

BRASSY JAZZY CHRISTMAS

Saturday, December 10, 2022 at 7:30pm

George Washington National Masonic Memorial Theater Alexandria, VA

Jeffrey Sean Dokken | SONOVA Music Director Michael Thompson | Associate Music Director and Brass Ensemble Director Josh Head | Arranger

The Symphony Orchestra of Northern Virginia presents "Brassy Jazzy Christmas," a strong lineup of Christmas and holiday favorites. Inspired by Stan Kenton's album "A Merry Christmas!," SONOVA has created a jazz band--substituting french horns for saxophones--for a jazzy feel with a uniquely brassy sound. Enjoy carols, classical holiday favorites, movie music, and even a Mariah Carey arrangement.



SONOVA is honored to return to the stage of the

George Washington National Masonic Memorial and
extends a special thanks to
George D. Seghers, Executive Director
Radka Mavrova, Special Events & Administration

SONOVA TEAM

Jeffrey Sean Dokken, Music Director Michael Thompson, Associate Music Director Elizabeth Steele, Orchestra Manager

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NOTE: The survey effort lasts all season long, and responses are separated by event. Even if you completed the survey last concert, please consider completing it for this concert!

Please take a couple of minutes to answer the following questions about your attendance at this performance, event, exhibit, venue, or facility. This survey is being conducted by the City of Alexandria Office of the Arts to measure the economic and social impact of arts and culture on the City of Alexandria. It will only take 2-3 minutes to participate. Your answers are completely anonymous. Thank you!

https://surveys.americansforthearts.org/s3/va-cityofalexandria

Quick - before you scroll down - please complete the survey! Your participation supports SONOVA and arts in Alexandria, VA. Thank you!

--SONOVA Team

BRASSY JAZZY CHRISTMAS

Holiday Fanfare Arr. Michael J. Miller

Angels We Have Heard on High Francois-Auguste Gevaert (1828-1908), Arr. Ralph Carmichael

Adeste Fideles (O Come, All Ye Faithful)

John Reading (1645–1692), Arr. Stan Kenton

Ding Dong Merrily on High Arr. David Marlatt

O Tannenbaum Arr. Ralph Carmichael

Frosty the Snowman Walter "Jack" Rollins (1906-1973) and Steve Nelson (1907-1981)

Arr. Jerry Nowak

Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas Hugh Martin (1914-2011) and Ralph Blane (1914-1995)

Arr. Dave Wolpe

The Holly and the Ivy

Arr. Ralph Carmichael

Still, Still, Still Arr. David Marlatt

Winter Wonderland Felix Bernard (1897-1944), Arr. Dave Barduhn

O, Holy Night Adolphe Adam (1803-1856), Arr. Ralph Carmichael

Nutcracker Suite Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

Arr. Frank Comstock, Adapted by Jim Martin

The Great Jingle Bell Chase Arr. Jon Bubbett

Intermission

Good King Wenceslas Arr. Ralph Carmichael

Setting the Trap from Home Alone John Williams (b. 1932), Arr. Brian Sadler

End Credits Suite from The Nightmare Before Christmas Danny Elfman (b. 1953)

Christmas Time is Here Vince Guaraldi (1928-1976), Arr. David Pugh

All I Want for Christmas is You Mariah Carey (b. 1969) and Walter Afanasieff (b. 1958)

Christmas Medley Arr. Stan Kenton

Sleigh Ride Leroy Anderson (1908-1975)

BRASS ENSEMBLE

French Horn

Sarah Antonsson
Carolyn Hughes McCabe
Sara Smith
Patrick Walker

Trumpet

Alexander Grisos
Josh Head
Jeff Menzin
Michael Thompson

Trombone

Ian Giles
Kyle Peck
Ethan Scholl
Patty Zweibel

Tuba

Blake Helander

Piano

Joe Katz Josh Head

Bass

Dan Hall

Timpani

David Constantine

Drum Set

Shawn Mitchell

Percussion

Dan Briest Matt Hughes Glenn Paulson

PROGRAM NOTES

From SONOVA Associate Music Director Michael Thompson

In the spring of 1961, as the story goes, Stan Kenton "fired" his saxophone section and replaced them with four mellophoniums (a bell-front version of the French horn) and a tuba, creating an all-brass jazz band that then recorded his upcoming album: *from the creative world of stan kenton comes ... A Merry Christmas!*. As SONOVA doesn't have any saxophones and already has French horns (mellophoniums are rarely played these days as they are almost impossible to play in tune) and a tuba, we're able to recreate Kenton's Christmas sound without taking such drastic measures.

Kenton's *A Merry Christmas!*, arranged by Ralph Carmichael and Stan Kenton, has been hailed as a "polyphonic masterpiece that is at once progressive and traditional. . . . Featuring Kenton's idiosyncratic style of arranging piercing trumpets over a wooly blanket of trombones and mellophones, this is beautiful, forward-thinking and angular music that addresses both complex classical harmony and Basie-style swing."

We're excited to perform selections from *A Merry Christmas!* and other holiday favorites, all custom-arranged for SONOVA's brass ensemble, including two cues from beloved Christmas movies: *Home Alone* and *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. John Williams (who celebrated his 90th birthday on February 8 of this year) received his 27th Academy Award nomination for his score to *Home Alone*. In "Setting the Trap", Williams creatively layers "Carol of the Bells" and some original themes over a rock beat underscoring the montage of Macaulay Culkin's Kevin McCallister preparing his family's house for the impending arrival of hapless criminals Harry and Marv, played by Joe Pesci and Daniel Stern. The score to *The Nightmare Before Christmas* was written by long-time Tim Burton-collaborator Danny Elfman. "End Credits Suite" is the all-instrumental music that plays over the end credits and includes reprises of all the film's well-known songs.

And, it wouldn't be a SONOVA Christmas concert if we didn't end with Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride", the most-famous version of which was recorded by the Boston Pops Orchestra under the baton of John Williams.

Thank you to SONOVA's brass and percussion musicians who have worked hard to present this concert for you, and to Josh Head for his arranging and trumpeting assistance. And thank you for joining us as SONOVA's brass ensemble helps to usher in the holiday season the best way we know how: with brass music!





Jeffrey Sean Dokken

As featured in the "Best Of" issue of Virginia Living Magazine, Maestro Jeffrey Sean Dokken is one of today's most exciting and vibrant Music Directors and Conductors. Over the past decade, Dokken has performed throughout the United States in some of America's greatest venues, including The Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, Strathmore Concert Hall, The Grand Opera House, Constitution Hall and many more. Internationally, he's performed in innumerable world renowned venues throughout Europe and South America. Maestro Dokken has had the distinct honor of conducting at the White House in Washington D.C. on several occasions.

Dokken is the Music Director and Conductor of the Symphony Orchestra of Northern Virginia, and the Artistic Director and Conductor of The Rome Symphony Orchestra in Rome, Georgia. Additionally, Maestro Dokken is the Music Director for the NFL's Washington Commanders. Dokken has an active career as a guest conductor, and amongst many other engagements throughout the United States and abroad, has had the honor of conducting the National Symphonies of Brazil and Ecuador, and conducting the World Premiere of the Philip Glass Flute Concerto in Florence, Italy.

After earning his degree in voice from the University of Redlands, Dokken pursued graduate degrees at California Lutheran University and Shenandoah Conservatory. A multi-instrumentalist as well as a vocalist, Dokken is a piano, brass and percussion specialist, with an emphasis on low brass.

He has composed for, conducted and performed on a number of recordings, including recent recordings of flute and orchestra music for Universal Music Group, and on "Premiered at the Opera House," a recording with the Symphony Orchestra of Northern Virginia and the Metropolitan Chorus. Additionally, Maestro Dokken recorded a CD of American music with renowned violinist Jorge Saade and the Guayaquil symphony orchestra. A lover of all kinds of Rock music, Dokken frequently lectures on the intersection of popular and classical music, and features the juxtaposition of genres in much of his programming. Dokken maintains a thriving Arts Consulting Business, with an emphasis on helping composers and artists bring their works to life.



Michael Thompson

Michael Thompson, a native Oregonian, is the Associate Conductor and Principal Trumpet of the Symphony Orchestra of Northern Virginia (SONOVA). As Associate Conductor, Michael frequently directs SONOVA rehearsals and brass and percussion sectionals and has conducted numerous SONOVA Holiday Concerts (2015, 2018, 2019, 2021, and 2022). He also creates custom arrangements and orchestrations for SONOVA and leads SONOVA's Brass Quintet.

Michael studied trumpet performance and music at the University of Oregon where he was the Musical Director of the elite, nationally-performing Green Garter Band, an audition-only, full-tuition scholarship ensemble. While at the University of Oregon, Michael was also the trumpet section leader of the Oregon Symphonic Band and the Oregon Athletic Bands, including the Oregon Marching Band where he was named Outstanding Band Member in 2005 and 2006 and received the Director's Choice Award in 2004. Before that, Michael attended Grammy Award-winning South Salem High School in Salem, Oregon where he was the Head Drum Major of the Marching Band, earning High Drum Major at the 2001 University of Oregon Festival of Bands. Michael was also a member of the South Salem High School Full Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, and Jazz Band and, as a senior, was the recipient of the John Philip Sousa and Louis Armstrong awards.

As a trumpeter, Michael has played in productions of Evita, A Roadkill Opera, Les Misérables, Into the Woods, and The Music Man, was recently a featured guest-performer with Washington, DC-based alternative rock band Black Dog Prowl, and has performed across the United States and in the Sydney Opera House. Michael has recorded with the Oregon Marching Band, the Green Garter Band, and Salem, Oregon's St. Paul's Episcopal Church. He can also be found on the original cast recording of A Roadkill Opera, numerous live recordings, and in the introduction to EA Sports' NCAA March Madness 2004.









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Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade SONOVA's 11th Anniversary Gala

Saturday, March 18, 2023 / Gala: 6:30pm / Concert: 7:30pm
George Washington National Masonic Memorial Temple Grand Hall and Theater
Tickets (incl. food and drink) in advance: \$35 Adult / \$25 Senior / \$20 Student / 10&Under Free

Beethoven, Brews, and BBQ Featuring Beethoven's Iconic Fifth Symphony

Saturday, May 6, 2023 / Food and drink available for purchase: 5:15pm / Concert: 6:00pm Lee District Park

Tickets in advance: \$25 Adult / \$20 Senior / \$15 Student / 10&Under Free

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