

**Classical Movements Presents:**  
**“Sounds of Hope &  
Harmony”**

*Intimate, outdoor one-hour concerts  
for socially distanced audiences*

**“Night-Shining White”**

**Music for Percussion and Brass**

**August 8, 2020 | 6:00 PM & 7:30 PM**

**Music for Percussion**

**Head to Toe**

**Purity**

Molly Joyce

**Argoru VII**

Alvin Singleton

**Umi**

Andy Akiho

Scott Christian, Percussion

**Music for Brass**

**Night-Shining White**

Zhou Tian

**Quintet No. 3 in D-flat Major**

Victor Ewald

I. Allegro moderato

II. Intermezzo

III. Andante

IV. Vivo

**"Boy meets Horn"**

Duke Ellington, arr. Kenneth Amis

William Gerlach, Trumpet | Amy McCabe, Guest Trumpet

Robert Rearden, Horn | David Murray, Trombone

Stephen Dumaine, Tuba

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### **Fitness Together**

*Fitness Together is a personal training studio in Alexandria, VA (housed 200 feet from the Rectory garden) and is dedicated to helping people feel healthier and make lifestyle changes. They have three private suites with different exercise equipment they use to build customized strength and cardiovascular training programs for each individual client.*

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## **Performers**

### **Musicians of the National Symphony Orchestra**

**Scott Christian**, Percussion

**William Gerlach**, Trumpet

**Amy McCabe**, Guest Trumpet

**Robert Rearden**, Horn

**David Murray**, Trombone

**Stephen Dumaine**, Tuba

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## **Introduction and Program Notes**

**Classical Movements** welcomes you back to our “Secret Garden” at the Rectory, our home in Old Town Alexandria. This evening, we are delighted to bring you this next installment in our “Sounds of Hope & Harmony” series. Tonight we bring you exciting and fresh contemporary and recent works performed by musicians of the percussion and brass sections of the National Symphony Orchestra, our longtime clients and partners.

## -- Classical Movements

Our program this evening begins with a soloist. **Scott Christian**, percussionist, performs four contemporary pieces for percussion with an amazing array of instruments, from glockenspiel to snare drum to digital playback.

The first two works come from contemporary composer Molly Joyce. After a childhood car accident resulted in an impaired left hand, Joyce's music has grown to largely center around accessibility, and tapping disability as a creative source. Much of her work uses small and/or unconventional instruments (including the electric vintage toy organ that is her signature,) and she has achieved notable and critically-lauded creativity from her work with these media.

The first piece, **Head to Toe**, is scored for glockenspiel, ankle bells, and pitched desk bells. The glockenspiel, so often associated with delicacy and an almost twee or childish sound, kicks off the piece with a jaunty and driving motif. Accompanied by regular bursts of sound from the ankle and desk bells, the piece's repetitive cycle intensifies and continues to a climax, then ebbs away until only fragments remain.

Notes on the next work on the program, **Purity**, come from the composer herself. Joyce writes, "*Purity* seeks to play with the pure sound of the vibraphone and specifically through prepared notes with foil which gradually enter. The vibraphone has traditionally been one of my favorite percussion instruments to write for in chamber and large ensemble contexts, however this was my first time writing it for a solo player. I thus wanted to highlight my love of the vibraphone's pure, pitched sound but also explore the varying additional timbres it offers, such as with the sustain pedal and with preparation of aluminum foil under and/or around the keyboard bars. Therefore through incorporating, I hope to add a visual element to vibraphone playing of the seen/unseen and the sound one expects to hear from such, as well as truly amplifying and distorting such pure sound to new possibilities."

Our next piece, **Argoru VII**, by distinguished contemporary composer Alvin Singleton, is one of a series of solo works for various instruments by the same name. "Argoru," a word from the Ghanaian Twi language, means "to play." In this dynamic and unpredictable piece, Singleton uses the famously eery tones of the vibraphone

to great effect, switching precipitously from rapidly ascending and descending passages to sparse long tones. The piece seems to evoke a call and response or echoing effect, and is a dramatic, economical, and thoughtful study of the capabilities of this unique instrument.

The set of pieces for solo percussion is closed with the charming **Umi**, by trailblazing contemporary composer Andy Akiho. Inspired by and, indeed, centered around a recording of a dog barking (the piece's namesake,) this work is for snare drum and digital playback, provided to performers on a flash drive. The jarring and sharp rhythms of the snare drum are paired humorously with the electronically-modified dog barks, to vigorous effect. Part way through the piece, the drum is uncovered, and the drum and recording converge in a cacophony of groovy rhythmic intricacy. This decidedly light-hearted piece brings us to the end of tonight's brilliant solo percussion performance.

We now move to a fabulous brass quintet of players also from the National Symphony. They start off their set with another relatively short contemporary work, **Night-Shining White**, by Grammy-nominated Chinese-American composer Zhou Tian. The piece, with an almost Copland-like broad tonality, evokes wide vistas and grand images, and was inspired by a painting of a horse by the same name, the beloved companion of Emperor Xuanzong of the Tang Dynasty of China. The painting currently hangs in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The composer was, in his own words, "drawn to the expressiveness and liveliness of the painting," and felt that "the dark color of the brass quintet would create a fitting soundscape to express muscularity as well as lyricism." The stately beginning gives gradual rise to a more jaunty and militaristic middle, and the piece ends with a thrilling flourish.

We continue with a classic of the brass quintet repertoire, **Quintet No. 3 in Db Major**, by 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-century Russian composer Victor Ewald. Trained at the St. Petersburg Conservatory from a young age, Ewald remained an active amateur composer throughout his life, while achieving an accomplished career as a civil engineer. His works include what are thought to be the first for the modern brass quintet as we now know it, and demonstrate a familiarity with brass instruments that show through in this lovely and elegant composition.

The first movement, *Allegro Moderato*, is a bright and cheery romp with more than a little of the nostalgic



romanticism that makes late 19<sup>th</sup>-century Russian music so distinctive. The second movement is a charming *Intermezzo*, see-sawing from a lyrical opening, to a spritely middle section that could perhaps evoke a marching band, and back to the careful and somewhat plodding theme from the opening. The third movement, an *Andante* in a luxurious minor key, slowly unfolds rapturously into a broad and expressive melody, long and flowing, with dramatic upward leaps and glissandos to highlight the capabilities of each instrument. The work closes with a flexible and lively *Vivo*, with a twisting and chromatic minor section in the middle that gives way very gradually to a bright and cheery finale.

Our closing work tonight is an arrangement for brass quintet of Duke Ellington's classic, **Boy Meets Horn**. This laidback and classy but slightly cheeky tune was originally recorded in 1938 by the Duke Ellington Orchestra. Ellington is well-known as a native of Washington, DC.

We hope that this program and the opportunity to once again hear live music brings you the same joy and hope it has brought to us. We wish you good health and comfort and we hope to see you back in the Secret Garden soon for more gorgeous music in an enchanting setting.

Until then – take care!

--Classical Movements

**“Sounds of Hope & Harmony”**

## Coming Soon

Saturdays at 6pm, 7:30pm | Chamber, Choral, Opera, Jazz

### **August 15, 2020**

#### **An Evening of Grand Opera, Italian and American Art Songs**

Issachah Savage, tenor | Joy Schreier, piano

*Gorgeous arias and expressive art songs by Verdi, Wagner, Strauss, Tosti, Donaudy and Margaret Bonds*

### **September 12, 2020**

#### **“A Brand New Day:” Choral Music Returns!**

The Choir of Hope & Harmony

Anthony Blake Clark, conductor

*Twelve professional singers perform 400 years of compelling choral music by Byrd, Britten, Panufnik, Coleridge-Taylor, Barnett and more on themes of hope in times of uncertainty*

### **September 19, 2020**

#### **“An Evening of Novel Ensembles” – Chamber Music**

Members of the National Symphony Orchestra:

Ira Gold, bass | Alexander Jacobsen, bass

Charles Nilles, bass | Jeffrey Weisner, bass

Jamie Roberts, oboe | Paul Cigan, clarinet | Ying Fu, violin

Daniel Foster, viola | Alexander Jacobsen, bass

*An ambitious, imaginative and eclectic program featuring Prokofiev’s famous Quintet in G minor for oboe, clarinet, violin, viola, and double bass and one-of-a-kind arrangements for double-bass quartet of classical and pop hits by Gershwin, Bach, O’Connor, Bjork, A-Ha, Seal and the Beatles*

### **September 26, 2020**

#### **“Cabaret in the Twilight” – Jazz & Musical Theatre**

Awa Sal Secka | Christian Douglas

*The night lights up with jazz, musical theater and popular music, featuring the music of George Gershwin, Stephen Sondheim, Billy Joel, Sara Bareilles and original music by local performers Awa Sal Secka and Christian Douglas*

**[Click here for tickets and more information:](#)**

**<https://www.classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts/>**



### **About Classical Movements**

The premier concert tour company for the world's great orchestras and choirs, [Classical Movements](#) creates meaningful cultural experiences through music in 145 countries. An industry leader for 28 years, Classical Movements organizes more than 60 tours every year, producing some 200 concerts every season. Producer of two international choral festivals—Ihlombe! in South Africa and Serenade! in Washington, D.C. — and the Prague Summer Nights: Young Artists Music Festival. In addition, Classical Movements' Eric Daniel Helms New Music Program has commissioned 97 works from Grammy, Oscar and Pulitzer Prize-winning composers. Winner of Americans for the Arts' BCA10: Best Businesses Partnering with the Arts Award, since its founding in 1992, as a truly global company, Classical Movements remains committed to facilitating cultural diplomacy across the world—promoting peace through the medium of music.

### **About the Rectory**

Built in 1785 and the home of Classical Movements' offices since 2014, the building formerly served as the rectory of the nearby historic Christ Church, once the church of George Washington. Since then, it has been owned by several distinguished Virginians and has been a commercial space since the 1960's. Located in the heart of beautiful Old Town Alexandria at 711 Princess Street, the Rectory is minutes away from the shops and restaurants of bustling King Street and is easily accessible by bus and metro.