



LYNCHBURG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

621 COURT STREET LYNCHBURG, VA 24504 434-845-6604 lso@ntelos.net lynchburgsymphony.org

CONTACT:

Erika Mork

(434) 845-6604

lso@ntelos.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Lynchburg Symphony to Celebrate American Composers at Season Opener**

(LYNCHBURG) — The Lynchburg Symphony Orchestra inaugurates its 36<sup>th</sup> season with a salute to Leonard Bernstein, Aaron Copland and John Williams at its October 28 concert. The concert also features two expert guest conductors.

Dr. Kathryn Voelker, a music professor at Liberty University, will lead the LSO in a celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bernstein’s birth. The concert will recognize both the importance of his music and his contribution to educating young people. “He is known for symphonic music and theater music that crossed a lot of different 20th century styles,” Voelker says. “He was an educator, a pianist, a conductor, and a music director.”

The LSO will perform three of Bernstein’s works: *West Side Story Suite*, *Candide*, and *Symphonic Dances*. Voelker says Bernstein’s contribution to music was his ability to bring the different worlds of popular, jazz, and theatre together into the concert hall. “He was working within that world to make it fun and exciting and dramatic, which is what I think culture was interested in,” says Voelker. The popular song “Tonight” will feature a duet by Broadway performer Justin Bowen, a Lynchburg native and E. C. Glass High School graduate, and a female singer who is yet to be selected.

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Gina DiCarlo, orchestra conductor at E. C. Glass High School, will conduct Aaron Copland's *Hoe Down* and *Buckaroo Holiday* (from *Rodeo*) and John Williams' *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. DiCarlo also serves as adjunct instructor of violin and viola at Randolph College. She was concertmaster of the LSO during the 2016-2017 season.

Copland is best known for his western-style compositions. DiCarlo says the importance of Copland's music is his source of inspiration. "He drew heavily from already existing American musical literature like jazz and folk," she says. "You can hear both genres in his works."

As for John Williams, concertgoers will recognize his composition from a popular film series. "I turned to one of my own childhood favorites – music from Harry Potter," DiCarlo says. "The themes are recognizable and hopefully will deliver a sense of magic to listeners." Williams work reflects his Hollywood association with major film directors. "His style is sweeping and grand," DiCarlo says.

The concert will be held at 4 p.m. on October 28 at the Liberty University School of Music Concert Hall. Tickets may be ordered online by visiting the LSO website at [lynchburgsymphony.org/events-concerts](http://lynchburgsymphony.org/events-concerts) and clicking on the Purchase Tickets button.

### **About the LSO**

The Lynchburg Symphony Orchestra was started in 1983 as a way for local musicians to use their skills, while enhancing the community's arts programs. The LSO is a key contributor to Lynchburg's cultural, intellectual and creative vibrancy, helping to keep Lynchburg an attractive center for economic development – essential for businesses seeking to recruit and retain investors and employees. Beyond the price of a ticket, spending by arts organizations and their audiences supports jobs and generates government revenue. LSO musicians live and work in the Lynchburg area keeping attendee's investment in our community.

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