



# Alexandria Symphony Orchestra

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## *ASO awarded grants for Children's Arts Fest*

**Who:** Alexandria Symphony Orchestra & Guest Maestro **Vaughn Ambrose**

**What:** **ASO Children's Arts Festival: The Heart of Music**

Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture*

Leonard Bernstein's *West Side Story*

Carter Burwell's "Bella's Lullaby," music from "**Twilight**"

**When:** Sunday, June 6, 2010. Activities hour at 2 p.m.; concert at 3 p.m.

**Where:** Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, NOVA Community College, Alexandria campus, 3001 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria, VA 22311

**Price:** **All tickets \$5.** Call **703-548-0885** or visit **[www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org)** for tickets.

**Alexandria, VA** – The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra is happy to announce three new partnerships that will help us make the annual Children's Arts Festival bigger and better than ever: The Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation, Dominion Power, and Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) of Northern Virginia.

The Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation has awarded the ASO \$10,000 to support the Children's Festival "The Heart of Music" and the 2010 *Music Makes a Difference* education program.

"We believe that the arts are a critical part of every strong and vibrant community," said George Swygert, Greater Washington, D.C. regional president for Wachovia. "Wachovia is proud to support the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra as it brings the gift of music to our community's children."

ASO thanks the Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation for consistently being a supporter of arts education. Thanks also go out to Dominion Power, who awarded the ASO \$5,000 towards the Children's Arts Festival.

These two monetary awards together allow us to keep ticket prices at only \$5 per person.

"Bringing live music to residents of greater Northern Virginia, and especially children, who normally wouldn't attend a symphony concert is a central goal of the Alexandria Symphony," said Executive Director Adrien Finlay.

SCAN works throughout Northern Virginia to promote positive parenting and prevent child abuse/neglect through Parent and Public Education as well as the Alexandria/Arlington Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program. The SCAN partnership — new for 2010 — will feature Kids for SCAN middle-school-age volunteers working in conjunction with the ASO staff during the festival, hosting an art booth in which children will make a spin art project.

The 3 p.m. concert of the Children's Arts Festival will be the culmination of a program in which our professional musicians give one-on-one help and mentoring to high school string students.

A parent of a student in our music education programs said her daughter blossomed under the watch of ASO mentors.

"Valerie was shy and unsure of her abilities the first year. Over time, and with one-on-one attention from ASO musicians, she gained a lot of confidence in herself and her playing. She's off to college now, to major in Music!" -- Marianne

During the concert, students from area public, private and home schools will see the results of their art projects that the ASO initiated through a classroom curriculum project. The art will be displayed behind the orchestra on a big screen. The ASO has been working with Alexandria City Public Schools for more than a decade on this music education project. This year, we are happily reaching every student in grades 6-8, with the help of ACPS teachers.

For the first time, we will have a guest conductor, **Vaughn Ambrose**. He is currently the lead music teacher and Director of Bands at Francis C. Hammond Middle School in Alexandria. He teaches literally hundreds of students each year in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade symphonic, marching, and jazz bands.

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