



Photo by Clark Greer

LSO to Headline First Week of ACOA Historic Theatre Grand Reopening

In 1958, the Historic Theatre in downtown Lynchburg hosted its final performance, gave its last encore, and shuttered its doors. Sixty years later, the theatre will experience a rebirth as the Academy Center of the Arts reopens on December 6. The Lynchburg Symphony Orchestra is honored to participate in the inaugural weekend festivities as the first orchestra to perform in the newly renovated theatre.

After sitting dormant for six decades, Lynchburg residents are eager to see the theatre's grand reopening. "It has been a dream of this community for a very, very long time," says Geoffrey Kershner, executive director of the Academy Center of the Arts.

An essential component of the renovation was deciding the best design for the facility, based on its early history. Kershner says the theatre went through several architectural iterations between its initial opening in 1905 and 1958, when the facility closed. The original building burned in 1911. "When it was rebuilt in 1912, it was redesigned

in the Beaux-Arts style," Kershner says. It retained that design until the 1930s when he says an attempt was made at modernization, including adding Art Deco features. "When the theatre comes back online this December, it will harken back to the Beaux-Arts style of 1912," Kershner says. "We thought that era would be the best because the height of the theater was the Beaux-Arts period."

Giving audiences a top-rate experience is crucial. That meant attention to detail when it came to acoustics that have the same high quality of the original structure. "You could even go up to the top balconies and hear somebody whispering on stage," Kershner says. He says accomplishing that feat involved working with an acoustics expert throughout the renovation process to make sure the space would offer a perfect auditory experience.

Opening week will be a mix of music performances that Kershner says pay tribute to the many

President's Message: Thank You for Your Generous Support

The giving-time-of-year is fast approaching, reminding us of our supporters and their generosity in 2018, allowing us to achieve important expansion of the LSO. We have hired additional part time administrative staff, a part time executive director and a part time music coordinator. Auditions were held in August and September adding qualified musicians to our membership and we have increased musician pay to bring it closer to professional standards.

Together, the Lynchburg community has made the renovation of the Historic Theatre a reality and the LSO is excited to be one of the first concerts opening week. We thank Martin and Lee Ann Parece for their generous support of our holiday concert this season, and every year for the past five years. The generosity of the Pareces makes possible Home for the Holidays!, conducted by Hugh Ballou, December 9, 4:00 p.m., in the Historic Theatre, Academy Center of the Arts. Tickets are selling fast – so get your tickets soon! We expect this concert to sell out – don't miss it!

We thank Anitra Webster, Dorsey Mayo, George Caylor, Dr. James Mundy, Watts Petroleum and one anonymous donor for providing complimentary tickets for the parents and children from John L. Hurt Elementary School's 50-member Children's Choir. Their presence adds to the

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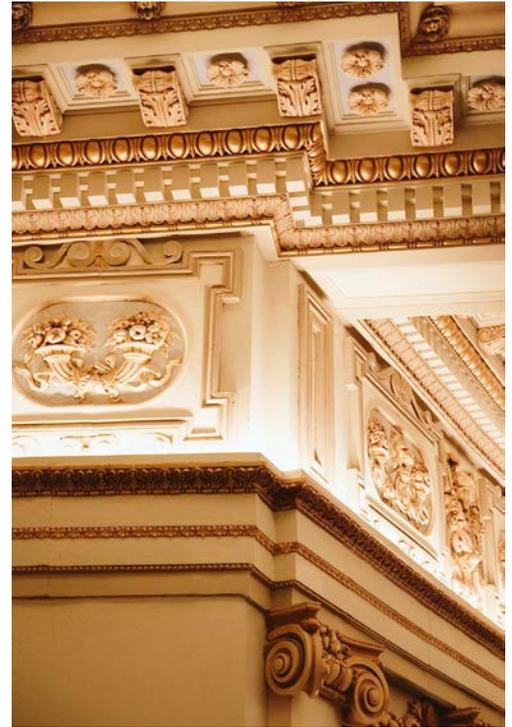
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ACOA theatre from page 1

people in the community who made the theatre possible. “Partner organizations are really important to us in that opening week,” says Kershner. “It’s an opportunity for them also to showcase the space and take advantage of it.”

The Lynchburg Symphony Orchestra will present its annual holiday concert, Home for the Holidays! on December 9 at 4 p.m. Later during opening week, the LSO will provide the music for the Charlottesville Ballet’s performance of *The Nutcracker*. The star-studded week also will feature singer Mavis Staples, as well as a black tie formal event with Wynton Marsalis and Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra.

Kershner says there is great anticipation for the theatre’s opening. “I don’t think it will really quite settle in with the entire community until they walk in there and see it for themselves,” he says. He adds that the theatre is not just the Academy, but a part of the entire community. “The fundraising efforts to make this possible were public, private, corporate. Everybody made this happen, and so we really view this as everyone’s space and we’re just stewards of it.”



Theatre photos on this page are courtesy of the Academy Center of the Arts



Zuill Bailey
 Grammy Award Winning Cellist
 March 2, 2019, 7:30 PM
 Liberty University
 School of Music Concert Hall
 Concert tickets on sale soon.

Desserts with Zuill Bailey
 Friday, March 1, 2019, 7:30 PM
 Eleanor Rose Madison Room
 Virginian Hotel, Curio Collection by Hilton
 Tickets are on sale now at:
lynchburgsymphony.org/events-concerts

President’s message from page 1

joyous spirit of the holiday season!

Our search committee is at work to bring the next permanent music director to the LSO no later than summer, 2019. We need your financial support to hire the most qualified conductor we can find.

This Thanksgiving, the LSO has much to be thankful for. With gratitude for each of you and the entire Lynchburg community, we

wish you a happy holiday season!



Linda Edwards is board president of the Lynchburg Symphony Orchestra

Home for the Holidays!

Holiday Concert Combines the LSO With Vocalists from Around the Area

Picture all the things you like best about the holiday season – family, friends, festive carols, children’s choirs. The LSO brings them all together in its Home for the Holidays! concert on December 9 at 4 p.m. This year is especially noteworthy, as Lynchburg’s favorite yuletide event will be held in the renovated Academy Center of the Arts Historic Theatre. In fact, the LSO is the first orchestra to perform during the theatre’s opening week.

“Coming to the theater is an experience all its own,” says concert conductor Hugh Ballou. “It’s going to be a joy.” Ballou says one of the best features of the theatre’s design is that people will feel like they are close to the performers. “It’s very intimate, so there’s not really a bad seat in the house.”

The concert will feature a variety of music in a format that Ballou says is patterned after orchestra performances in major cities. “It’s a model that I learned from Robert Shaw and the Atlanta Symphony,” he says. He explains that the concert includes snippets of many different styles of music and is fast-paced.

“There are a lot of short pieces people know, but in fresh settings,” he says.

“There are lots of different moods.”

The concert will start with an ancient Russian Orthodox song,

Salvation is Created. “We’re doing a great 19th century carol, *O Come O Come Emmanuel*, in a modern setting that comes from a plainsong from a 19th century chant,” Ballou explains. “I also commissioned a contemporary composer to do a what I would call a festive, Hollywood setting of *Joy to the World*.” Plus, he says there will be some spirituals from indigenous cultures in America.

In addition to the LSO, the concert includes several vocal ensembles, as well as soloists Daryl Duff and Emma Gwinn. The audience will recognize Duff as the voice of the Grinch from the 2017 holiday concert. A 100-member LSO Festival Chorus, comprised of singers that represent the Lynchburg community, was brought together just for this event. “In a sense it’s a collaborative effort of a lot of arts organizations coming together and making this work, so that in itself is a great joy,” Ballou notes.

An exciting part of the festivities is The Ramp Church gospel choir that will sing both as a distinct component of the concert, as well as in the big choir. A 50-voice children’s choir from John L. Hurt Elementary will also perform. “There is going to be a surprise, so I can’t tell you too much,” Ballou says. “But they’re going to add an exciting element to both ends of the concert.”

Ballou says the audience also will have a chance to sing favorite Christmas songs accompanied by the orchestra. “You will be surrounded with great singers, so you’ll feel like you’re an opera singer,” Ballou says. “There’s something for everybody.”



Hugh Ballou
Holiday concert conductor

December 9, 2018 • 4:00 p.m.
Academy Center of the Arts
Historic Theatre

Experience the LSO’s inaugural concert in the newly restored Academy Center of the Arts Historic Theatre. Sing along to festive seasonal favorites. Enjoy the warmth of home and friends as vocal groups and soloists join the Lynchburg Symphony Orchestra to usher in the holiday season.

The Ramp Church choir
LSO’s 100-voice community festival choir
50-member children’s choir from
John L. Hurt Elementary School
Soloists Daryl Duff and Emma Gwinn

Tickets are available through:
lynchburgsymphony.org/events-concerts



The Ramp Church gospel choir



Daryl Duff

Downtown Lynchburg
Academy Center of the Arts
Historic Theatre location and parking



Shop For the Holidays and Support the LSO

Contributions from individuals, businesses and foundations in and around Lynchburg make it possible for the LSO to present concerts and provide educational music programs in local schools. Support for organizations like the Lynchburg Symphony Orchestra ensures performing arts continue long into the future.

Financial support takes the form of both large and small individual gifts, which means anyone can become involved in the Lynchburg Symphony. Did you know that you can help the LSO each time you shop? It only requires a few minutes, one time.

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These results will ensure the LSO continues serving its community for many years to come.

The LSO Thanks These Organizations for Their Generous Support of the Arts



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Be sure to use your Kroger Plus Card when you shop, so the LSO gets credit for your purchases. You can also track how much the LSO has earned each quarter from your participation in the program.

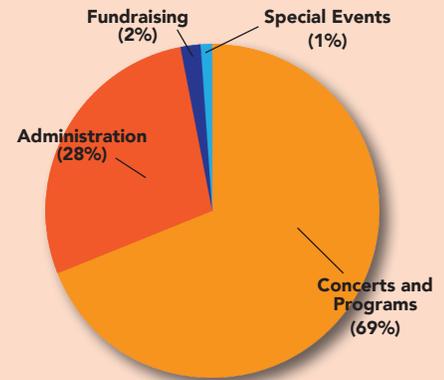
Details are available on the Kroger Community Rewards website.

Black Friday. Cyber Monday.

#GIVINGTUESDAY

You can support the LSO on Tuesday, November 27. Donations from people like you make our live performances and music programs possible. Charitable contributions are essential for attracting and retaining talented musicians, purchasing new music, transporting and repairing instruments, and making our concerts accessible to more members of the greater Lynchburg community through discounted and complimentary tickets.

LSO Expenses



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