU Music. Passionate about chamber music above all else, he finds no greater joy than the opportunity to make meaningful music with and for those he cares about, and is grateful for such an opportunity tonight. Caleb is a proud alumnus of The Governor's School for the Arts in Norfolk, Virginia, and a consistent participant of music festivals such as Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival in Burlington, Vermont. Caleb has studied under many inspirational women, including Karen Ritscher, Stephanie Baer, Anastasia Migliozi and Karey Sitzler. Caleb is a current student of Molly Sharp and wishes to extend his sincere gratitude for her patience, wisdom, and guidance in the past two years, and those to come. Tonight, he would like to dedicate his performance to his tenacious and wonderful mother, Tammy Paxton.

In 2015, Associate Professor **Daniel Myssyk** made his debut with the Guanajuato Symphony Orchestra (Mexico) where he was immediately invited back. His fall schedule included performances in Montreal, with Appassionata Chamber Orchestra, the U.S. and Mexico from where he just returned after conducting the Michoacan Symphony Orchestra and the Guanajuato Symphony. He continued to further his relationship with the Richmond Symphony Orchestra and lead RSYO throughout the fall season. In addition, he recently conducted the Senior Regional Orchestra in Northern Virginia. In 2012, he brought Appassionata on its first American tour, which included two concerts in Richmond. The orchestra also toured before enthused audiences in Ontario in January of 2014. Myssyk conducts repertoire from the classical, romantic, modern and contemporary periods with great attention to stylistically appropriate detail. He maintains a continuous engagement with opera in a variety of styles ranging from Mozart to Menotti. Sensitive to the music of our time, he has contributed to the creation of many contemporary North-American works, including the world-premiere of Anthony Brandt's opera, "The Birth of Something" with Da Camera in Houston. Under his leadership, two recent VCU Opera productions of *The Gondoliers* (2015) and *The Old Maid and the Thief* (2012) won First Prizes and a third, *Hansel & Gretel* (2011), won Second Prize at the National Opera Association competition. His involvement toward the youth reflects a well-honed passion for music education. In addition to his work at VCU, he is a regular collaborator with the All-Virginia State Orchestra, the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, the Richmond Symphony Youth Orchestra, and the Hampton Roads Chamber Players, among others. Myssyk's recordings have received widespread critical acclaim. In 2012, he completed the recording of "Czech Serenades" with works by Suk and Dvorak. The CD was in nomination for best recording of the year at the "ADISQ" awards, Quebec's equivalent of the Grammys and at the Prix Opus from the Conseil québécois de la musique. Jean-Yves Duperron of the Classical wrote: "Conductor Daniel Myssyk and the members of the Appassionata Chamber Orchestra ply their magic in this music, and shape each and every phrase, and infuse each and every note, with care and sincere expression. I've rarely heard these two works played with this much conviction."