

FSO FAIRFAX SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

CHRISTOPHER ZIMMERMAN | MUSIC DIRECTOR

25/26
SEASON





The Lark & Four Seasons

Saturday, October 11 | 8pm

Center for the Arts at George Mason University

Christopher Zimmerman, conductor

William Hagen, violin

Vaughan Williams

The Lark Ascending

Vaughan Williams

Symphony No. 5

Richter

Recomposed:

Vivaldi – The Four Seasons

Experience a soundscape of beauty with a program that bridges tradition and innovation.

Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending* is a lyrical evocation of the English countryside, where a solo violin soars like a birdsong over a shimmering orchestral backdrop. Then, immerse yourself in the spiritual depth and quiet strength of his Symphony No. 5, a deeply moving work born out of wartime darkness and infused with hope and transcendence.

Ground-breaking composer Max Richter's reimagining of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* topped the classical charts in 22 countries, and continues to captivate audiences worldwide in countless soundtracks such as *Bridgerton* and *The Crown*.

An Evening with Yo-Yo Ma

Saturday, December 6 | 8pm
Center for the Arts at George Mason University
Christopher Zimmerman, conductor

Legendary cellist **Yo-Yo Ma** — “the best-known, most versatile music soloist in the world” (*Washington Post*) — joins the FSO for an unforgettable all-Shostakovich program celebrating the **120th anniversary** of the composer’s birth. Ma performs the **Cello Concerto No. 1**, an emotionally charged work that highlights his extraordinary artistry. With 19 GRAMMY Awards and over 120 albums, Ma’s career embodies the power of music to connect and uplift. The FSO also performs Shostakovich’s deeply expressive Symphony No. 6.

Subscribers get FIRST ACCESS to this one-night-only performance!

Shostakovich
Cello Concerto No. 1

Shostakovich
Symphony No. 6



Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker

with The Fairfax Ballet

Saturday, December 20 | 4pm

Sunday, December 21 | 4pm

Center for the Arts at George Mason University

Christopher Zimmerman, FSO Music Director and Conductor

Andrea Cook, Fairfax Ballet Artistic Director

The Fairfax Symphony joins The Fairfax Ballet in a special collaboration to present the timeless holiday favorite, *The Nutcracker*. This unique production in the Washington metropolitan region features live musical accompaniment! The Fairfax Ballet Company performs the magical dance to Tchaikovsky's unforgettable score performed live by the Fairfax Symphony.

Enjoy a winter wonderland of dancing snowflakes, candy canes, sugar plum fairies, and epic battles between heroic toy soldiers and mischievous mice. It's the perfect holiday treat for the entire family!



The Soul of Tango with Berta Rojas

Saturday, February 7, 2026 | 8pm
Harris Theatre at George Mason University

Christopher Zimmerman, conductor

Berta Rojas, guitar

Step into a vibrant world of bold storytelling and irresistible rhythm with the music of Astor Piazzolla, the Argentine composer who transformed the art of the tango.

Berta Rojas ranks among today's foremost classical guitarists. *The Washington Post* has praised her as "guitarist extraordinaire" and *Classical Guitar Magazine* as "Ambassador of the classical guitar." Berta was awarded a Latin Grammy for her album *Legado* in the category of Best Classical Album, and her acknowledged warmth and musicality have earned her the admiration of audiences worldwide.

Stravinsky

"A Soldier's Tale"

Piazzolla

Sinfonietta

Piazzolla

"History of Tango" for
guitar and orchestra





Virtuoso Visionaries

Saturday, March 7, 2026 | 8pm

Center for the Arts at George Mason University

Christopher Zimmerman, conductor

Demarre McGill, flute

Leshnoff

Radiance

Mozart

Flute Concerto No. 2

Leshnoff

Flute Concerto No. 2
(World Premiere)

Mendelssohn

Symphony No. 4 “Italian”

One of the most sought-after flutists of his generation, Demarre McGill, Principal Flute of the Seattle Symphony, brings his rich, expressive tone to Mozart’s Flute Concerto No. 2, followed by the highly anticipated World Premiere of Jonathan Leshnoff’s Flute Concerto No. 2 — a powerful new work written to showcase McGill’s expressive depth and virtuosic command.

The evening concludes with the radiant Mendelssohn: Symphony No. 4 “Italian,” inspired by his travels through Italy and brimming with energy and exuberant rhythms. As the composer wrote, “the whole country had such a festive air that I felt as if I were a young prince making his entry... this will be the happiest piece I have ever written.”



Rick Steves' Europe: A Symphonic Journey

Sunday, March 29, 2026 | 5pm
Center for the Arts at George Mason University
Christopher Zimmerman, conductor
Rick Steves, host & narrator

Best known for his acclaimed PBS series and bestselling travel guides, Rick Steves invites audiences on a different kind of journey — A Symphonic Journey.

Join Rick and the FSO for an unforgettable musical tour across Europe. From the sweeping landscapes of Italy and Norway to the charm of England, Austria, and beyond, this unique program pairs Romantic-era masterpieces by composers including Grieg, Verdi, Strauss, and Beethoven with stunning visuals and captivating storytelling.

With Rick Steves as your tour guide, discover the rich history behind these timeless works — bringing each note to life in a whole new way.

Prokofiev: Sounds of Genius

Sunday, May 31, 2026 | 4pm

Center for the Arts at George Mason University

Christopher Zimmerman, conductor

Claire Huangci, piano

The evening opens with selections from *Romeo and Juliet*, the bold and emotionally charged ballet score that brings Shakespeare's tragic lovers vividly to life. Acclaimed pianist **Claire Huangci** then joins the orchestra for **Piano Concerto No. 3**, a dazzling showcase of pianistic fireworks. The program culminates with Prokofiev's powerful **Symphony No. 5**, composed during the final months of World War II as a statement of hope and humanity.

Following its American premiere by the Boston Symphony in 1945, *Time Magazine* featured Prokofiev on its cover, quoting conductor **Serge Koussevitzky's** praise: "[The Fifth Symphony is] the greatest musical event in many, many years. The greatest since Brahms and Tchaikovsky! It is magnificent! It is yesterday, it is today, it is tomorrow."

Prokofiev

Selections from
Romeo & Juliet

Prokofiev

Piano Concerto No. 3

Prokofiev

Symphony No. 5



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— *The Washington Post*

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