

# Richmond Symphony Orchestra's

## Colors of the Symphony

### *Teacher Information Guide*

765-966-5181

Civic Hall Performing Arts Center  
380 Hub Etchison Parkway  
Richmond, IN 47374

[www.RichmondSymphony.org](http://www.RichmondSymphony.org)

# Concert Program

Guy Victor Bordo, Music Director

**Hoe-Down from Rodeo**

**Aaron Copeland**

Individual instrument demonstration

**Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass**

**Overture to The Magic Flute\*\***

**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**

Individual instrument demonstration

**Piccolo, Flute, Oboe, E-flat, Clarinet, Bb Clarinet, Bassoon**

**Symphony No. 4\*\***

**Johannes Brahms**

Third Movement – Allegro giocoso

Individual instrument demonstration

**Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba**

**Overture to Rienzi\*\***

**Richard Wagner**

Individual instrument demonstration

**Timpani, Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Cymbals, Xylophone, Ratchet,  
Tambourine**

**And Four To Go**

**Michael Roy**

**Overture to Rienzi\*\***

**Richard Wagner**

With two student conductors from the audience

**Symphony No. 5**

**Ludwig van Beethoven**

First Movement – Allegro con brio

**\*\*only excerpt performed**

# The Strings



**Violin** - Like all the string instruments the violin uses a bow to produce sound. The bow is a long stick with horse hair attached from end to end. When the bow is drawn across the strings of the violin, they produce sound. The violin is the smallest and highest pitched instrument of the string section.



**Viola** - The viola is much like the violin. It has four strings and is held under the chin just like the violin but is slightly bigger.



**Cello** - The cello is much larger than the violin and viola. A peg at the bottom of the cello allows the player to keep it stable on the ground while playing.

**Double Bass** - The double bass is the largest in the string family. The player has to stand or sit on a tall stool to play it. The strings of the double bass are often plucked with the fingers, especially in jazz music.



# The Woodwinds

**Flute** – The flute is made of a long hollow tube of metal. Sound is produced by blowing air over the mouthpiece. Finger holes are opened and closed along the instrument to change the pitch.



**Clarinet** – The clarinet is made of a long wooden cylinder. Sound is produced by blowing air through a thin shaved piece of wood called a reed. Like the flute, finger holes are open and closed to change pitch.

**Oboe** – The oboe is very similar to the clarinet. A cylinder of wood with finger holes changes the pitch. A double-reed, which consists of two thin pieces of wood, vibrate to produce the sound.



**Bassoon** – The bassoon is the largest of the woodwind instruments and also uses a double reed like the oboe. Its sound is often used for comical effect.



# The Brass

**French Horn** – The french horn is made of metal tubing wrapped in coils and a flared bell. Sound is produced by vibrating your lips into a cup-shaped mouthpiece.



**Trumpet** – The trumpet is also made of wrapped metal tubing. Sound is produced by buzzing your lips through a mouthpiece. It has three valves that help control the pitch.

**Trombone** – The trombone is unique. It has a slide, which allows the tubing to become shorter and longer, controlling the pitch.



**Tuba** – The tuba is the largest of the brass instruments. It has valves like the trumpet and produces very low sounds.

# The Percussion



**Timpani** – Timpani drums, also called “kettle drums,” are large bowl shaped drums. Foot pedals are used to stretch the drum head in order to create different pitches.

**Snare Drum** – The snare drum is much smaller than the bass drum but similar in shape. The snare has drum heads on each side. On the bottom, metal wires are stretched across the drum head that give it a rattling sound when struck.



**Bass Drum** – This largest drum in the orchestra is struck with a mallet and makes a loud booming sound.

**Cymbals** – Cymbals are plates of metal curved into a slight bell-shape. When struck, they create a vibrating ring. They come in many different shapes and sizes.



# Composer Profiles

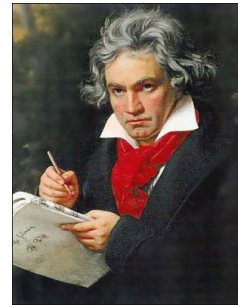


**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**  
(1756-1791)

Mozart was a musical prodigy, which means he was very talented at a young age. He was already composing music by the time he was five years old!

**Ludwig van Beethoven**  
(1770-1827)

Beethoven is quite possibly the most recognizable name in classical music. He was extremely gifted as a composer and pianist. As he grew older, Beethoven lost his hearing completely. However, some of his greatest works were composed during that tragic stage of his life.

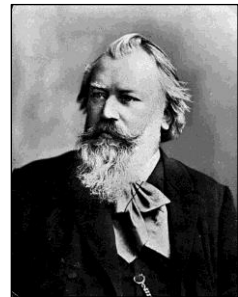


**Richard Wagner**  
(1813-1883)

Richard Wagner was a German composer in the years after Beethoven. He is most famous for his “music dramas” in which he combined visual arts, poetry, music, and theater into massive works, very much like an extravagant opera.

**Johannes Brahms**  
(1833-1897)

Johannes Brahms was a German composer and was heavily inspired by Beethoven. He enjoyed innovating with older musical forms. He was also a close friend of composers Robert and Clara Schumann.



**Aaron Copland**  
(1900-1990)

Aaron Copland is one of the most important American composers. His music is uniquely American and has a very distinct sound that is instantly recognizable, like music you might hear in a Western or cowboy movie.

