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String Bass

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ALL CREATURES GREAT & SMALL

DECEMBER 8, 2018 • 3:30 PM

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James Villani
Music Director

ManassasSymphony.org

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Manassas Symphony Orchestra Presents

ALL CREATURES GREAT & SMALL

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

BOB MARSH

Welcome to our Annual Family Concert, All Creatures Great and Small. This afternoon's program is sure to entertain patrons both young and old with a concert of delightful music about animals of all sizes. We are in for a special treat when the orchestra's very own 10th grade string bass prodigy, Raegan Fisher, performs as our featured soloist. While Raegan Fisher may be young, she is extremely great in her musical stature. This concert also features Jim Beckel's Waltz of the Animals and we conclude our family concert with our exclusive Indoor Light Show Spectacular!

Midway through the concert our conductor, James Villani, will come down into the audience to take questions from some of our smallest patrons. This is always one of the highlights of the afternoon. Will the Maestro be stumped again this year?

All the musicians that you see in front of you volunteer their time and musical talent to make the MSO a success. Travelling from all around the region, the mission and music of the MSO is a labor of love for each of them. Many in the orchestra are music teachers in our schools.

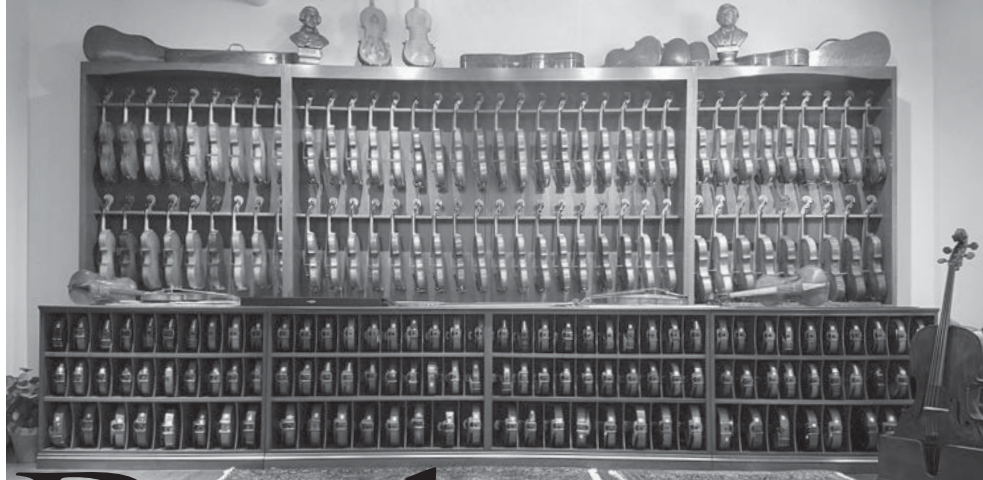
Following the concert as you pass through the beautiful Hylton Center Didlake Grand Foyer, we hope you will take the opportunity to greet our talented MSO musicians and Raegan Fisher, our soloist, to thank them for their dedication in bringing you this wonderful music.

Please consider becoming one of our most valued patrons by supporting the MSO with a monetary donation. Your donations will help us to continue to grow and develop into the inspirational community orchestra that we are today – recognized locally and nationally for excellence. You will find a donation form in this program to facilitate your contribution. Thank you for your generosity and support for the MSO. For more information regarding the symphony, membership, donations, and tickets, please visit ManassasSymphony.org. You may also reach us at 703-853-0749 or by email at info@manassassymphony.org.

Thank you for joining us and enjoy the concert.
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ABOUT THE CONDUCTOR

JAMES VILLANI, MUSIC DIRECTOR



James Villani has been the conductor and music director of the Symphony since 2004. As a long-time strong advocate for continuing adult music education and volunteerism in the arts, Mr. Villani has been involved in community musical organizations since coming to Northern Virginia in 1986. He was associate conductor and clarinetist for the Reston Chamber Orchestra for 10 years, and has been involved with countless other area performances.

He is an active judge and clinician for local music festivals and competitions. He is a member of the League of American Orchestras and the Conductors Guild. Mr. Villani was a semi-finalist for The American Prize for Community Orchestra Conductors in 2010.

A native of New Castle, Pennsylvania, Mr. Villani began playing clarinet in school at the age of 8. He honed his skills, as many in town did, in the back room of Al Colella's Shoe Store, where Mr. Colella taught a steady stream of clarinetists for decades while servicing the occasional shoe customer. Later, while in high school, Mr. Villani studied with Carl Marks, a noted faculty member at Duquesne University and Youngstown State University's Dana School of Music. Mr. Marks was himself a student of the legendary Daniel Bonade.

Mr. Villani received Bachelor's Degrees in Clarinet Performance and Music Education from Penn State University, where he studied with Smith Toulson and was a member of every major ensemble, from the marching Blue Band to the Symphony Orchestra. Among his PSU highlights were four major bowl games, playing tenor saxophone in Disney's All-American College Marching Band at the grand opening of the EPCOT theme park, and performing with the Pittsburgh Symphony under the baton of Michael Tilson Thomas.

He received a Master of Music in Conducting from Northwestern University, where he studied conducting with John P. Paynter and was a graduate assistant for the university wind ensembles. He had a rather unique opportunity for a conducting major -- playing bass clarinet in the top wind ensemble alongside classmates who are now members of top symphony orchestras, including the principal clarinetist of the Houston Symphony. Mr. Villani was also a student of Clark Brody, principal clarinetist of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under Fritz Reiner, and Alan Stout, a renowned contemporary composer.

Mr. Villani taught in the public schools of Chalfont, PA; East Palestine, Ohio; and at Stonewall Jackson High School in Manassas. Mr. Villani is an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Northern Virginia Community College.



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The October performance and master class by Marcolivia was partially supported by funding from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts



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TODAY'S PROGRAM

ALL CREATURES GREAT & SMALL

MANASSAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Saturday, December 8, 2018 • 3:30 p.m.

Merchant Hall of the Hylton Performing Arts Center

James Villani • Music Director

Raegan Fisher • Bass | Molly Elston • Narrator

Kurt Gustafson • Light Show Choreographer

Introduction and the

Lion's Royal March* Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)
arr. James Villani

Old MacDonald Leroy Anderson (1908-75)

Concert Selections from

Fantastic Beasts and

Where to Find Them James Newton Howard (b. 1951)
arr. Patrick Roszell

The Elephant* C. Saint-Saëns

The Swan* C. Saint-Saëns
orch. Paul Vidal / rev. J. Villani

Miss Fisher, soloist

Chicken Reel L. Anderson

Tortoises* C. Saint-Saëns

Waltz of the Animals James Beckel (b. 1948)

Ms. Elston, narrator

Sleigh Ride L. Anderson

MSO's Exclusive Light Show Spectacular!

Christmas Blast arr. Anthony DiLorenzo (b. 1967)

*from *Carnival of the Animals*

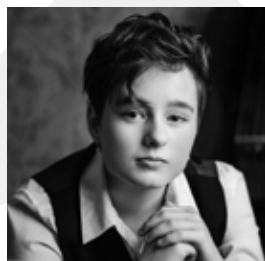
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GUEST ARTISTS

RAEGAN FISHER • MOLLY ELSTON



When **Raegan Fisher** began playing the cello and tenor saxophone in the sixth grade at age eleven, few people that age took music performance as seriously as she did. Ms. Fisher immediately developed a love for classical music, and her supportive orchestra director, Mr. Joel Ross, spotted her strong talent early and switched her to the double bass in the middle of her sixth-grade year. She progressed very quickly on the instrument, and so Mr. Ross invited her to join the high school select string ensemble starting in the seventh grade to keep her challenged. In less than four years, Ms. Fisher has achieved top honors in her performing endeavors, is already playing gigs professionally in her home area in the northern Shenandoah Valley mostly with her string quintet, and with the support of the orchestra is now in her second season performing with the Manassas Symphony.

Very shortly after switching Ms. Fisher to double bass, Mr. Ross recommended that she pursue private advanced training. She then began studying under Mrs. Inez Wyrick of Winchester, Virginia, an internationally sought-after double bass pedagogist and adjudicator. Mrs. Wyrick has built and managed successful programs for strings students at Texas Tech and Indiana University and has taught fine bassists from age five through adulthood. Her vast knowledge has taught Ms. Fisher the finer points of double bass technique, exposed her to many different genres of classical music, and helped Ms. Fisher shape her own personal style. Mrs. Wyrick was instrumental in arranging for Ms. Fisher to perform with the Shenandoah Valley Youth Chamber Orchestra at Shenandoah University under the direction of Mrs. Catherine Nelson, for which she served as principal double bassist for two seasons. Ms. Fisher has simultaneously studied under Dr. Donovan Stokes, a double bass professor and performer at Shenandoah University, who has helped further clarify her technique and has helped her find her strength and inner passion. Both Mrs. Wyrick and Dr. Stokes have served on the board of directors for the International Society of Bassists. Under their combined tutelage, Ms. Fisher has excelled with some of the most difficult music in the standard repertoire for the double bass. She has also had the privilege of receiving specialized training under world-renowned double bassists Andres Martin, Adam Booker, and Zach Rowden. Her many influences have resulted in a very rich musical journey.

Raegan Fisher has been very competitive in auditions for regional performing ensembles. In the seventh grade, Ms. Fisher successfully auditioned for the Shenandoah All-County High School Orchestra, and in the last three years since the eighth grade has been the principal bassist for the top chamber orchestra in that annual event. She has also been the principal bassist for the last two years in the



top performing group of the Shenandoah All-County Band. After playing double bass for less than a year, Ms. Fisher successfully auditioned for the Virginia Junior Regional Orchestra, and then ascended to first chair Virginia JRO in the eighth grade. She decided to audition for Virginia Senior Regional Orchestra in the ninth grade and made principal and in the same year went on to audition for Virginia All-State Band & Orchestra and participated in that event, as well. Ms. Fisher is now in the tenth grade, and this fall, she just finished up with the Virginia SRO and is eligible to audition for Virginia All-State Band & Orchestra again this spring.

During the summers, Raegan Fisher is fully engaged in music camps and workshops on the double bass. Ms. Fisher has received advanced intensive training from some of the best college-level music educators at the Bass Coalition event in Winchester, Virginia for the last three summers, organized by Mrs. Wyrick and Dr. Stokes. Last summer, she expanded her knowledge beyond classical music by studying jazz performance at the Shenandoah Summer Arts Academy under Ms. Megan Hendrix, and she has also performed in the Shenandoah Summer Strings every year, a fun annual event for grade-school children of all ages. Ms. Fisher performs regularly with a string quintet formed from the top string players from her school, and they have performed for many VIPs in and around her home area in the northern Shenandoah Valley. For a different flavor and change of pace, Ms. Fisher plays an electric double bass in the Strasburg High School Purple Regiment marching band, under the direction of Mr. Christopher Szuba.

By invitation, Raegan Fisher played with the Manassas Symphony Orchestra in the 2017 Summer Pops Concert at the Harris Pavilion in Manassas, Virginia. She enjoyed it immensely, and since then she has remained a faithful member and has so far performed with the MSO throughout the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 seasons. Aspiring to pursue a professional career in double bass performance, Raegan Fisher is certain that her experiences with the Manassas Symphony Orchestra will provide her with invaluable knowledge, unforgettable memories, and long-lasting friendships.



Molly Elston is a professional voice over artist. Besides being the voice of commercials, websites, and online tutorials, she has narrated thirty audio books, including the Kate Lawrence Mysteries and the Amanda Brown Series. Regionally she has appeared with Prince William Little Theater, Rooftop Players, and she, along with her husband, is the voice of the Greater Manassas Christmas Parade and has enjoyed reading with the Manassas Symphony Orchestra in previous years. Among her theater and opera

credits, Molly sang with the Lyric Opera Company in New York. She has a degree in Theater from the Ohio State University and is the Production Manager for the School of Theater at George Mason University.

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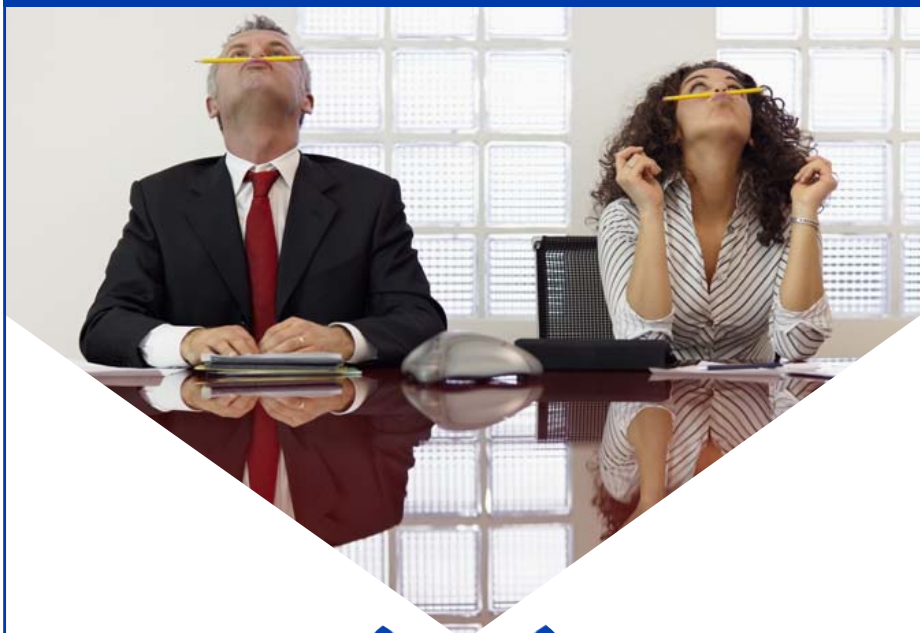
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Saturday, December 8, 2018 at 3:30 p.m.

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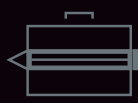
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Chris White • cwhite743@aol.com • 703-327-1144

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Emil Cheytanov • dimel_sound@yahoo.com
571-224-4417 • www.manassasquartet.com

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