

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA *of* NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Ethan Lolley Artistic Director



 **SONOVA**

Fourteenth Season
2025–2026



Program Notes

Hearken, Noble Protectors of SONOVA,

On this eve, we set forth upon a grand and mythic quest—one that demands wisdom, valor, steadfast purpose, and... a most discerning ear for music. Within this hall, the ancient creatures of legend stir once more, awakened through melodies shaped in honor of their majesty and might.

As you have wandered the outer chambers, you may have crossed paths with warriors bold, wandering barbarians, seafaring pirates, and other champions of ages past. These keepers of old knowledge bear tales most vital—whispers that reveal the nature and mysteries of these fabled beings.

Our journey will carry us across distant realms and shadowed lands, where dragons take wing, sirens call from the deep, and elves, trolls, and others dwell beyond common knowing. Guiding this path is a trusted chronicler of our own land, who has gathered the lore of these creatures and now shares their secrets with you.

Attend closely, good travelers. Keep your senses keen, remain together, and listen well as the noble musicians give voice to each creature. Thus does SONOVA present *Of Legends and Lore*.

And now... let the quest begin!

Maestro Ethan Lolley

Keeper of the Baton and Herald of the Grand Quest

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- Invitation to dress rehearsals
- Four season tickets
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- VIP seating for two

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- Two tickets to a performance of your choice
- Program recognition

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Acknowledgments

SONOVA would like to recognize its sponsors this season:

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Community Advisory Council

SONOVA is proud to recognize the dedicated members of our Community Advisory Council, whose expertise and passion for the arts help shape the future of our orchestra.

Their involvement ensures that we continue to thrive, innovate, and reach new audiences.

2025-2026

Community Advisory Council Members

Joe Luquire.....*Development*

Debbie Brown-DeLone.....*Development*
Marketing/Communications

Catalina Goodman.....*Development*
Fundraising

Peggy Brockmann.....*Marketing/Communications*

Rick Fragaszy.....*Grant Writing*

Dorothy Fragaszy.....*Grant Writing*

We are immensely grateful to these committee members for their leadership and dedication. Their efforts play a vital role in helping SONOVA fulfill its mission of bringing the joy of symphonic music to everyone.

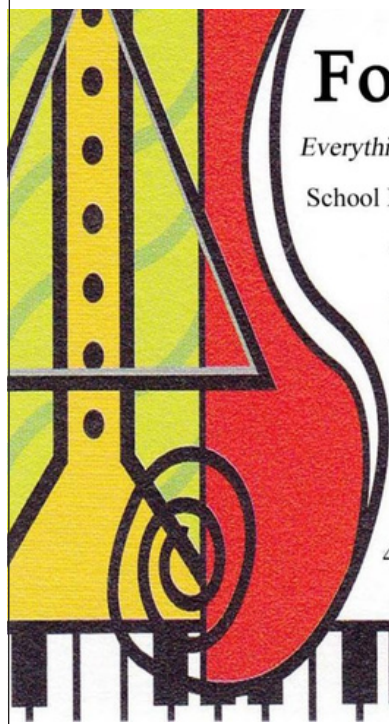
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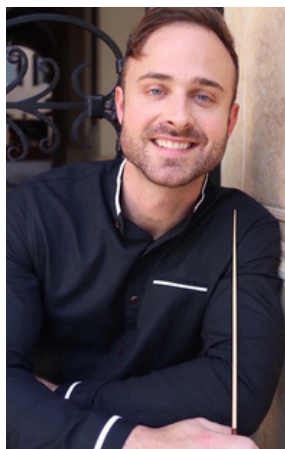
*Kenneth and Kathryn
Weeman*

In deepest appreciation for your
steadfast commitment to music
and the communities it unites.



SONOVA is supported, in part,
by the Virginia Commission for
the Arts (VCA), which receives
support from the Virginia
General Assembly.

Artistic Director



Ethan Lolley, an Alabama native, is an accomplished conductor, clinician, and music director. He holds his graduate degree in music education with a conducting emphasis in instrumental and choral conducting from Auburn University. He has led music ensembles as a collegiate and Drum Corps International drum major, youth and symphony orchestra conductor, and music director for children's theatre, adult mainstage regional theatrical productions, and as a professional opera conductor. Ethan also serves as a Florida public schools music and conducting clinician, providing professional development in conducting and ensemble performance for new music teachers, as well as adjudicating bands, orchestras, and choirs for state performance assessment. In 2015, he founded Drum Major Innovations, an educational institution that offers conducting clinics, camps, and competitions for aspiring drum majors and student conductors. He currently serves as an instructor for the Macy's Great American Marching Band, a select ensemble of the country's top high school musicians who perform in the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Ethan has performed professionally with Universal Orlando Resort, Disney Cruise Line, and The Walt Disney World Resort as an Actors' Equity vocalist. He is currently a principal performer for Walt Disney World's longest running show on property, The Hoop Dee Doo Musical Revue. He was formally the music director of the CFCArts Young Artists Orchestra in Orlando, Florida, as well as an associate conductor for the CFCArts Symphony Orchestra, the nation's largest community orchestra with over 240 musicians.

To read Ethan's full bio, visit sonovamusic.org/music-director.

Associate Music Director

Michael Thompson, a native Oregonian, is the Associate Music Director and Co-Principal Trumpet of the Symphony Orchestra of Northern Virginia (SONOVA), the Associate Music Director of the National Football League's Washington Commanders Marching Band (WCMB), and the Associate Principal Trumpet of the American Contemporary Classical Orchestra.

With SONOVA, Michael frequently directs rehearsals and brass, string, and percussion sectionals, has conducted numerous Holiday Concerts (2015, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, and 2025), and leads SONOVA's brass quintet. With WCMB, he leads musical rehearsals and conducts the band on the field and in the stands during Commanders home games. He also creates custom arrangements and orchestrations for SONOVA, WCMB, and other ensembles across the country.

Michael's work as a conductor and ensemble leader reflects a long-standing foundation of musical leadership. He studied trumpet performance and music at the University of Oregon, where he served as Musical Director of the elite, nationally-performing Green Garter Band and as trumpet section leader of the Oregon Symphonic Band and the Oregon Athletic Bands. He is a recipient of the John Philip Sousa and Louis Armstrong awards, received the Oregon Marching Band Director's Choice Award (2004), and was named Outstanding Band Member (2005 and 2006).



The Orchestra

First Violin

Kristie Budihardjo
Concertmaster
Tanya Whisnant
Assistant Principal

Jeanne Faubell
Oliver Hees
Joseph Keum
Myranda Moye
Lynn Rovelli
Sarah Taylor

Second Violin

Julia Maas
Principal
Jiyoung Chung
Janani Iyengar
Molly Jackson
Veronica Jackson
Tresa Proffitt
Mark Yohn

Viola

Justin Vu
Assistant Principal
Ryan Gates
Ava Krishnan
Cynthia Liccese-Torres
Mara Schimmel
Alison Treglia

Cello

Miller Susens
Acting Principal
Agnes Manley
Liz Peirce
Eileen Street
Hwa Yoo

Bass

Simon Semaan
David Sindt

Flute

Martine Micozzi
Principal
Dylan Tucker

Piccolo

Lauren Kochy
Principal

Oboe

Rachael Bredefeld
Principal
Lorrie Brown

English Horn

Lorrie Brown

Clarinet

Kristi Perry
Principal
Rose Mascarenhas

Bass Clarinet

Thomas Kazior
Principal

Bassoon

Joan Fragaszy Troyano
Principal
Karen Bell

Contrabassoon

Robert Goler

French Horn

Patrick Walker
Principal
Libby Doughty
Adrienne DeGeorge
Deanne de Lima

Trumpet

Michael Thompson
Co-Principal
Chris Andersen
Quentin Bouanna
Steve Kaelber

Trombone

William Gamache
Ian Giles
Zachary Sellers

Tuba

Jason Bongard
Principal

Timpani

David Churchwell

Percussion

Dan Briest
Will Egger
Shawn Mitchell
Carson Pomeroy
Nelly Solares

Keyboard

Mary-Victoria Voutsas

Of Legends and Lore

Saturday, April 25, 2026 | Bishop Ireton High School
Ethan Lolley, Artistic Director

"Overture"

from *The Creatures of Prometheus*

Ludwig van Beethoven

"March of The Trolls"***

from *Lyrical Pieces*

Edvard Grieg

From the Motion Picture**

How to Train Your Dragon

John Powell
arr. Sean O'Loughlin

"Song to the Moon"

from *Rusalka*

Heather Fetrow, Soloist

Antonín Dvořák

Intermission

"Molto allegro" Mvt. 3,

from Piano Concerto No. 5, "The Egyptian"

Vanessa Yu, Soloist

Camille Saint-Saëns

Symphonic Suite***

The Lord of the Rings:

The Fellowship of the Ring

Howard Shore
arr. John Whitney

Pohjola's Daughter

Jean Sibelius

Mystic Cycle*

Jonathan Kolm

"Finale"

from *Swan Lake*

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

*Denotes World Premier

**Conducted by Conducting Fellow Marco Cruz

***Conducted by Associate Music Director Michael Thompson

Mystic Cycle

By Jonathan Kolm

Part 1

The setting is a land lost to time, a small town in a valley with a long and mysterious past. Several children and villagers have recently disappeared, rumored to have been taken by dragon or one of the other monsters that live in lairs in the mountain above the valley.

Part 2

A band of adventurers assembles and is hired by the village to seek out the most recent child to have gone missing, the daughter of the major of the town. Seven adventurers with different skills and abilities gathers and set off on the quest.

Part 3

The party passes through a haunted woods with various dangers and creatures they must get through on their quest. One of the party with magical abilities thinks they have seen a vision of one of the missing villagers.

Part 4

The party must past through an area of floating pillars with dangers all around and then through a mind bending crystal maze to get to the dragon's lair.

Part 5

Entering and making their way through the lair, the party finds and does battle with the dragon. Back and forth, blows and magic are exchanged.

Part 6

At the moment of triumph of seeming to defeat the dragon, the party realizes that the missing child hasn't been taken by the dragon, it has been joined with the dragon's very body and being. Owing to the long and mysterious past of the village, not all is at it seems.

Part 7

The party presses on and works to separate the child's being from that of the the dragon and celebrates a different kind of victory than expected. The dragon must continue to live so that the child can as well. They leave the lair and part ways with the dragon with a truce having learned the secret of the village, that the monsters at the top of the mountain are joined with the missing villagers, and that recovering them all will be for another time.

About the Symphony



SONOVA began in 2011 as a small, government-funded orchestra in Arlington County, Virginia, founded by Jeffrey Sean Dokken and a group of committed musicians, some of whom continue to play in the orchestra today. SONOVA is now a semi-professional orchestra dedicated to providing high quality, innovative musical experiences at affordable prices and is excited to begin its journey and new growth under Maestro Ethan Lolley.

Our home theater is the beautiful George Washington Masonic National Memorial Theater. Over the years, SONOVA has been invited to perform throughout the Mid-Atlantic region with arts organizations as wide ranging as renaissance choirs, tap dance companies, symphonic choirs, Broadway artists, and various community arts organizations. Additionally, SONOVA has performed at such venues as Arlington's Spectrum Theater, the Grand Opera House in Wilmington, Delaware, the historic Church of the Reformation in Washington, D.C., the White House, Colonial Williamsburg's historic Bruton Parish, the Atlas Performing Arts Center, and the Ernst Community Cultural Center.

SONOVA routinely performs with world-class guest artists, conductors, and musicians. SONOVA has been joined onstage by world-renowned soloists and conductors Jorge Saade-Scaff, Sofya Gulyak, Juan Carlos Escudero, and Jacqueline Fontaine-Isaac.

SONOVA also places special importance on collaborations and both American and world premieres. Since its inception, SONOVA has given premieres of works by Brian Wilbur Grundstrom, Peter Rauch, Paul Leavitt, Michael Ream, William Burdett, Jeremy Smith, and Simon Royer.



2025–2026 Season

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The Board would like to thank you for supporting SONOVA. We would also like to thank the Alexandria City Public Schools, the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, Northern Virginia Community College, Bishop Ireton High School, and the City of Alexandria.

SONOVA is grateful to the time and talents of the volunteers that support the orchestra, including lighting designer Christina Giles, arranger and orchestrator Josh Head, our percussion instrument-moving team, and our concert-day volunteers.



2025—2026 Season

SONOVA Staff

Artistic Director Ethan Lolley

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Executive Director Serena Sela

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