

Dear Mayor and Council:

I respectfully ask that you deny the application for renewal and increased hours and attendance allowed by the SUP for Classical Movements for the following reasons:

- 1) Classical Movements can hold these concerts and other events indoors, as they have already been doing during cold or rainy weather.
- 2) Classical Movements claims they cannot be viable without these events. That is not true, as they told both my neighbor and me when they purchased the property that they were planning on having these concerts. This was well before COVID.
- 3) The testimonials from the supporters of these concerts are from individuals not affected negatively by them. They either live so far away that the concerts can only be faintly heard inside their houses, they are musicians, or they live as far away as the District.
- 4) No one is more negatively affected by these events than those who live at 409 and 411 N. Columbus. We never envisioned that we would be living next door to an entertainment and party venue when we purchased our homes.
- 5) The property is already correctly zoned to prohibit such events. In fact, there is no venue in all of Alexandria that **frequently** holds outdoor concerts and weddings. (Carlyle House, for example, has outdoor concerts **rarely**.)
- 6) Classical Movements wants to be treated like restaurants in the area, except they are not a restaurant and there is no restaurant zoning in this part of Old Town.
- 7) Classical Movements has repeatedly and without concern for its neighbors violated the stipulations of their current SUP. The affidavits you have on file do not represent the total number of violations, as every time I want to submit a complaint I have to undergo the burdensome process of having my complaint notarized.
- 8) Classical Movements expects us to live in our houses according to their schedule. They don't want me having friends on my patio. They don't want me cleaning up my patio before friends arrive. I am not supposed to play any of the music I enjoy when Classical Movements wants to host an event. They have even held up signs when I am outside with friends telling us to be quiet. This I will not do. They have publicly libeled me in the local newspaper, saying I am purposely disturbing the concerts. Also not true.
- 9) Increasing the number of attendees will make scarce (and unregulated) parking nearly impossible for residents. It defies logic that this number of attendees will not occupy every space for several blocks in the area. Despite what Classical Movements says, people are not using Metro, which is a mile away, and there are currently no available spaces for residents returning home during these events.
- 10) The issue before you is not one of the merits of the music, as Classical Movements' uses as a smokescreen to obfuscate the issue.
- 11) The issue is the rights of homeowners to enjoy full use of their property, whenever they choose, not on Classical Movements' schedule.

12) I respectfully ask that you not reward Classical Movements by renewing their SUP and increasing their operating hours and attendance figures, when they have already shown themselves to be irresponsible actors under the current SUP, operating in a residential area mere feet from their neighbors.

Thank you for listening to our concerns.

Guy and Anne Lamolinara
411 N. Columbus St.



Leyla Johnson <leylacjohnson@gmail.com>

In Support of Classical Movements' SUP Application #2021-00119

1 message

Leyla Johnson <leylacjohnson@gmail.com>

Sun, Jan 30, 2022 at 5:00 PM

To: PlanComm@alexandriava.gov, Gloria.Sitton@alexandriava.gov, Neeta Helms <Neeta@classicalmovements.com>, Johan van Zyl <Johan@classicalmovements.com>

To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing in support of Classical Movements and their Sounds of Hope and Harmony concert series. We live one block away, near the corner of Princess and Alfred, and one of the reasons we bought the house last May (403A N. Alfred St) was that we discovered this amazing concert series a short walk away. Neeta and Johan have built up their touring business over decades, building connections with world-class musicians, and Alexandria can now benefit from these connections with this amazing concert series, one that probably would never have started without the pandemic but which could now become one of the jewels of Alexandria's cultural scene. The musicians who perform at the Rectory are accustomed to playing to much larger crowds and in much larger venues, so this concert series is truly one-of-a-kind. We have never seen artists of this caliber perform for such small audiences across a diversified program.

We attend every concert that we are able to and often turn it into a night out by walking down to King St for dinner either before or after the show. One of the absolute highlights of 2021 for us was seeing The Magic Flute performed as part of their Young Artists program, and we have the first weekend of June circled on our calendar right now for The Marriage of Figaro. Every time we have out of town visitors, we walk with them to a performance as part of a night out on the town - a good reason to help them also discover the restaurants and shops that are all within walking distance of the Rectory.

Over the course of multiple shows, we grew to know Neeta and Johan better and were surprised to learn that they have been having to fight for the right to keep doing performances and to have more flexible times. (The starting times for the concerts are uncomfortably early for people on regular working hours.) It's an amazing boon for the local community and will certainly bring in visitors from outside Alexandria as their reputation grows. The performances we have attended have all been at moderate volumes typical for classical music ensembles so it is hard to believe that there have ever been complaints about noise.

We hope that their Special Permit is approved, and we hope that the concerts become an important cultural institution for the City of Alexandria.

Best,

Leyla Johnson

CEO/Creative Director

mohawkgames.com

From: Douglas Rosenthal trombonedoug@gmail.com
Subject: In Support of Classical Movements' SUP Application #2021-00119
Date: January 28, 2022 at 7:33 PM
To: PlanComm@alexandriava.gov, Gloria.Sitton@alexandriava.gov
Cc: Adam Jackson Adam@classicalmovements.com

To Whom it May Concern,

I am an Alexandria City resident who is in strong support of the ability of Classical Movements to thrive and provide us with unparalleled artistic experiences. While most arts organizations had to close their doors throughout most of the pandemic thus far, Classical Movements has given our city the live art that our souls have so desperately needed. Moreover, it's been great for nearby shops, restaurants, and bars; many of us concert-goers go out for a night in Old Town after performances! Not to mention, arts and culture account for a significant amount of middle class jobs. We all like to say we support the middle class; this is a way for us to show it!

It's my understanding that there are three revisions in particular that they seek. First, to change the hours for outdoor live entertainment to be allowed between 10am and 10pm. Second, to increase the maximum number of seats. And third, to remove the prohibition on amplification. I am in favor of all of these revisions! Classical Movements could expand their artistic operations and hire more artists, and more of us could attend performances.

It is in the entire city's best interest to approve every item of this application. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Douglas Rosenthal

Alexandria City Council
February 12, 2022 Meeting

Subject: Special Use Permit #2021-00119, 711 Princess Street

Dear City Council,

We are writing this letter to express our family's objection against the Special Use Permit Application #2021-0019, 711 Princess Street, filed by Classical Movements to extend its indoor/outdoor live entertainment hours, expand its current seating from 50 to 181 people, to permit amplified sound, and to allow a parking reduction for all of its events. Please accept this correspondence into the record and take it into consideration when deliberating on the permit application.

We are the adjacent residents and property owner of 409 N Columbus Street. We have owned our home for 13 years that includes a family with 2 young daughters. We currently object to the request as proposed due to the following reasons and the issues witnessed over the past year since the grant of the initial SUP permit:

1. As an adjacent residential property owner with two young children (ages 2 and 6), outside live entertainment and dining noise has exceeded ordinance levels of 65 dB(A) and disrupted our children's bedtime of 7 PM. The Alexandria staff report confirms (Section III. SUP condition compliance) this fact as well with measurements, citations, warnings, and adjacent resident complains provided over the past year. The report even states, "Noise measurements conducted during the three sample concerts identified that noise from the patrons at the end of performances and in between sets often resulted in noise levels over 65 dB(A), exceeding the current noise ordinance requirement." Our children's bedrooms are located on the 2nd floor of our home adjacent to the outdoor event space. No amount of sound mitigation on the ground level will reduce the impact of the event noise on our home's back rooms including the 2nd floor bedrooms. The increase of seats from 50 to 181, extending operations to every day of the week (vs. Thursday, Saturday, & Sunday) with an hour extension on time from 9PM to 10PM, and the allowance of amplified noise will only exasperate the issue further.
2. Ingress and egress of event participants is not restricted to the properties front entrance or the side of the building adjacent to Sunrise Assisted Living commercial building. The primary access during Classical Movement outdoor events is in the rear of the property along shared driveways adjacent to our property line. The event access is located at one of the furthest distances within their property footprint from the public streets. During the past year when Classical Movements held outdoor events, attendees waited in lines along my property with a visual line of sight into my kitchen and other rear structure windows of my home. Attendee ingress and egress to the backyard entrance from the public street includes attendees walking on adjacent property driveways not owned by the Classical Movements from N Columbus Street vs. access to the event from Princess Street. Outdoor event attendees tend to loiter post event creating group noise along my east and southern fenced property lines. Post event loitering also includes ride

share pickups for those patrons not parking on the street. The increase of seats from 50 to 181 will exasperate these issues as well.

3. The property on 711 Princess Street has two parking spots at the rear entrance of the outdoor event space. During outdoor events over the past year, these owned spots or any other portion of the property's joint driveway (715 Princess Street) in which the applicant counts as 2 additional off street parking spaces, were not used to park event patrons. In fact, the applicants parking spots were cleared to allow ingress and egress to the event by attendees and at times an event check-in tent was placed in these property parking locations. Our observations over the past year have been that all attendees, if driving, park on the public street. No marketing literature or event staff pointed attendees to the 10 required off street parking spaces required in the conditions under last year's SUP approval. As previously stated, street parking by attendees has exacerbates foot traffic along my (409 Columbus) southern and eastern property lines to gain access to the rear of the property's outdoor space. The increase of seats from 50 to 181 will exasperate these issues and street parking after standard business hours as well.
4. Lastly, only two single family homes are immediately adjacent to the property's outdoor event space. All other surrounding properties are commercial businesses with normal "9 AM to 5 PM" daytime operating hours for heavy business foot traffic. Both single family homeowners (409 & 411 N Columbus) object to this special use permit application as an outdoor event space due to its negative impact on the quality of life in our home living spaces. All letters submitted by the applicant and those speaking in support in support don't live immediately adjacent to it (feet away) as their primary home.

Thank you for your time considering our objection. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

/s/

David, Susan, Devin, & Reese Fritz (Fritz Family)
409 N Columbus Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
david.fritz@gmail.com

Gloria Sitton

From: Elicia Pierno <eliciamp97@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 11:59 AM
To: Gloria Sitton
Cc: Adam Jackson
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Supporting Classical Movements' Special Use Permit Application # 2021-00119

[You don't often get email from eliciamp97@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <http://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>.]

Good afternoon Ms. Sitton,

I am contacting you to show my support of Classical Movements special use permit. I moved to Old Town Alexandria in February 2021. I live just a few blocks away from The Rectory. As you know, during February 2021, we were in a very precarious and difficult time. I was saddened to see Old Town so quiet, businesses closed, tourists gone, etc.

In the summer of 2021, I found Classical Movements. It was a dream come true to find such a gift to our community. I have attended every concert since I discovered them. They have brought life, hope and inspiration to our community. We need this today and every day in our new world. I want to spread the word and let everyone know this gem exists right in our own back yard.

I urge you to allow Classic Movements to increase their guest capacity so many more of our residents may share in the joy of their superb programs. Along with the guest capacity, please allow an increase in the sound amplification, as it is NOT a disturbance to the community, but rather a gift. All day long in Old Town, we listen to construction machinery, airplanes and sirens. These concerts are a beautiful reprieve for our residents. Lastly, I ask for your approval to extend the operating hours. I believe the noise ordinance in Old Town is 11pm, so it would make sense to allow Classical Movements to end their programs at this time.

Please carefully consider the permit. It is organizations such as Classical Movements that make Old Town a magical place to live.

Thank you.
Elicia Pierno

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Gloria Sitton

From: Mallory Rascher Cogar <malloryr2@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 3:35 PM
To: PlanComm; Gloria Sitton
Cc: Johan van Zyl; Michael Cogar
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Special Use Permit #2021-00119

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Some people who received this message don't often get email from malloryr2@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Members of the City Council, City of Alexandria, Va.:

I am writing in support of Special Use Permit #2021-00119 as it pertains to the Secret Garden at the Rectory on Princess Street. My husband and I were married in the Secret Garden and it holds a special place in our memories.

I, myself, am a long-time resident of Northern Virginia and specifically the City of Alexandria. One of things we appreciate most about the area is the unique history and beautifully preserved venues. We were so excited to be able to share such a lovely historic site with our friends and family on our wedding day - many of whom were from outside the city (my family was exclusively from out of state).

However, we did find it odd that no microphone or music was allowed. While the Rectory staff was so kind, attentive, and a true joy to work with, not being able to even have a microphone for the celebrant or gentle music playing in the background was a challenge to our otherwise perfect day. As accommodating as the staff was in the planning of our big day, the option of being allowed music and a microphone would have greatly enhanced the experience.

I hope you will consider our support of this charming venue and its sound offerings so that it might continue to delight guests for years to come.

Sincerely,

Mallory & Michael Cogar

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Thank you for listening to our concerns.

Guy and Anne Lamolinara
411 N. Columbus St.



Leyla Johnson <leylacjohnson@gmail.com>

In Support of Classical Movements' SUP Application #2021-00119

1 message

Leyla Johnson <leylacjohnson@gmail.com>

Sun, Jan 30, 2022 at 5:00 PM

To: PlanComm@alexandriava.gov, Gloria.Sitton@alexandriava.gov, Neeta Helms <Neeta@classicalmovements.com>, Johan van Zyl <Johan@classicalmovements.com>

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We attend every concert that we are able to and often turn it into a night out by walking down to King St for dinner either before or after the show. One of the absolute highlights of 2021 for us was seeing The Magic Flute performed as part of their Young Artists program, and we have the first weekend of June circled on our calendar right now for The Marriage of Figaro. Every time we have out of town visitors, we walk with them to a performance as part of a night out on the town - a good reason to help them also discover the restaurants and shops that are all within walking distance of the Rectory.

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We hope that their Special Permit is approved, and we hope that the concerts become an important cultural institution for the City of Alexandria.

Best,

Leyla Johnson

CEO/Creative Director

mohawkgames.com

From: Douglas Rosenthal trombonedoug@gmail.com
Subject: In Support of Classical Movements' SUP Application #2021-00119
Date: January 28, 2022 at 7:33 PM
To: PlanComm@alexandriava.gov, Gloria.Sitton@alexandriava.gov
Cc: Adam Jackson Adam@classicalmovements.com

To Whom it May Concern,

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It is in the entire city's best interest to approve every item of this application. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Douglas Rosenthal

Gloria Sitton

From: Max Parisi <maxvparisi@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2022 8:31 PM
To: PlanComm; Gloria Sitton; Adam@classicalmovements.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Re: Classical Movements SUP

Some people who received this message don't often get email from maxvparisi@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Planning Commission,

Re: Classical Movements SUP for Live Concerts at 711 Princess Street, Alexandria VA
(Special Use Permit #2021-00119)

In 2020 when the pandemic started I was a senior in High School in Alexandria and the last three months of my school years were spent indoors and away from all my friends. We had a drive-by graduation! In June 2020 I started helping out at The Rectory on Princess Street and helped put up the concerts, clean the garden, prune bushes, paint and fix up the area to start hosting concerts. These were the first live concerts in the entire country. I have studied Violin and piano and played in an Orchestra for years and years and it was great to listen to these amazing musicians, the best in the world, play here for a few people who suddenly had one place to go to when everything was shut down all over the world.

I write to support these concerts. In fall 2020 I moved to College and now live out of State at University for 9 months of the year. When I came back home in May 2021, I saw that Classical Movements no longer could use a keyboard, and now we're forced to use a piano even for jazz and Broadway music concerts. There was a day in summer 2021 when three of us had moved the piano out, under the tarp and the skies opened up and there was an enormous thunderstorm. It was not predicted. The artists had arrived and the audience started to come so the concert was moved indoors at the last minute in a tight space. Two of us then spent an hour pushing rain off the tarp so it did not collapse and ruin the piano which we were incapable of moving by ourselves. We finally managed to get this done when a third person was able to help. It made no sense that they could not use a keyboard for a Jazz Concert in June. Apparently, this is because of an arbitrary rule that no amplification is allowed. Of course, a keyboard cannot be played without being connected to some electrical outlet and has a speaker. Honestly please remove such random rules in the permit.

As a young person when I go around King Street and all over Old Town now, there are many buskers, out-of-tune bands, and rock and roll music coming out of every corner. I cannot understand why classical music is controlled and other people who are truly loud can do whatever they want. When I come back this summer of 2022, I am hoping to be able to help out again and hear beautiful music again.

I hope you will continue these concerts and make some basic changes to unreasonable rules. And by the way, it is shocking that the neighbor who caused all the trouble in the first place plays loud music during all concerts. Thank you for your consideration.

Max Parisi
703 679 0997, Alexandria VA
University Student and former Violinist and Pianist

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Gloria Sitton

From: Remy Vallerand-Parisi <remymvp@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2022 7:38 PM
To: PlanComm; Gloria Sitton
Cc: adam@classicalmovements.com
Subject: Re: Classical Movements SUP for Live Concerts at 711 Princess Street, Alexandria VA (Special Use Permit #2021-00119)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from remymvp@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Planning Commission,

Re: Classical Movements SUP for Live Concerts at 711 Princess Street, Alexandria VA
(Special Use Permit #2021-00119)

- 1.
- 2.
3. In 2020 as soon as the pandemic started I was lucky when
4. **I was occasionally hired to help with production of the Concerts presented**
5. **by Classical Movements. This was the only work I could find.** I saw how carefully the concerts
6. were planned, how we had to clean and sanitize the chairs, wipe the equipment, the door knobs inside the rooms in the entire building, housed the musicians in clean rooms, cleaned the bathrooms, put out tarps for the sunshine, put sings all over the walkway
7. and entrance about COVID protocol, sentencing and hand sanitizing stations all over. We took temperatures, we wore masks, we made sure the musicians and audience had a good and safe experience.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
11. **The musicians did not have any chance to perform anywhere else,**
12. many said they had played live music with others and for others for the first time in 3 months, 6 months, later even 15 months.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
16. I could not believe that after using a keyboard for the concerts (easy to drag out in the rain
17. and move around), not needing tuning, suddenly in 2021 we had to have a big and heavy piano for concerts. More than anyone else I was always helping move the piano.
18. **It is a heavy piano and required three of us to do this and an expensive**
19. **piano tuner each time we moved it.**
20. **As a pianist myself I can tell you that one can moderate a keyboard and**
21. **keep it soft.** There is no reason to limit amplification in this arbitrary way.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
25. I enjoyed the jazz, opera, chamber music, cabaret, small choirs, American banjo
26. music and all the other **varieties of music during each concert.**
27. **But some instruments are so soft, they need amplification. Spanish guitar,**
28. for example, in the outdoors. I made recordings and videos (one of my jobs was to be a cameraman) and one could not even hear some of the instruments.
- 29.

30.

31.

32. **As a young person not allowed to visit anyone's homes, during the pandemic, this was the only time**

33. **I met people for several months.**

34.

35.

36.

37. **On hot summer days last year, with concerts stopping at 8pm, we had to then spend**

38. **hours putting sun sails up.** All one needed to do was start a bit later as normal concerts

39. do.

40.

41.

42.

43. Sometimes with

44. **thunderstorms**

45. and floods even, the audience and musicians concerts were under potential threat

46. **and we had no option to delay much because of the early end time.**

47.

I hope you will continue these concerts and make some basic changes. Thank you for your consideration.

R. Vallerand

6125 Stegen Drive, Alexandria VA

Student, Violinist, Pianist and Cellist



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In addition to notes from Sunrise Senior Living staff, Classical Movements has received expressions or messages of support and appreciation from the following **Sunrise residents**:

- Winifred and Jim Anderson (attended our November 9, 2021 concert)
- Jane Christ
- Carla Dulaney
- Cynthia Ford
- Norman Mausoff (attended our November 9, 2021 concert)
- Candace Thomas and her children Troy & Paula Thomas (who have attended concerts often)
- Jill Tracey
- Bernadette Troy

See selected messages, attached.

OLD TOWN

SENIOR LIVING

SUNRISE



Juile, Lisa, Stephany & Maya

Congratulations!

well deserved! Team Sunrise is for you 100%!

talent. This special reward and recognition is more than partnership with you. Your team is full of incredible

of the Year! We are so grateful for our lovely

named one of Musical America's top 30 professionals

to express our most joyful congratulations on being

On behalf of the entire Sunrise team, we wanted

Dear Neeta,

Just a note to tell you
a number of your senior
neighbors at Sunrise enjoy
your concerts from our rooms.
We look forward to a new
season.

Jill T. Tracey

Mrs. David C. Tracey

Dear Neeta and Johan,
The concert last night of
French Horn players was
an absolute delight. The
four men so obviously were
having fun and it was
contagious with the audience!

Jim, my husband, and I
are fortunate ones at home
whose windows overlook your
backyard. To go to sleep
hearing your music.
Thank you for a lovely
evening. Sincerely your
Ann Andersen

1 2012

As a resident of the
Sunrise of Old Town
I totally enjoy your
musicians giving us
the best quality music
as a neighborhood. Looking
forward to 2022, Carla

Winifred G. Anderson

To: Johan van Zyl
Sr. Vice-President

Dear Mr. van Zyl,

I write on behalf of my Husband, James, and me in support of your ongoing musical presentations. One of the most enjoyable evenings we have had since moving to Sunrise was the quartet of French Horns from the National Symphony. In addition, many nights when we are unable to attend your presentations in The Courtyard, the music floats up to us in our bedroom.

Thank you for your work to bring fine music to Old Town, Alexandria.

Sincerely yours,

Winifred Anderson



Moving the Music, Changing the World

145 Countries | Orchestras | Choirs | Festivals | New Music | Cultural Diplomacy

As a resident of the Sunrise of Old Town, I totally enjoy your musicians giving us the best quality music as a neighbor. Looking forward to 2022,

Carla

Dear Mr. Van Zyl,

I write on behalf of my husband, James, and me in support of your ongoing musical presentations. One of the most enjoyable evenings we have had since moving to Sunrise was the quartet of French horns from the National Symphony. In addition, many nights when we are unable to attend your presentations in the courtyard, the music floats up to us in our bedroom.

Thank you for your work to bring fine music to Old Town, Alexandria.

Sincerely yours,

Winifred Anderson

Dear Neeta: On behalf of the entire Sunrise team, we wanted to express our most joyful congratulations on being named one of Musical America's Top 30 Professionals of the Year! We are so grateful for our lovely partnership with you. Your team is full of incredible talent. This special reward and recognition is more than well deserved! Team Sunrise is for you 100%!

Congratulations!

Julie, Lisa, Stephany & Maya

Just a note to tell you a number of your senior neighbors at Sunrise enjoy your concerts from our rooms. We look forward to a new season.

Jill T. Tracey

From: Jane Christ**Date:** January 17, 2022 at 8:03:23 PM EST**Cc:** Carla Dulaney**Subject:** Thank you note to Johan van Zyl

I am a resident at Sunrise , Old Town and would like to thank you for the summer concerts that we all enjoy from our patio next to your concert hall. I hope they will continue next summer.

As a college student I used to be an usherette at the Robin hood Dell in Philadelphia in the patrons section of the Dell and saw at that time how wonderful outdoor concerts can be.

Unfortunately I could not get the e/mail address directed to Mr. van Zyl in person.

With sincere appreciation,

Jane Christ

From: Jane Christ**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 10:59 AM**To:** Johan van Zyl**Subject:** Enjoyment of the out door concerts

Many of us at Sunrise Senior Living enjoy and look forward to the concerts next door to our Senior residence . We hope you can continue in the next program year.

I used to be (in my younger years,) an usherette for the Philadelphia Orchestra during their summer concerts at the Robin Hood Dell in Philadelphia. There was a small paying section for orchestra benefactors and a large section for the public on the hill who could enjoy with publicly obtainable free tickets. Needless to say this was much appreciated and well-attended.

Your concerts offer us much the same Benefit.

Jane Christ

Sunrise Senior Living, Old Town

From: Carla Dulaney**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 10:27 AM**To:** Johan van Zyl**Subject:** Re: Jan 11

Jan 14



I wanted to let you know that there's 2 note cards at our front desk for you to pickup when convenient. I have made contact with a few other residents so there might be more.

We have a lot of new residents who may not even know about the Secret Garden, and we have a very small directory, as well as a very limited number of people who are computer savvy!

Just wanted to give you a update, Carla

Sent from Carla's iPad

From: Carla Dulaney

Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 10:09 PM

To: Johan van Zyl

Subject: Jan 11

Again, how can I help keep your license, any address that I can write to? Whatever, please let me know.

It's Carla, a Sunrise resident, who enjoys your performances, even the private ones from the other side of the fence. 😊

I did sign up for your emails...if it didn't work please add me: carladulaney6@gmail.com

Sent from Carla's iPad

Dear Neeta and Johan,

The concert last night of French Horn players was an absolute delight. The four men so obviously were having fun and it was contagious with the audience!

Jim, my husband, and I are fortunate ones at Sunrise whose windows overlook your courtyard. We go to sleep hearing your music.

Thank you for a lovely evening.

Sincerely yours,

Win Anderson

Gloria Sitton

From: Adam Jackson <Adam@classicalmovements.com>
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2022 4:35 PM
To: PlanComm; Gloria Sitton
Cc: Neeta Helms; Johan van Zyl; Sara Casar
Subject: Messages of support re: Classical Movements Special Use Permit #2021-00119

Dear Planning Commission and Ms. Sitton,

In support of our SUP Application (#2021-00119), which will be reviewed by the Planning Commission on February 1 and by the City Council on February 12, we wanted to share the following selected personal messages sent to Classical Movements' Founder and President Neeta Helms.

These are excerpted from approximately 600 comments and messages made on a number of occasions with relevance to our concert series, including the nomination of Neeta in December 2021 as one of Musical America's Top 31 Professionals of 2021 – an honor granted to her in large part due to her innovative leadership of this concert series in Alexandria and tireless advocacy for live music during the pandemic:

Name	Title	Comment
Ann Stahmer	<i>Former Executive Director, City Choir of Washington, Singer, Concert Presenter and Producer</i>	Neeta, the music you for everything!
Alexandria Crichlow	<i>Soprano Soloist, Opera Singer, Secret Garden Concert Artist</i>	The organization Movements 🎵 🎵
Steve Houk	<i>TV Show Host, Journalist, Zebra TV, Living on Music</i>	You deserve every your accomplishment
Amy Frost Baumgarten	<i>Principal Cello, Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra</i>	A community treasure
Sara MacKimmie	<i>Singer, Secret Garden Concert Artist</i>	Congratulations c
Rick Barber	<i>Double Bass player, National Symphony Orchestra, Secret Garden Concert Artist</i>	Love everything y
Anna Bergman	<i>Opera & Broadway Singer, Made Alexandria Debut at the Secret Garden</i>	Neeta Helms, Sco Johan for giving i
Carolyn Fuller	<i>Board Member, Alexandria Symphony Orchestra</i>	Congratulations! the world would c
Anne Midgett	<i>Former, Chief Music Critic Washington Post</i>	So well deserved;
Aaron Janse	<i>Musician Minnesota Orchestra</i>	Congrats! You ha

Cynthia Steele	<i>Former Director of Operations, National Symphony Orchestra</i>	It was so wonderful I had brought wit
Grace Cho	<i>Pianist, Organist, Executive Director New Orchestra of Washington</i>	This looks absolu
Norma Dugger	<i>Choral Singer, Former Board Member Choral Arts Society, regular audience member of the Secret Garden Series</i>	You deserve every
David Wilson	<i>President, Morgan State University</i>	Congratulations
Rémie Christ	<i>Yale University Alumna</i>	You have done a l
Deborah Norris Mello	<i>Choral Director</i>	Congratulations t Movements so wo
Dhilanthe Fernando	<i>Choral Conductor and Pianist, Teacher of Music</i>	What a lovely and
Rémie Christ	<i>Yale University Alumna</i>	Brava! Your settin
Dhilanthe Fernando	<i>Choral Conductor and Pianist, Teacher of Music</i>	A testament to vis
Doreen Rao	<i>Multi-Grammy Award-Winning Choral Conductor, Arranger, Professor of University of Toronto</i>	This is GREAT ne
Elize Vd Merwe	<i>South Africa</i>	Congrats you all a
Ellen Dinwiddie Smith	<i>Musician, French Horn Minnesota Orchestra</i>	Well deserved! Yo
Grace Cho	<i>Executive Director, New Orchestra of Washington</i>	This should be a l
Mark Alberta	<i>President, Yale Alumni Chorus, Board member, Washington DC Legal Affairs Office</i>	There has been q Wasteland! Kudo
Melynda Dovel Wilcox	<i>President of the Board, Alexandria Symphony Orchestra</i>	It was a spectacul
Grace Cho	<i>Executive Director, New Orchestra of Washington</i>	You built a legacy
Howard Spendelow	<i>Professor Georgetown University, Choral Singer</i>	Don't forget the c
Jan Childress	<i>Choral Singer</i>	Love the Secret G
Janet Horvath	<i>Former Principal Cellist, Minnesota Orchestra, Author, Journalist</i>	Neeta you have al
Jen Keavy	<i>Marketing Manager Orchestra</i>	Yes! Congrats, Ne
Joan Stockton	<i>Alexandria resident</i>	You are amazing!

John Nardolillo	<i>Director of Orchestras , University of Kentucky and Artistic Director, Prague Summer Nights Young Artist Festival</i>	Neeta Helms, we Festival!! Thanks
Jon Eisenberg		Wow. Amazing s
Kelly MacConomy	<i>Culture Editor, The Zebra Magazine</i>	Neeta Helms wow
Laura Colgate	<i>Concert Mistress, National Philharmonic Orchestra and Artistic Director Boulanger Initiative</i>	CM has added so
Linda Moxley	<i>Former Executive Director, Baltimore Choral Arts, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra</i>	It looks beautiful,
Malabika Shaw	<i>Therapist</i>	You guys are so b
Marianna Prjevalskaya	<i>Concert Pianist, Secret Garden Concert Series Artist</i>	It was memorabl
Mimi Rottiers	<i>Audience member, Secret Garden Concert Series</i>	So wonderful! Th
Nicolette Driehuys Oppelt	<i>Principal Flute-National Philharmonic and Maryland Symphony and Washington Concert Opera and Amadeus Orchestra and Virginia Chamber Orchestra</i>	It was a magical e
Ann Stahmer	<i>Former Executive Director, City Choir of Washington, Singer, Concert Presenter and Producer</i>	Neeta and Johan, during the pande
zNirupama Rao	<i>Former Indian Ambassador to the United States, Singer, Founder and Artistic Director of the South Asian Symphony Orchestra</i>	Heartiest Congrat
Norma Dugger	<i>Choral Singer, Former Board Member Choral Arts Society, regular audience member of the Secret Garden Series</i>	They were wonde
Patricia Silver	<i>Artist Management</i>	Fabulous!
Preeti Reddy	<i>CEO Market Analytics and Research Firm</i>	Well deserved ! C
Rémie Christ	<i>Yale University Alumna</i>	Congratulations!
Dietlinde Maazel	<i>Owner and Artistic Director Castleton Festival, Virginia and Professor of German Lieder, Rutgers</i>	You could not hav "Götterdämmeru

Scott Mello	<i>Opus 3 Artists</i>	Congrats!
Simon Woods	<i>President, The League Of American Orchestras</i>	!!!! Wonderful ne
Sri N Srivatsa	<i>Choir Member</i>	Heartiest congrat
Chantal Balestri	<i>Classical Pianist, Artistic Director of a festival</i>	You absolutely de do. Greetings froi
Thomas C. Duffy	<i>Yale University</i>	The might of righ
Cynthia Steele	<i>Acoustician, Threshold Acoustics and Concert Production</i>	Your work will be
Vijay Venkatesh	<i>Concert Pianist, Secret Garden Concert Series Artist</i>	Congratulations !
Catherine Clarke Nardolillo	<i>Professor of Voice, Head of Voice Programs Prague Summer Nights</i>	Thank you, Neeta again this summe
Suzanne Stephan Neely	<i>Doug Sheldon Concert Artists</i>	Happy birthday C work!
Aaron Jensen	<i>Music Director-Schitts Creek TV Show, Composer, Singer, Song-writer,</i>	I wish I could rai touched so many
Ann Stahmer	<i>Former Executive Director, City Choir of Washington, Singer, Concert Presenter and Producer</i>	YAY!!! You have l music concerts di

Thank you for including with the other additional materials. If you have any questions or problems, please don't hesitate to be in touch.

All best,

Adam Jackson

Artistic Planning & Executive Assistant to the President, Ms. Neeta Helms
1-703-683-6040, ext. 201

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In re Special Use Permit 2021-00119

711 Princess Street, Classical Movements

Dear Members of the Planning Commission:

I am writing to express my objection to the continuance of the Special Use Permit for Classical Movements and ask that the zoning be returned to its proper designation, as it has for as long as I have lived in my home, which is since 1987.

This property has always operated as a business office, and its current use as an entertainment space/party venue is not in keeping with the residential character of this neighborhood in which the other surrounding businesses operate on a daytime schedule and produce no external sound that infringes on the property rights of others. Classical Movements' property is simply too small to accommodate what they are trying to do.

My neighbors David and Sue Fritz at 409 N. Columbus and my wife and I at 411 N. Columbus are the only property owners directly affected by the frequent concerts and other events that make it impossible for us to enjoy our home and patio when these concerts -- all of which exceed allowable decibel levels -- occur.

None of the other supporters of these concerts are directly affected by them. Their comments should therefore be discounted. These people from as far away as the District of Columbia have every reason to be in favor of these events. What they say is therefore irrelevant.

The issue before you is not one related to the merits of this music; the issue relates directly to the rights of homeowners adjacent to 711 Princess who must endure the disturbance of these frequent concerts, weddings and other gatherings that sound as if they are taking place inside our homes.

Classical Movements often sets up its players next to our adjacent fence. That means these concerts take place 15 feet from our homes. It is impossible to sit in our nearby rooms to read a book, watch television or simply just have a conversation. We are forced to move to the front of the house, but even there, the sound interrupts our space. In fact, these concerts can be heard when one is outside on North Columbus Street. And, we can't even think of sitting outside to have dinner and a conversation. The sound is simply too loud.

Classical Movements has repeatedly violated the stipulations of the SUP, both in decibel levels as well as the time when these concerts are allowed. They frequently run later than allowed, and the weddings often use amplified music.

Classical Movements has embarrassed me in front of my friends by holding up signs during their concerts telling us to keep our voices down when we are conversing on my patio.

They will say or do anything to get what they want, as evidenced by their past errant behavior.

For example:

- They have falsely accused me in the local paper of purposely disturbing the concerts because, perhaps, I am sweeping my patio and the movement of chairs disturbs their concerts.
- They claim I play my music just to interfere with theirs.
- They wrote in their newspaper letter that my neighbor at 409 N. Columbus supports their concerts when this is obviously not true.
- They claim there is still ample parking in the neighborhood when their events occur.
- None of this is true. There is, in fact, no parking for residents returning to their homes during these events. Attendees are not taking public transportation. The closest Metro station is a mile away. Classical Movements' claims to the contrary defy logic: Who would take Metro and walk a mile to these concerts (and back) when they know they can use residential parking without fear of ticketing? The closest public parking, which accommodates no more than 30 cars, is at the corner of St. Asaph and Cameron – nowhere near 711 Princess.

What Classical Movements objects to is that I am simply using my property as I have every right to. If you read between the lines of what Classical Movements is saying it is this: The property owners at 409 and 411 N. Columbus should cede their rights to Classical Movements whenever Classical Movements is holding an event. No amount of noise abatement will ameliorate this situation.

So far, Classical Movements has violated their special status without consequence. For you to renew their permit – and even extend it to ridiculous levels in terms of numbers of attendees, lateness of activity and use of amplifiers – would only serve as a “reward” for their utter disregard for the rights of their neighbors and serve as an invitation to go even further.

I respectfully ask that you deny their request.

Guy Lamolinara

411 N. Columbus St.

Gloria Sitton

From: Hertzmf <hertzmf@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2022 8:01 AM
To: PlanComm; Gloria Sitton
Cc: Anne Carlucci
Subject: Re: Special Use Permit #2021-00119 - corrected address

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from hertzmf@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <http://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>.]

Please see attached correcting Classical Movements' address to 711 (not 611) Princess Street.

Mitchell Hertz
202-841-1111
Sent from my iPad

> On Jan 30, 2022, at 3:02 PM, Mitchell Hertz <hertzmf@gmail.com> wrote:

>
>

> Dear Members of the City Council and the Planning Commission:

>

> We are writing in support of Classical Movements' Special Use Permit to allow concerts to continue in the Rectory Garden at 711 Princess Street. We also support the increase in available hours, increase in seating capacity and allowing use of amplification.

>

> We had not been to Alexandria in more than a decade even though we live in DC. With concert halls and other performing arts venues shuttered due to the pandemic, we started attending Classical Movements' concerts. Not only have they provided a welcome dose of extraordinary music, they have caused us to reconnect -- and fall in love with -- Alexandria. Every concert has become a night on the town as we enjoy restaurants, shopping and a walk along the waterfront. We have now started frequenting Alexandria even on non-concert days.

>

> Classical Movements is an extraordinary organization, providing access to world-class music. That alone is something we urge the City of Alexandria to support. But Classical Movements is so much more. It supports young artists, promotes opportunities for underrepresented voices and helps make our community more equal and more inclusive. Through these concerts, we have had the opportunity to support a young Venezuelan refugee (and music prodigy), Afghan classical musicians and many others who have come to live in our community. Classical Movements' work embodies the values of our community. As an aside, it is always a pleasure to see the residents of Sunrise Assisted Living sitting in front of their open windows to enjoy the concerts.

>

> We appreciate that governmental decisions require a balancing of interests. In this case, Classical Movements is doing so much good for so many people while causing no disruption to the community. The balance clearly favors continuation and expansion of these concerts. Please continue to support the growth of this extraordinary community resource.

>

> Thank you for your consideration.

>

> Mitchell Hertz and Anne Carlucci

> 202/841-1111

Gloria Sitton

From: Davidson Family <davidson_family@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, January 30, 2022 8:05 PM
To: PlanComm; Gloria Sitton
Cc: Adam@classicalmovements.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL]In Support of Classical Movements' SUP Application #2021-00119

You don't often get email from davidson_family@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Planning and Zoning staff of the Planning Commission and City Clerk for the City of Alexandria,

We are writing in support of Classical Movements' application for a Special Use Permit #2021-00119. We attended four concerts this past season and found them to be quite wonderful. The level of performance was extremely high and the setting in the patio area was beautiful and really contributed to our enjoyment of the musical program. Our typical pattern was to attend a concert and then cap-off the experience with a delicious dinner on (or near) King St. With all the restrictions and prohibitions so common since the start of the pandemic, we found this outlet to be a unique joy indeed.

We live just two blocks up from Classical Movements, on the 500 block of North Columbus Street. Honestly the background noise level in this part of Old Town is extremely high! Between airplanes, fire trucks, buses and other normal traffic noise, residents here are constantly exposed to the cacophony of modern life. We have found that the low level of additional sound provided at the Classical Movements concerts we attended to be soothing in comparison.

We are aware that Classical Movements is seeking three revisions to the Special Use Permit under which they have operated, and we believe that all of them are worthwhile and justifiable. We hope they will get your approval. It only seems fair that the regulations under which Classical Movements' operates would mirror those of other outdoor music venues located close by, these being Lloyd House and Lee-Fendall House. We believe their hours should be extended and that light amplification should be allowed, especially if they agree to abide by the 65 decibel restriction. Finally, there is pretty of room in Classical Movements' outdoor space for additional seating and we support the idea of increasing the maximum number of seats allowed from its current limit of 50.

We chose to live in Alexandria for the many benefits it offers; we now consider the concert series at Classical Movements among those benefits. We are enthusiastically supportive of the SUP Application #2021-00119 in hopes that it will get your support as well.

Most sincerely,
Steve and Erica Davidson
535 N Columbus Street
Alexandria, VA

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Gloria Sitton

From: Leyla Johnson <leylacjohnson@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 30, 2022 5:01 PM
To: PlanComm; Gloria Sitton; Neeta Helms; Johan van Zyl
Subject: [EXTERNAL]In Support of Classical Movements' SUP Application #2021-00119

Some people who received this message don't often get email from leylacjohnson@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing in support of Classical Movements and their Sounds of Hope and Harmony concert series. We live one block away, near the corner of Princess and Alfred, and one of the reasons we bought the house last May (403A N. Alfred St) was that we discovered this amazing concert series a short walk away. Neeta and Johan have built up their touring business over decades, building connections with world-class musicians, and Alexandria can now benefit from these connections with this amazing concert series, one that probably would never have started without the pandemic but which could now become one of the jewels of Alexandria's cultural scene. The musicians who perform at the Rectory are accustomed to playing to much larger crowds and in much larger venues, so this concert series is truly one-of-a-kind. We have never seen artists of this caliber perform for such small audiences across a diversified program.

We attend every concert that we are able to and often turn it into a night out by walking down to King St for dinner either before or after the show. One of the absolute highlights of 2021 for us was seeing The Magic Flute performed as part of their Young Artists program, and we have the first weekend of June circled on our calendar right now for The Marriage of Figaro. Every time we have out of town visitors, we walk with them to a performance as part of a night out on the town - a good reason to help them also discover the restaurants and shops that are all within walking distance of the Rectory.

Over the course of multiple shows, we grew to know Neeta and Johan better and were surprised to learn that they have been having to fight for the right to keep doing performances and to have more flexible times. (The starting times for the concerts are uncomfortably early for people on regular working hours.) It's an amazing boon for the local community and will certainly bring in visitors from outside Alexandria as their reputation grows. The performances we have attended have all been at moderate volumes typical for classical music ensembles so it is hard to believe that there have ever been complaints about noise.

We hope that their Special Permit is approved, and we hope that the concerts become an important cultural institution for the City of Alexandria.

Best,

Leyla Johnson

CEO/Creative Director

mohawkgames.com

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Gloria Sitton

From: Mitchell Hertz <hertzmf@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 30, 2022 3:02 PM
To: PlanComm; Gloria Sitton
Cc: Anne Carlucci
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Special Use Permit #2021-00119

Some people who received this message don't often get email from hertzmf@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Members of the City Council and the Planning Commission:

We are writing in support of Classical Movements' Special Use Permit to allow concerts to continue in the Rectory Garden at 611 Princess Street. We also support the increase in available hours, increase in seating capacity and allowing use of amplification.

We had not been to Alexandria in more than a decade even though we live in DC. With concert halls and other performing arts venues shuttered due to the pandemic, we started attending Classical Movements' concerts. Not only have they provided a welcome dose of extraordinary music, they have caused us to reconnect -- and fall in love with -- Alexandria. Every concert has become a night on the town as we enjoy restaurants, shopping and a walk along the waterfront. We have now started frequenting Alexandria even on non-concert days.

Classical Movements is an extraordinary organization, providing access to world-class music. That alone is something we urge the City of Alexandria to support. But Classical Movements is so much more. It supports young artists, promotes opportunities for underrepresented voices and helps make our community more equal and more inclusive. Through these concerts, we have had the opportunity to support a young Venezuelan refugee (and music prodigy), Afghan classical musicians and many others who have come to live in our community. Classical Movements' work embodies the values of our community. As an aside, it is always a pleasure to see the residents of Sunrise Assisted Living sitting in front of their open windows to enjoy the concerts.

We appreciate that governmental decisions require a balancing of interests. In this case, Classical Movements is doing so much good for so many people while causing no disruption to the community. The balance clearly favors continuation and expansion of these concerts. Please continue to support the growth of this extraordinary community resource.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mitchell Hertz and Anne Carlucci
202/841-1111

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Gloria Sitton

From: Nicole Batts <nicolebatts@fitnesstogether.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 30, 2022 11:26 AM
To: PlanComm; Gloria Sitton
Cc: Adam@classicalmovements.com; Johan van Zyl
Subject: [EXTERNAL]In Support of Classical Movements' SUP Application #2021-00119

You don't often get email from nicolebatts@fitnesstogether.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Alexandria City Council and Planning Commission,

As a local business owner of Fitness Together in Alexandria, a small, women and minority owned business that has served the Alexandria community for more than 16 years, I would like to express my support for Classical Movements approval for a Special Use Permit (SUP). The SUP will allow Classical Movements to expand its business offerings, during these challenging business conditions, while also bringing support to local businesses, income to the City of Alexandria, and offering a safe outdoor weekend of entertainment and beauty in the Secret Garden, for the Alexandria community to distract from and cope with life's challenges.

Classical Movements is proving to be an integral and important part of the City of Alexandria. Classical Movements has my support because during these challenging and unprecedented times they continue to support and lend a helping hand to their community, the local music organizations and musicians, its partners, and local businesses.

Over the past 2 years, I have developed a partnership with Classical Movements since they began their unforgettable concerts and fundraising events in the beautiful Secret Garden. I have personally attended events and will attend more in 2022. In 2022, I also plan to attend with my colleagues for opportunities to enhance collaboration and teamwork and to unwind and de-stress. There is not a better event to share with my community to enhance morale and provide a fun work environment.

Partnering with Classical Movements has also added value to my business and theirs. I've had the opportunity to sponsor concerts and donate complimentary personal training sessions for an auction. These opportunities provided Fitness Together visibility in the Alexandria community as well as thousands of dollars in additional business and multiple new members. Maintaining a friendship and partnership with Classical Movements is invaluable. I look forward to this partnership continuing in 2022 to continue to grow our businesses.

Furthermore, in order to maximize the numerous advantages that Classical Movements concerts provide, it is imperative that more of the community has access to these exceptional and rare experiences and events in Old Town Alexandria. Allowing an increase in seating capacity to their available 125-seats, extending their live entertainment daily hours to between 10am and 10pm, and removing the prohibition on amplification can only enhance the experience for those in attendance and provide increased brand visibility for businesses like mine, Fitness Together Alexandria.

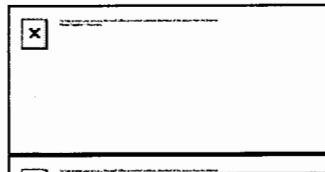
Additionally, my support for and belief in the importance of Classical Movements to this community, I will continue to offer and give consent for the use of 4 of Fitness Together Alexandria's parking spaces. The four spaces are authorized for use during any and all events organized by Classical Movements. The four spots are located in front of Suite 106, Fitness Together Alexandria's main entrance, at 300 N. Washington Street building.

Again, I strongly support Classical Movements and their Special Use Permit. I am extremely grateful for their support and look forward to our continued partnership.

Sincerely,

Nicole

--



Nicole Batts / Owner

nicolebatts@fitnesstogether.com / (c) 704.905.6947

Fitness Together - Alexandria (o) 703.683.0777

300 N. Washington Street, Suite 106, Alexandria, VA 22314

fitnesstogether.com/alexandria

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Gloria Sitton

From: Larry Milask <lmilask@ideatech.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 29, 2022 10:59 AM
To: Gloria Sitton; PlanComm
Cc: Sharron Milask
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Support for Special Use Permit #2021-00119 - Classical Movements Outdoor Concerts

Some people who received this message don't often get email from lmilask@ideatech.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Gloria,

Larry Milask and Sharron Milask (IDEA*TECH owners) would like to contribute our full support for the subject outdoor concert application.

We have been avid classical music enthusiasts and participants in the Classical Movements (CM) concerts and have also been business associates with CM for over 10 years. We have seen how important their concerts have been to the cultural enhancement and enrichment of the Alexandria community.

We certainly support the requested modifications to the CM operational conditions such as extended hours to 10 PM, increased seating capacity, and reasonable amplification levels to 65 db. As a business owner in the city, we also will contribute 4 parking spaces we have available at our office parking lot at 820 Gibbon Street for concert participants.

We hope that the proposed sound proofing and other noise mitigation efforts being undertaken by CM will help persuade the commission's approval of the permit and allow CM to continue their wonderful and enriching series of concerts.

Thank you for your consideration of this endorsement for the Classical Movements special permit.,

Larry and Sharron

Laurance J. Milask



Laurance J. Milask | CEO, General Manager
IDEA*TECH Associates
820 Gibbon Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
Office: 703-838-0200; Cell: (571) 455-6509
Email: lmilask@ideatech.com
Web: www.ideatech.com

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Gloria Sitton

From: Douglas Rosenthal <trombonedoug@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 28, 2022 7:34 PM
To: PlanComm; Gloria Sitton
Cc: Adam Jackson
Subject: [EXTERNAL]In Support of Classical Movements' SUP Application #2021-00119

Some people who received this message don't often get email from trombonedoug@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)
To Whom it May Concern,

I am an Alexandria City resident who is in strong support of the ability of Classical Movements to thrive and provide us with unparalleled artistic experiences. While most arts organizations had to close their doors throughout most of the pandemic thus far, Classical Movements has given our city the live art that our souls have so desperately needed. Moreover, it's been great for nearby shops, restaurants, and bars; many of us concert-goers go out for a night in Old Town after performances! Not to mention, arts and culture account for a significant amount of middle class jobs. We all like to say we support the middle class; this is a way for us to show it!

It's my understanding that there are three revisions in particular that they seek. First, to change the hours for outdoor live entertainment to be allowed between 10am and 10pm. Second, to increase the maximum number of seats. And third, to remove the prohibition on amplification. I am in favor of all of these revisions! Classical Movements could expand their artistic operations and hire more artists, and more of us could attend performances.

It is in the entire city's best interest to approve every item of this application. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Douglas Rosenthal

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Gloria Sitton

From: Tanya Lervik <tanyalervik@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 28, 2022 10:51 AM
To: PlanComm; Gloria Sitton
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Classical Movements Special Use Permit #2021-00119

Some people who received this message don't often get email from tanyalervik@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good morning:

I strongly support Classical Movements' application for a Special Use Permit. One of the reasons Alexandria was named a Top 3 Best Small City in the U.S. 2021 by the Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards and one of the South's Best Cities 2020 by Southern Living, is because it is a vibrant arts and culture hub. Classical Movements' events strongly support the arts community which makes Alexandria such a gem to live in and such a welcome escape for visitors.

Attending concerts at Classical Movements over the course of the pandemic has been a true oasis for me personally. When it has been all too easy to get caught up with concerns of survival, they have been an important reminder of what it is to *live* and to appreciate the beauty of the world around us. As we adjust to the new normal and struggle with the fatigue of living amidst this extended pandemic, such reminders are even more important. I feel sure that the many neighbors and other people who have had the good fortune to enjoy these Secret Garden concerts and events would agree.

It is true that one of their neighbors seems to have a vendetta against the concerts. The pandemic seems to have severely damaged the norms of common courtesy and behavior. I have witnessed examples of this during some of the concerts with the neighbor shouting, and turning on a stereo with the speakers pointed out their window while playing loud rock music. Though they claim to be sensitive to noise, they certainly aren't averse to making it. Also, the building is located at the crux of a busy intersection and under the flight path of Reagan National Airport. There is quite a lot of ambient noise from traffic, car stereos, and planes, so they can't have hoped to live in bucolic silence when they moved there.

To close, there are three provisions outlined below that Classical Movements is particularly hoping to achieve. The logic of their requests is reasonable and consistent with norms accepted at similar venues. Therefore, I urge you to approve this application out of fairness and in view of the potential benefit to the community as a whole.

- 1) Change of hours for our outdoor live entertainment to be permitted **daily between 10am and 10pm. (The current noise ordinance allows us 65 decibel limits for commercial properties such as ours until 11pm daily and you can use power lawn equipment every day from 7am to 9pm daily.)****

*This extension would be consistent with outdoor music at two similar venues within a block of the Rectory – Lloyd House and Lee-Fendall House (both of which also have outdoor hours that extend until midnight and 11pm respectively) – and will allow us to schedule concerts at more convenient times and to avoid the hottest part of the day during the summer. This extension will also allow us flexibility for more substantial and imaginative programs. **Our current hours are limited to 8pm on weekdays and 10am-9pm on Fri and Sat**, which makes scheduling concerts prohibitive and allows very little flexibility if a concert runs late or must be delayed due to weather*

- 2) Increase the maximum number of seats we are allowed**

Similar venues Lloyd House and Carlyle House have capacities of 100, and Lee-Fendall is allowed 125. We can fit in 181 but we were limited to only 50 seats. We would be glad to get to 125. Increasing our audience capacity will not only improve the financial viability of the concert series, but it will also allow us to offer more free and discounted tickets to underprivileged children, disabled veterans,

senior citizens, first responders and others), and to consider longer, more ambitious programs that preclude two seatings. We have monitored the street parking throughout our concert series and documented ample empty spots.

3) Remove the prohibition on amplification

No other venue is subject to such a restriction. Allowing light amplification will allow us to more easily and clearly address the audience using a small microphone – including delivering safety instructions. Spoken remarks are often hard to hear, especially with a mask and particularly due to other noise from airplanes, traffic, birds, and so on. Most of our artists will continue to perform without amplification, but in some instances, amplification will make it easier to hear certain instruments – such as the lute and viola da gamba – and make it possible to present programming that depends on amplification, such as some jazz ensembles or contemporary compositions. We will still operate under the 65 decibel limit within the property line.

Respectfully,

Tanya K. Lervik

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Gloria Sitton

From: George White <george@4whites.com>
Sent: Friday, January 28, 2022 12:29 AM
To: Gloria Sitton; PlanComm
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Classical Movements--SUP Application #2021-00119

Some people who received this message don't often get email from george@4whites.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Members of the Alexandria City Council and Members of the Alexandria Planning Commission,

I am writing in support of Special Use Permit Application #2021-00119 submitted by Classical Movements in relation to 711 Princess Street, also known as the Old Rectory.

I am a proud resident of Old Town Alexandria and a strong supporter of the arts in general and music in particular. My wife and I first became aware of the concerts being organized at the Old Rectory in the summer of 2020. It was such a joy to be able to experience live music in the darkest days of the pandemic. The concerts at the Old Rectory uplifted everyone who was able to attend them.

Between April and December of 2021, my wife and I attended twelve events at the Old Rectory. We have both been impressed by the depth and diversity of talent that Classical Movements has been able to bring to Alexandria. We have enjoyed everything from classical chamber music and opera to African-American spirituals, Argentine tango, folk music, Broadway musicals, Spanish flamenco, North African music—the range and quality of the performances has been incredible. The work that Classical Movements is doing at the Old Rectory has been instrumental in reinforcing Alexandria's reputation as a center for the arts. Classical Movements has developed collaborations with other organizations such as the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra and the Coalition of African-Americans in the Performing Arts and has become a recognized force in the music scene in the Metropolitan area. The Old Rectory is not just a precious amenity for the residents of Alexandria, but also contributes to making Alexandria a vibrant cultural destination.

I was interested to review the discussion of noise compliance testing in the staff report accompanying the application. I should say that in my experience over twelve events, the sound volume has never been loud. In any case I believe it is misguided to treat the sound of beautiful music in the same way that one treats traffic noise or construction noise, as the subjective experience is completely different. I note that one of the three concert events tested was the concert on July 23, 2021. I was present at that concert and personally witnessed the malicious attempt by a neighbor to disrupt the concert by playing his own loud music during the performance. I was then shocked to see that the noise measurements for July 23rd, which were heavily influenced by the neighbor's disturbance, were included in the staff report without qualification. This is highly misleading, and I believe it substantially undermines the staff's conclusions. In fact, it seems to me that the most reasonable conclusion from the data presented is that in virtually all cases the concerts at the Old Rectory generated noise levels below the new limit of 65 decibels, except for occasional brief periods of audience applause.

I strongly support the SUP application submitted by Classical Movements, including the changes in conditions being requested. Permitting the larger audience size will allow more people to enjoy the concerts and make it economically viable to further expand the range of programming. Similarly, extending the permitted hours and allowing limited use of amplification will provide greater flexibility in programming. This will benefit both artists and audiences. I consider the existing conditions imposed in the 2021 special use permit to be excessively onerous and completely inappropriate for an arts venue in an urban setting located half a block from one of the busiest streets in the city. I think it is time for the City Council and the Planning Commission to recognize what an important resource the Old Rectory has become for the city and to do everything they can to support and promote its success.

Sincerely yours,

GEORGE H. WHITE
HOLLAND HOUSE
415 WOLFE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

GEORGE@4WHITES.COM
+1 (703) 836-7343 (FIXED)
+1 (917) 291-0119 (MOBILE)

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Gloria Sitton

From: JEFFREY SNAVELY <jsnavely@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 27, 2022 1:47 PM
To: PlanComm; Gloria Sitton
Subject: [EXTERNAL]In Support of Classical Movements' SUP Application #2021-00119

[You don't often get email from jsnavely@verizon.net. Learn why this is important at <http://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>.]

Please allow Classical Movements to continue their outdoor concerts.

Live classical music is an asset to Alexandria and a wonderful way to build community.

We attended one concert last summer and it was not loud and would certainly not bother anyone nearby — in fact it is free professional concerts for the neighbors if they want to listen, if not they can simply go inside their houses.

Please don't let the complaints of one grumpy man ruin this wonderful concert series!

Jeff Snavely
1111 N Pitt St #1C

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Gloria Sitton

From: Scott Corzine <scorzine54@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 27, 2022 11:29 AM
To: PlanComm; Gloria Sitton
Cc: Adam Jackson
Subject: [EXTERNAL]In Support of Classical Movements Special Use Permit

Some people who received this message don't often get email from scorzine54@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)
To the City Clerk and the Planning & Zoning staff:

I'm writing in strong support of the SUP (2021-00119) application by Classical Movements. As a fairly new Old Town Alexandria resident, transplanted here from New York City, I was thrilled to discover that Classical Movements brings world class music programs to Alexandria, even more so during the COVID pandemic when few other venues/program were providing a platform for musicians to perform and for extremely appreciative audiences to enjoy.

I've attended and enjoyed a number of Classical Movements programs over the last 18 months and plan to in the future. It is a fabulous entertainment option! I've become aware of the challenges the program has faced from an apparently selfish and unreasonable resident who lives near the venue and goes out of his way to throw tantrums and make noise to disrupt the programs. One dissatisfied gentleman should not be allowed to hamstring these concerts.

Please vote to keep this fabulous program open and available to Alexandria residents, especially since Classical Movements has amended its SUP to assure the City that the program will be viable, follow the rules and improve the performance experience for all stakeholders - performers, attendees, neighbors and the management of Classical Movements. Expanding the permit to performances between 10 AM and 10 PM will provide program flexibility and scheduling options that benefit everyone. Expanding the seating capacity to well beyond the current 50-seat limit to up to 175, which is comparable to the seating limits that similar Alexandria venues enjoy, will help Classical Movements' financial capacity to stage this important entertainment and enable many more residents to enjoy it. Removing the amplification restriction will bring Classical Movements into alignment with other decibel limits; reasonable light amplification will increase the entertainment experience for us all and support Management's responsibility to make safety and evacuation announcements.

Please do not permit a single unreasonable neighbor to put a dagger in the heart of what has become a City of Alexandria treasure!

Sincerely,

Scott Corzine

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Gloria Sitton

From: Patti White <patti@4whites.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 11:16 PM
To: PlanComm; Gloria Sitton
Cc: Adam Jackson
Subject: [EXTERNAL]In Support of Classical Movements' SUP Application #2021-00119

Some people who received this message don't often get email from patti@4whites.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Planning Commission and Members of the City Council

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the concerts and festivals that Classical Movements has brought to Old Town Alexandria. We have attended MANY of the concerts, even if not quite all 95. And have invited friends from around the DC area to join us. All of them are in awe that we have live, outdoor music within walking distance in a beautiful garden. The value of the concerts during the pandemic was priceless for the audience as well as the musicians. We love the performing arts and for the past two years when so much else has been closed, this has been the only game in town. Life would have been much grimmer without the glorious music in the Secret Garden.

It is absolutely shocking to me that the City would do anything to discourage these concerts or make them more challenging to produce. For a City that supports the arts and encourages tourism, what could be better than live music that receives widespread press coverage and brings diverse audiences from all over the DMV to Old Town which in turn supports the restaurants and shops here?

It would certainly enhance the value of the concerts to attendees and musicians if the cut off time were later. I wholeheartedly endorse the suggestion that the hours of operation for the concerts be extended to 10 pm or even later as is the case for Lee-Fendal House and Lloyd House which are in close proximity to the Old Rectory. It can be challenging to get to a concert that starts at 5 or 5:30 and particularly during the summer when it is so hot, it would be much better to start later when it is cooler.

While social distancing was top of mind, it may have made sense to restrict the seating capacity. But now that other venues have little or no restrictions on capacity, it is beyond me why there is such a strict limit on seating. In a venue with a spacious outdoor area, why shouldn't Classical Movements be able to give larger audiences the opportunity to enjoy the concerts? I understand that Classical Movements is strongly committed to offering free and discounted tickets to seniors, underprivileged children, veterans, etc. But if they are only permitted to sell 50 tickets, that becomes financially impossible. If they could sell 150 or even more, it would enable so many more people to benefit from the wonderful and diverse programming. It is especially odd that the concerts are so strictly limited when Lee Fendal House is permitted up to 125 and Lloyd House up to 100. Where is the fairness in that?

I am puzzled by the restrictions on amplification—again when other venues are not subject to such restrictions. As long as they stay within in the decibel limits, why should it matter if something is amplified? There are some very soft instruments, eg a lute, that are very difficult to hear without amplification.

As a resident of Old Town, I can't overstate how much we have enjoyed the Classical Movement concerts we have attended in the Secret Garden and what a benefit they have been to the entire Alexandria community. Please, please, please lift the onerous restrictions that keep more people from benefitting from these concerts.

Yours sincerely,
Patti White
415 Wolfe St

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Gloria Sitton

From: Gloria Black <gloria.black@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 12:18 PM
To: PlanComm; Gloria Sitton
Cc: Adam@classicalmovements.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL]In Support of Classical Movements' SUP Application #2021-00119

Some people who received this message don't often get email from gloria.black@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Committee: I am writing in strong support for Classical Movements' SUP application #2021-00119.

I first discovered these marvelous outdoor concerts in the midst of the pandemic, I learned of their existence from someone who had attended their concerts. I attended their next concert, and have been attending ever since then, very much looking forward to the experience.

If you have not attended these concerts yourselves, I encourage you to do so to learn what a blossoming gift the program they offer is for our community. There is a vast range in the offerings for attendees to choose from, the cost is more than reasonable, the hosts do an outstanding job keeping the events sufficiently low key so as not to be a disturbance to those in the neighborhood, the hosts have also been remarkably sensitive to requirements of our peculiar times - not shrinking from making decisions to postpone programs when the virus or weather became too much of a factor. They are passionate about music, yet they place the physical safety of all attendees above all. They follow and respect all mandates and recommendations concerning virus safety.

I've attended a range of their concerts: the quality is exceptional. An additional plus to supporting this program is the fact that we all serve our environment quite well when we don't need to do anything more than walk, cycle or use public transportation for our entertainment and cultural experiences. I know that people come from outside of Alexandria too to attend these events.

In sum, Classical Movements is a rising star and in my view a must-experience event for our community. I hope it will have a long, long life span right here, in our own backyard. They deserve for our town to do everything possible to ensure their success, because it is our success as well. Thank you for your time. Respectfully, Gloria Black

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Gloria Sitton

From: TARA <thardiman@prodigy.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 7:11 PM
To: PlanComm; Patrick Silva; Gloria Sitton
Cc: Adam Jackson; Neeta Helms; Johan Van Zyl
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Support for Special Use Permit #2021-00119: Keep the music playing at the Rectory on Princess Street: Support Classical Movements' SUP application

You don't often get email from thardiman@prodigy.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Ms. Sitton, Mr. Silva, and Planning Commission Members,

I am writing again this year to express my support for Classical Movements' Special Use Permit (SUP) Application **#2021-00119**. Given their incredible track record, I am very disappointed that the innovative, dedicated, and hard working organizers -- who have contributed so much to the Alexandria community and to the performing art world -- are having to spend their time on the SUP again this year.

I fully support all the changes they are proposing this year to the SUP regarding timing, amplification, and additional audience space. No other organizations are restricted in such a manner, and the benefits to the community and the art world are enormous. In fact, I was taken aback by comparisons I am hearing may be circulating of this fine classical music to "noise." The brief applause following a sublime performance is an expression of pure joy and appreciation -- as contrasted with the noise of lawn work, construction work, or speeding vehicle traffic. I urge you to debunk and dismiss such falsehoods that are perpetuated by one unfortunate soul and vote to further beautify and improve what our city offers.

Like you, I have served on a number of Alexandria Boards and Commissions during my 30+ years living in the city (Women's Commission (Chair), Arts Commission, Budget and Fiscal Affairs sifiAdvisory Commission, Human Rights Commission). Charged with making recommendations for important decisions that affect the quality of life in Alexandria, I always welcomed input from the community we serve.

As a frequent attendee of Classical Movements' concerts in Alexandria, I strongly support this SUP to present more concerts again this year. Classical Movements' concerts and events have proven a vital opportunity for our community to experience the healing and illuminating power of live music in a safe outdoor -- and indoor when appropriate -- environment. I appreciate this model of short, outdoor concerts that has made it possible to enjoy live music once again. I have been very grateful for the opportunity to support not only local musicians, but also other local businesses while I see so many forced to close in Old Town.

At a time when arts organizations and other businesses in Alexandria and around the country continue to suffer due to the pandemic, I enthusiastically support Classical Movements' efforts to present live music. Each time my husband and I attended a concert this year -- including providing sponsorship -- we took the opportunity to support the local restaurants and businesses that were also inventing new practices and models to survive the pandemic. In addition, the concerts also attracted patrons from outside Alexandria, including some friends of ours to whom we spread the word about this unique, enriching opportunity -- not only attending the concerts, but strolling the downtown area to support struggling businesses. This series has undoubtedly contributed to immensely to, not only the arts, but to greater economic prosperity in Alexandria.

I am very grateful for the opportunities Classical Movements has offered to experience world-class music in an intimate and safe setting. I strongly urge the Planning Commission to approve their application for the benefit of the artists, the cultural enrichment of the patrons, the economic prosperity of the City, and Alexandria's notoriety as an ideal place to work live, and visit.

Sincerely,

Tara Hardiman
207 Laverne Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22305

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Gloria Sitton

From: Jim Dulicai <jim.dulicai@cox.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 4:32 PM
To: PlanComm; Gloria Sitton
Cc: Adam@classicalmovements.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL]In Support of Classical Movements' SUP Application #2021-00119

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from jim.dulicai@cox.net. Learn why this is important at <http://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>.]

I'm writing in support of SUP Application #2021-00119 not only because of the fine concerts presented at the Rectory, but also because of the economic benefits to the city of Alexandria. I'm not an Alexandria resident but come regularly from Fairfax Station to enjoy these concerts, and I dine in one or another Alexandria restaurant either before or after each concert, nearly always with a friend or two. Sometimes we shop, too. Without these concerts, there'd be no reason to drive 40 minutes each way just to patronize Alexandria establishments.

I understand there are concerns about "noise," but all I've heard within the garden is beautiful music at a moderate volume. I don't know any complainant(s), but I'd question why anyone could object in any way to these tasteful concerts at the Rectory. They are a great asset for the cultural life of a great city. Indeed, you would be doing the city and the region a great service by expanding the limits of audience size and performance hours.

I am not related to or affiliated in any way with the Rectory or the sponsors of these Secret Garden concerts, except as an appreciative audience member.

Thank you for considering my views.

Respectfully submitted,
James F. Dulicai

7700 Willowbrook Road
Fairfax Station, VA 22039-2128

703.250.3414

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Gloria Sitton

From: Deborah Outlaw <deborah@outlawgroupdc.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 1:27 PM
To: PlanComm; Gloria Sitton
Subject: [EXTERNAL]In Support of Classical Movements' SUP Application #2021-00119

Some people who received this message don't often get email from deborah@outlawgroupdc.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Sir/Madam: This is to wholeheartedly support the new SUP application by Classical Movements with several requests for an expanded venue. The series of wonderful musical events and excellent theme—focused dinners have provided such a needed morale boost to Old Town, both during the height of the pandemic and up to the present. I have enjoyed every performance I have been able to attend,

As a resident of Old Town for over 40 years, I believe the concerts amplify and support Old Town as a cultural venue. There are absolutely no down sides to the SUP and I very much hope that the unnecessary vitriol exhibited over the last year by one individual in opposition is ignored in totality.

Thank you for your consideration.

Deborah Outlaw
The Outlaw Group
Deborah@outlawgroupdc.com
703-819-7783

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Gloria Sitton

From: Pam Shover <pam.shover@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 1:26 PM
To: PlanComm; Gloria Sitton; Adam@classicalmovements.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL]In Support of Classical Movements' SUP Application #2021-00119

Some people who received this message don't often get email from pam.shover@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I would like to respectfully ask the governing bodies to whom this email is sent to approve the SUP 2021-00119 as requested by Classical Movements.

The opportunity to enjoy their outdoor venue during the last year has been truly golden! With limited indoor opportunities to enjoy the arts, my daughters and I were so grateful for the opportunity to enjoy the outdoor setting and then walk to nearby outdoor restaurants for dinner.

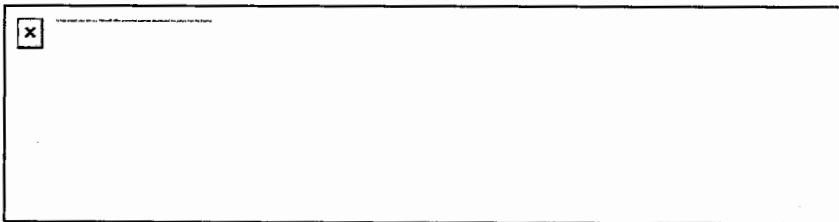
Likewise, I might mention there were several individuals in wheelchairs who seemed to take exceptional pleasure in this opportunity to easily access this venue versus some indoor venues that are more challenging to navigate.

Fast forward to 2022, do any of us really know if there will continue to be challenges for indoor events and restaurant dining?

This outdoor venue brings a wonderful opportunity to continue to showcase talent, provide work for the employees of both the venue and surrounding retail and restaurants at a moment in time when support of these entities is so vital. I believe Classical Movements has engineered a wonderful use of their space for the enjoyment of their guests and the well-being of the artists and employees.

I would encourage all members of the Planning Committee to attend a performance, your time will be exceptionally well-spent!

Respectfully,
Pamela Shover



Pamela Shover, Realtor
Schuler Bauer Real Estate Services
Powered by ERA
pamelashover@schulerbauer.com
502.396.5003

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Gloria Sitton

From: Kristen Schwendinger <kmschwendinger@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 12:10 PM
To: PlanComm; Gloria Sitton; Adam@classicalmovements.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL]In Support of Classical Movements' SUP Application #2021-00119

Some people who received this message don't often get email from kmschwendinger@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am an avid supporter of the arts generally, and of this organization in particular. Its events virtually revitalized my faith in culture this past year. Undoubtedly, you may receive many of these letters of support. Know that I share my support directly to Classical Movements as well as notify you because I believe this organization is a catalyst for community fabric, culture, and humanity - connecting people.

(1) I would be grateful for events that start as early as possible. As early as 10am.

(2) I do not appreciate the 65 decibel limit to Classical Movement's events. Please avoid arbitrary limitations on a venue that soothes the soul.

From the bottom of my heart, please approve a SUP for the organization this year. I cannot imagine handling the demands of the pandemic without this kind of local event that acts as a bridge from the arts to mental health.

--
Kristen Schwendinger—617-510-3574 - kmschwendinger@gmail.com

- [Washington, D.C.](#) - [LinkedIn Profile](#) - [Skype Name kmschwendinger](#)

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Gloria Sitton

From: Larry Feinberg <lfeinber@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 11:53 AM
To: PlanComm; Gloria Sitton
Subject: [EXTERNAL]In Support of Classical Movements' SUP Application #2021-00119

Some people who received this message don't often get email from lfeinber@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

The concerts are wonderful,. They have brought us to Alexandria to eat in your restaurants and shop on King Street, as well as to hear the great music.

I support their application, and hope it is approved.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Feinberg
3016 Tilden St., NW - Apt. 302
Washington, DC 20008

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Gloria Sitton

From: Mildred Neely <solamildred@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 11:49 AM
To: PlanComm; Gloria Sitton
Cc: adam@classicalmovements.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL]In support of Classical Movements

You don't often get email from solamildred@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear friends,

I'm a resident of Old Town and have nothing but praise for the live concerts held by Classical Movements. During this long Covid nightmare, that was the only live performance venue that I was able to attend, since I'm 73 years old. It was pure heaven to go -- despite surgery, I was able to attend 5 concerts this past summer/fall. Not only that, I had friends from Washington, D.C. and other neighborhoods in Virginia attend with me. Then we went to a local restaurant and had dinner outside. Great fun, as well as inspirational and supportive of performance artists who've been largely frozen out from their venues.

Please don't let obnoxious people, like the neighbor who plays loud music to down the concert out, persuade you that there is anything to object to in these concerts. The planes that go over his home, the fire trucks, traffic -- all of those necessary parts of urban living -- are louder and more disturbing than music.

Please approve Classical Movements' petition and the revisions they are requesting.

Sincerely,

Mildred S. Neely
600 Second St. #301
Alexandria

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Gloria Sitton

From: Tucker Bailey <tucker.bailey@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 11:18 AM
To: PlanComm; Gloria Sitton
Subject: [EXTERNAL]In Support of Classical Movements' SUP Application #2021-00119

Some people who received this message don't often get email from tucker.bailey@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)
Hi Alexandria planning team. As a nearby neighbor, I want to express my support for the Classical Movements' SUP referenced in the subject line. I live one block away on N. Columbus St. and LOVE that classical music can flourish in our neighborhood.

I have attended several concerts personally and find it such a benefit to the community that they are permitted to perform there.

Further, I am fully supportive of extending the hours allowed, the maximum number of seats, and allowing moderate amplification. Their noise levels is well below other allowable noise producers--and it sounds so much better!

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Tucker Bailey
228 N. Columbus St.

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Gloria Sitton

From: Dan Hanks <dan_hanks@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 06, 2022 10:48 PM
To: PlanComm; Gloria Sitton
Cc: Johan van Zyl; Wei-ping Chou
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Special Use Permit #2021-00119: The Rectory at Princess Street

Some people who received this message don't often get email from dan_hanks@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Members of the City Council, City of Alexandria, Va.,

We write in support of the application by the Rectory on Princess Street (Special Use Permit #2021-00119) to continue hosting weddings and wedding receptions.

We were delighted to have the Rectory host our wedding reception this past October for 50+ guests from around the DMV area. It was important to us to have a venue where all of our guests would feel comfortable, and the outdoor gardens of the Rectory fit the bill admirably. The event was a great success! We had an anxious moment in the late afternoon when it started to rain, but fortunately the skies cleared very shortly afterward and the evening proved to be a beautiful one. Johan van Zyl and Alessandra D'Ovidio were unfailingly thoughtful and kind hosts, making numerous good suggestions and eagerly lending a hand whenever needed.

We had no music at our reception, which was a bit odd as one of us is a professional musician, as are many of our reception guests. The Rectory was quite clear, however, about its commitment to respecting restrictions on music and the use of amplification. As much as we enjoyed the occasion, we would have been even more pleased to host our reception at the Rectory had we felt free to play music or use amplification at a reasonable volume.

While we do not speak for the local businesses that we patronized in connection with our reception—and which included catering and party rental supply—it is our impression that these companies view the work opportunities presented by weddings and receptions at the Rectory as a boost to their own businesses. We hope that others will be permitted to hold their weddings and receptions at this wonderful venue and enjoy the warm hospitality of the Rectory's staff.

Kind regards,

Dan Hanks & Wei-Ping Chou

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Gloria Sitton

From: Amy Stedman <amystedman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, February 04, 2022 11:55 AM
To: PlanComm; Gloria Sitton
Cc: Johan@ClassicalMovements.com; amystedman@yahoo.com; PARKER; Alessandra D'Ovidio
Subject: [EXTERNAL]SUPPORT of Special Use Permit #2021-00119

[You don't often get email from amystedman@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <http://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>.]

RE: SUPPORT of Special Use Permit #2021-00119

Dear Members of the City Council, City of Alexandria, VA:

We are writing in regards to Special Use Permit #2021-00119 filed by The Rectory on Princess Street. We recently got married on Saturday, September 25th, 2021, in the secret garden. We were thrilled to have found this hidden gem and thought its natural historical beauty to be the perfect backdrop for our micro wedding (under 20 people). During our planning process, not only were we informed that there could be no amplified sound outside, but it was also clearly written into the terms of the contract, which we fully understood. We were also reminded of this fact as our wedding date drew near. While we did find it odd, it did not personally impact our wedding or our decision to have our wedding at this beautiful location.

I'd like to let you know that while having our micro wedding here in Old Town, Alexandria, we had many family members travel from out of state: Chicago, Illinois; Pensacola, Florida; Beloit, Wisconsin; Easton, Maryland; northern and southern Virginia; and ourselves coming in from Washington, DC. As a result, we booked several rooms at two Old Town Alexandria Hotels: the Hyatt Centric and the Club Wyndham Old Town. We also had dinner events at Joe Theismann's restaurant right by both hotels, and Mia's Italian Kitchen near the waterfront. In between, we also frequented the Uptowner Cafe, Hard Times Cafe, Village Brauhaus, and the Majestic. I also used a local florist, Fleurelity, who is based in Alexandria.

As you can see, our ability to have our wedding at the Rectory had great financial benefits for the city of Alexandria during the three days our guests were in town. Additionally, adding to the charm of Old Town, we randomly met a kind neighbor who resides close to the Rectory that makes free birdhouses for all who come by. He made one for our wedding and we are forever grateful to have this special memento to remember our day. We can't imagine others not being able to have the same opportunity to support the Rectory on Princess Street, as well as many other small businesses in the area, if they were unable to have their wedding at this very special place that embodies everything Old Town is known for.

Sincerely, Amy Stedman and Parker Asmann _____

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Gloria Sitton

From: Sean and Caroline Maguire <maguirecarolineandsean@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2022 12:30 PM
To: PlanComm; Gloria Sitton
Cc: Johan van Zyl
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Special Use Permit #2021-00119 - The Rectory on Princess Street
Attachments: Caroline+Sean_Wedding_RectoryOnPrincessStreet_11082.JPG;
Caroline+Sean_Wedding_RectoryOnPrincessStreet_10864.JPG;
Caroline+Sean_Wedding_RectoryOnPrincessStreet_7734.JPG;
Caroline+Sean_Wedding_RectoryOnPrincessStreet_9493.JPG;
Caroline+Sean_Wedding_RectoryOnPrincessStreet_8800.JPG

Some people who received this message don't often get email from maguirecarolineandsean@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Members of the City Council,

By way of introduction, my name is Caroline Maguire and my husband, Sean, and I were married last year at the Rectory on Princess Street. We would like to express our support for the Rectory's application for Special Use Permit #2021-00119, to continue hosting special events in the Secret Garden at the Rectory.

Sean and I chose to get married at the Rectory because Oldtown Alexandria is a very special place to us. We wanted our wedding weekend to celebrate all that Oldtown Alexandria has to offer, so we hosted our rehearsal dinner at Mia's Italian Kitchen on King Street and our reception at the Hummingbird Bar and Kitchen on the waterfront. We also booked the King Street Trolley for wedding party transportation, got ready at the Hotel Indigo, and used local florist Bloom Fresh Flowers for our flowers. Most of our 80 guests traveled in from out of town and loved staying in local hotels, visiting local restaurants, and exploring the waterfront parks. (I've heard there was also an after-party at another local bar, but I wasn't there for that!)

The Rectory was a fabulous event space for our small wedding. We wanted to get married in a historic venue (I'm a historian!), and we loved the setting of the Secret Garden - as did our guests. We also appreciated that it was fully handicap-accessible for several wheelchair-bound guests. Other historic venues that we toured in Oldtown were not compliant with ADA standards, so this was a major benefit of hosting our wedding at the Rectory.

However, we did find it a bit odd that no amplification was allowed during the event. As much as we tried to project our voices, some of our elderly family members were unable to hear our vows well without a small lapel mic to amplify. In the future, should the Rectory be able to continue hosting special events, a revision to this restriction would be much appreciated.

I've attached several photos from the event - again, as you can see, we really loved showcasing all that we love about Oldtown! We hope that you will consider extending the Rectory's Special Use Permit to allow other couples the wonderful experience we had.

Sincerely,
Caroline Maguire

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