



ANTONIO VIVALDI

OWN YOUR OWN  
ORCHESTRA!

OR PART OF IT ANYWAY.

THANKS TO



THE WILLIAMSBURG SYMPHONY  
ORCHESTRA

*League*

## VENICE, ITALY - EARLY 18TH CENTURY...

*Opera....one of the most popular musical entertainments in early 18th century Italy.*

*Equivalent to our 21st century smash Broadway musicals and rock concerts, opera was the favorite musical offering of Venice audiences. Crowds flocked to hear their favorite singers and demanded an unending supply of new performances.*



Teacher, composer and conductor, Antonio Vivaldi began composing opera as a sideline to his teaching position at The Devout Hospital of Mercy in Venice. Having studied for the priesthood, he was dubbed the “Red Priest” for his flaming red hair. A very popular musician in

Venice at the time, he is well known to us for his many orchestral, vocal and concerti compositions. However, he was a prolific composer and conductor of at least 46 operas, of which 20 still exist.

One of Vivaldi’s operas “Arsilda, regina di Ponto” (Arsilda, queen of Ponto) was scheduled for performance but was suddenly blocked by the Venice state censor. The main character, Arsilda, falls in love with, Lisea, who is a woman pretending to be a man. Because of this suggestive “pants role,” the opera was rejected by the strait-laced censor. However, Vivaldi got the censor’s acceptance of the opera the following year when it was performed to resounding success!

Vivaldi’s progressive operatic style caused some trouble with other more conservative musicians. Pamphlets were written denouncing him and his operas, although his name was never actually mentioned. However the cover of one pamphlet showed a boat, on the left end of which stands a little angel wearing a priest’s hat and

playing the violin. Non-existent places with various names were written under this illustration, one of which was “Aldiviva” – an anagram of A.Vivaldi.

At the height of his career, Vivaldi received commissions from European nobility and royalty. And like many composers of the time, he continually needed patrons to practice his art.



Photo by Kim Keily

Many of us are justly proud of The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra’s (WSO) fantastic artistry and feel that it is our very own orchestra. You can become a patron of the symphony and “own” a part of it for a season. Choose an item to sponsor from the list on the last page and you will “own” that item for the concert season!\*

Your support through *Own Your Own Orchestra* assists WSO for the 2023–2024 year.

- And:
- 🎻 your name will be listed in the program
  - 🎻 you can meet a musician who plays your favorite instrument
  - 🎻 your gift is 100% tax deductible



**\*Please note:** Your gift to the League through “Own Your Own Orchestra” (OYOO) helps the League support WSO for this one year only. It is not an endowment. Should you wish to endow a chair please contact WSO at (757) 229-9857.

# ITEMS TO SPONSOR

Make your selection from the list below and return the enclosed form.  
Checks may be written to:

The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra League  
P.O. Box 1665  
Williamsburg, VA 23187-1665

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2. Concertmaster... **\$500**
3. Principal Instrument (*1st chair*)... **\$400**
4. String Section... **\$300**
5. Wind Section... **\$300**
6. Brass Section... **\$300**
7. Percussion Section... **\$250**
8. Keyboard/Harp... **\$150**
9. One Individual Instrument of Your Choice... **\$100**
10. Conductor's Baton... **\$100**
11. String Player's Bow... **\$50**



*Photo by Kim Keily*

All proceeds benefit The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra. Just make your selection and send in the form with your check or credit card info. Your generosity will help pay the orchestra's costs for every concert this season.



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***Vivaldi spent his life searching for financial security from a steadfast patron...Now you can be a "patron" for one season of our own Williamsburg Symphony!***

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**The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra League**  
**P.O. Box 1665**  
**Williamsburg, VA 23187-1665**

*Please print your name here as you would like it to appear in the program.*

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- ☐ 4. String Section... **\$300**
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- ☐ 7. Percussion Section... **\$250**
- ☐ 8. Keyboard/Harp... **\$150**
- ☐ 9. One Individual Instrument of Your Choice... **\$100**  
*Please specify instrument* \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 10. Conductor's Baton... **\$100**
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Credit Card No: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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*A \$3 administrative charge will be added to all credit card payments.*