

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Alexandria, VA**

## **Secret Garden Concerts' Spring 2022 Season**

**Alexandria City Council votes unanimously to renew approval**

**30 Concerts | March 10 – June 23 | Concerts 96 – 124, since June 2020**

**Chamber Music | Art Song | Opera | Jazz | Early Music | Folk | Afghan | Cuban**

After receiving unanimous approval from the Alexandria City Council and Planning Commission to continue their groundbreaking series of live concerts in the heart of Old Town Alexandria, Classical Movements is proud to announce the 2022 Spring Season of 30 concerts at the historic Rectory on Princess Street.

Moving on from “Sounds of Hope & Harmony,” a name intended to respond to the silence of live music imposed by the pandemic, the series that brought classical music back to the United States returns to the historic Rectory on Princess Street under the new name of **The Secret Garden Concerts**. The 2022 spring concert season continues the features that have established the series as a beloved fixture of Alexandria’s cultural life: **thoughtful, imaginative programming, world-class performers, and an intimate garden setting whose beauty changes with the seasons.**

The programs in the 2022 spring season feature acclaimed and rising artists making their debuts in the Secret Garden, as well as return performances by prominent, award-winning artists. Showcasing repertoire that ranges from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries and from familiar masterworks to delightful rarities, the 2022 season offers unforgettable delights for every palate.

### ***Expanded Capacity, Increased Accessibility***

In 2021, a condition of Classical Movements’ special use permit limited audiences to 50 seats; as a result patrons had to be turned away or forced to stand during sold-out programs.

With the approval of expanded audience capacity, the Secret Garden Concerts will not only be able to accommodate more guests, but plans to expand its ticket donation programs for disabled



veterans, families of fallen soldiers, first responders, and underprivileged children. The series has already introduced discounted tickets for veterans and children.

### ***Newly Arrived Afghan Refugee Musician Featured in Newest Offering***

In past seasons have introduced innovative offerings including the **Savory Soirees**, luxurious pairings of fine food and musical programs, and **Alexandria's first staged opera performances**. Now, the Secret Garden Concerts introduces its newest program: **A Little Good Night Music**, relaxed evening concerts in the Atrium.



This special pre-season event features a cross-cultural musical dialogue between flamenco guitarist and vocalist **Wadih Ettabbakh**, who wowed audiences in the Autumn 2021 season opener, and tabla-player **Hamid Raouf Habib Zada**, a musician who narrowly escaped from Afghanistan in the summer of 2021. This program showcases a fascinating interplay between the traditions of flamenco and Hindustani classical music and reflecting the musicians' own multicultural experiences.

### ***Highlights of the Spring Season***

Every concert in the Secret Garden Concert Series features a carefully curated program, but particularly notable offerings in the coming season include:

Mexican soprano **Judy Yannini** offers a program of arias from operas and zarzuelas on April 14<sup>th</sup>, presented in association with INseries. The latest in a series of high profile appearances, Yannini performs dazzling selections from operas and zarzuelas, the operettas popular throughout the Spanish-speaking world in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Critically-acclaimed pianist **Vijay Venkatesh** travels to the Secret Garden from Los Angeles for a solo recital of piano music by the great composers of the Romantic age on May 19<sup>th</sup>, including Beethoven's evocative "Moonlight" Sonata, on the Rectory's 94-year-old Haines Brothers grand piano in its first appearance in the Secret Garden

From June 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>, opera returns to Alexandria with **Mozart's beloved *The Marriage of***



***Figaro***. Featuring a cast of gifted young musicians, this delightful and immersive staging of Mozart's subversive comedy is the culmination of the Alexandria Summer Nights residency, a whirlwind 10-day program of production and instruction.

Other programs feature returning artists including Grammy Award-nominated lutenist and early music specialist **Ronn McFarlane**, internationally celebrated cellist **Amit Peled**, father-son bluegrass duo **Ken and Brad Kolodner**, soprano



**Shana Oshiro and musicians from the National Symphony**, as well as a **Juneteenth celebration concert** in collaboration with the Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts. Please see full season details attached.

### ***Secret Garden Concerts Since June 2020***

Three months into the Covid-19 pandemic that silenced orchestras, choruses and performances around the world, **Classical Movements** became the first to bring back live classical music on June 20, 2020 in outdoor, socially-distanced concerts at the **company's historic home in Old Town Alexandria, The Rectory on Princess Street**. Following the success of that event and in response to demand from audiences and artists alike, the series continued even as established venues reopened and ensembles resumed public performances.

Since June 2020, Classical Movements has presented 97 concerts by 258 musicians in the Secret Garden Concert Series, performing for over 3,000 delighted audience members. The innovative model Classical Movements introduced in June 2020 was adopted across the country, featuring hour-long programs presented without an intermission for limited audiences. In recognition of the series' vision, Classical Movements' President Neeta Helms was honored as one of Musical America's 2021 "Top 30 Professionals of the Year," in a special report profiling *The Pandemic: Meeting the Moment*.

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





## About Classical Movements

The premier concert tour company for the world's great [orchestras](#) and [choirs](#), **Classical Movements** is a Small, Woman- and Minority-Owned Business that creates meaningful cultural experiences through music in **145 countries**. An industry leader for over a **quarter-century**, **Classical Movements** organizes more than 60 tours every year, producing some 200 concerts every season. Producer of two international choral festivals—**Ihlonbe!** 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. During Covid-19, Classical Movements has continued to lead the way with innovative projects representing a pivot towards domestic touring and international tours for individuals and small groups, as well as presenting the first live chamber concerts in the United States since the pandemic.

## 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.

## Press Contacts

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