

VALDOSTA
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA



26
37TH CONCERT SEASON
27

www.valdostasympphony.org



From

David L. Cummings

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 concert season of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra!

Our symphony works hand in hand with the Valdosta State University to bring together students, professors, and other professional musicians in a high standard of performance on the stage. Without this symbiotic relationship, the VSO could not exist.

Additionally, because of your donations, patronage, sponsorships, and ticket purchases, we can experience live orchestral music with outstanding musicians here in Valdosta year after year. You make the VSO possible! It is your orchestra!

This new season promises to be another one full of excellent musical performances. If you have not yet experienced the VSO, I invite you to give us a listen. Who knows? You may find a new passion in your life!

The first concert of the 37th season of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra is October 24th, so get your season tickets, tell your friends, and get ready! It is going to be great!

All the best,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "David Cummings". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David L. Cummings
Acting Chair, VSO Advisory Board



Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that the 2026-27 season will mark my 18th year as Music Director of the VSO.

I still remember my first visit to Valdosta, not knowing what to expect during my audition and interview week leading up to the concert.

I was struck by Valdosta's tight-knit, arts-loving community and a daring university that supported an innovative professional orchestra-in-residence.

From my first rehearsal with the VSO to the present, I have been amazed that I have the honor of working with such a wonderful orchestra that combines talented students, distinguished faculty colleagues and other accomplished professional musicians.

It is this unique formula that created your Valdosta Symphony Orchestra, a gem of the region that is the envy of larger cities that don't have their own orchestra. I am so excited to present another season that demonstrates the power of live classical music.

Thank you for your continued support!

Cordially,



Howard Hsu
Music Director





ONE

October 24, 2026 • 7 pm • Whitehead Auditorium

Frankenstein

- Film with orchestra. Score by Michael Shapiro
- The VSO performs the soundtrack to a screening of the classic 1931 film.

DIRECTOR'S DIALOGUE: 6:15 p.m.



Concert Sponsor

Celebrate
HALLOWEEN
with
FRANKENSTEIN

“ The audience was riveted to their seats...The power of the live music with the classic film was hypnotic. ”

- Cashbox Magazine



- ▶ Attend in your favorite costume
- ▶ Participate in our Cosplay Competition for prizes
- ▶ Trick-or-Treating after the show!



Tickets \$36/\$33/\$26 each

VISIT US!

(229) 333-2150

www.valdostasympphony.org

TWO

November 21, 2026 • 7 pm • Whitehead Auditorium

Beethoven *Egmont* Overture

Goode *fall, appalachia* (World premiere)

Dvořák Cello Concerto in B Minor, Op. 104
Wendy Warner, cello

DIRECTOR'S DIALOGUE: 6:15 p.m.

STIFEL

Concert Sponsor

REMINISCENCE

"*fall, appalachia* is dedicated to all who were affected by Hurricane Helene in September of 2024. The two places I've lived longest in my adult life, Asheville, NC and Valdosta, GA were both profoundly changed by this terrible storm."

- Composer Elizabeth Goode,
former VSO Principal Flute and
VSU Professor of Music



Elizabeth Goode

“...Warner's expressive playing
and glowing tone were
everywhere a pleasure...”
– Vivien Schweitzer, *New York Times*



Wendy Warner



Antonín Dvořák

- ▶ This is Wendy's third concert with the VSO
- ▶ Dvořák's majestic concerto honored the memory of his beloved sister-in-law after her death



Tickets \$36/\$33/\$26 each

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THREE

February 13, 2027 • 7 pm • Whitehead Auditorium

Mussorgsky *Khovantchina: Introduction*
(*Dawn on the Moskva River*)

*Iravani Reflections** (Georgia premiere)

C. Schumann Piano Concerto in A Minor, Op. 7
Elizabeth Pridgen, piano

Brahms Symphony No. 4 in E Minor, Op. 98

**Part of the League of American Orchestra's Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation
Orchestral Commissions Program*

DIRECTOR'S DIALOGUE: 6:15 p.m.

**Houston and
Tittle Family**

Concert Sponsor



*Free
Spirit*



Elizabeth Pridgen



Clara Schumann

“ ...[Elizabeth Pridgen] plays with an extraordinarily large, perfectly controlled sound. ”

- William E. Ford, *bachtrack*

- ▶ Clara Schumann was a great mentor and teacher of Brahms
- ▶ Schumann sacrificed composing for family and concertizing
- ▶ Brahms wrote only four symphonies



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FOUR

March 27, 2027 • 7 pm • Whitehead Auditorium

Brahms *Academic Festival Overture*, Op. 80

Leshnoff *Rhapsody on America** (Georgia premiere)

Joyce Yang, piano

Elgar *Variations on an Original Theme*, Op. 36 (“Enigma”)

**Joyce Yang premieres Rhapsody on America in honor of America's 250th anniversary with the commissioning consortium of the Orchestra Lumos, Pasadena, Valdosta and San Jose Orchestras.*

DIRECTOR'S DIALOGUE: 6:15 p.m.



LADENBURG

AN ADVISOR GROUP COMPANY

Concert Sponsor

VARIATIONS



“ [Joyce Yang’s] attention to detail and clarity is as impressive as her agility, balance and velocity. ”

- Joan Rheinthaler, *Washington Post*



Joyce Yang



Jonathan Leshnoff

- The identity of the mystery theme at the heart of the *Enigma Variations* is still unsolved
- Each variation is a musical caricature of Elgar’s acquaintances



Tickets \$36/\$33/\$26 each

VISIT US!

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FIVE

May 1, 2027 • 7 pm • Whitehead Auditorium

Mahler Symphony No. 9

DIRECTOR'S DIALOGUE: 6:15 p.m.



Concert Sponsor

CONTEMPLATION



“ [Mahler’s 9th Symphony] is music coming from another world, it is coming from eternity. ”

– Herbert von Karajan, conductor



Gustav Mahler

Mahler’s final complete symphony captures humanity’s love of life while pondering our existence in this world. A live Mahler concert is a special event to be experienced and remembered!



Tickets \$36/\$33/\$26 each

VISIT US!

(229) 333-2150

www.valdostasympphony.org

Prelude Pour



Join us before each symphony performance for Prelude Pour, a pre-concert gathering held in the Dedo Maranville Gallery from 5:50–6:50 PM.

Enjoy beer and wine while mingling with fellow patrons before the music begins.

- ▶ Cash bar available (beer and wine only)
- ▶ Gold Level Season Subscribers and above receive two complimentary drinks per held ticket

REASONS TO SUPPORT THE VALDOSTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

1. “Where words fail, music speaks”

-Hans Christian Andersen

2. Brings the musical adventure of symphonic music to the children of South Georgia and North Florida early in their development. The “Tunes for Tots” and “South Georgia String Project” (SGSP) are all part of the teaching, development and performance for young people that are a result of the Symphony outreach-programs.

3. Patrons can endow a chair for one of our Principals in the Orchestra. A wall plaque will recognize donors at \$100,000 or more. The Plaque will be displayed outside Whitehead Auditorium in the lobby.

4. Your name, chosen names or anonymous donation will receive digital and print recognition on a regular season basis.

5. The big picture of substantial community donations by individuals and/or corporations demonstrates to the world that classical symphonic music and the arts are one of the foundations of a humane society that receives and shares the spirit of caring. It is a gift that keeps on giving.



Youth

2026-2027

CONCERT SERIES

The mission of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra includes providing the youth of our region with significant cultural opportunities.

Teachers may reserve free seats for any program by contacting Outreach Office at (229) 333-2150. Seating is limited – please reserve early!

Dr. Chris Dillon
Educational Coordinator

Whitehead Auditorium at VSU

1. SCENES FROM FRANKENSTEIN

October 23, 2026 • 10 a.m.

Frankenstein

Movie scenes with the VSO LIVE

2. REMINISCENCE

November 20, 2026 • 10 a.m.

Featuring Wendy Warner, cello

Selections by Dvořák and Beethoven

3. *Free Spirit*

February 12, 2027 • 10 a.m.

Featuring Elizabeth Pridgen, piano

Selections by C. Schumann and Brahms

VALDOSTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Education Programs

Tunes for Tots

Introduces the instruments and the orchestra to younger children. **January 23, 2027** in Whitehead Auditorium, **10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

The South Georgia String Project (SGSP)

Provides exploratory experience of string instruments to children in Magnet Strings classes. Many children continue to perform and take lessons.

Youth Concerts

Provides free concerts to young students in the South Georgia region.

Concerto Competition

Provides outstanding performers at VSU with audition/competition experience and the opportunity to solo with the VSO at a Youth Concert.

VSO Honors Recital

January 31, 2027
Powell Hall, 7 p.m.

High School Honors Program

Provides tickets for selected High School students with recommendation of Band Director.

Music Major Rush Ticket Program

Provides university music majors rush tickets for subscription concerts. The program is designed to support students' studies in music literature.

VSO Graduate Performance Assistantship

Supported by the VSO, provides for advanced studies in strings and orchestra for a select graduate student. The graduate student also serves a key staff position in the orchestra.

Music Enrichment Grant (MEG)

Grant provided by the Valdosta Symphony Guild to fund special music projects by students in the VSO.



PHOTOS COURTESY: LAUREL YU



Season Tickets

A VSO Season Ticket includes a single admission to each of the 5 subscription concerts. Other subscriber benefits include the opportunity to renew your seats before tickets go on sale to the general public, invitations to pre-concert buffets, and other VSO events. **Gold/Platinum/Diamond levels will receive free beer/wine prior to each concert.**

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P		42	41	40	39	38	37	36	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	P	28	27	26	25	24	23	22
O		42	41	40	39	38	37	36	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	O	28	27	26	25	24	23	22
N		42	41	40	39	38	37	36	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	N	28	27	26	25	24	23	22
M		42	41	40	39	38	37	36	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	M	28	27	26	25	24	23	22
L		42	41	40	39	38	37	36	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	L	28	27	26	25	24	23	22
K			41	40	39	38	37	36	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	K	28	27	26	25	24	23	22
J			40	39	38	37	36	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	28	J	27	26	25	24	23	22	21
I			40	39	38	37	36	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	28	I	27	26	25	24	23	22	21
H				39	38	37	36	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	28	H	27	26	25	24	23	22	21
G				38	37	36	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	28	27	G	26	25	24	23	22	21	20
F					36	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	F	25	24	23	22	21	20	19
E						34	33	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	E	24	23	22	21	20	19	18
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B									28	27	26	25	24	23	22	B	21	20	19	18	17	16	15
A										24w	24	23	22	21	20	A	19	18	17	16	15	14	13



Tier 1 (Premium)



Tier 3 (Discount)



Tier 2 (Standard)



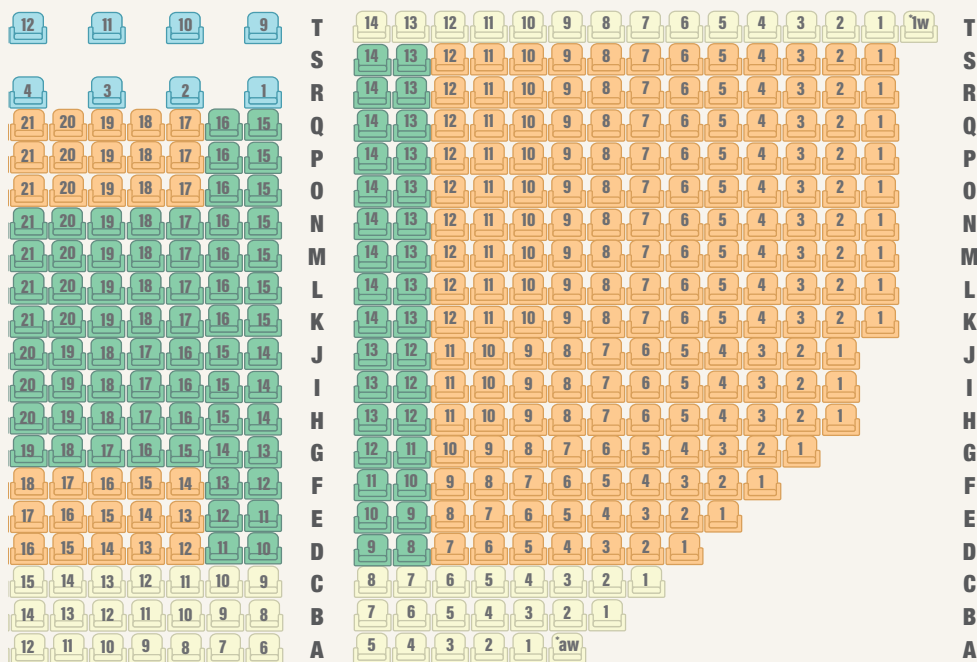
Tier 2 (Standard)

Discounted ticket(s) do not apply to Tier 1 Premium seating.
All Tier 1 Premium seating must pay full price.

Discounted ticket(s) for faculty/staff/military or seniors only
applies to Tier 2 Standard seating and Tier 3 Discount seating.

STAGE

- ☑ Returning season ticket holders
subscription renewal date **July 7, 2026**
- ☑ New season ticket holders purchasing
date **August 3, 2026**
- ☑ Single ticket holders purchase date
September 7, 2026



Outreach Office
Amber Porter, (229) 333-2150

To order tickets, contact our ticket office:
(229) 333-2150 or visit **www.valdostasymphony.org**.
All unsold seats will be open and sold to public
on September 7, 2026.

STAGE

Patron Packages

PATRON One Season Ticket

 \$175 (tax deductible gift optional)

 \$160 (tax deductible gift optional)

 \$125 (tax deductible gift optional)

PATRON Two Season Tickets

  \$350 (tax deductible gift optional)

  \$320 (tax deductible gift optional)

  \$250 (tax deductible gift optional)

GUILD MEMBER/BRONZE

One/Two Season Tickets

 \$375 (tax deductible gift of \$210)

 \$345 (tax deductible gift of \$195)

 \$290 (tax deductible gift of \$175)

  \$375 (tax deductible gift of \$50)

  \$345 (tax deductible gift of \$50)

  \$290 (tax deductible gift of \$65)

BRONZE One/Two Season Tickets

 \$395 (tax deductible gift of \$220)

 \$365 (tax deductible gift of \$205)

 \$310 (tax deductible gift of \$185)

  \$395 (tax deductible gift of \$50)

  \$365 (tax deductible gift of \$50)

  \$310 (tax deductible gift of \$65)

SILVER Two/Four Season Tickets

  \$690 (tax deductible gift of \$340)

  \$630 (tax deductible gift of \$310)

  \$490 (tax deductible gift of \$240)

   \$690 (tax deductible gift optional)

   \$630 (tax deductible gift optional)

   \$490 (tax deductible gift optional)

GOLD Two/Four Season Tickets

  \$940 (tax deductible gift of \$590)

  \$880 (tax deductible gift of \$560)

  \$770 (tax deductible gift of \$520)

   \$940 (tax deductible gift of \$250)

   \$880 (tax deductible gift of \$250)

   \$770 (tax deductible gift of \$280)

PLATINUM Two/Four Season Tickets

  \$1,190 (tax deductible gift of \$840)

  \$1,130 (tax deductible gift of \$810)

  \$1,020 (tax deductible gift of \$770)

   \$1,190 (tax deductible gift of \$500)

   \$1,130 (tax deductible gift of \$500)

   \$1,020 (tax deductible gift of \$530)

DIAMOND Four/Six Season Tickets

    \$1,780 (tax deductible gift of \$1,090)

    \$1,690 (tax deductible gift of \$1,060)

    \$1,510 (tax deductible gift of \$1,020)

     \$1,780 (tax deductible gift of \$750)

     \$1,690 (tax deductible gift of \$750)

     \$1,510 (tax deductible gift of \$780)

**Patron Packages include taxes and fees. Additional donations are welcome.
Pay by cash, check, or credit card. Call ticket office for more information.**



Tier 1 (Premium)



Tier 2 (Standard)



Tier 3 (Discount)



Tier 2 (Standard)

Support the VSO through the endowment program.



1. Gifts can be spread over a five-year, equal gift amount.
2. Ten chairs are already endowed, ten remain.
3. A gift to the symphony through the VSU Foundation is a 501-[C][3] charitable non-profit organization recipient.
4. Contact David Cummings or call Amber Porter at 229-333-2150 for more giving opportunities.

****Always check with a financial advisor first.***



PHOTOS COURTESY: PAUL LEVY



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Valdosta, GA 31698-0115

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