ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND &

CHESAPEAKE ORCHESTRA

Jeffrey Silberschlag, music director

RIVER CONCERT SERIES 2026

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2026 Season

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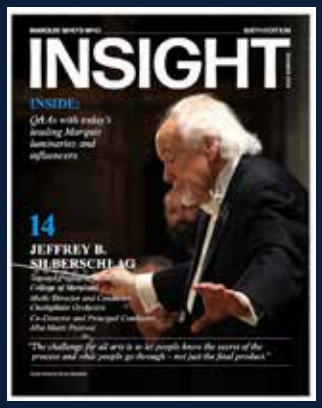
The Chesapeake Orchestra wishes to thank St. Mary's College of Maryland, SMCM Events, SMCM Facilities, The Arts Alliance, and SMCM Public Safety for making River Concert Series a great venue.

Program design: Nell Elder

Special thanks to Calm Reflections Photography and Jim Tidwell.

Thank you to Ridge Rescue Squad and Bay District Fire Department for providing first aid.

Founded in 1994 by Jeffrey Silberschlag, the Chesapeake Orchestra is dedicated to developing the availability of cultural, diverse, and enlightening musical experiences for the whole family. The Orchestra is comprised of some of the finest performers in the nation. It has performed with these same players over the past 27 years and has developed it's own distinctive beautiful sound. St. Mary's College of Maryland students join the Orchestra as well, playing side by side with their teachers. The Chesapeake Orchestra has performed at the River Concert Series since its inception in 1999, and they also perform regularly at a number of other venues in the area such as Leonardtown Square, Historic Sotterley, Woodlawn Estate & Winery, and National Harbor.



Named in Who's Who List in 2024 INSIGHT Magazine

Honored by St. Mary's College of Maryland for 2025 Trailblazer Award

For information about the 2025-2026 season, visit www.marylandyouthsymphonyorchestra.org

MAESTRO
Jeffrey Silberschlag

JEFFREY SILBERSCHLAG has distinguished himself in the world of music, performing as conductor and trumpet soloist throughout Europe, the United States, Russia, China, Japan, and Israel. His performances have been described as “compelling” by Germany’s Kolnische Rundschau; “extraordinary” by Italy’s L’Arena; and “outstanding” by Fanfare Magazine.

Mr. Silberschlag is music director and conductor of the Chesapeake Orchestra and River Concert Series, co-director of the Alba Music Festival and its Young Artists Program in Northern Italy, The St. Mary's College of Maryland Symphony Orchestra and The Maryland Youth Symphony Orchestra.

On November 15, 2011, at a performance in Prague, Mr. Silberschlag received the Prize for Artistic and Cultural Activities from the European Union of the Arts, for his lifetime achievement in classical music as a conductor and trumpeter. In December 2013, Mr. Silberschlag was inducted into the Society Famija Albeisa of Italy. Mr. Silberschlag is a recipient of the Bowie State University's Octave Higher Award, awarded for his work fostering collaboration between diverse communities, He is a recipient of an honorary Doctorate presented by the Big Brother-Big Sister of Southern Maryland Award, and a co-winner of the Norton T. Dodge award for creative and scholarly achievement.

He serves as Head of Music Performance and has served as the Music Department Chair three different times, for a total of twelve years, in the Music Department at St. Mary’s College of Maryland. He is the recipient of the Steven Muller Distinguished Professor in the Arts Award, and has been a faculty member since 1988.

Mr. Silberschlag has appeared as guest conductor with the London Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic, St. Petersburg Soloists, Orchestra Filharmonici di Torino, Symphony Orchestra of Rumania, Bulgarian Philharmonic, La Scala Virtuosi, Prague Chamber Orchestra, Salzburg Chamber Orchestra, and the Moscow Academy Chamber Orchestra. He has collaborated which such soloists as Anne Akiko Myers, Hilary Hahn, Jose Cueto, Yi Jia Hou, and Lara St. John (violinists); Maxym Anakushin, Bruno Canino, Brian Ganz, Eliza Garth, and Jeff Chappell, (pianists); Giuseppe Nova and Yoshimi Oshima, (flutists); Giampiero Sobrino and Jon Manasse, (clarinetists); Catrin Finch, (harpist); Judy Blazer, Kate Baldwin, and Melissa Errico, (Broadway vocalists); Vonda Shepard, Jane Monheit, Ethel Ennis, and Hilary Kole, (Jazz vocalists); Maria Kanyova, Tonna Miller, Susan Narucki, and Olivia Vote, (Sopranos); John Wallace, Andrew Balio, and Terrence Blanchard, (trumpeters).

In addition, Mr. Silberschlag has combined musical genres by blending orchestral performances with such artists as The 5th Dimension, Blues guitarist Linwood Taylor, the Paul Reed Smith Band "Dragons," the No Class Today Bluegrass Band, and the Brazilian band, Grupo Saveiro.

A recording of Boris Blacher’s chamber opera “Romeo and Juliet” with Mr. Silberschlag as the conductor was released on Albany records to much acclaim.

He has directed premieres of works by composers Morton Gould, Lorenzo Ferrero, Ludovico Einaudi, Paul Chihara, Chou Wen-Chung, David Froom, Kenji Bunch, Judith Shatin, Scott Wheeler, Perry Goldstein, Nathan Lincoln-DeCausatis, Lou Karchin, Vivian Adelburg Rudow, Judah Adashi, and William Thomas McKinley.

He has presented master classes at the Kyoto University of Performing Arts, Japan; the Prague Conservatory, Czech Republic; the Royal Academy of Music in London, UK; the Beijing Central Conservatory in China; the Aosta Institute for Music, Italy; and he has directed in performance the orchestra of The Cleveland Institute of Music.

Mr. Silberschlag has held principal trumpet positions with the Italian National Symphony RAI- Torino, Jerusalem Symphony, and the New York City Opera National Company.

Recent releases include two re-releases of his recordings on Naxos, "The Music of Morton Gould" and "The American Trumpet," and a world premiere of Arnold Saltzman's Choral Symphony No. 4, "The Halevi," with The Romanian State Symphony. Of his recording of McKinley's "And the Presidents Said," with narrator Ben Bradlee at Abbey Road Studio, Fanfare Magazine wrote that he is "a virtuoso trumpeter par excellence whose conducting is equally praiseworthy."

Together with his wife Deborah Greitzer, their families include seventeen professional musicians. In 2024 Maestro Silberschlag was acknowledged as one of “America Who’s Who” by Marquis Publishing.

Deborah Greitzer

Executive Director
Chesapeake Orchestra

Deborah Greitzer, Executive Director of the Chesapeake Orchestra, has divided her career equally as a performer and artistic director. She has held principal bassoon positions with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, New York City Opera National Company, Madeira Bach Festival, Alba Music Festival, the Italian Radio/Television Symphony Orchestra RAI-Torino, the Music Today Series in New York, and the Chesapeake Orchestra. She has performed with many of the world's leading conductors, including Maxym Shostakovich, Rudolph Barshai, Gary Bertini, Gerard Schwarz, Raymond Leppard, George Manahan, Eliahu Inbal, Noam Sheriff, Hans Vonk, Vladimir Valek, and James Galway.

As soloist, she has appeared with the Jerusalem Symphony in Israel, the Hungarian Virtuosi in Budapest and Zagreb, the Czech Radio Orchestra in Prague, the Maryland Bach Aria Group in Verona, and the Chesapeake Orchestra. She has also given solo performances at Carnegie Hall, The Juilliard School, the New England Conservatory, Purchase University, Avery Fisher Hall, the Prague Rudolfinum, and the Jerusalem Theatre. Ms. Greitzer can be heard on Nonesuch Records Grammy Award-winning recording of George Perle's Serenade No. 3. She has recorded with the Maryland Bach Aria Group on Crystal Records, and as soloist on MMC and Delos Records. Composer William Thomas Mckinley wrote two concertos for her that she premiered and recorded with the Seattle Symphony and Prague Radio Orchestra, Gerard Schwarz, conductor.

Ms. Greitzer is a graduate of The Juilliard School and held a graduate fellowship at the Yale School of Music, Yale University. She is a two-time winner of the Artists International Prize for Chamber Music, recipient of the George Wellington Miles Award at Yale University, and a winner, with the Maryland Bach Aria Group, of the Norton T. Dodge Award for Creative and Scholarly Achievement.

She was invited by Pierre Boulez as the only American finalist for the IRCAM Ensemble in Paris, France, Pierre Boulez, Music Director.

Ms. Greitzer was the Artistic Director of the New York Times Foundation Young Performers Series, producing concerts in Bryant Park, Union Square Park and Battery Park. She was also the director of the Tidewater Ensemble at St. Mary's College of Maryland. During that six year period, the Tidewater Ensemble made its first appearances at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, the Baltimore Museum of Art, and the Corcoran Gallery, Washington, D.C. The Ensemble premiered works by numerous composers, including Morton Gould, William Thomas McKinley, David Froom, Lorenzo Ferrero, Vivian Adelberg Rudow, Paul Chihara, and Chou Wen-Chung.

Ms. Greitzer performed in the 1998 Broadway revival of "The King and I" with Marie Osmond and at the Kennedy Center with Haley Mills. She was also the bassoonist with Anthony Newley, in the New York revival of his show, "Stop the World, I Want to Get Off." She also worked with playwright Arthur Miller, and was the bassoonist for the New York premiere of his play, "Up from Paradise."

Ms. Greitzer is adjunct faculty in the Music Department of St. Mary's College of Maryland.

Since 1994 the Chesapeake Orchestra has provided world-class professional music to over 600,000 appreciative people in Southern Maryland. From the beginning, the orchestra's repertoire has been broad, and its musicians equally versatile. An evening's programming often features symphonic works partnered with other diverse genres, such as blues, jazz, and rock. The Chesapeake Orchestra has premiered many works, including those by William Thomas McKinley, Paul Chihara, David Froom, Scott Wheeler, Nathan Lincoln-DeCusatis, Jeffrey Mumford, Jan Raats, Chen Yi, Kenji Bunch, and Judith Shatin, Vivien Adelbergrudow, Perry Goldstein, and Judah Adashi.

Since the Chesapeake Orchestra took up residency at St. Mary's College of Maryland at the River Concert Series, the Series has become the cultural and tourist destination for Southern Maryland, winning the Governor's Tourism Impact Award. It was noted in a recent article that concerts performed by the Chesapeake Orchestra have brought the community together, as about 5,000 people come every Friday evening from mid-June to the end of July to enjoy orchestral concerts that offer programs with musical themes designed to reach the broadest possible audience. Genres such as bluegrass and blues are often fused with orchestral instrumentation. Guest artists have included the Ahn Trio, violinists Anne Akiko Meyers and Lara St. John, country star Suzy Boggus, Broadway star Kate Baldwin, jazz vocalist Hilary Kole, and jazz trumpeter Terence Blanchard. The Chesapeake Orchestra has performed over 20 concerts at the National Harbor.

On September 5, 2014, The Chesapeake Orchestra was the first ever orchestra to play at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, although it had been Jefferson's dream to have a resident orchestra.

Hilary Kole

Guiseppe Nova

Anna Kiko Meyers

Terence Blanchard

Chesapeake Orchestra

1ST VIOLIN
Jose Cueto, Concertmaster*
Netanel Draiblate assc. concertmaster
Heather Haughn
Asst Concertmaster+
Brent Price
Celeste Blase
Sheng Wang

2ND VIOLIN
Tracey Burke
Maribeth Frank
Adina Vallandingham
Shelley Mathews
Madison Rechtenwald=
Dylan Parham=

VIOLA
Julius Wirth+
Elizabeth Stahr O'Hara
Bryce Bunner
Colin Webb
Katherine Lawhead

CELLO
Suzanne Orban+*
Amy Stennett
Jihea Choi
Sentiah Cole=
Alara Sipahi=

BASS
Robert Kurz
Bill Hones
Milad Daniari

FLUTE
Karen Johnson+*
Katheryn Farenish
Khepesh Imhotep=

OBOE
Emily Tsai
Mark Christianson
Michael Homme
William Capon=

CLARINET
Janice Murphy+*
Michael McDonald
Randy Riffle

BASSOON
Erik Dircksen+
Maude Fish
Kari Shea
Deborah Greitzer*
Chris MacFarlane

SAXOPHONE
Rick Humphries+

HORN
Michael Hall
Chandra Cervantes
Max Cripe
Ken Bell
Mark Hughes

TRUMPET
Zachary Silberschlag+ ('11)
Fred Marcellus

TROMBONE
Bryan Bourne+*
George Allen

BASS TROMBONE
Jerry Amoury

TUBA
John Cradler+
Daniel Walley

TIMPANI
Glenn Paulson
Bob Jenkins

PERCUSSION
Bob Jenkins
Shari Rak

+ principal
-- co-principal
* SMCM music faculty
◊ SMCM student
= Maryland Youth Symphony Orchestra
** On Leave to the Music Academy of the West

Bryan Bourne
Orchestra Personnel Manager

Welcome to the 2026 River Concert Series at St. Mary's College of Maryland

For nearly three decades, the River Concert Series has brought together music, community, and the beauty of the St. Mary's waterfront. What began as a summer concert tradition has become a meaningful connection between the College and the Southern Maryland community, welcoming generations of families, alumni, neighbors, and visitors to the Townhouse Green each summer.

This year, we are especially proud to recognize the extraordinary leadership and lasting contributions of Jeffrey Silberschlag, whose vision and dedication helped shape the River Concert Series into the beloved tradition it is today. We are deeply grateful for his impact and for the many musicians, supporters, and community members who have contributed to the series over the years.

As we look ahead, St. Mary's College is committed to building on this strong foundation by expanding musical genres, welcoming broader audiences and families, and ensuring the long-term vitality of this treasured community event.

Thank you for joining us this summer. We hope you enjoy these evenings of music, community, and celebration along the St. Mary's River.

Warm regards,

Rhonda Phillips, Ph.D., FAICP

President

This year, we are especially proud to recognize the extraordinary leadership and lasting contributions of Jeffrey Silberschlag, whose vision and dedication helped shape the River Concert Series into the beloved tradition it is today.

JOIN OR RENEW TODAY

Our Mission:

To promote and support cultural and arts-related activities and programs at the College for the enrichment and enjoyment of the Southern Maryland community.

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Visit www.smcm.edu/events/arts-alliance/ or contact us at **artsalliance@smcm.edu** to learn more about what the Arts Alliance does and to join or renew.

St Mary's College of Maryland | Arts Alliance

JUNE 26

From Broadway to Hollywood-Under the Stars

Featuring Melissa Errico
with the Chesapeake Orchestra

Piano: Randy Waldman

TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

ACT I

West Side Story Overture (Orchestra)

"Everybody Says Don't"
from Anyone Can Whistle
Stephen Sondheim

"Wouldn't It Be Loverly" /
"My Favorite Things"
from My Fair Lady and The Sound of Music

"Good Thing Going"
from Merrily We Roll Along
Stephen Sondheim

Overture to Funny Girl

"Loving You"
from Passion
Stephen Sondheim

"I Saw Him Once"
"I Dreamed a Dream"
from Les Misérables:

"Alexander's Ragtime Band" (Doughboy Foundation sponsorship)

INTERMISSION

ACT II

Judy Garland Overture

"Small World"
from Gypsy

"The Summer Knows"
Michel Legrand
Arranged by Michel Legrand

Academy Award-winning song
from Summer of '42 (1971)

Orchestra Feature

"Sooner or Later"
from Dick Tracy
Stephen Sondheim

MELISSA ERRICO

Melissa Errico is a Tony Award-nominated Broadway actress, singer, and author. Touring the world with her inimitable thematic concerts, from Singapore to Paris to San Francisco and beyond, she has built a unique niche in the world of theater and jazz – so much so that when Steven Reineke, principal conductor of the New York Pops, introduced her Carnegie Hall debut, he announced that "Melissa Errico is a unique force in the musical life of New York City: a Broadway star, a concert artist, and an author who regularly contributes essays to The New York Times. There's really no one like her!" The Times itself summed up her appeal simply: "Any chance to hear Melissa Errico sing is a chance worth taking."

Her concerts in the past two years have included a Paris duet with her frequent

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singing partner Isabelle Georges, broadcast nationally on RadioFrance, followed by a sold-out cabaret at the historic Le Bal Blomet. In that same summer, she opened for music icon George Benson at the Montreal Jazz Festival. A writer from London Jazz News wrote that: “Every high note was heroically held, and she got a standing ovation from this audience.”

Melissa premiered an original concert of the music of World War One on May 7, 2025 in Washington DC in a collaboration with the WW1 Commission and The Doughboy Foundation and won raves. She made her solo concert hall debut at Cadogan Hall in London July 12, 2025 singing “Sondheim In The City.” She has recently performed concerts at The Kravis Center in Palm Beach, The Staller Center, & much more, including her annual New York City Valentine’s residency at Birdland Jazz Club.

A uniquely wide-ranging performer, a specialist in the seemingly very different musics of Stephen Sondheim and Michel Legrand, her 2018 album, “Sondheim Sublime” was called by The Wall Street Journal “The best all-Sondheim album ever recorded,” and her 2024 “Sondheim In The City” was dubbed by The New York Times “a New York tour of thrill and heartbreak.” Her November Carnegie Hall debut performance included three Sondheim numbers, including “Losing My Mind” and “Move On.” On the other shore of her expertise, in 2019 she wrote the eulogy for Legrand in The New York Times and was the only American performer asked to appear at the now-legendary two-day memorial concert at Paris’ Le Grand Rex.

First known for her starring roles on Broadway, including My Fair Lady, High Society, Anna Karenina, White Christmas, Dracula, and Les Misérables, Melissa has had a wide-ranging career from television and film to recording. She starred in the CBS show Central Park West and played roles on Blue Bloods, The Knick, and more, as well as Billions on Showtime. She has starred in many non-musical roles by Shaw and Oscar Wilde, including Dear Liar in the spring of 2023, playing George Bernard Shaw’s original Eliza Doolittle.

Though a constant in the New York theater, she has become equally known for her music and concert work worldwide, with sold-out concert dates from Ravinia to Caramoor and Wolf Trap — including the 92nd Street Y, Joe’s Pub, Town Hall, and Lincoln Center’s Allen Room. Errico’s history with Sondheim began when he selected her to star as Dot in Sunday In The Park With George at The Kennedy Center, then as Clara in Passion at Classic Stage Company; then in the NY City Center Encores! production of Do I Hear A Waltz? In 2020, she sang “Children and Art” in the Sondheim 90th Birthday Concert Take Me To The World, and was featured on PBS television in a documentary special in which she sang a feminist version of “Finishing The Hat” and joined Adam Gopnik and Raul Esparza to talk Sondheim on Poetry in America. She was also featured in The New York Times tribute to Sondheim in November 2021 as one of the top ten interpreters of his work. Her second Sondheim album, Sondheim In The City, was released on February 16, 2024. In addition to Sondheim, nothing in her work has been more constant than her association with Legrand. Having starred in his sole Broadway show, Amour, she went on to collaborate with him on the iconic album Legrand Affair. Warner Music/Ghostlight Records also reissued her symphonic album, which Legrand arranged and conducted, as Legrand Affair (Deluxe Edition).

A student of the great American songbook, Melissa’s album Out Of The Dark: The Film Noir Project was released by Warner Music/Ghostlight Records, and garnered the 2023 Bistro Award for the best Concept Album. The recording was supported by coast-to-coast noir concerts, including Feinstein’s/54 Below, with the Ronnie Scott’s Band in London, and at NYC’s Birdland Jazz Club for a sold-out 10-performance Valentine’s Week residency. Of her Noir project, The Wall Street Journal opined that: “Melissa Errico’s new album, Out of the Dark: The Film Noir Project gives us noir music the way we imagine it…melancholy, bittersweet tales of isolation and loneliness, beauty and betrayal—especially relevant at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic.”

She is working on expanding her collected New York Times essays about a singer’s strange life on the stage and road, gathered under the heading “Scenes From An Acting Life”, into a book. She has three daughters and is married to tennis player and journalist Patrick McEnroe.

RANDY WALDMAN

Randy Waldman is an acclaimed American pianist, arranger, composer, and conductor. Best known as Barbra Streisand's pianist and musical director since 1984, he has built a legendary career as a session musician for artists like Frank Sinatra, Michael Jackson, and Whitney Houston, and won a Grammy Award for Best Arrangement. Born in Chicago, Illinois, Waldman was considered a musical child prodigy. He began playing the piano at age five and landed his first professional gig at age 12, playing and demonstrating pianos at a local music store. While still in high school, he performed with the Northwestern University band. Shortly after graduating, at just 21 years old, he was hired to go on tour as the pianist for Frank Sinatra. After his stint with Sinatra, Waldman toured with The Lettermen before relocating to Los Angeles. He went on to tour with major artists such as Paul Anka, Lou Rawls, Minnie Riperton, and spent seven years as musical director and arranger for George Benson. He became a highly sought-after session pianist, performing on hundreds of records and major motion picture soundtracks, including: Forrest Gump,The Bodyguard, Titanic, Back to the Future. He has contributed to albums for Michael Jackson, Madonna, Celine Dion, and Beyoncé. Waldman is also an accomplished solo artist, releasing several jazz albums, such as his trend-setting 2001 film-and-TV jazz record, UnReel. He won his first Grammy for co-arranging Barbra Streisand's hit song "Somewhere". Years later, his 2018 album Superheroes won the Grammy Award for Best Arrangement. Aside from music, Waldman is a licensed airplane and helicopter instructor. He is an aviation enthusiast and holds a flight speed record in a Bell OH-58 helicopter, earning him the nickname "The Jazz Pilot".

JULY 3

Mom, apple pie, and The Chesapeake Orchestra For America's 250th

TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

Thomas Pandolfi
Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue *and* Americana favorites

Ballet Caliente Dancers

Born on the 4th of July
The Entertainer
Ellington River Suite
Stars and Stripes
Rhapsodie, Saint Saens

THOMAS PANDOLFI

Thomas Pandolfi is one of the leading pianists of our time, hailed a "phenomenon." He began his career early on while at The Juilliard School (BM & MM) where the young prodigy caught the influential ear of Vladimir Horowitz, who would become his mentor, and legendary composer, Morton Gould. Since then he has been an audience favorite, selling out the world's most prestigious stages, including Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, Strathmore, The Kennedy Center, Kiev Opera House, Bucharest's Romanian Athenaeum, London's Cadogan Hall, and many others.

DC Metro Arts calls him, "exhilarating… a rare mix of technical accuracy and cool confidence." "His artistry and technique were simply astonishing," said the Metropolitan Arts Reviews. The Washington Post boasted he is a "master of both the grand gesture and the sensual line… Pandolfi's large-scale pianism seemed under tight control yet in no way muted the passion of his performance… projected with an exquisite sense of lyrical gesture." "A standout among today's young pianists... His virtuosity and strength… might have had some believing that Liszt himself had taken over the keyboard," said the Asheville Citizen-Times. "The mastery of the scores, the precision of the playing, and the finesse of the expression were all simply spectacular. It was a truly bravura performance, both in the virtuosic and in the reflective pieces, yet one completely without gratuitous exaggerated

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display," acclaimed The Boston Musical Intelligencer.

In addition to being recognized as one of the greatest interpreters of the Polish masters such as Chopin, Paderewski, and Godowsky, this versatile pianist has received accolades from everything from Bach to Gershwin, with Morton Gould saying, "It's the finest performance of Gershwin I have heard since the composer himself." His original and virtuosic transcriptions of popular works, such as West Side Story and Phantom of the Opera, are one-of-kind, jaw-dropping, and dramatic encores that keep audiences of all ages returning to his performances again and again.

Mr. Pandolfi is a Steinway Artist and will begin recording for Steinway Spirio later this year. Mr. Pandolfi's performances have been broadcast by PBS, WETA (Washington, DC), WQXR (NYC), WRCJ (Detroit), DCN TV (China), The Sound (DC), and many others worldwide.

SHERYL-MARIE DUNAWAY

The owner and Artistic Director of Ballet Caliente, Sheryl-Marie Dunaway has taught dance for over 30 years. She began her training at the tender age of 3 with British Ballet Academy studying RAD.

She has studied with world-renowned teachers such as Lupe Serreno, Violette Verdy, Michael Maule, Harold and Lew Christiansen, Bene' Arnold, Gus Giordano, and Joe Termaine. Mrs. Dunaway attended college at Southern Methodist University and received her BA, majoring in dance. Locally, she choreographed pieces and her troupe has performed with the St. Mary's River Concert series in collaboration with Jeffery Silberschlag. Additionally, her group has performed the Nutcracker annually in conjunction with COSMIC orchestra, and the National Ballet of the Ukraine. Mrs. Dunaway feels her greatest success is in touching others. Her fondness for children has led to her greatest joy...teaching.

JULY 10

Going Baroque: Music of Bach, Handel, Vivaldi

José Cueto, violin soloist
Zachary Silberschlag, trumpet
Kathryn Farenish, flutist
Jeff Silberschlag, trumpet

TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

Music of Bach, Vivaldi, and Handel

JOSÉ MIGUEL CUETO

Violinist José Miguel Cueto was born in Puerto Rico, where he received his early musical training. After graduating from the Pablo Casals Conservatory of Music of Puerto Rico, he was awarded scholarships from the Institute of Culture of Puerto Rico and the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University, where he earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees, studying under laureate violinist, Berl Senofsky. During his time at Peabody he served as concertmaster of the conservatory orchestra and was chosen to perform Vivaldi's Triple Violin Concerto in the "Masters of Today and Tomorrow" concert series with his teachers Senofsky and Ruggiero Ricci, internationally distinguished violinists.

Cueto is in great demand as chamber musician, having performed with the Kennedy Center, Tidewater and Casals Festival Chamber Players, Washington Chamber Society, Melos Ensemble with internationally renowned clarinetist Gervase de Peyer, La Gesse Festival in France, Autunno Musicale Veronese and Alba Music Festival in Italy, and Three World Festival in China. At home with both traditional and contemporary repertoire, he has premiered several contemporary chamber music compositions by composers of the Américas. With longtime collaborator, Argentine pianist Nancy Roldán, he founded Alborada, a chamber music ensemble. As soloist, Cueto has performed in the US, Latin America, Europe, and Asia.

Cueto has been admired by both the public

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and the critics for his "solid technique, as well as his rich and beautiful tone" (El Mundo, San Juan). STRAD magazine recognized Cueto's Carnegie Hall performance at Weill Recital Hall as "grounded, confident, and superb in all particulars." Cueto is concertmaster of Concert Artists of Baltimore and the Chesapeake Festival Orchestra. He is a recording artist and serves as artist in residence and head of the string department at St. Mary's College of Maryland. He is also lecturer for the Elder-hostel program at the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University.

ZACHARY SILBERSCHLAG

Zachary Silberschlag is Principal Trumpet of The Iceland Symphony since 2025 and is Assistant Principal Trumpet of the Israel Philharmonic since 2024. Previously he was the principal trumpet of the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra in Honolulu for five seasons. Zachary has appeared as principal trumpet with the American Symphony, American Ballet Theatre Orchestra, and New Jersey Symphony. He performs regularly at Carnegie Hall, New York's Lincoln Center, and at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. In the summer of 2023, Zachary performed often on Broadway in Andrew Lloyd Webber's show Bad Cinderella. As a soloist, Zachary has performed with the Hawaii Symphony, Skaneateles Festival Orchestra, the Romanian State Symphony in Italy, the Bulgarian Philharmonic, The Orchestra Now, and Chesapeake Orchestra at River Concert Series of which he was also principal trumpet.

As a chamber musician, Zachary was a recipient of the 2021 US artists international award from the Mid Atlantic Foundation touring Italy with his group the Chesapeake Virtuosi. In the fall of 2022 with his group The Brass Project Zachary was awarded a Chamber Music America ensemble forward grant. He is also a member of the New York Festival brass with members from the Cleveland Orchestra, Hawaii Symphony, and Hungarian Radio orchestra that can be heard on Navona Records in the premier recording of Elliot McKinley's music for brass quintet.

Born in Leonardtown, Maryland, in the Chesapeake region, Zachary comes from of a family of sixteen professional musicians across several generations. These include former and current principal players of the New York Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, Italian National Orchestra RAI, and Jerusalem Symphony. Zachary holds a BA from St. Mary's College of Maryland, where he studied with his father Jeffrey Silberschlag (former Principal Trumpet RAI Torino). He holds a Master of Music from Manhattan School of Music and a Doctorate from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Zachary can be heard on the soundtrack of Maestro, Bradley Cooper's 2023 Biopic of Leonard Bernstein with Yannick Nezet Seguin conducting.

KATHRYN FARENISH

American Flutist Kathryn Farenish made her solo debut at Carnegie Hall at the age of 16, serving as Principal Flute of the National Wind Ensemble in New York City, and she has been pursuing her passion for music ever since. Ms. Farenish has participated in a wide range of ensembles and has performed extensively in prestigious concert venues throughout New York, Boston, and the D.C. Metropolitan area, including Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, Jordan Hall, The Music Center at Strathmore, and The Kennedy Center.

Noted for her "vibrant tone, superb musicianship, and warm demeanor" and for her "impeccable piccolo playing" (Washington Classical Review), Ms. Farenish establishes herself as one of today's in-demand and versatile artists in the industry.

An active orchestral and chamber musician, her professional engagements include work with the National Philharmonic Orchestra, Virginia Symphony Orchestra, Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, Maryland Symphony Orchestra, Annapolis Symphony Orchestra, Maryland Lyric Opera, Washington Concert Opera, Chesapeake Orchestra, American Contemporary Classical Orchestra (Associate Principal Flute), Bel Cantanti Opera (Solo Flute), Capital 5 (Solo Flute), a professional wind quintet based in the D.C. Metropolitan area, and Bach in Baltimore, where she serves as a featured solo artist and Principal Flute of the Bach in Baltimore Orchestra.

Solo performances include concerto appearances with the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic, playing Carl Nielsen's Concerto for Flute and Orchestra, at the Orford Arts Centre, performing Charles Griffes' Poem, which gained her international recognition being broadcast through CBC Radio-Canada, and most recently with the Chesapeake Orchestra as a part of their River Concert Series 2024, where she performed Johann Joachim Quantz's Concerto in G Major for Flute and Strings. Ms. Farenish is thrilled to be back with Chesapeake Orchestra again this summer and is very much looking forward to performing Antonio Vivaldi's Concerto per Flautino ("Piccolo") in C Major, RV 443, as part of the River Concert Series 2026. Ms. Farenish will also be performing Antonio Vivaldi's La tempesta di mare (Concerto No. 1 in F Major, RV 433) with Bach in Baltimore for their 2026-2027 season.

As a dedicated and sought-after music educator, Ms. Farenish regularly performs clinician work for various Elementary, Middle, and High School band programs throughout the Northern Virginia area as well as maintaining her own active private studio in Fairfax Station, Virginia, where she enjoys coaching flutists of all levels and ages.

Ms. Farenish has received both her Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from The Juilliard School, studying with Robert Langevin, Principal Flute of the New York Philharmonic. She also received additional training as a student of world-class flutists Jeanne Baxtresser, former Principal Flute of the New York Philharmonic, renowned solo artist Paula Robison, and former Principal Flute of the National Symphony Orchestra, Toshiko Kohno.

JULY 17

Brazilian Night with Débora Watts

Débora Watts,
Brazilian singer/songwriter
John Watts, pianist

TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

Wave

Mach que nada

One Note samba

..... And so much more

DÉBORA WATTS

Born in Saquarema, a small beach town 90 miles north of Rio de Janeiro, Débora grew up believing she was going to be a scientist. Although she loved dancing and singing, she attended a Chemistry Technical school during her high school years and Pharmacy at the University UFRJ in Rio de Janeiro. Half way through her master's degree in Organic Chemistry, Débora decided to leave science to explore life outside the lab. After a year of traveling to diverse places such as Peru and India, Débora moved to New York City in 1993 where she decided to resume her studies in order to become a licensed NY State pharmacist.

After hearing a Brazilian music performance at the club "Cafe Wha?" in 1997, Débora shared with her future husband--the musician John Allen Watts--that her true dream was to be a singer. With John's encouragement Débora started taking private singing lessons with the Brazilian MPB vocalist Barbara Mendes and with the rock singer Robyn Dawn.

Within a few short years, Débora was performing as a solo artist as well as with many Brazilian & Latin bands, performing samba with Pé-de Boi and Saveiro, Latin jazz with Oriente Lopez band, Bossa Nova with Mark Morganelli & The Jazz Forum All-Stars band, Brazilian jazz with Billy Newman's Brooklyn Brazil Bop Band, to name a few. Brazilian Breeze, a band that Débora started with her husband, John Allen Watts, also received a lot of attention by performing throughout the NYC metro area, including numerous programs on behalf of community arts and cultural organizations at venues such as the Brooklyn Museum and Flushing Town Hall.

In 2004 Débora was introduced to the Armenian jazz vocalist Datevik Hovanesian and started taking private lesson in jazz improvisation. Their work together lead to the recording of Débora's first album, released in December of 2010.The CD, simply called "Débora," features Jazz legend, Benny

Continued on page 16

Golson, and many other world class artists including Leo Traversa on bass (Michael Brecker, Randy Brecker, Eliane Elias, Milton Nascimento, Astrud Gilberto, Bebel Gilberto), Luiz Bonilla on Trombone (Tony Bennet, Dizzy Gillespie, Marc Anthony, Mary J. Blige), Adriano Santos on drums (Astrud Gilberto, Gal Costa, John Pizzarelli, Slide Hampton, Romero Lubambo, Paul Winter), Helio Schiavo on drums (Baden Powell, Leny Andrade, Beth Carvalho), Itaiguara Brandão on bass (Paquito D'Rivera, Elba Romalho, Dom Salvador, Paul Winter, Paulo Braga), Kaïssa Doumbè on backing vocals (David Byrne, Paul Simon, Diana Ross, Papa Wembe), Dominic Kanza on guitar (Paul Simon, Pharaoh Sanders, Michael Brecker, Papa Wembe), and Zé Mauricio on percussion (Wynton Marsalis, Cyro Baptista, Harry Belafonte, Nilson Matta, Yo-Yo Ma).

Débora's eclectic CD, arranged and produced by John Allen Watts, includes many well-known Brazilian classics such as Inútil Paisagem and Água de Beber and was mixed and mastered by Grammy Award-winning engineer, David Darlington of Bass Hit Recording (Sting, etc.) More details about the recording can be found in Débora's blog: http://www.debora-cd.blogspot.com

Débora's first album has been accepted by radio stations domestic and worldwide including Antena 2 in Portugal, Radio Art in Greece, MRS 90,5 FM in Sweden, RTC Cape Verde, as well as WRHU (Jazz Café) and KKUP in the US.

In recent years, Débora has taken a strong interest in the spiritual and folk music of the Caucuses and Middle East and, in particular, the music of the Armenian-Greek spiritual teacher, G.I. Gurdjieff. She has performed this music as part of the 7 World's Ensemble at the famed Komitas Hall in Armenia, in the Republic of Georgia, and at the National Theater in Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic.

Débora, is a singer at heart with an entertainer's mind. Having taken several workshops at the Stella Adler Acting Studio, she continues to improve her skills by taking workshops in theatre improvisation at the P.I.T. in New York City. Her vocal coaches have included Clint Carter, a musical theatre actor specializing in the Linklater vocal method.

In 2013 Débora started composing her own music and in January 2017 she recorded her second CD of all original music. The CD was recorded in Brazil, at the Studio Tenda da Raposa, in the neighborhood of Lapa, Rio de Janeiro.

The CD, called "Um Samba Ao Contrário", contains 14 songs and is an homage to Brazilian traditional styles (maxixe, chorinho, samba-canção, waltz , samba and samba de gafieira). The CD was again produced by John Allen Watts and mixed and mastered by Grammy Award-winning engineer, David Darlington of Bass Hit Recording.

JOHN WATTS

John Allen Watts is a New York-based composer, songwriter, pianist, arranger, producer, educator, and musical director whose work spans Brazilian jazz, musical theatre, classical, sacred, and contemporary popular music.

After early studies at the Manhattan School of Music's Pre-College Division, he earned a BA in Theory and Composition from Brown University. He later co-founded The Off Wall Street Jam, a groundbreaking New York musicians' organization featured in The New York Times, Forbes, New York Magazine, the BBC, and ABC News.

Watts has enjoyed a longstanding collaboration with Brazilian vocalist Débora Watts as pianist, arranger, and producer. In 2018, he released Um Samba ao Contrário (Upside Down Samba), named Best Brazilian CD in the United States by the Brazilian Press Award. He also founded and led the John Allen Watts Brazilian Trio.

For nearly three decades, he has studied and performed the music of G.I. Gurdjieff and Thomas de Hartmann, presenting this repertoire in New York, Armenia, Georgia, and the Dominican Republic.

Watts holds an MFA in Musical Theatre Writing from NYU Tisch School of the Arts. His latest work, The Crossing, co-written with Jason Huza, will premiere at the Patriots Theater at the War Memorial in December 2026 as part of the 250th anniversary commemoration of Washington's crossing of the Delaware. He also serves on the faculty of the Lucy Moses School and is a member of ASCAP and the Dramatists Guild of America.

JULY 24

A Classic Finale

The Long Goodbye

TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

W. A. Mozart - Overture to Cosl fan tutte

G. Rossini - Barber of Seville Overture

G. Verdi - La Forza del Destino

P. Tchaikovsky - Romeo and Juliet Overture

F.J. Haydn - Symphony No. 45,

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Inclement Weather Information
Changes in concert location or cancellation due to inclement weather will be posted on the Chesapeake Orchestra home page (www.chesapeakeorchestra.org)

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Each year, Alba and The Alba Music Festival grow as a tourist destination.

After the Festival this year, our family group "The Silberschlag Collective" added a concert in the beautiful wine country of Piemonte, Italy, and in the very far south of Italy, Torchiara, which is on the sea, but about an hour further south of the Amalfi Coast region.

Photos by Bruno Murialdo

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CHESAPEAKE ORCHESTRA
Jeffrey Silberschlag, music director

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2026 St. Mary's College of Maryland & Chesapeake Orchestra

INTERNS

These are students of St. Mary's College from St. Mary's College who were selected by application and recommendation. They perform with the Chesapeake Orchestra but are particularly focused on Arts Administration during this summer, gaining hands-on experience supporting the complex operations of the River Concert Series, SMCM Music Department and the Chesapeake Orchestra. From this experience, St. Mary's College has produced an impressive list of alumni, working at the highest level in professional performing arts administrative careers.

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The Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC), an agency of the Maryland Department of Commerce, Division of Tourism, Film and the Arts, is pleased to provide an annual grant to St. Mary's College of Maryland's River Concert Series. Events such as this outstanding concert series are a window into the countless arts opportunities available to residents and visitors across our state.

The MSAC thanks the River Concert Series for its ongoing contributions to Maryland's cultural vitality. To learn more about the Maryland State Arts Council and its numerous programs and resources, visit www.msac.org.

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St. Mary's County Arts Council is proud to be a sponsor of the River Concert Series. Our mission is to increase an awareness of the value of the arts in St. Mary's County as they enhance the quality of our community and individual lives. This special sponsorship opportunity allows us to give support to acclaimed guest artists. As a subsidiary of the Maryland State Arts Council, the Council reviews requests and awards grants to local arts organizations, the Board of Education, and the Department of Recreation to fund arts programs. The Council also awards scholarships to graduating high school students who have demonstrated excellence in visual arts, performing arts, theater, and arts education, as well as sponsorships to local artists. St. Mary's County Arts Council, designated by the IRS as a 501C3 non-profit, fosters and encourages the development of the arts and artists in St. Mary's County. We are very pleased to be part of the many businesses that show their support for the arts as sponsors and advertisers of River Concert Series 2026.

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