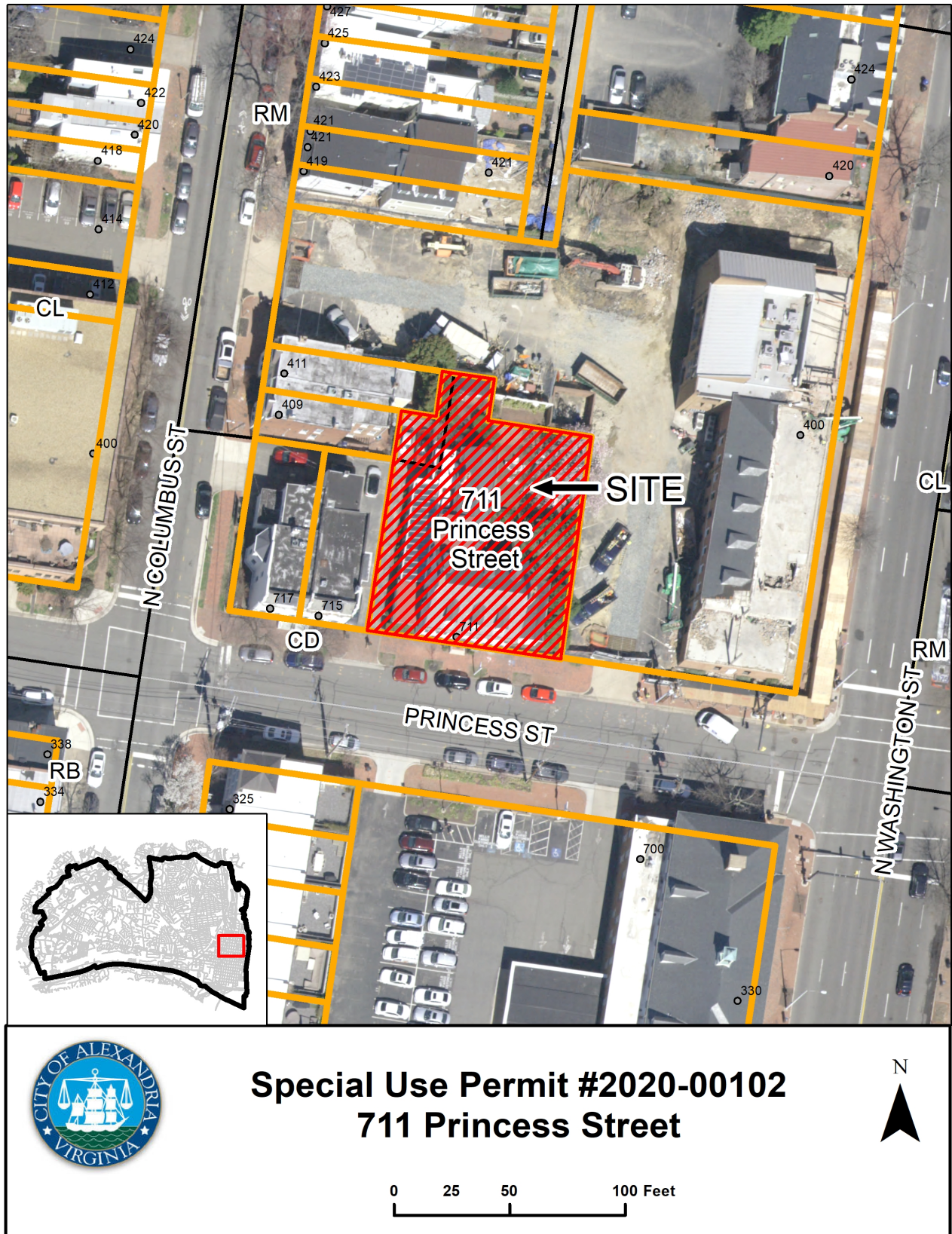


DOCKET ITEM #7
Special Use Permit # 2020-00102
711 Princess Street – Classical Movements

Application	General Data	
Public hearing and consideration of a request for a Special Use Permit for indoor and outdoor live entertainment, a restaurant and outdoor dining.	Planning Commission Hearing:	March 2, 2021
	City Council Hearing:	March 13, 2021
Address: 711 Princess Street	Zone:	CD
Applicant: Classical Movements, represented by Neeta Helms, agent	Small Area Plan:	Braddock Road Metro Station

Staff Recommendation: PARTIAL APPROVAL subject to compliance with all applicable codes and ordinances and the recommended permit conditions found in Section III of this report.

Staff Reviewers: Ann Horowitz, ann.horowitz@alexandriava.gov
Tony LaColla, anthony.lacolla@alexandriava.gov



PROJECT LOCATION MAP

I. DISCUSSION

The applicant, Classical Movements, represented by Neeta Helms, requests Special Use Permit (SUP) approval for indoor and outdoor live entertainment and for indoor and outdoor events, which are defined as restaurant and outdoor dining uses in the City's Zoning Ordinance when food is featured as part of the event.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The subject property is an 8,491 square foot lot of record and is developed with a 5,642 square foot commercial building, constructed circa 1785. Open space behind and on the east side of the building measures approximately 3,866 square feet and is landscaped as a garden with patio area. A driveway and parking spaces exist to the east of the building.

A mix of commercial and residential uses surround the applicant's property. Commercial and residential properties share property lines with 711 Princess Street to the east, and the senior living facility, Sunrise of Old Town, shares property lines to the north and west (Figure 2, Page 4).



Figure 1: 711 Princess Street

BACKGROUND

Classical Movements has organized concert tours, nationally and internationally, for orchestras and choirs since 1992 at 711 Princess Street. In addition, virtual music lessons were recently added to the operation.

City email records indicate that the applicant contacted staff in April and May 2020 inquiring about what they could do in the CD zone as concert performances had largely ceased with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. We sincerely regret that a staff member did not reply to the business's inquiry at that time.

In November, staff learned of outdoor concerts held since the summer months at 711 Princess Street, when an abutting residential neighbor submitted a notarized complaint to the City regarding noise. The applicant received a warning citation and was informed that Special Use Permit approval was required to conduct outdoor live entertainment. As the next earliest City Council hearing was March 2021, P&Z coordinated with Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES) to allow for a temporary noise permit option. This was to allow Classical Movements the opportunity to continue to hold up to three already scheduled concerts, concluding at 8 p.m., with

the approval of neighboring property owners prior to the March hearing. The business did not pursue this option, choosing instead to wait until the SUP hearings in March to learn if its SUP request would be approved prior to resuming outdoor concerts.



Figure 2: Surrounding uses: subject property is outlined in red; abutting commercial properties are outlined in blue; abutting residential properties are outlined in purple; and the Sunrise of Old Town is outlined in green.

PROPOSAL

As its primary business function organizing concert tours is severely impacted by the pandemic, the applicant, Classical Movements, represented by Neeta Helms, proposes new uses to augment its business model: indoor and outdoor live entertainment in the form of classical concerts with occasional vocalists; and indoor and outdoor special events, which include food service. The concerts are defined in the Zoning Ordinance as live entertainment given that they would be the primary attraction at the commercial use and admission would be charged. Events with food

service are most closely associated with the Zoning Ordinance restaurant and outdoor dining use definitions, explaining the SUP application request for these uses.

The following outlines the proposals in detail:

Indoor and outdoor live entertainment

Days: Between one to four concerts a day on Saturdays and Sundays; most days would feature two concerts
Months: Four days a month, primarily between March through August
Hours: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Guests: Up to 56 accommodated with socially-distanced seat spacing
Noise: Unamplified music and announcements; double-paned building windows provide sound proofing for indoor concerts
Trash: Removed from the property the day of the concert

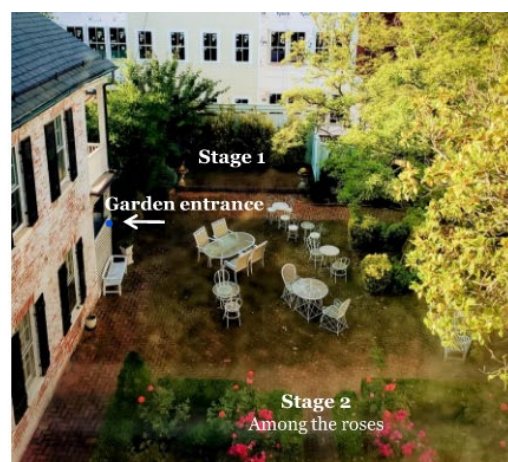
Indoor and outdoor events*

Weddings

Days: Saturdays and Sundays
Months: Four days a month, primarily between March through August
Hours: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; two to eight hours per event
Guests: Up to 50
Food service: Prepared off-site by caterer and warmed at on-site kitchen
Trash: Removed from the property the day of the event

** Other events (e.g. bridal showers, baby showers, private parties) would take place one day a month during the same months and times as weddings.*

The garden area where outdoor concerts and events would take place is illustrated in Figures 3-6. Figures 3 and 4 provide a photographic view of the rear garden area and note options for two stage locations. Figure 5 identifies the approximate location of the stage areas in a map aerial view and Figure 6 provides a sample layout for a concert with socially-distanced seating.



Figures 3 and 4: Rear garden and two stage location options.

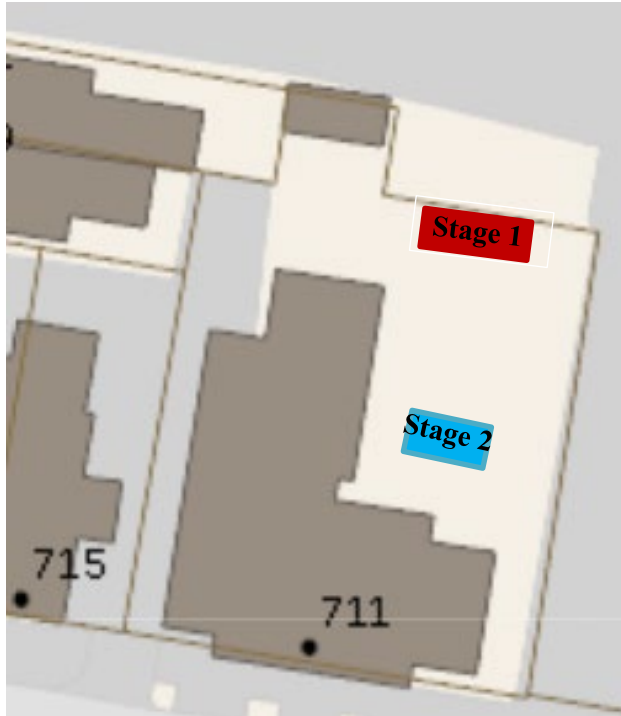


Figure 5: Map aerial of stage option locations.

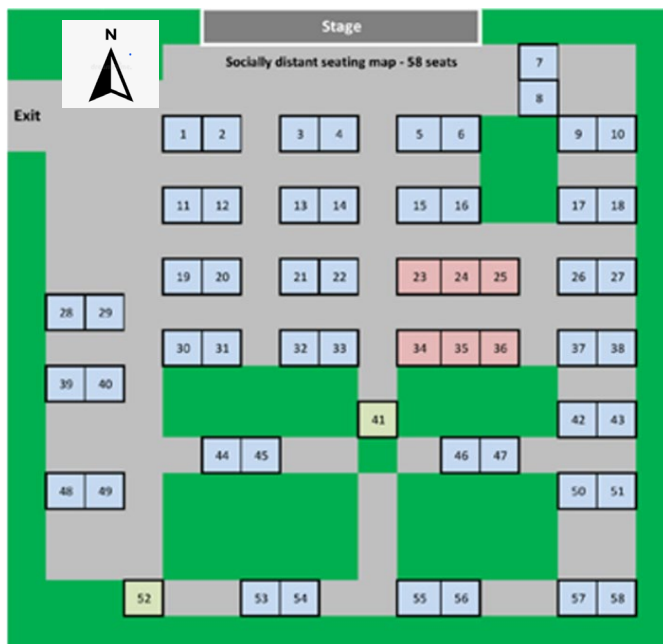


Figure 6: Seating example for a socially-distanced concert.

PARKING

Section 8-200 (A)(17)(a)(i) requires restaurant applicants to provide a minimum of one and a maximum of three off-street parking spaces for every 1,000 square feet of restaurant space. With 5,642 square feet of indoor space and 450 square feet accounting for outdoor dining, the applicant

is required to provide a minimum of seven and a maximum of 21 off-street parking spaces. Although the application states six off-street parking spaces exist on the property, only two standard spaces, as defined in the Zoning Ordinance, are present at the site. The applicant provides 10 off-street parking spaces (two spaces on-site and eight spaces arranged through parking agreements with nearby commercial businesses), within the range required in the Zoning Ordinance.

ZONING/MASTER PLAN DESIGNATION AND CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES

Use Requirements

The applicant's business and professional office and the private commercial school, providing music lessons, are permitted uses in the CD zone, pursuant to Section 4-502. Section 4-503(A) requires SUP approval for any use with live entertainment. Outdoor dining with over 40 seats requires SUP approval in accordance with Section 11-513(M)(3). Although the indoor restaurant could be approved through the administrative SUP process, staff merged the request in this report with the other uses that require City Council review of an SUP.

City Council Review of Special Use Permits

Section 11-501 of the Zoning Ordinance details the City Council's authority in its review of Special Use Permits: "The city council may approve an application for a special use permit provided for in this ordinance if the proposed location is appropriate for the use and if the proposed use or structure will be designed and operated so as to avoid, minimize or mitigate any potentially adverse effects on the neighborhood as a whole or other properties in the vicinity."

Further, City Council considerations for SUP proposal reviews are found in Section 11-504. Section 11-504(B)(8) states, "Notwithstanding any other provisions of the city code, whether the proposed use will have noise characteristics that exceed the sound levels that are typical of permitted uses in the zone."

Historic District Requirements

Given the location within the Old and Historic District, any permanent exterior changes require BAR approval.

Master Plan Designation

The property at 711 Princess Street is sited within the Braddock Road Metro Station Small Area Plan and the supplemental Braddock Metro Neighborhood Plan, which designate the lot for commercial use.

City Code of Ordinances

The noise ordinance requirements of Section 11-5-5 of the City Code of Ordinances establishes the maximum decibel levels to be measured at the noise source's property lines. The maximum decibel level allowed at the property lines surrounding 711 Princess Street is 60 dB(A).

II. STAFF ANALYSIS

Staff finds the applicant's proposed new uses as a resourceful and creative business response to the impacts associated with COVID-19. The SUP application cites the benefits of outdoor concerts as providing jobs for musicians and offering cultural entertainment for classical music enthusiasts during these inarguably trying times. Although staff acknowledges these economic and cultural benefits, it's evaluation of SUP requests, nonetheless, is limited to the authority granted in the Zoning Ordinance, which directs it to consider "...if the proposed location is appropriate for the use and if the proposed use ... will be designed and operated so as to avoid, minimize or mitigate any potentially adverse effects on the neighborhood as a whole or other properties in the vicinity." One evaluation criterion is the effect of excessive sound levels on adjacent properties.

As such, staff recommends partial approval of Classical Movement's SUP requests. Staff supports the restaurant, outdoor dining and indoor live entertainment requests, as reflected in Conditions #1-23. Given the significant likelihood that live outdoor concerts would exceed the noise ordinance of 60 dB(A) at the shared commercial and residential property lines, the location is not considered appropriate for the live outdoor entertainment use, and staff does not recommend approval of this specific SUP request.

Analysis for approval recommendation

Staff believes the indoor live concert entertainment and the restaurant and outdoor dining of up to 50 seats, representing the special events request, could be accommodated on the lot with minimal neighborhood impacts. Indoor live entertainment is not expected to elicit negative impacts as noise would be mitigated due to it taking place inside a building with double-paned windows designed for soundproofing. Nonetheless, the applicant must comply with the noise ordinance and amplified live entertainment may not be heard at the property line after 10 p.m., as stated in Condition #10.

The special events would be offered infrequently and would not include early morning or late-night hours, with limitations for Saturdays and Sundays and hours between 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., as noted in Condition #2. It is reasonable that noise from up to 50 outdoor guests would meet the noise ordinance limitations at the property lines given that 60dB(A) generally equates to the noise level of casual conversation. The outdoor seat limit of 50 is mandated in Condition #4.

Although staff does not support outdoor live entertainment as the primary use, it supports outdoor unamplified limited live entertainment, defined as background music, for special events, Condition #9 provides the parameters for limited live entertainment, including a limitation of one musician and the inability to charge admission.

To ensure a suitable number of off-street parking spaces, the applicant is required to maintain parking agreements to provide at least seven off-street spaces within 1,000 feet of the business, as stated in Condition #11. The applicant also volunteered in its application that it would secure additional off-street parking for its larger events and mentioned that opportunities may exist in the Well Fargo bank parking lot across Princess Street.

Analysis for denial recommendation

Given the proximity of the proposed outdoor live entertainment to shared property lines, staff recommends denial for this use. To minimize sound, the applicant proposed two possible stage locations as shown in Figure 5. Although Stage 2 is more removed from the abutting properties than Stage 1, staff found that the distance would not be substantial enough to counter a higher decibel level at the property lines. The distances from the stages to all property lines ranges between 25 and 60 feet.

Should City Council disagree with the denial recommendation for outdoor live entertainment, Conditions #24 and 28 may be adopted to mitigate noise impacts. These are: mandating a maximum of 50 outdoor seats for concerts (#24); limiting days and times (#25); noise ordinance compliance (#26); designation of a community liaison (#27); and event and concert notification to neighbors (#29).

Community Outreach

To ensure the broader neighborhood was aware of the SUP request, the Transportation and Environmental Services' Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ) recommended that the applicant notify residents within a one block radius of the property its application. The applicant diligently complied, delivering 261 letters to surrounding residences, forwarding responses to staff. Several letters of support resulted from the survey and from letters independently sent to the Planning Commission.

CONCLUSION

Staff recommends partial approval for the indoor live entertainment, the restaurant and the outdoor dining and recommends denial for the outdoor live entertainment. Conditions #1-23 apply to the uses recommended for approval. Conditions #24-28 refer to the outdoor live entertainment request if City Council votes to approve the use.

III. RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS

Staff recommends approval for indoor live entertainment, restaurant and outdoor dining subject to compliance with all applicable codes and ordinances and the following conditions:

1. The Special Use Permit shall be granted to the applicant only or to any business or entity in which the applicant has a controlling interest. (P&Z)
2. Indoor live entertainment, restaurant and outdoor dining are permitted on Saturdays and Sundays, between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. All patrons must leave the premises at 10 p.m. (P&Z)
3. The maximum number of indoor seats for the indoor live entertainment and the restaurant uses shall comply with the state building code. (P&Z)

4. The maximum number of outdoor seats for outdoor dining shall be 50. City Council approval is required for an SUP amendment to increase outdoor seating over 50 for outdoor dining. (P&Z)
5. The outdoor dining area shall be cleaned and washed at the close of each business day that it is in use. (P&Z)
6. The applicant shall conduct employee training sessions on an ongoing basis, including as part of any employee orientation, to discuss all SUP provisions and requirements, and on how to prevent underage sales of alcohol. (P&Z)
7. No food, beverages, or other material shall be stored outside, with the exception of materials specified in other conditions. (P&Z)
8. On and off premises alcohol sales are permitted in compliance with Virginia ABC requirements. (P&Z)
9. Unamplified, outdoor, limited live entertainment, serving only as background music for outdoor dining special events and consisting of one musician, may be offered and must comply with the City's noise ordinance. No admission or cover fee may be charged. All entertainment shall be subordinate to the principal function of the restaurant as an eating establishment. Any advertising of the entertainment shall reflect the subordinate nature of the entertainment by featuring food service as well as the entertainment. (P&Z)
10. The indoor live entertainment, restaurant and outdoor dining uses must comply with the city's noise ordinance. No indoor amplified sound shall be audible at the property line after 10:00 PM. (T&ES)
11. The applicant shall maintain agreements to meet the minimum seven off-street parking space requirement within 1,000 feet of the business. (P&Z)
12. The applicant shall require its employees who drive to use off-street parking. (T&ES)
13. The applicant shall encourage its employees to use public transportation to travel to and from work. The business shall contact Go Alex at goalex@alexandriava.gov for information on establishing an employee transportation benefits program. (T&ES)
14. The applicant shall provide information about alternative forms of transportation to access the site, including but not limited to printed and electronic business promotional material, posting on the business website, and other similar methods. Contact Go Alex at goalex@alexandriava.gov for more information about available resources. (T&ES)
15. The applicant shall encourage patrons to park off-street through the provision of information about nearby garages or lots in the business' advertising and website. (T&ES)

16. Exterior power washing of the building shall not be completed using any kind of detergents. (T&ES)
17. Chemicals, detergents or cleaners stored outside the building shall be kept in an enclosure with a roof. (T&ES)
18. Trash and garbage shall be stored inside or in sealed containers that do not allow odors to escape, invasion by animals, or leaking. No trash or debris shall be allowed to accumulate outside of those containers. Outdoor containers shall be maintained to the satisfaction of the Directors of P&Z and T&ES, including replacing damaged lids and repairing/replacing damaged dumpsters. (P&Z) (T&ES)
19. The applicant shall control odors, smoke and any other air pollutants from operations at the site and prevent them from leaving the property or becoming a nuisance to neighboring properties, as determined by the Department of Transportation & Environmental Services. (T&ES)
20. All waste products including but not limited to organic compounds (solvents and cleaners) shall be disposed of in accordance with all local, state and federal ordinances or regulations. (T&ES)
21. Supply deliveries, loading, and unloading activities shall not occur between the hours of 11:00pm and 7:00am. (T&ES)
22. Litter on the site and on public rights-of-way and spaces adjacent to or within 75 feet of the premises shall be picked up at least twice a day and at the close of business, and more often if necessary, to prevent an unsightly or unsanitary accumulation, on each day that the business is open to the public. (T&ES)
23. The Director of Planning and Zoning shall review the Special Use Permit one year after it has been operational and shall docket the matter for consideration by the Planning Commission and City Council if (a) there have been documented violations of the permit conditions which were not corrected immediately, constitute repeat violations or which create a direct and immediate adverse zoning impact on the surrounding community; (b) the Director has received a request from any person to docket the permit for review as a result of a complaint that rises to the level of a violation; or (c) the Director has determined that there are problems with the operation of the use and that new or revised conditions are needed. (P&Z)

The following conditions apply, subject to compliance with all applicable codes and ordinances, should City Council choose to approve outdoor live entertainment. If City Council does not approve live entertainment, Conditions 24 through 28 are invalid:

24. The maximum number of outdoor seats for live entertainment shall be 50. City Council Approval is required for an SUP amendment to increase outdoor seating over 50 for live entertainment. (P&Z)

25. Outdoor live entertainment is permitted on Saturdays and Sundays between 10 a.m. and 9 p.m. (P&Z)
26. The outdoor live entertainment use must comply with the City's noise ordinance. (T&ES)
27. The applicant shall designate an employee as a community liaison to respond to property owners' questions and noise concerns. The contact phone number and email for the community liaison shall be provided to these property owners. (P&Z)
28. The applicant shall provide at least five-days prior notice to property owners, located one block of the business, of scheduled outdoor concerts and events. (P&Z)

STAFF: Tony LaColla, Division Chief, Land Use Services,
Department of Planning and Zoning;
Ann Horowitz, Principal Planner

Staff Note: In accordance with section 11-506(c) of the zoning ordinance, construction or operation shall be commenced and diligently and substantially pursued within 18 months of the date of granting of a Special Use Permit by City Council or the Special Use Permit shall become void.

IV. CITY DEPARTMENT COMMENTS

Legend: C - code requirement R - recommendation S - suggestion F - finding

Transportation & Environmental Services:

Findings:

1. SWM has no comments.

Conditions:

1. The applicant shall require its employees who drive to use off-street parking. (T&ES)
2. The applicant shall encourage its employees to use public transportation to travel to and from work. The business shall contact Go Alex at goalex@alexandriava.gov for information on establishing an employee transportation benefits program. (T&ES)
3. The applicant shall provide information about alternative forms of transportation to access the site, including but not limited to printed and electronic business promotional material, posting on the business website, and other similar methods. Contact Go Alex at goalex@alexandriava.gov for more information about available resources. (T&ES)
4. The applicant shall encourage patrons to park off-street through the provision of information about nearby garages or lots in the business' advertising and website. (T&ES)
5. Exterior power washing of the building shall not be completed using any kind of detergents. (T&ES)
6. Chemicals, detergents or cleaners stored outside the building shall be kept in an enclosure with a roof. (T&ES)
7. Trash and garbage shall be stored inside or in sealed containers that do not allow odors to escape, invasion by animals, or leaking. No trash or debris shall be allowed to accumulate outside of those containers. Outdoor containers shall be maintained to the satisfaction of the Directors of P&Z and T&ES, including replacing damaged lids and repairing/replacing damaged dumpsters. (P&Z) (T&ES)
8. The applicant shall control odors, smoke and any other air pollutants from operations at the site and prevent them from leaving the property or becoming a nuisance to neighboring properties, as determined by the Department of Transportation & Environmental Services. (T&ES)
9. All waste products including but not limited to organic compounds (solvents and cleaners) shall be disposed of in accordance with all local, state and federal ordinances or regulations. (T&ES)

10. Supply deliveries, loading, and unloading activities shall not occur between the hours of 11:00pm and 7:00am. (T&ES)
11. Outdoor live entertainment is prohibited. (T&ES)
12. The use must comply with the city's noise ordinance. No indoor amplified sound shall be audible at the property line after 10:00 PM. (T&ES)
13. Litter on the site and on public rights-of-way and spaces adjacent to or within 75 feet of the premises shall be picked up at least twice a day and at the close of business, and more often if necessary, to prevent an unsightly or unsanitary accumulation, on each day that the business is open to the public. (T&ES)

City Code Requirements:

1. The applicant shall comply with the City of Alexandria's Solid Waste Control, Title 5, Chapter 1, which sets forth the requirements for the recycling of materials (Sec. 5-1-99). In order to comply with this code requirement, the applicant shall provide a completed Recycling Implementation Plan (RIP) Form within 60 days of SUP approval. Contact the City's Recycling Program Coordinator at (703) 746-4410, or via e-mail at commercialrecycling@alexandriava.gov, for information about completing this form. (T&ES)
2. The applicant shall comply with the City of Alexandria's Noise Control Code, Title 11, Chapter 5, which sets the maximum permissible noise level as measured at the property line. (T&ES)
3. Section 5-1-42- Collection by Private collectors. (c) Time of collection. Solid waste shall be collected from all premises not serviced by the city at least once each week. No collections may be made between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. (6:00 a.m. from May 1, through September 30) if the collection area is less than 500 feet from a residential area. (T&ES)

Code:

- C-1 The proposed use described in the Special use permit application will require a building permit review prior to occupancy.

Fire:

- C-1 A fire prevention permit is required - assembly

Health:

No comments received.

Parks and Recreation:

No comments received.

Police Department:
No comments received.



APPLICATION

SPECIAL USE PERMIT

SPECIAL USE PERMIT # _____

PROPERTY LOCATION: 711 Princess St, Alexandria, VA 22314

TAX MAP REFERENCE: 064.02-08-07 **ZONE:** CD

APPLICANT:

Name: Blue Heart Travel, Inc. dba Classical Movements

Address: 711 Princess St, Alexandria, VA 22314

PROPOSED USE: Live Entertainment and Restaurant

- ☒ THE UNDERSIGNED, hereby applies for a Special Use Permit in accordance with the provisions of Article XI, Section 4-11-500 of the 1992 Zoning Ordinance of the City of Alexandria, Virginia.
- ☒ THE UNDERSIGNED, having obtained permission from the property owner, hereby grants permission to the City of Alexandria staff and Commission Members to visit, inspect, and photograph the building premises, land etc., connected with the application.
- ☒ THE UNDERSIGNED, having obtained permission from the property owner, hereby grants permission to the City of Alexandria to post placard notice on the property for which this application is requested, pursuant to Article IV, Section 4-1404(D)(7) of the 1992 Zoning Ordinance of the City of Alexandria, Virginia.
- ☒ THE UNDERSIGNED, hereby attests that all of the information herein provided and specifically including all surveys, drawings, etc., required to be furnished by the applicant are true, correct and accurate to the best of their knowledge and belief. The applicant is hereby notified that any written materials, drawings or illustrations submitted in support of this application and any specific oral representations made to the Director of Planning and Zoning on this application will be binding on the applicant unless those materials or representations are clearly stated to be non-binding or illustrative of general plans and intentions, subject to substantial revision, pursuant to Article XI, Section 11-207(A)(10), of the 1992 Zoning Ordinance of the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

Neeta Helms

Print Name of Applicant or Agent

711 Princess St

Mailing/Street Address

Alexandria, VA 22314

City and State

Zip Code

DocuSigned by:

Neeta Helms

12/16/2020

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Signature

Date

703-407-3456

Telephone #

703-683-6045

Fax #

Neeta@ClassicalMovements.com

Email address

PROPERTY OWNER'S AUTHORIZATION

As the property owner of 711 Princess St, Alexandria, VA 22314, I hereby
 (Property Address)
 grant the applicant authorization to apply for the Live Entertainment and Restaurant use as
 (use)
 described in this application.

Name: Neeta Helms and Johannes van Zyl

Phone: 703-407-3456

Please Print
 Address: 6125 Stegen Dr, Alexandria, VA 22310

Email: Neeta@ClassicalMovements.com

Signature: 
 DECFC44524C4456...

Date: 12-15-20

- 1.** Floor Plan and Plot Plan. As a part of this application, the applicant is required to submit a floor plan and plot or site plan with the parking layout of the proposed use. The SUP application checklist lists the requirements of the floor and site plans. The Planning Director may waive requirements for plan submission upon receipt of a written request which adequately justifies a waiver.

☒ **Required floor plan and plot/site plan attached.**

☐ **Requesting a waiver. See attached written request.**

- 2.** The applicant is the (check one):

☐ Owner

☐ Contract Purchaser

☐ Lessee or

☐ Other: Both Owner and Lessee of the subject property.

State the name, address and percent of ownership of any person or entity owning an interest in the applicant or owner, unless the entity is a corporation or partnership, in which case identify each owner of more than three percent.

Neeta Helms, 6125 Stegen Dr, Alexandria, VA 22310, 100% Owner of Blue Heart
Travel, Inc. dba Classical Movements

OWNERSHIP AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Use additional sheets if necessary

1. Applicant. State the name, address and percent of ownership of any person or entity owning an interest in the applicant, unless the entity is a corporation or partnership, in which case identify each owner of more than three percent. The term ownership interest shall include any legal or equitable interest held at the time of the application in the real property which is the subject of the application.

Name	Address	Percent of Ownership
1. Neeta Helms	711 Princess St. Alexandria, VA 22314	100%
2.		
3.		

2. Property. State the name, address and percent of ownership of any person or entity owning an interest in the property located at 711 Princess St., Alexandria, VA 22314 (address), unless the entity is a corporation or partnership, in which case identify each owner of more than three percent. The term ownership interest shall include any legal or equitable interest held at the time of the application in the real property which is the subject of the application.

Name	Address	Percent of Ownership
1. Neeta Helms	6125 Stegen Dr., Alexandria, VA 22310	90%
2. Johannes van Zyl	6125 Stegen Dr., Alexandria, VA 22310	10%
3.		

3. Business or Financial Relationships. Each person or entity indicated above in sections 1 and 2, with an ownership interest in the applicant or in the subject property are required to disclose any business or financial relationship, as defined by [Section 11-350 of the Zoning Ordinance](#), existing at the time of this application, or within the 12-month period prior to the submission of this application with any member of the Alexandria City Council, Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals or either Boards of Architectural Review. **All fields must be filled out completely. Do not leave blank. (If there are no relationships please indicate each person or entity and "None" in the corresponding fields).**

For a list of current council, commission and board members, as well as the definition of business and financial relationship, [click here](#).

Name of person or entity	Relationship as defined by Section 11-350 of the Zoning Ordinance	Member of the Approving Body (i.e. City Council, Planning Commission, etc.)
1. Neeta Helms	None	None
2. Johannes van Zyl	None	None
3.		

NOTE: Business or financial relationships of the type described in Sec. 11-350 that arise after the filing of this application and before each public hearing must be disclosed prior to the public hearings.

As the applicant or the applicant's authorized agent, I hereby attest to the best of my ability that the information provided above is true and correct.

12-15-20

Date

Neeta Helms

Printed Name

DocuSigned by:

Neeta Helms

DECFC44524C4456...

Signature

If property owner or applicant is being represented by an authorized agent such as an attorney, realtor, or other person for which there is some form of compensation, does this agent or the business in which the agent is employed have a business license to operate in the City of Alexandria, Virginia?

☐ **Yes.** Provide proof of current City business license

☐ **No.** The agent shall obtain a business license prior to filing application, if required by the City Code.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

3. The applicant shall describe below the nature of the request **in detail** so that the Planning Commission and City Council can understand the nature of the operation and the use. The description should fully discuss the nature of the activity. (Attach additional sheets if necessary.)

See attached.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Page 4 Narrative Description.

3. The applicant shall describe below the nature of the request in detail so that the Planning Commission and City Council can understand the nature of the operation and the use. The description should fully discuss the nature of the activity. (Attach additional sheets if necessary.)

Background

The premier concert tour company for the world's great orchestras and choirs, Blue Heart Travel, Inc. dba Classical Movements typically organizes 60 tours per year, two international choral festivals—Ihlombe! in South Africa and Serenade! in Washington, D.C., Virginia and Maryland, and the Prague Summer Nights: Young Artists Music Festival for Opera. We are extremely proud of our history as a company.

Total Loss of Revenue

However, the past seven months have been perhaps the most difficult in our 28-year history. **Our business has come entirely to a halt. As we straddle the travel and live music industries, two of the hardest-hit by the COVID shutdown, we are facing a total loss of revenue for the foreseeable future.** All of our business (concerts tours and festivals) was cancelled this year and we do not have any contracts for our core business in the future. There will be a longer delay for our business to return to normal because full choirs and orchestras will need to be able to meet for rehearsals and concerts, domestic and international travel restrictions will need to be lifted, and most of them will require a vaccine in order to go on concert tour or attend one of our festivals. Our core business may not come back until late 2021 or, worse and more likely at this point, 2022. Despite all this, we have reinvented ourselves to pull through this crisis and lead the charge for the return of live classical music.

Layoffs and Furloughs

We are committed to remaining open in these difficult times. **We laid off 2 employees permanently and we temporarily furloughed 9 employees for one month that are back working full-time right now on reduced salaries.** We have been working on other ways to bring in income. We hope to remind our clients that we are still here and operating for their touring needs, ready to get back to work for them as soon as travel commences.

Sources of Temporary Income and Supporting Others

We launched a new virtual education division that includes virtual festivals, individual and group workshops, instrumental master classes, and we are planning more virtual events such as a big sing with guest conductors. Unfortunately, none of these virtual events have brought in much income. **Since our property at 711 Princess Street has been empty since everyone started working remotely, we came up with the idea of having small live concerts, which have been the only source of regular income for us.** Our small live concerts and other ventures act as both a stopgap for our company, but also to play a leading role in reviving the classical music industry. Until touring and travel returns, we are committed to doing the best we can to keep artists and audiences engaged. **We are continually developing projects that help out-of-work musicians. Through this, we also hope to lead the way in helping the performing arts industry to revive and return as soon as possible.**

The Rectory at Princess Street, Our Historic Property, Rentals and Private Events at Historic Properties in Alexandria

Proposed Use

Page 9 (Q18): Gross building indoor area 5,642 sq. ft. plus gross outdoor area 2,849 sq. ft. = total 8,491 sq. ft. We are requesting to use both indoor and outdoor space on our property so we list the total 8,491 sq. ft. However, we would only use some of the indoor space (most will continue to be office space) and outdoor space (not all of the outdoor space is usable and it includes our private parking area and parts of the outdoor Secret Garden has areas that cannot be used such as the Rose Garden, Other Gardens and Fountain, etc.

Preservation of Historic Property

The Rectory, dating from 1785 formerly served as the rectory of the nearby historic Christ Church, once the church of George Washington. Since then, it has been owned by several distinguished Virginians and has been a commercial office since the 1960's. The 18th century English Secret Garden of the Rectory is a tranquil space complete with its iconic Magnolias. You will be inspired by the garden's peaceful, romantic vintage feel. Located in the heart of beautiful Old Town Alexandria at 711 Princess Street, the Rectory is minutes away from the shops and restaurants of bustling King Street and is easily accessible by bus and metro. Throughout Old Town you'll find the hallmarks of our historic character, from gas lanterns to climbing ivy and wrought-iron gates, not to mention flowers in bloom in the spring. The Rectory has been beautifully preserved and we have invested a lot of time and money maintaining our gorgeous Secret Garden haven rather than develop it like a lot of the other commercial spaces in the city. We would like it to remain one of the celebrated historic properties in Old Town.





Live Entertainment and Restaurant Use in Old Town at Historic City Properties

Many city-owned historic locations in Alexandria have facilities available for rent for a variety of functions, including meetings, seminars, private parties, weddings, and many other special events and they are promoted on the City of Alexandria website. Six Historic Alexandria properties are available for rentals and private events. Our building is as old, if not older than Gatsby's Tavern, which is one of the properties available for rent for a variety of functions. There are also other properties listed such as the Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden that is a 3 minute walk from our property. **They offer indoor and outdoor dining and entertainment in their garden as well.**

Outdoor Small Live Concerts

Previous Attempts to Contact the City of Alexandria Zoning Department

In April and May of 2020, we left voice mails and wrote to the City of Alexandria to see what was needed, if anything, to host small live concerts in our outdoor secret garden. We moved forward with our plan to use our outdoor secret garden to host small live concerts when we did not hear back from anyone, thinking there were no issues to do so especially as we are in the CD zone and we are a commercial property.

Giving Hope and Harmony Back to the Community

The concerts are in solidarity with local musicians and our friends in the Alexandria area who are eager to perform live concerts and have had no other opportunities to do so since March. Understanding that music lovers are eager for live performances and that the current situation demands we find new ways to experience live music, Classical Movements has invited musicians from some of our hometown orchestras and other ensembles to join in meaningful and joyous celebrations of the illuminating power of music during this period of so much uncertainty and tension. The concerts give hope and harmony back to the community when we need it most.

First and Only Live Concerts in the US

In June of this year, we started a concert series in our outdoor secret garden, called Sounds of Hope and Harmony, the first and only live classical concert series currently operating in the United States at the time. With strict social distancing guidelines and capacity maximums in place, we launched the series with three short concerts featuring musicians from the National Symphony Orchestra. After a surge of popular demand and positive press, we extended the series into October, with additional concerts of music from traditional classical chamber music, to gospel and spirituals in honor of the March on Washington, to the first live, socially-distanced choral concert in the United States since the beginning of the shutdown.

Partnering with Local Organizations

We have partnered with local organizations like the **Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts** and the **Alexandria Symphony Orchestra** to present concerts with meaningful programming.

Showcasing Black Musicians and Composers and Women Composers

We are making a deliberate effort to showcase Black musicians and composers, as well as women composers across our season – which has always been an essential part of our artistic mission. Before the delays and cancellations necessitated by Covid-19, we had planned an ambitious series of new music commissions, including 5 in honor of the centennial of women winning the vote in America.

Supporting Out-of-Work Musicians and Conductors

Ticket sales are used to pay the musicians and conductors. Classical Movements has supported 74 out-of-work musicians, of which 31 were women and 21 performers of color, and programmed 94 different works by 88 composers including 33 living composers. The performers have been out of work musicians from the National Symphony Orchestra, Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, Annapolis Symphony Orchestra and other local organizations.



Cancelled Events

After increased popular demand, we extended the series into the holidays with our Sounds of Joy and Light series, with concerts for Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. We have since cancelled events as we apply for this permit. Looking ahead, we are hoping to get this permit so that we can extend the series and have more concerts.

Supporting Local Music Organizations

We have also rented our outdoor Secret Garden to local orchestras such as the **Alexandria Symphony Orchestra** and the **Eclipse Chamber Orchestra**, who hosted their own small live concerts. We hope to offer our outdoor Secret Garden to other local music organizations to have concerts outdoors. As you know, they are also without any income during COVID-19.



No Cases of COVID-19 Reported

Concerts take place in the beautiful Secret Garden at the Rectory on Princess Street, Classical Movements' home in Old Town Alexandria. No cases of COVID-19 have been reported as a result of our concerts since their start in June. Concerts are carefully designed to accommodate safe social distancing for performers, audience and staff. We operate at a very limited capacity and distribute programs and tickets by email only. Musicians are assigned specific spaces backstage and we maintained a strict regimen of cleaning between performances.

Benefits to Other Local Businesses

The small live concerts have also benefited other local businesses. We have used Best Impressions to print signs and flyers. We have used Door to Door Distributors to distribute postcards advertising the concerts. Other local business such as Fitness Together and Ideatech Associates have sponsored events and gained more customers and business from the concerts. We feed the musicians and staff using local Alexandria restaurants to support them. We have also reached out to local individuals, banks and corporations who are also interested in supporting the concerts and in turn, the local music organizations, musicians and conductors, etc.

One Hour Concerts

The small live concerts are for one-hour each maximum. We typically arrange two concerts on one day using the same program and musicians, with a 30 minute break to clean in between concerts.

Precautions

Classical Movements continues to take precautions to limit the risk as much as within our power and requests the cooperation of the audience in these preventative measures so that we can continue to enjoy live music and support musicians in our community. The measures include, but are not be limited to the following: There are temperature checks for all who attend. Audience members are required to bring and wear face coverings. Classical Movements staff wear face coverings. Musicians wear face coverings when not performing. Seating is provided for concerts, with chairs wiped down and disinfected between performances. Chairs have at least six feet between individual or family groups (after the chairs are removed, we use markers to measure distances). The indoor and outdoor space is wheelchair accessible. To maximize social distancing, seating is assigned by us. Tickets and programs are distributed digitally to minimize the need for physical proximity (this also reduces the trash you ask about in the application). The stage and musicians are at least 10 feet from the front row. Hand-sanitization stations are available for audiences as they arrive and exit. There are capacity maximums following state and local guidelines. Additional measures and instructions are provided to audience members the week of the concert by email and text.

Proposed Days and Hours of Operation for Concerts

Concerts would take place occasionally and not daily. Concerts presented on any day of the week would be scheduled in advance. For example, we would arrange them on a Saturday but in case of severe weather, the rain date would be the following Sunday. They will all be one-hour concerts. Some dates will have one concert, most will have two concerts, and on special occasions we may have two concerts during the day and two concerts in the evening. During the day, we would schedule two concerts at 1:00 PM and 2:30 PM or 2:00 PM and 3:30 PM for example. During the evening, we would schedule two concerts at 5:00 PM and 6:30 PM (winter) or 6:00 PM and 7:30



PM (summer) for example. **We expect to have concerts 4 days/month and 6 months/year.**

COVID-19 State Guidelines

Classical Movements will follow the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia. This includes the Governor's executive actions in regards to temporary restrictions due to COVID-19 limiting public and private in-person gatherings indoors and outdoors for entertainment and amusement businesses and performing arts venues, concert venues. During COVID-19, we have only wanted to use the outdoor Secret Garden, regardless of the temperature or weather, where there is ample space and fresh air. During COVID-19, we are having outdoor concerts, and avoiding indoors at this time per the recommendations of the CDC.

Concert Program Examples

Examples of Concerts:

Example 1: "The Four B's: Barrière, Bologna, Bartok and Beethoven" for Chamber Music. Members of the National Symphony Orchestra: Eugena Chang, Cello, Britton Riley, Cello, Alexandra Osborne, Violin, Angelia Cho, Violin, Mahoko Eguchi, Viola, Rachel Young, Cello. Vibrant, daring and ravishing music by Beethoven, Bartok, Bologna, Chevalier de Saint-Georges, Barrière, Joplin and others.

Example 2: "Prague Comes to Washington" – An Evening of Art Song and Opera. Javier Arrey, baritone, Kaylee Norris, soprano, and Taylor Hutchinson, piano. Featuring Metropolitan Opera star and Chilean baritone, Javier Arrey and Kaylee Norris, winner of the Prague Summer Nights Young Artists Music Festival voice competition. The program includes Beethoven's superlative song cycle "An die ferne Geliebte" in celebration of the 250th anniversary of his birth, Dvorak's beautiful "Biblical Songs", as well as charming arias and art songs by Mozart, Stravinsky, Brahms, Liszt, and others.

Example 3: "Sweet Songs of Sorrow and Joy" * – An Evening of Music Celebrating Civil Rights on the Anniversary of the March on Washington. Alexandria Crichlow, soprano, V. Savoy McIlwain, baritone, Lester Green, piano, Pamela Simonson, the narrator. In collaboration with CAAPA (Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts). Program with Spirituals, Freedom Songs, Gospel, and Civil Rights Anthems. *"God has wrought many things out of oppression. He has endowed his creatures with the capacity to create—and from this capacity has flowed the sweet songs of sorrow and joy that have allowed man to cope with his environment and many different situations... This is triumphant music." – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Example 4: "A Brand New Day:" Choral Music Returns! The Choir of Hope & Harmony with Anthony Blake Clark, conductor. 12 professional singers perform 400 years of compelling choral music by Byrd, Britten, Panufnik, Coleridge-Taylor, Barnett and more on themes of hope in times of uncertainty.

Example 5: 7 Musicians from the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. Beethoven's uplifting Septet for winds and strings and Piazzolla's iconic tango "Oblivion" will mingle in the fresh outdoor air of the "Secret Garden" in the heart of Alexandria's Old Town. Featured bandoneonist Emmanuel Trifilio will transport us to a night club in Buenos Aires, even as Beethoven's melodies linger in the garden atmosphere. ASO Music Director Jim Ross steps to the podium for the first time since February to conduct musicians of the ASO in this remarkably creative program.

Example 6: Drew Owen, magician and cellist with Elizabeth Pulju-Owen, violinist. Fun for the whole family when musical wizard Musico the Magnificent and special guest astonish and amuse

with stunning feats of magic and phenomenal music for cello; also featuring costume prizes, socially distanced photo station, and sanitized, no-contact treats.

Example 7: Members of the National Symphony Orchestra. Marissa Regni, violin, Peiming Lin, violin, Derek Powell, violin, Allyson Goodman, guest viola, and Loewi Lin, cello. The Secret Garden travels to Venice for a spellbinding program by string players from the National Symphony Orchestra; add a Carnival masque to your face covering for an elegant Halloween with gorgeous music, including the “Autumn” Concerto from Vivaldi’s Four Seasons, Puccini’s “Crisantemi” and other Italian composers.

Example 8: Members of the Eclipse Chamber Orchestra. Eclipse Chamber Orchestra is comprised of the Washington DC area’s finest musicians, many of whom are members of the National Symphony Orchestra. Known as “An Orchestra of Soloists”, Eclipse presents world-class performances in concert venues, schools, and community centers to make classical music more accessible to all. The Beau Soir Ensemble is a flute, viola, and harp trio dedicated to the performance of standard and contemporary repertoire spanning a variety of musical genres.

Indoor Small Live Concerts

In addition to the outdoor Secret Garden, in the future, we will use our indoor space to host small live concerts. We have an atrium space that can accommodate a smaller, more intimate live concert. We also have a large room that we call the ballroom.



*This is the room we call the atrium on the side of the building adjacent to our private driveway. This was a styling shoot to show how the space could be used for a small wedding. This space used to be an office for 6 people but is now empty as we work remotely.

Double Paned and Sound Proofed Windows

Because of the construction noise from Sunrise Senior Living and additional traffic on our street from them and the FedEx/UPS drop off as well as other commercial businesses on our street, we invested \$35,000 to have all of our windows double paned and sound proofed.

Music Masterclasses and Workshops

We are allowed to have a school as permitted in zone CD. We will hire professional musicians to give one-on-one and small-group private instruction, masterclasses and workshops in our building. As mentioned above, we invested \$35,000 to have all of our windows double paned and sound proofed. This would take place inside the building. Related to this, we would have the students perform summer recitals as part of the outdoor small live concerts. This would give private students a special opportunity to work with and perform with professional musicians.



*This space used to be an office for 6 people but is now empty as we work remotely. This is the space we call the ballroom.

Live Music with Catered Meal

After the success of our small live concerts, we wanted to support our neighbor who has also lost a significant amount of income. We hosted one small live music concert in collaboration with Seasons Culinary Services with an exquisite socially-distanced dining experience. The food was prepared off property at another location they have outside of the City of Alexandria and brought on site. The tables were socially distanced and measured 6 feet apart. Surfaces were disinfected between seatings. There were no menus as the meal was set courses. The servers always wore a mask and gloves to handle and serve food. The attendees also always wore a mask except for when at their table eating. The caterer handled the clean up and removed everything back off site. Our property aligns with their property through our co-joined driveways, so there was no disruption on the street.

Proposed Days and Hours of Operation for Concerts

If permitted to continue small live music concerts with dining using a caterer, we were considering some of the following options. These events would be special occasions and not frequent. They would most likely take place on the weekend, such as a Saturday during the day, afternoon or evening. They may take place on a federal holiday. We do not envision having these events during the work week.

Example 1 at 5:00 PM and 8:00 PM: Savory Soiree – An Elegant 4-Course Musical Dining Experience with Marianna Prjevalskaya, piano. In collaboration with Seasons Culinary Services and featuring a stunning performance by internationally acclaimed pianist Marianna Prjevalskaya, join us for a “Savory Soiree” in the Secret Garden for an elegant evening of gourmet food paired with wine and live music by composers sharing a birthday on November 14th: Johann Nepomuk Hummel, Fanny Mendelssohn, Aaron Copland and Buckwheat Zydeco. “Music and food are two of the greatest forces of unity. In that spirit, we look forward to creating a meal to remember!” Guests will enjoy four delectable courses, each paired with select wines and a wide-ranging repertoire of music by four composers who celebrate their birthday on November 14.

Example 2: Mother’s Day Afternoon Tea with Live Music.

Weddings

We would like to rent the property to be used for occasional 2-, 3-, 5- and 8-hour weddings and other events. During COVID-19, many have had to cancel their weddings and downsize. We wanted to offer our beautiful Secret Garden to be used. Examples would be, an intimate Secret Garden elopement for 2 hours and 10 guests, Secret Garden wedding ceremony for 3 hours with seating for 50, atrium wedding ceremony for 3 hours and seating for 24, Secret Garden wedding reception with catering for 5 hours and seating for 50, atrium wedding reception for 5 hours with catering with seating for 24, Secret Garden wedding ceremony and reception for 8 hours with catering and seating for 50, atrium wedding ceremony and reception for 8 hours with catering and seating for 24. All events must end by 10 PM, including clean up. The number of guests would follow the Governor’s executive actions as required by law.



*This was a styling shoot to show how a small intimate wedding ceremony could be set up in the Secret Garden.

Proposed Days and Hours of Operation for Weddings

Weddings would take place occasionally and not daily. Weddings would often be on a Saturday or Sunday. Weddings would take place 10-12 PM, 12-2 PM, 2-4 PM, 10-4 PM or 5-10 PM for example. **We expect to have weddings 4 days/month and 6 months/year.**

Other Events

Events may be bridal showers, baby showers, engagement and other intimate events, corporate meetings, seminars, and other private events (for others who want a change of scenery, as our business is already used for this purpose as a JR Office Building), photography and video sessions. We have supported local wedding planners, caterers, bakers, florists, fashion designers, wedding shops, models, etc. who have used our property to take styling shoots in order to promote their services.

Proposed Days and Hours of Operation for Other Events

Other events would take place occasionally and not daily. Other events would be indoors or outdoors, and could be during the weekday. They would take place 10-12 PM, 12-2 PM, 2-4 PM, 10-4 PM or 5-10 PM for example. **We expect to have other events 1 day/month and 6 months/year.**



*This is our boardroom we would rent for meetings.



Additional Property Policies

Those that rent the property for weddings and other events will need to follow these guidelines and more:

- All indoor and outdoor activity (including cleaning and packing up by subcontractors like caterers) must be completely finished no later than 10:00 PM.
- Outdoor music must be no louder than sixty (60) decibels. Absolutely no amplified music or microphone announcements are allowed in the building or garden. No DJ's or singers with microphones are allowed. This includes stereos, or any other instruments or equipment which requires a microphone, speaker, batteries, or are plugged into an electrical source without special permission. Please submit your music program for review and approval prior to the event. The Venue reserves the right to deny music requests that are not appropriate for the area. The Venue reserves the right to intervene during an event on behalf of neighboring properties or upon external complaint to reduce the level of noise. The Renter will be subject to any and all fees by the City of Alexandria in violation of the noise code.
- Smoking (including cigars, chewing and pipe tobacco, vaporizers, and e-cigarettes) is prohibited in any space, indoor or outdoor, within property lines of the Venue.
- No illegal drugs or illicit substances are allowed on the property. Nudity is not permitted.
- All decorations and signage must be approved in advance by the Venue or the Venue's designated representative. Decorations and signage is not allowed on the painted walls, windows, floors, ceilings, wood bannisters, or furniture. Nothing is to be hung from the ceilings or lights. The use of tape, duct tape, tacks, glue, hooks, nails or other wall-inserted devices to attach decorations is prohibited. If any of these items are used your security deposit could be forfeited. The use of clear tape may be used on the outside external walls of the building (not on the painted walls or windows) to post signs. All decorations must be removed and the property surrendered in the same order and condition as it was received. The Renter is responsible for any damage which may be more than your security deposit.
- All trash and other materials must be removed and the property surrendered in the same order and condition as it was received. The Venue has designated trash cans that can be used to store trash but the Renter must provide their own trash bags and then it must be removed from the property after the event. The Renter is responsible for any trash and other materials left on the property and your security deposit could be forfeited.
- All food must be prepared off site except for beverages, but food can be warmed on site with prior Venue approval. No cooking over a gas flame or with hot oil is permitted. Renters who plan to serve alcoholic beverages must use a licensed and insured caterer or bartender to provide and serve all alcoholic beverages. Renters who plan to have a cash bar or to charge admission are responsible for obtaining any necessary permits and licenses. All ABC regulations must be complied with (caterer or bartender license or temporary alcohol license). A copy of your final catering and/or bartender contracts may be requested by Venue to have on file.
- The use of hay, straw, cornstalks, dry tinder, or any highly flammable material is not permitted. Glitter, rice, bird seed, real flower petals, silk flower petals, and confetti are prohibited. Messy activities (such as pumpkin carving, painting, etc.) are only permitted proper floor covering with pre-approved by the Venue or the Venue's Representative. Only natural bubbles and sugar confetti (dissolvable) may be used outside. The release of balloons is prohibited.



- Hoverboards, bicycles, skateboards, scooters, roller skates, and other self-propelled vehicles (other than devices required for medical use such as motorized wheelchairs) are not to be used on the property of the Venue.
- No animals (other than service animals) are allowed on the property.
- Firearms and fireworks of any kind are prohibited. Open flames (including candles and incense) are prohibited without the express prior written consent of the Venue or the Venue's Representative. Electronic devices (such as electric candles) may be used to mimic the appearance of candles. Cost for damage due to candle use will be assessed to the Renter.
- Indoor hallways are to be kept clear and unobstructed to allow for free and flowing access.
- Additional lighting (including electric string lights) are not to be used without prior written consent of the Venue or the Venue's Representative.
- During regular weekday business hours, the Renter must be mindful of several adjacent offices when planning activities in surrounding common spaces.

Retail Note

As allowed by zoning, we explored the option of retail on the property, such as a music store or indoor/outdoor garden center, but with most of King Street empty, retail shops going out of business, and COVID-19 restrictions, we did not explore further, even if it is an option for our property. It may be an option we explore again in the future if we are unable to have Live Entertainment and Events at our property.

Neighbors

Sunrise of Alexandria Propco LLC, 400 N Washington St

We have a close relationship with the Senior Living Community. We started discussions with them about a possible partnership for a concert series. They mentioned that they received special requests for units facing our Secret Garden and that it enhances their property. It was mentioned in passing, that some units sold as well, knowing that there are outdoor concerts in our Secret Garden. It should be noted that their loading and unloading entrance/exit is immediately to the right of our property on Princess Street. There will be daily traffic for ongoing construction, garbage/refuse, laundry, food services for their restaurant, mail delivery, express delivery, courier and shipping services, ambulances, visitors and others. There are trees and bushes that surround the garden along with 6 and 8 foot fencing.

Williams Whittle, 711 Princess St, 2nd Floor

The tenant on the second floor, which is an advertising agency, and previous owners of the property, support and attend the concerts.

Staff Restaurants LLC, 715 Princess St

On the left, our private driveway is connected to another private driveway and the Seasons Culinary Services business. That property and the one adjacent on the corner are both zoned as Jr Office Buildings. As mentioned above, we hope to continue to support them with future catered events. **They have also given us permission to use their 4 private parking spots.**



409 and 411 N Columbus St

Behind us and next to all of the commercial properties surrounding us, there are two private row homes. One on the back left of our driveway and the other at the end of our driveway. Across from them on N. Columbus Street is the Democracy Federal Credit Union and parking lot with traffic. Commercial properties surround them on all sides.

Wells Fargo, 330 N Washington St

Wells Fargo has a parking lot and drive thru across the street from our property on Princess St. There is also more parking across the street for townhomes and other businesses.

Fitness Together, 300 N Washington St Ste 106 (Across Street through Parking Lot)

Fitness Together, at the end of the parking lot across the street, also support and attend our concerts. They also were a sponsor of our concert series, along with other businesses, and gained new business. **They have also given us permission to use their 4 private parking spots.** The parking has entrances on Princess St, N Columbus St, N Washington St and Queen St.

Environment

The airplanes that fly over the property and the birds chirping in the trees have been louder than the music playing. Our property is about 170 feet from N. Washington Street. The traffic from this street along with the traffic on Princess Street is more disruptive as well, but we have learned to make the best of the situation.

Other Alexandria Attendees and Neighbors

We include what attendees, neighbors and others have said about our space and concerts later in this document. We will be supplementing this application with individual letters of support. Some will also attend the hearings.

Parking

Most of our guests are local or use the metro and then walk to the property. For any that drive, we use our private parking on the property. We have 6 parking spots on our property including a handicapped accessible spot. We have permission to use 4 private parking spots from Seasons Culinary (Staff Restaurants LLC) which is at 715 Princess St next door. Our private driveways are attached. Additionally we also have permission to use 4 private parking spots at Fitness Together which has an entrance across the street from our property on Princess St as well as on Queen, N Columbus and N Washington. If we had an event that required more spots, we would secure them at one of the private parking garages within walking distance to our building.



*That structure to the left is a parking garage that now towers over our property.

Zone and Permitted Use Options

The CD zone is intended to provide for an urban mix of retail, office, service, hotel, residential and civic functions for the city's downtown business core.

The CD zone permits use for animal care facilities, day care centers, private schools, public schools, retail shopping, farmers' markets, health and athletic clubs, restaurants, outdoor dining, amusement enterprises, apartment hotel, food and beverage production, bed and breakfast accommodations, catering operations, banks, savings and loan institutions and credit unions with drive through facilities, fraternal and private clubs, funerals homes, cemeteries, churches, continuum of care facilities, homeless shelters, hospitals, hotels, medical care facilities, parking or storage, outdoor garden centers, rooming houses, etc. Some do not require a SUP application.

Last Resort

Without any source of income, we would need to use the property in another manner that would allow us to stay in business, if this application is not approved. We would have to keep exploring options for the property before we went out of business. Since the owner of Classical Movements is



also the owner of the property, we could look at renting to someone else to use the property as allowed by zoning or with SUP application approval or we would need to sell the property.

Thank You

These are extremely difficult and unprecedented times for all of us. We are trying to do the best we can for our employees, local music organizations and musicians, and other local businesses out of work or with reduced income, and the community. Our hope is to return to our core business as soon as we are able. Thank you for your consideration.

Please continue to the next page to read about the positive press and impact we have had in the community.

“SOUNDS OF HOPE & HARMONY” and “SOUNDS OF JOY & LIGHT”

LIVE, SOCIALLY-DISTANCED OUTDOOR CONCERT SERIES

CHAMBER MUSIC | OPERA | CHOIR | JAZZ

Saturday, June 20, 2020: Musicians of the National Symphony, Alexandria Symphony, Fairfax Symphony and New Orchestra of Washington

The Washington Post

[Going to my first concert of the pandemic felt like preparing for battle. Then I got there.](#)

Michael Brodeur, *The Washington Post* | June 22, 2020

“Classical Movements isn’t in the business of throwing garden parties, but its fledgling attempt to bring music back to real life, led by founder Neeta Helms, was an ambitious model for what live music might look like for the foreseeable future. As Phase 2 of reopening relaxed some restrictions in the District starting Monday, it’s likely that more attempts to gather skittish audiences will spring up around the area. Even so, the baby steps of Saturday’s gathering in the garden felt like a giant leap.”



“...the intimacy of the experience — and our collective hunger to hear just about anything — gave the feeling that audience and performers were conducting the same experiment: just being there. Even before the first notes were played, I found myself getting lost in the music of chitchat and laughter — our own birdsong.”

“For audience and musicians alike — and especially for Helms and her team, who found themselves immediately fielding questions about when the next concert will be (they’re figuring it out) — the various tweaks, compromises and precautions required to realize something as simple as a night of music felt like a major achievement.”



[Live music returns, offering a preview of the new concert normal](#)

Charles T. Downey, *Washington Classical Review* | June 21, 2020

“At 5 p.m. Saturday evening, something extraordinary happened: a group of people gathered to hear another group of people play classical music on their instruments.”



WAMU 88.5

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY RADIO

[How D.C.'s Live Music Venues Are Trying To Survive The Pandemic](#)

Mikaela Lefrak, *WAMU* | July 1, 2020

“The classical musicians wore jeans and khakis, not tuxes. Audience members stood six feet apart — for now, plush concert hall seats are a thing of the past. It wasn’t what anyone was used to, but for one afternoon, the music was back.

“‘These are great artists. For them, performing is sort of an essential thing,’ says Neeta Helms, Classical Movements’ founder and president. ‘And there’s nothing like live music.’”

[Advance Press](#)

[Hear That Sound? Live Music Returns to Alexandria on June 20](#)

Kevin Dauray, *The Zebra* | June 18, 2020

“With the City of Alexandria in the second phase of reopening, some musicians are about to have the opportunity to play before a genuine audience. Yes, you read that correctly. On June 20, members of several local orchestras, including the ASO, Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, and the New Orchestra of Washington, will once again delight concertgoers.”

[“Sounds of Hope & Harmony” chamber-music concerts from Classical Movements](#)

League of American Orchestras, *The Hub* | June 15, 2020

“Classical Movements Founder and President Neeta Helms has characterized ‘Sounds of Hope & Harmony’ as ‘an important gesture of support and optimism, both to local musicians and orchestras and to our community as a whole.’”

A Live, Stateside Concert to Promote Goodwill

Sarah Shay, *Musical America* | June 12 2020

INDUSTRY NEWS

A Live, Stateside Chamber Concert to Promote Good Will

June 12, 2020 | By Sarah Shay, *Musical America*



On June 20 Classical Movements, the Virginia-based touring company, will present a day of concerts designed for the era of pandemic. "Sounds of Hope & Harmony" will feature two one-hour-long programs, each performed three times, at 10am, 11:30am, and 1pm, and at 5pm, 6:30pm, and 8pm respectively.

The venue is the garden in the rectory of historic Christ Church (1785) in Alexandria, site of Classical Movements' office, and attendees will be required to wear face coverings and stand at least six feet apart per person or small household group. Tickets and programs will be distributed digitally.

Classical Movements Founder and President Neeta Helms has characterized "Sounds of Hope & Harmony" as "an important gesture of support and optimism, both to local musicians and orchestras and to our co million unity as a whole." Performers will include members of the National Symphony, Alexandria Symphony, New Orchestra of Washington, Fairfax Symphony, and several other local ensembles.

The morning program will include works by a potpourri of composers ranging from John Williams to Franz Schubert. The evening program features works by, among others, Mozart, Shostakovich, Astor Piazzolla, Poulenc, Schubert, Handel, and Bizet.

Sunday, June 21, is the rain date. Tickets and program details can be found [here](#).

Pictured: Neeta Helms

Soon You Will Be Able to Go to an Actual Concert in Alexandria

Rob Brunner, *The Washingtonian* | June 11, 2020

"This is not a live-stream event or something informal you watch on somebody's porch: It's an actual concert with tickets and a program and everything—a once-cherished ritual that now feels like a dim memory from a distant era."

Music • Review

Going to my first concert of the pandemic felt like preparing for battle. Then I got there.



Socially distanced crowds applaud for musicians during a performance at the Rectory, a music venue in Alexandria on Jun. 20. (Amanda Andrade-Rhoades for The Washington Post)



By **Michael Andor Brodeur**

Classical Music Critic

June 22, 2020 at 1:26 p.m. EDT

It's coming up on four months since the coronavirus scattered every cluster of the classical music community back to their respective abodes, and over the course of this eerie interim, it's as though a whole new set of instincts has set in to replace the old ones. In the past, my preparations for a concert involved listening to the work a few times, finding a trustworthy pen and eating a big enough lunch to keep my stomach from joining in with the orchestra.

Saturday afternoon's checklist was a bit more thorough.

I was preparing to head to Old Town Alexandria, where the local orchestral and choral touring company [Classical Movements](#) was hosting "Sounds of Hope & Harmony," an outdoor trio of hour-long chamber concerts in the "Secret Garden" tucked behind its former-rectory headquarters on Princess Street. But it felt like I was preparing for battle.

I had my mask — two of them, actually — a blue plaid number that seemed formal enough to block pathogens at a garden party. I had a small bottle of Purell. A big bottle of water. A hankie for lens fog. An umbrella and a raincoat for the looming thunderheads. A printout of my assigned location in the garden (No. 11 of 35 or so reserved spots). And my usual kit of reporter stuff — phone, pad, pen. I also had a serious case of nerves.

Riding to the rectory in the back of a Lyft, I took shallow breaths (which I'm sure is effective) and hung my head halfway out the open window with all the enthusiasm of a golden retriever en route to the vet. It was raining, and the ominous droplets pelting my forehead felt like tiny omens that I should turn around and go back to the apartment, that this was all too soon, that it was actually crazy. My phone said crowds were starting to form at President Trump's campaign rally in Tulsa, and I felt around my tote bag to make sure I had my inhaler.

But upon reaching the garden, the rain stalled, the clouds parted, the sun glimmered through the trees, and the sounds of nearly two dozen musicians tuning in the various rooms of the 235-year-old rectory filtered into the courtyard. It was the sound of music preparing to return; and just like that, my jitters subsided.



A musician's mask hangs off her stand during a socially distanced concert at the Rectory. (Amanda Andrade-Rhoades/for The Washington Post)

Classical Movements isn't in the business of throwing garden parties, but its fledgling attempt to bring music back to real life, led by founder Neeta Helms, was an ambitious model for what live music might look like for the foreseeable future. As Phase 2 of reopening relaxed some restrictions in the District starting Monday, it's likely that more attempts to gather skittish audiences will spring up around the area. Even so, the baby steps of Saturday's gathering in the garden felt like a giant leap.

"There are a lot of reasons to worry," Helms would tell me in a debrief on the phone the next day. "But I feel like we have to try to go ahead."

[Caught between silence and clamor, these musicians find connection in birdsong]

This time out, hand-sanitizing stations stood at the ready and little flags staked out each listener's spot for standing, six feet apart (though couples could cluster). It felt odd at first, but also oddly luxurious if you've ever been vexed by the personal space afforded by seats in a concert hall. Attendees improvised their hey-I-know-you reunions in the rows through a mix of elbow bumps and weird waves and salutes.



Audience members stand at their designated socially distanced spots. (Amanda Andrade-Rhoades/for The Washington Post)

The musicians, too, had some improvising to do. Ensembles representing the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, the National Symphony Orchestra, the New Orchestra of Washington, as well as the Barclay Brass ensemble (which includes members of the Maryland, Annapolis and Fairfax symphony orchestras) were staggered across the three programs and spread around the stage — the unfamiliar acoustics of socially distant performance requiring more reliance on visual cues between the players.

A quintet of horn players from the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra opened the evening easing into selections from Giles Farnaby's "Fancies, Toyes, and Dreams" before seguing into "That's a Plenty," a 1914 rag-turned-jazz-standard by Lew Pollack, and one of a few detours into ragtime that lent the program a disarming lightness. Members of the NSO later took on Scott Joplin's "Maple Leaf Rag" and Barclay Brass chased the second suite from Handel's "Water Music" with Allen Toussaint's "Java." (And in all cases, even when a rag sounds a little rusty, it feels right.)



David Murray plays trombone at a socially distanced concert at the Rectory. (Amanda Andrade-Rhoades/for The Washington Post)

The wind quintet of National Symphony Orchestra players also gave a brilliant account of Valerie Coleman's "Umoja" (written for Imani Winds) that held court against the noisy birds in the tulip magnolia above us. And a quintet of string players from the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra showcased the skilled interplay of concertmaster Claudia Chudacoff and violinist Peter Haase, delivering a stirringly beautiful selection from Mozart's Divertimento No. 1 in D.

Their take on Shostakovich's lovably stumbling polka from "The Golden Age" — and its grasping toward a familiar form — felt freshly relatable; and likewise, their closing selection of "Toreador Song" from "Carmen" felt appropriately victorious for the occasion. After all, we'd made it!

Much like those nervously gathered to listen, the program was a little all over the place; but the intimacy of the experience — and our collective hunger to hear just about anything — gave the feeling that audience and performers were conducting the same experiment: just being there. Even before the first notes were played, I found myself getting lost in the music of chitchat and laughter — our own birdsong.



Socially distanced crowds listen to music during a performance at the Rectory. (Amanda Andrade-Rhoades/for The Washington Post)

And while there were little reminders of the virus — the wiping down of musicians' seats between sets, the concerted effort to avoid touching the microphone, somewhat-matchy masks — it never overshadowed the evening. (The sun sails hung overhead did that, while helping keep the music contained from the roar of landing planes.)

For audience and musicians alike — and especially for Helms and her team, who found themselves immediately fielding questions about when the next concert will be (they're figuring it out) — the various tweaks, compromises and precautions required to realize something as simple as a night of music felt like a major achievement. I was tempted to high-five my neighbors in audience but, well, you know.

Saturday, July 25, 2020: Musicians of the National Symphony

Advance Press

The Washington Post

Four summertime strolls: Where to take them and what to listen to

Michael Brodeur, *The Washington Post* | July 15, 2020

“If you happen to be biking the Mt. Vernon Trail on July 25, consider locking up in Old Town Alexandria that evening as orchestral touring company Classical Movements launches “Sounds of Hope & Harmony,” a new series of 16 concerts in its socially distanced “secret garden.” I covered the company’s first go at a pandemic-defying outdoor concert (spoiler: it was great!), and its forthcoming programs (Aug. 1, 8, 15; Sept. 12, 19, 26; and Oct. 3) will reach beyond chamber music to include opera, jazz and even choral works.



This first date will bring together players from the National Symphony Orchestra to celebrate “the four B’s” — Barrière, Bologne, Bartók and Beethoven. (And especially that last guy, whose big sesquicentennial has been all but ruined by the pandemic.) Oh, and the ride over is as good a time as any to brush up on your Joseph Boulogne — a.k.a. Chevalier de Saint-Georges — whose String Quartet No. 3 in G Minor is a particular treat on the program.”

The best things to do — virtually and in person — while quarantined in the D.C. area

Going Out Guide Staff, *The Washington Post* | July 23, 2020

“For classical music fans missing the thrill of live performances, an unlikely destination is filling the void left by the Kennedy Center and Strathmore: A 235-year-old rectory in Old Town Alexandria. Classical Movements began holding concerts in the courtyard behind its headquarters in June, with socially distanced seats allowing up to 43 people (singles or couples) to attend. This Saturday, a seven-week series of chamber, opera, choral and jazz performances begins with string quartets and cello duos by musicians from the National Symphony Orchestra. Beethoven, Bartok and the Beatles are all on the one-hour program.”



10 Virtual And IRL Things To Do In D.C. This Weekend

Chelsea Cirruzzo, *DCist* | July 23, 2020

“Concerts are slowly making a comeback and this summer head to a very special show. Concert tour company Classical Movements is putting on a series of intimate garden concerts starting on Saturday.”

WAMU 88.5

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY RADIO

Lori McCue, *All Things Considered* | July 23, 2020

“I’m really looking to check out one of these intimate garden concerts put on by this concert tour company Classical Movements in Alexandria [...] they’re holding it outdoors in what they call the ‘Secret Garden’ at their facility on Princess Street and that sounds really magical and I’m looking forward to learning more.”



[Mostly Virtual Arts Round Up, July 16, 2020](#)

Richard Seiden, *The Georgetown* | July 16, 2020

“The secret garden of the Rectory, 711 Princess Street in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, is the venue for Classical Movements’ Sounds of Hope & Harmony series of intimate and socially distanced Saturday-evening concerts. On **July 25** at 6 and 7:30 p.m., cellists Eugena Chang and Britton Riley and a quartet made up of violinists Alexandra Osborne and Angelia Cho, violist Mahoko Eguchi and cellist Rachel Young — all National Symphony Orchestra musicians — will give one-hour performances of works by Barrière, Bartók, Bologne, Beethoven, Joplin and other composers.”

Series and Upcoming Programs

TheHub

League
of American
Orchestras

Classical Movements' outdoor "Sounds of Hope and Harmony" concerts, July 25-Oct. 4

INDUSTRY BUZZ

The concert tour company Classical Movements, based in Alexandria, Virginia, will present eighteen intimate, socially-distanced concerts and recitals from late July through early October at the Secret Garden of...

July 22, 2020



[Javier Arrey, Kaylee Norris, Issachah Savage Headline Classical Movements 'Sounds of Hope & Harmony' Garden Concert Series](#)

David Salazar, *OperaWire* | July 16, 2020

"The first major program for opera lovers is "Prague Comes to Washington," an evening of Art Song and Opera. The showcase will feature baritone Javier Arrey and soprano Kaylee Norris as they take on music by Mozart, Dvorak, Stravinsky, Brahms, Liszt, Wolf, and Beethoven, alongside pianist Taylor Hutchinson.

"An Evening of Grand Opera, Italian and American Art Songs' will star tenor Issachah Savage and pianist Joy Schreier. The duo will perform music by Verdi, Wagner, Strauss, Tosti, Donaudy, and Margaret Bonds."



[A critic's suggestions for music to fill the dog day](#)

Michael Brodeur, *The Washington Post* | July 29, 2020

“Alexandria-based orchestral touring group [Classical Movements](#) continues its Sounds of Hope and Harmony series through the month of August and beyond. On Aug. 1 at 6 and 7:30 p.m. it will host “Prague Comes to Washington,” a pair of hour-long programs of arias and art songs in its freshly pergola’d “[secret garden](#),” featuring Chilean baritone Javier Arrey ([an alum](#) of the Castleton Festival and WNO’s remonikered Cafritz Young Artist Program); soprano Kaylee Norris; and pianist Taylor Hutchinson. Upcoming installments of these 100-ticket, socially distanced soirees this month include NSO musicians performing chamber works by Molly Joyce, Victor Ewald, Andy Akiho, Alvin Singleton, Zhao Tian and Duke Ellington on Aug. 8, and an evening of grand opera arias sung by “heldentenor par excellence” Issachah Savage, accompanied by pianist Joy Schreier on Aug. 15.”

Live Outdoor Concerts by Four Indoor Organizations

Susan Elliott, *Musical America* | July 27, 2020

INDUSTRY NEWS

Live Outdoor Concerts by Four Indoor Organizations

July 27, 2020 | By Susan Elliott, *Musical America*

As the cancellations mount up for performing arts organizations, most are continuing their valiant efforts to stay in the public eye online.

A few brave souls are complementing that with small outdoor events, using safety protocols that are perhaps awkward and labor-intensive to execute, but nonetheless worth it, both for the players and the listeners. Among the first to go the al fresco route was the Minnesota Orchestra, earlier this month announcing a series of [24 chamber concerts on the adjacent Peavy Plaza](#) in August, each lasting no more than 70 minutes (no intermission), requiring advance reservations, face masks, temperature screenings, and keeping to a total capacity--including staff--of 250. Ensemble size is up to eight.

The Detroit Symphony has since followed a [similar path](#) -- small ensembles of DSO musicians performing six concerts out of doors in varying locales, some of which require reservations; all events are free with strict protocols in place for social distancing (those who don't follow the rules will be asked to leave); no seating provided--BYOBlanket.

The San Francisco Symphony, which has a new online series titled [Currents](#), also has joined the al fresco crowd with its [1:1 Concerts](#), bringing a new level to intimacy--literally one orchestra member performing for one listener at a time, using the Davies Hall outdoor terraces. First priority goes to donors, volunteers, etc., but it appears they may be available to the general public as well.

Classical Movements just launched the first of an ongoing outdoor series in Alexandria, VA, titled [Sounds of Hope and Harmony](#). National Symphony Orchestra musicians are among the performers and tickets can be purchased through CM's website. Planned to continue through October 4 on Saturday evenings, the 18 concerts take place in a church garden in Old Town, Alexandria, and feature a range of repertoire.

Kudos to all for fighting the uphill battle of the pandemic.



WSJ

Socially Distanced Sound: Amid the pandemic, some orchestras are experimenting with modified live concerts. With its smaller number of players, chamber music is ideally suited to the moment.

Barbara Jepson, *The Wall Street Journal* | August 4, 2020

“Given the right conditions, more major orchestras should be taking similar steps. There’s a large and artistically rewarding repertoire on a smaller scale that could be played, where it is safe to do so, before mask-wearing, socially distanced listeners, from string quartets and other chamber music to opera overtures, serenades and symphonies. Doing so now would allow arts presenters to return to their core mission: putting on live concerts in front of audiences. And it would enable at least some orchestra members to perform and some concertgoers to re-experience the joys of live music-making. These events might also offer opportunities to experiment with alternative onstage placements before moving to the next phase with a full symphony orchestra.

“At the very least, orchestra members could play chamber music outdoors while the weather is good. Classical Movements, a concert tour organizer, has sponsored seven such events in Alexandria, Va., since June with no reported spread of the virus...”

Alexandria Crichlow & V. Savoy McIlwain Headline ‘Songs of Hope & Harmony’ Concert This August

David Salazar, *OperaWire* | August 19

“The Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts and Classical Movements will be joining forces to present a unique concert as part of the “Songs of Hope & Harmony” series on August 29, 2020.

“The showcase will feature soprano [Alexandria Crichlow](#) and baritone [V. Savoy McIlwain](#) alongside pianist Dr. Lester Green. Pamela Simonson will narrate the concert performance. The event is set to take place in Alexandria, Virginia in honor of the March on Washington back in the 1960s.”



Outdoor classical music concert series finds a way forward for live performances

Cody Mello-Klein, *Alexandria Times* | August 27, 2020

“The chance to see talented musicians up close in an intimate setting is also rare in the realm of classical music, where massive concert halls and pricy tickets are standard. Classical Movements is making music more accessible and, in the process, hopes to remind audiences why live performances are so valuable.”



Neeta Helms interviewed for “Voices of Change”

Nicole Lacroix, *WETA* | September 7, 2020

[Pandemic Forces Performing Arts Leaders to Rethink](#)

Richard Selden, *The Georgetown* | September 15, 2020

“While virtual programming has blossomed, there have been few attempts to return to live, in-person performance. Alexandria, Virginia, appears to be the area leader, with outdoor, small-ensemble performances by Alexandria Symphony Orchestra members planned for this fall and the 18-concert Sounds of Hope & Harmony series successfully launched in the Rectory’s secret garden by orchestra tour company Classical Movements.”

The Score: Seasons of Change

The League of American Orchestras, *Symphony Magazine* | Fall 2020

“With most orchestral touring on hiatus due to Covid-19, tour organizer **Classical Movements** looked closer to home for a suitable performance venue, and found one in its backyard: the garden outside its offices in Alexandria, Virginia. In July, Classical Movements President Neeta Helms launched “Sounds of Hope and Harmony,” a series of one-hour outdoor chamber concerts featuring musicians from the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra and National Symphony Orchestra, among others, in a wide range of music.”

“Sounds of Joy & Light”

[The world is loud. These upcoming classical music performances will give you some comfort.](#)

Michael Andor Brodeur, *The Washington Post* | October 14, 2020

Only live Classical Pick for October:

“With the new season comes another change as the Alexandria-based [Classical Movements](#) refreshes its series of socially-distanced chamber concerts with a new name and 22 more performances, starting on Halloween and continuing through December 19.

[...] That evening, they’ll clear the cobwebs for “[A Venetian Halloween](#),” featuring NSO musicians playing an autumnal chunk of Vivaldi’s Four Seasons as well as Puccini’s “Crisantemi.” (If this isn’t a perfect opportunity to step up your mask game, I’m not sure what is.)”

Also recommended in:

[The best things to do — virtually and in person — while quarantined in the D.C. area](#)

Going Out Guide Staff, *The Washington Post* / October 29, 2020



[Socially-Distanced Outdoor Concerts Selling Out in Alexandria, Virginia](#)

Grace Arnold, *The Zebra* | November 3, 2020

“Social distancing has affected every facet of life from work, to education, to entertainment. Classical Movements is countering that effect, introducing live classical music in a socially-distanced setting. As musicians perform underneath a pergola surrounded by lush foliage, the [Secret Garden at The Rectory](#) series is becoming the new social hub for all Alexandrians.”

“Music has the power to unite even the most uncommon of folks, and there is a poetic irony about unity during times of necessary separation, but that separation makes the power of music all the more relevant right now. Neeta Helms, Founder and President of Classical Movements, agrees, ‘We want to make the Covid winter as beautiful and happy as possible... We should just spread the joy and light that we can.’”

Quotes from the ARTISTS

“It was such a fun experience, to finally play live music for in-person humans!!! Thank you Classical Movements for hosting an evening with your music-loving friends!”

- **David Murray, Trombone of the National Symphony Orchestra**

“That was such a precious opportunity for us to play music together and see colleagues and friends from all over this area. It meant a lot to us and we were so grateful to be asked to be part of it. I think it was a success and proves that putting on a concert is possible! We appreciate all the efforts you all took to make it happen (and keep it safe). Thank you also for providing the delicious dinner from Pita House. It was fantastic and we felt cared for in a way we have not felt in a long time. I hope it was as much of a success for you all. It was so nice to see you all and hope that we are all back to work soon. Thank you again!”

- **Kathryn Meany, Oboe of the National Symphony Orchestra**

“What a wonderful event, we really appreciated the opportunity to participate, the careful planning and the grace under unimaginable pressure from the weather! Classy as always.”

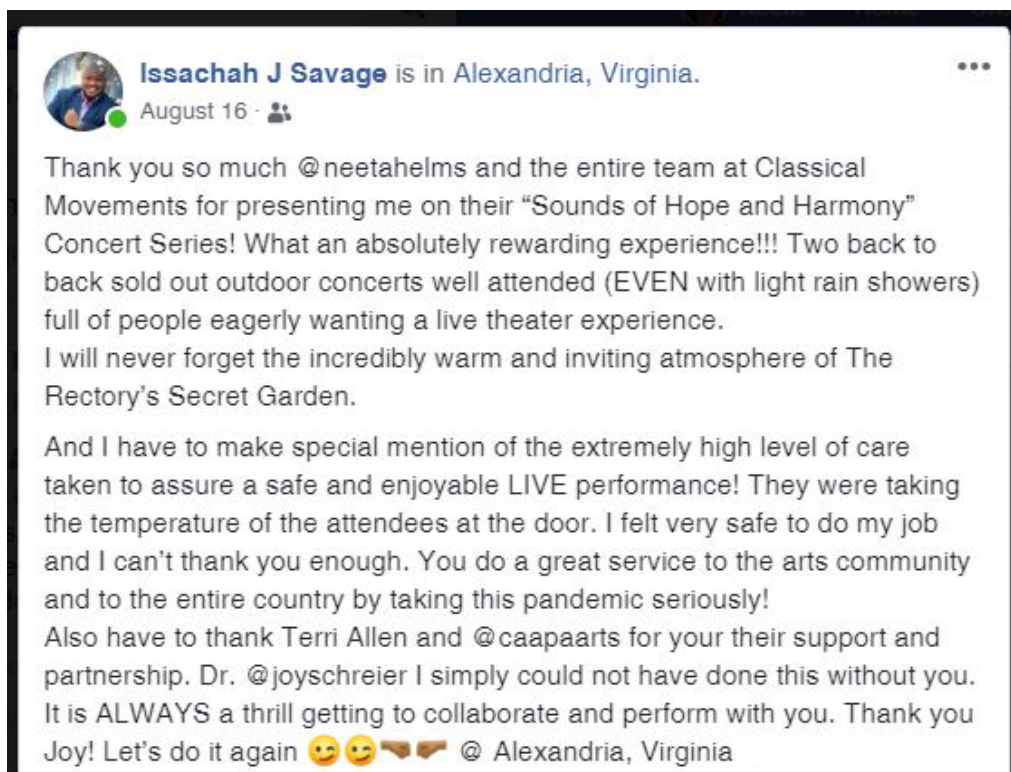
- **Claudia Chudacoff, Concertmaster of the Alexandria Symphony**

“Thanks so much for the opportunity to perform. It was such a treat for us to perform for a live audience and to perform again during these difficult times.”

- **Angelia Cho, Violin of the National Symphony Orchestra**

“The past three months have been surreal. As we watched concert after concert announce their cancellation, we eventually realized that the music industry would be changed in ways that would have been unimaginable just weeks before. As the cancellations started stretching past the summer months and into the fall, Becky and I resigned ourselves to the possibility that we may not have the opportunity to play live concerts for a year or more. Since March, we have devoted our creative energies to recording duos from our home in Philadelphia. While this has been very fulfilling work, the unique exchange that occurs in real time between audience and performer has been absent. We were beyond excited to be approached by our friends at the New Orchestra of Washington about representing NOW in this concert. The format of an outdoor, socially distanced chamber concert is such a creative solution to the unique problems facing the industry at this time. For the first time, will be sharing with a live audience some of our favorite duets that we learned and recorded in quarantine.”

- **Rebecca Anderson, Concertmaster and Alan Richardson, Principal Cello, of the New Orchestra of Washington**



[Featured in the Kennedy Center's NSO at Home livestream, Sunday, November 1, 2020](#)

Quotes from the AUDIENCE

"This was beautiful and a powerful reminder that nothing can replace a live concert! Thank you!"

- **Grace Cho, Executive Director and pianist of the New Orchestra of Washington**

"Thank you guys so much! What fun to have human interaction. Let's keep the Rectory Chamber Concert Series idea alive."

- **George Hanson, Executive Director of the Alexandria Symphony**

"Congratulations to Classical Movements for stepping into the breach, providing live music and pleasure for both audience and musicians. I salute you."

- **Marlyn Klee, Yale Alumni Chorus**

Richard Davis III (he comes to all or almost all concerts). On Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/richard.davis.5876/posts/10213587326356912?_cft__\[0\]=AZUk1M0D7lGLdD3pQBqJnAxmcXcaWpQyC9jum8yNyo34h3sChAraKytexUmFOUX_ZK2AsuAq-OYuxRNFV_5pboQIdPEEBNFzDYxK89-ljVKzqwT_X7dx0yN9WBgbK9mID3jt1LA2e9WU4N8cX038yQ8b&_tn_=%2CO%2CP-Rzhttps://www.kennedy-center.org/globalassets/logos/wnonso/tkc_nso_horizontal.svg](https://www.facebook.com/richard.davis.5876/posts/10213587326356912?_cft__[0]=AZUk1M0D7lGLdD3pQBqJnAxmcXcaWpQyC9jum8yNyo34h3sChAraKytexUmFOUX_ZK2AsuAq-OYuxRNFV_5pboQIdPEEBNFzDYxK89-ljVKzqwT_X7dx0yN9WBgbK9mID3jt1LA2e9WU4N8cX038yQ8b&_tn_=%2CO%2CP-Rzhttps://www.kennedy-center.org/globalassets/logos/wnonso/tkc_nso_horizontal.svg)

"Another fabulous Saturday evening outdoor concert, as part of a weekly Saturday series at 6 and 7:30. (Tickets can be purchased from link below.) As I left, an organizer/usher thanked me for my FB review of the preceding one. She somehow recognized masked me as its writer! I was pleased, and now I feel I owe another one!

I'll just say it inspired a friend, to get a ticket for next week, which inspired my getting a ticket for me and, since she hasn't seen her friend and fellow artist for at least 5 months, a period that not coincidentally coincides with a certain current event. It will be a brass and percussion extravaganza, which means we may miss the many bird songs and occasional overhead jet.

I should say a word or two about this concert, which left me in varied states of mesmerization. It began with the beautiful soprano, Kaylee Norris, striking in a red-violet (I think?) gown, singing with poignant longing of love in French, Italian, and German. She has a lovely and expressive voice. The famous Chilean baritone Javier Arrey began with untypical song cycles by Dvořák and Beethoven, and I warmed to his singing as he progressed. He ended and brought the house down by acting and singing the Count's musical monologue from Act 3 of Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro", not a typical operatic aria with a recognizable structure, but a soliloquy whose phrasing flows with the intensity of the expression.

<https://www.classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts/>



I was so excited to be able to attend the first Live, outdoor concert at The Rectory in Alexandria. It was my first live concert after being quarantined for four months. I was amazed at how well everything was organized. The staff cleaned everything again and again. But most important was how special it was to hear live music again. Mostly importantly it was at the highest artistic standards. I look forward to attending many more.

- **Joan Gregoryk, Founder of the Children's Chorus of Washington**

"Neeta Helms, Classical Movements president, felt compelled to offer a concert in musical support of the national efforts of the country to speak out for social justice. What a better connection than with the anniversary of the march on Washington in 1963 when Dr. Martin Luther King gave his iconic "I have a Dream" speech.

"The performance was unique in that the entire concert either was an alternation between the baritone and soprano soloists singing spirituals, freedom songs, and civil rights anthems. Replicas of the signs held during the march were distributed throughout the venue - for everyone to keep as a keepsake. Of course, all audience members were appropriately socially distanced and masked-up.

Both voices were exceptional, complementing each other in intensity and sensitivity. Narration was provided by Pamela Simonson which superbly connected the songs in a way to make them more relevant today than ever."

- **Dr. Eric Conway, Morgan State University, Fine and Performing Arts Department, Chair**

Other audience responses:

"This is a brilliant conception and by far the most enjoyable concert experience I have had in a long time."

"Thank you so much for offering these events. The one I attended made me so happy."

"I thank you sooooo much for making it possible to hear live music. I have missed it so much."

"Thanks for providing this soul soothing music!"

USE CHARACTERISTICS

4. The proposed special use permit request is for (*check one*):

- ☒ a new use requiring a special use permit,
☐ an expansion or change to an existing use without a special use permit,
☐ an expansion or change to an existing use with a special use permit,
☐ other. Please describe: _____

5. Please describe the capacity of the proposed use:

A. How many patrons, clients, pupils and other such users do you expect?

Specify time period (i.e., day, hour, or shift).

10-90 per event. See narration for more information.

B. How many employees, staff and other personnel do you expect?

Specify time period (i.e., day, hour, or shift).

2-18 per event. See narration for more information.

6. Please describe the proposed hours and days of operation of the proposed use:

Day:

Concerts Sat or Sun, 4/Month, 6 Months/Year

Hours:

1-2 PM and 230-330 PM, 5-6 PM and 630-730 PM or 6-7 PM and 730-830 PM

Weddings Sat or Sun, 4/Month, 6 Months/Year

10-12 PM, 12-2 PM, 2-4 PM, 10-4 PM or 5-10 PM for example

Other Rentals Weekdays Inside Building or Garden, 1/Month, 6 Months/Year

10-12 PM, 12-2 PM, 2-4 PM, 10-4 PM or 5-10 PM for example

See narration for more information.

7. Please describe any potential noise emanating from the proposed use.

A. Describe the noise levels anticipated from all mechanical equipment and patrons.

Live soft classical music with no amplification and socially distanced attendees and staff are limited in size. With the way the property is set up, less than 60 decibels at the property lines.

B. How will the noise be controlled?

The outdoor garden is surrounded on all sides by our three story office building, tall 6 and 8 ft. fencing, 10-30 ft trees around property, and the Sunrise Senior Living property so the noise is contained. The windows of the office building were recently double paned to reduce noise due to the ongoing construction and traffic at the Sunrise Living Community parking lot across the street, and bank with drive thru. The people that attend events are limited, and set apart to ensure safe social-distancing for everyone, and they wear face coverings. Therefore they do not linger and/or socialize before, during or after the events. For other events, we have strict guidelines about what is allowed. See narration.

- 8.** Describe any potential odors emanating from the proposed use and plans to control them:

On limited occasions, if we have a catered event with food, the food preparation ~~will take place off site. There is a small kitchenette in the building to stage the~~ food for service. No cooking will take place on the property. Then the refuse, ~~food and service equipment is taken off site immediately after the event.~~

- 9.** Please provide information regarding trash and litter generated by the use.

- A. What type of trash and garbage will be generated by the use? (i.e. office paper, food wrappers)

For a normal live performance event, there is no trash or garbage generated. If a warm beverage is included the cups are given after the event and attendees take them with them or a trash receptacle is provided and taken away by waste management. We use Waste Management Trash and Recycling for weekly pick up and Thompson Hauling & Recycling and Shred-It for special pick ups as needed if above the regular amount of trash and garbage generated as an established commercial building.

- B. How much trash and garbage will be generated by the use? (i.e. # of bags or pounds per day or per week)

We estimate to have 1 bag or less of trash generated per week. For special events, our policy is that the renter or contracted caterer would need to take the trash away immediately after the event to dispose of it properly and not left on our property.

- C. How often will trash be collected?

We have weekly service with Waste Management Trash and Recycling. We use Thompson Hauling & Recycling and Shred-It for other trash collection needs. Trash will be collected weekly or if needed as an exception we would schedule a special pick up. Covanta Alexandria Waste Management facility on Eisenhower or the Recycling Drop Off Center in Alexandria on Eisenhower.

- D. How will you prevent littering on the property, streets and nearby properties?

We have a trash receptacle at the entrances/exits of the garden and building. Our events do not have any printed materials as due to COVID-19 everything is provided electronically. For other events, the renters are contracted to remove all trash from the property on their own or through their contracted caterer or they are in breach and lose their security deposit. If there is ever a situation of trash, we will schedule a special pick up as needed by Thompson Hauling & Recycling who we have worked with 18 years. Or drive to the Covanta Alexandria Waste Management facility on Eisenhower or the Recycling Drop Off Center in Alexandria on Eisenhower.

- 10.** Will any hazardous materials, as defined by the state or federal government, be handled, stored, or generated on the property?

[] Yes. [✓] No.

If yes, provide the name, monthly quantity, and specific disposal method below:

- 11.** Will any organic compounds, for example paint, ink, lacquer thinner, or cleaning or degreasing solvent, be handled, stored, or generated on the property?

☐ Yes. ☒ No.

If yes, provide the name, monthly quantity, and specific disposal method below:

- 12.** What methods are proposed to ensure the safety of nearby residents, employees and patrons?

The live performances are private events, limited in nature. Each ticket holder receives instructions about the safety protocols in place prior to each event. The outdoor garden is accessed from the street, down our ~~driveway, into our building or outdoor garden. No one needs to access any other property, residential or~~ commercial. Our building is locked and the outdoor garden is gated and locked. The building is protected by ADT security with camera's and sensors. For private events, the contract requires laws, rules and regulations to ~~be followed as well. The property owners and Classical Movements are insured with general liability, property,~~ worker's comp, errors and omissions, professional liability and other insurance. All vendors are required to also provide proof of insurance. People that rent are required to have event insurance.

ALCOHOL SALES

- 13.**

A. Will the proposed use include the sale of beer, wine, or mixed drinks?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, describe existing (if applicable) and proposed alcohol sales below, including if the ABC license will include on-premises and/or off-premises sales.

On occasion, for a special dining event (see narration), we would use a ~~caterer who would provide alcohol (i.e. glass of wine) with dinner, as an~~ example. We would ensure the caterer has the appropriate license or ~~would apply for a one time event license if required. Classical Movements~~ itself would not sell alcohol directly during regular live performance ~~events.~~

PARKING AND ACCESS REQUIREMENTS

14. A. How many parking spaces of each type are provided for the proposed use:

5 _____ Standard spaces
 _____ Compact spaces
 1 _____ Handicapped accessible spaces.
 8 _____ Other.

<p style="text-align: center;">Planning and Zoning Staff Only</p> <p>Required number of spaces for use per Zoning Ordinance Section 8-200A _____</p> <p>Does the application meet the requirement? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

- B. Where is required parking located? (*check one*)

☒ on-site

☒ off-site

If the required parking will be located off-site, where will it be located?

Private at 2 businesses(4 spots across street,4 spots at 715 Princess)

PLEASE NOTE: Pursuant to Section 8-200 (C) of the Zoning Ordinance, commercial and industrial uses may provide off-site parking within 500 feet of the proposed use, provided that the off-site parking is located on land zoned for commercial or industrial uses. All other uses must provide parking on-site, except that off-street parking may be provided within 300 feet of the use with a special use permit.

- C. If a reduction in the required parking is requested, pursuant to Section 8-100 (A) (4) or (5) of the Zoning Ordinance, complete the PARKING REDUCTION SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION.

☐ Parking reduction requested; see attached supplemental form

15. Please provide information regarding loading and unloading facilities for the use:

- A. How many loading spaces are available for the use? 5

<p style="text-align: center;">Planning and Zoning Staff Only</p> <p>Required number of loading spaces for use per Zoning Ordinance Section 8-200 _____</p> <p>Does the application meet the requirement? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

B. Where are off-street loading facilities located? In our private driveway. Typical use would be

a car or normal size catering van that parks in our private driveway (door to building and gate to garden by driveway), they take their equipment out, then they park.

C. During what hours of the day do you expect loading/unloading operations to occur?

A few hours before each event and immediately after an event.

D. How frequently are loading/unloading operations expected to occur, per day or per week, as appropriate?

Only for the occassional events we are applying for so not on a regular daily basis. Once per week, a few times per month, select months per year.

16. Is street access to the subject property adequate or are any street improvements, such as a new turning lane, necessary to minimize impacts on traffic flow?

There are commercial properties including the Sunrise Living Community construction loading/unloading entrance right next to our property, and a FedEx/UPS location so no new improvements would be required for our limited use with regular vehicles.

SITE CHARACTERISTICS

17. Will the proposed uses be located in an existing building? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Do you propose to construct an addition to the building? ☐ Yes ☒ No

How large will the addition be? _____ square feet.

18. What will the total area occupied by the proposed use be?

5,642 Indoor sq. ft. (existing) + 2,849 Outdoor sq. ft. (addition if any) = 8491 sq. ft. (total)

19. The proposed use is located in: *(check one)*

☒ a stand alone building

☐ a house located in a residential zone

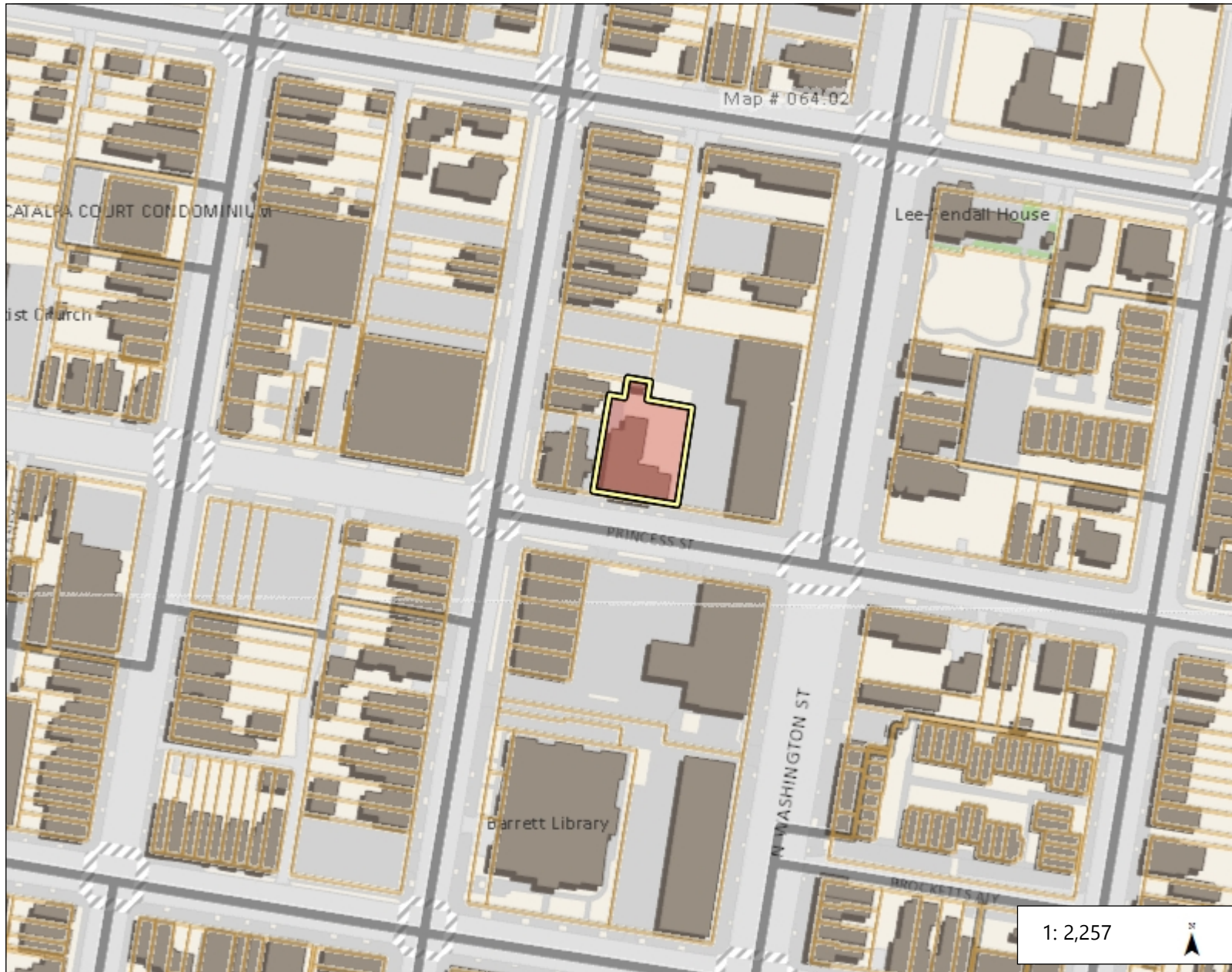
☐ a warehouse

☐ a shopping center. Please provide name of the center: _____

☐ an office building. Please provide name of the building: _____

☒ other. Please describe: Also Private Enclosed Outdoor Garden.

End of Application



Legend

- Tax Map Index
- Parcels
- Blocks
- Metro Stations
- Metro Lines**
 - Blue
 - Yellow
 - Yellow Blue
- City Boundary
- Rail Lines
- Parcels
- Buildings
- Surface Water
- Streams
- Parks
- City of Alexandria

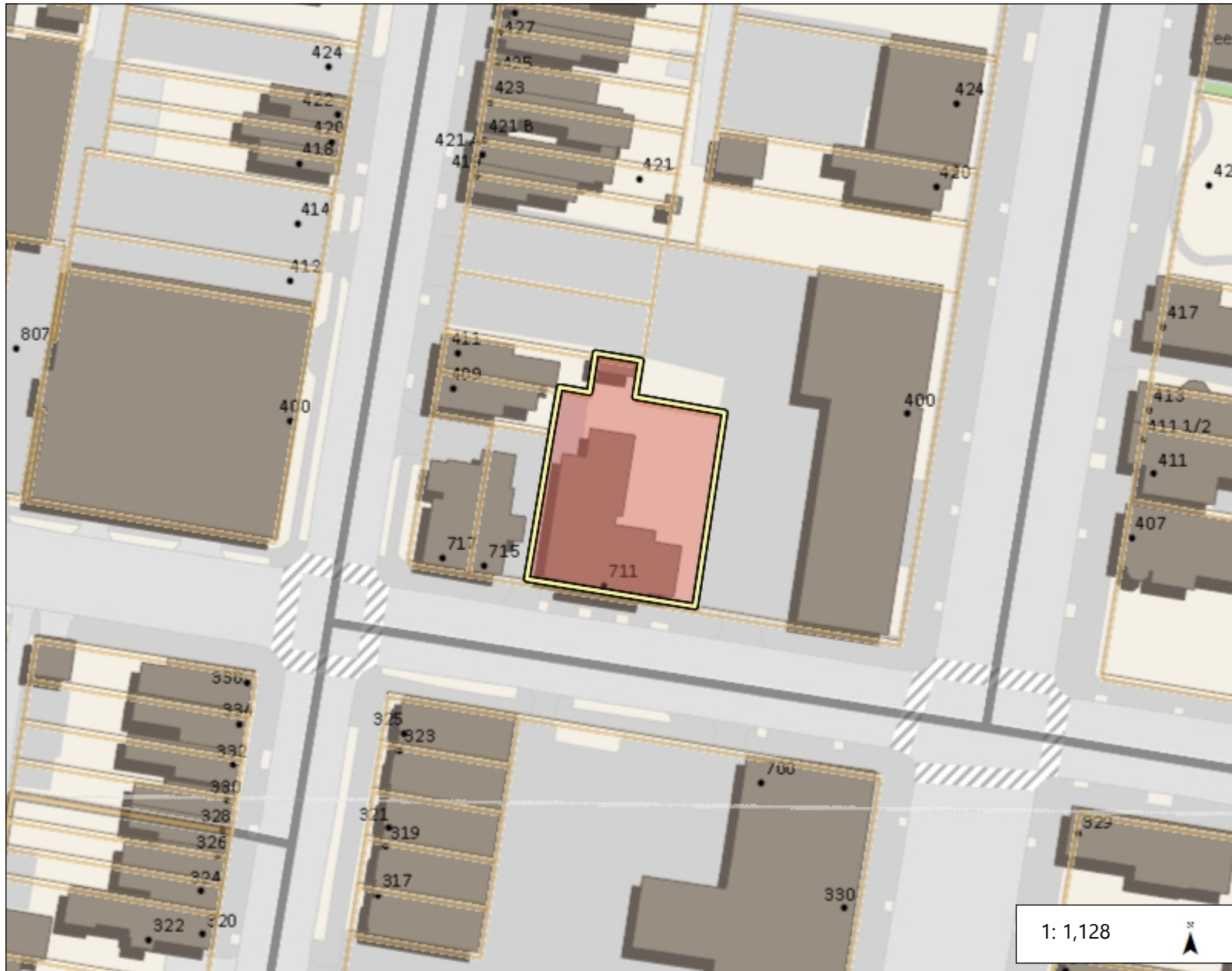
Notes

376.2 0 188.08 376.2 Feet

WGS_1984_Web_Mercator_Auxiliary_Sphere
City of Alexandria, VA

This map is a user generated static output from an Internet mapping site and is for reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable.

THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION



Legend

- Tax Map Index
- Parcels
- Blocks
- Fire Stations
- Addresses
- Metro Stations
- Metro Lines
 - Blue
 - Yellow
 - Yellow Blue
- City Boundary
- Rail Lines
- Parcels
- Buildings
- Surface Water
- Streams
- Parks
- City of Alexandria

1: 1,128



188.1 0 94.04 188.1 Feet

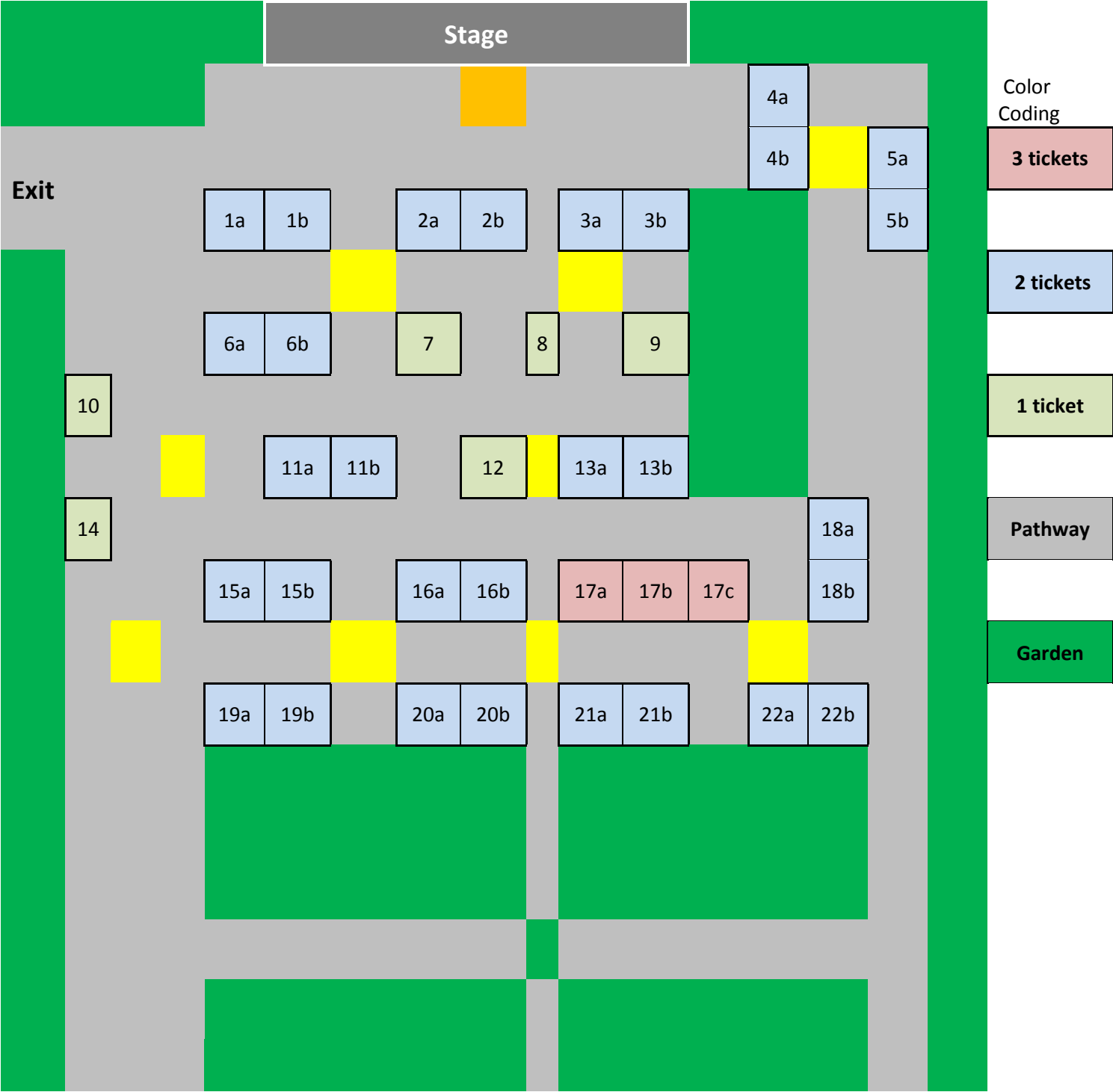
WGS_1984_Web_Mercator_Auxiliary_Sphere
City of Alexandria, VA

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THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

Notes

711 Princess Street, Outdoor Garden Seat Map for Concerts.



Property	The Rectory at Princess St (Classical Movements)	Previous Owners Margaret and Laurent Janowsky/La Bergerie	Lloyd House	Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden	Carlyle House
Website	Applicant		https://www.alexandriava.gov/historic/lloyd/	http://www.leefendallhouse.org	https://www.novaparks.com/parks/carlyle-house-historic-park
Address	711 Princess St	329 N Washington St	220 N Washington St	614 Oronoco St	121 N Fairfax St
Distance from 711 Princess St	Applicant	240 feet, 1 Minute Walk	0.1 Mile, 3 Minute Walk	0.1 Mile, 3 Minute Walk	0.5 Mile, 9 Minute Walk
9 Block Outreach	Applicant	Within Our 1 Block Outreach Map	Edge of Our 1 Block Outreach Map	Within Our 1 Block Outreach Map	
Owner	Neeta Helms and Johannes van Zyl	Previous Owners Margaret and Laurent Janowsky/La Bergerie	Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission	Virginia Trust for Historic Preservation	Northern Virginia Regional Park Auth
Map-Block-Lot Number	064.02-08-07	064.04-02-15	064.04-07-06	064.02-09-01	075.01-02-02
Primary Property Class	JR Office Building (489)	The City Rezoned the Property from Residential to General Commercial (400)	Boards/Commissions (739)	Charitable (770)	Regional/General (720)
Zoning	CD (Commercial Downtown)	CD (Commercial Downtown)	CD (Commercial Downtown)	RM (Residential Medium Townhouse)	POS (Public Open Space); Documents State Carlyle House is located within a residential area.
Lot Size (Sq. Ft.)	8,491	8,877	13,329	7,156	28,073
Rental Space	Indoor and Outdoor Garden		Indoor and Outdoor Garden	Indoor and Outdoor Garden	1 Hour Indoor Tour, Rentals Outdoors (Magnolia Terrace, Garden, Front Lawn)
Capacity	Indoor 50 and Outdoor 150 with COVID-19 Capacity Limitations		50 Seated in Parlor, 100 Indoor and Outdoor Spaces	150	75 for Reception, 100 for Ceremony
Rentals	Concerts, Concerts with Catered Meal, Weddings, Receptions, Ceremonies, Bridal Showers, Baby Showers, Engagement and Other Intimate Events, Corporate Meetings, Seminars, and Other Private Events, Photography and Video Sessions.		Weddings, Receptions, Rehearsal Dinners, Parties, Meetings and Programs	Weddings, Receptions, Dinner Parties, Bridal Showers, Garden Parties, Birthday Celebrations, Small Events, Group Meetings.	Weddings, Receptions
Hours	8:30 am - 10:00 PM (Varies by Event)	The City Approved The Business to Be Open Until 11:00 PM	8:30 am - 12:00 Midnight	Evening Hours TBD	3:30 PM - 12:00 Midnight; Flexible Hours for Ceremony-Only Rentals
Music Hours	10:00 am - 10:00 PM	The City Approved Outdoor Live Music	10:00 am - 10:00 PM	Evening Hours TBD	3:30 PM - 12:00 Midnight; Flexible Hours for Ceremony-Only Rentals
Dance Bands and DJs	Not Permitted		Not Permitted	Yes, Permitted	No DJs Permitted
Amplification	Not Permitted		Not Permitted; Exceptions for Lightly Amplification for Keyboard, Guitar, Wind Instruments	Yes, Permitted	Not Permitted; Exceptions for small Bluetooth speakers (i.e. Beats Pill).
Parking	6 Parking Spots, Staff Restaurants LLC 4 Parking Spots, Fitness Together 4 Parking Spots, For Large Events Use of Parking Garages Nearby		Public Street Parking, Nearby Public Lots, Reserved Street Parking Available Through City, Encourage Use of Parking Garages Nearby.	5 Parking Spots, Public Street Parking, Public Lots	No dedicated parking facilities. Two parking garages within walking distance. One parking space adjacent to the house for the caterer's use. Special permit can be obtained from City of Alexandria for a dedicated parking space in front of the museum.
Months	6 Months/Year		All Year	All Year (39 Dates in 2021 Show Booked So Far)	Apr-Oct
Rental Durations	Concerts 1 Hour Each, Other Events 2 Hour, 3 Hour, 5 Hour, 8 Hour, Depending on Event		3 Hour, 6 Hour, 9 Hour, Option to Add Additional Hours	TBD	2 Hour Ceremonies, 7 1/2 Hour Reception, Option to Add Additional Hour to Both
Catering and Other Vendors	Requested		Permitted	Permitted	Permitted
Alcohol Provided by Catering	Requested		Permitted	Permitted	Permitted
Trash	We estimate to have 1 bag or less of trash generated per week. For events, the caterer or renter would need to take the trash away immediately after the event.		All trash must be bagged and placed in outside trashcans; excess trash must be removed from premises.	TBD	TBD

for 711 Princess St docket materials

Ann Horowitz <ann.horowitz@alexandriava.gov>

Thu 2/18/2021 3:06 PM

To: Patrick Silva <Patrick.Silva@alexandriava.gov>

From: Sara Casar <Sara@classicalmovements.com>

Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 11:18 AM

To: Ann Horowitz <ann.horowitz@alexandriava.gov>

Cc: Neeta Helms <Neeta@classicalmovements.com>; Johan van Zyl <Johan@classicalmovements.com>; Tony LaColla <Anthony.LaColla@alexandriava.gov>

Subject: RE: clarification on SUP proposal

Dear Ann and Tony,

Here are the details for our scheduled zoom meeting on Friday, February 5, at 11:00 am EST.

Classical Movements is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94651321595?pwd=U2Q1YzB4QU9pWjBMRnJzWDB5bXhjUTo9>

Meeting ID: 946 5132 1595

Passcode: 032771

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,94651321595#,,,,*032771# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,,94651321595#,,,,*032771# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 946 5132 1595

Passcode: 032771

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/abUmDmWfCd>

Thank you,

Sara

Sara Casar

Vice President and Business Director

1-703-683-6040

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From: Ann Horowitz [<mailto:ann.horowitz@alexandriava.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2021 3:20 PM
To: Sara Casar
Cc: Neeta Helms; Johan van Zyl; Tony LaColla
Subject: RE: clarification on SUP proposal

Sara,

My division chief, Tony LaColla, copied on this email, and I are available for a Zoom call at 11 a.m. on Friday. We will look forward to receiving your email invitation.

Thank you.

Ann

From: Sara Casar <Sara@classicalmovements.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 11:05 AM
To: Ann Horowitz <ann.horowitz@alexandriava.gov>
Cc: Neeta Helms <Neeta@classicalmovements.com>; Johan van Zyl <Johan@classicalmovements.com>
Subject: RE: clarification on SUP proposal

Dear Ann,

Yes, we are available Friday at 11 am. I can set up a zoom call or we can call you on the phone. Let me know if you have a preference.

Thanks,

Sara

From: Ann Horowitz [<mailto:ann.horowitz@alexandriava.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2021 10:50 AM
To: Sara Casar
Cc: Neeta Helms; Johan van Zyl
Subject: RE: clarification on SUP proposal

Hi Sara,

Thank you for sending everything. We are in the midst of preparing for the February Planning Commission this week, but my schedule opens up a bit on Friday. Are you free at 11 a.m.?

Thank you.

Ann

From: Sara Casar <Sara@classicalmovements.com>
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 5:41 PM
To: Ann Horowitz <ann.horowitz@alexandriava.gov>
Cc: Neeta Helms <Neeta@classicalmovements.com>; Johan van Zyl <Johan@classicalmovements.com>
Subject: RE: clarification on SUP proposal

Ann,

Please see the attached two documents. One is quotes from the audience/public and the other is from the press.

Also, we never did get a chance to talk about what is expected at the hearings. We also wanted to see if you have received input from other departments that we need to address. Are you available to speak tomorrow? What time works best for us to call you?

Regards,

Sara

Sara Casar
Vice President and Business Director
1-703-683-6040

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From: Sara Casar
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2021 11:38 AM
To: Ann Horowitz (ann.horowitz@alexandriava.gov)
Cc: Neeta Helms; Johan van Zyl
Subject: RE: clarification on SUP proposal

Ann,

Please see the attached Fitness Together parking permission email.

Thanks,

Sara

Sara Casar
Vice President and Business Director

1-703-683-6040

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From: Sara Casar**Sent:** Friday, January 29, 2021 1:05 PM**To:** Ann Horowitz (ann.horowitz@alexandriava.gov)**Cc:** Neeta Helms; Johan van Zyl**Subject:** RE: clarification on SUP proposal

Dear Ann,

Please see further clarification as requested in blue.

1. You mention that concerts, weddings and rentals will occur six months out of the year. Please identify these months.

Most concerts and concert related rentals will take place in March, April, May, June, July and August with possible very limited special events around holidays outside of those months. The goal of the concerts would be to arrange them until the end of August because we are hopeful that our concert touring business will restart in September. This is new to us so we are doing our best to predict. We also have not made concrete plans yet. We are doing this because we have no income from our regular touring business until 2022. Of course we would like to take any business we can because we have to get any income we can to keep our company going and pay our staff. In regards to weddings and other rentals, most will take place in May, June, July, August, September and October. There may be limited events outside of those months. We are finding that during the pandemic there is a need for short term planned micro weddings. It is important for everyone to note that we have small indoor spaces that would normally be used. It is only during COVID that we are focused on outdoor events for the safety of the public.

2. A range of hours through the day are marked as the times you would hold concerts and events. For example, you state that concerts will take place 1-2, 2:30-3:30, 5-6, 6:30-7:30, 7:30-8:30. By listing all these dates do you mean that you would hold five concerts a day?

The times listed were only to give you an idea of possibilities. During the day, we would schedule two concerts at 11:00 am and 12:30 PM OR 1:00 PM and 2:30 PM OR 2:00 PM and 3:30 PM for example. During the evening, we would schedule two concerts at 5:00 PM and 6:30 PM (winter) OR 6:00 PM and 7:30 PM (summer) for example.

- a. If not, how many concerts would you hold a day? We will typically arrange one concert program which is two one-hour concerts on one day using the same program and musicians with a 30 minute break to clean in between concerts. The small live concerts are for one-hour each. Concerts would take place occasionally. Concerts presented on any day of the

week would be scheduled in advance. For example, we would arrange them on a Saturday but in case of severe weather, the rain date would be the following Sunday. They will all be one-hour concerts. Some dates will have one concert, most will have two concerts, and on rare occasions we may have two concerts during the day and two concerts in the evening. In the summer, we would have them in the morning or in the evening. In the spring, we would have them in the afternoon or in the evening. The times listed were only to give you an idea.

- b. How many weddings would you hold a day? In most cases there would be one wedding per day and per week on a Saturday or Sunday. Weddings would take place occasionally and not daily. Weddings would take place 10-12 PM, 12-2 PM, 2-4 PM, 10-4 PM OR 5-10 PM for example. We expect to have weddings 4 days/month and 6 months/year.
- c. How many rentals would you schedule a day? We can probably only hope for one concert program and one rental (wedding or other event) per week at most and highly unlikely they would be on the same day.
- d. Would any of these events take place simultaneously? We think it is highly unlikely that we would have more than one event at a time.

How many parking spaces are you able to use at the neighboring property and could that property owner email me with an acknowledgement that they permit you to use the spaces?

Most of our guests are local or use the metro and then walk to the property. For any that drive, we use our private parking on the property. We have 6 parking spots on our property including a handicapped accessible spot. We have permission to use 4 private parking spots from Seasons Culinary (Staff Restaurants LLC) which is at 715 Princess St next door. Our private driveways are attached. Additionally we also have permission to use 4 private parking spots at Fitness Together which has an entrance across the street from our property on Princess St as well as on Queen, N Columbus and N Washington. If we had an event that required more spots, we would secure them at one of the private parking garages within walking distance to our building.

Staff Restaurants LLC, 715 Princess St: On the left, our private driveway is connected to another private driveway and the Seasons Culinary Services business. That property and the one adjacent on the corner are both zoned as Jr Office Buildings. As mentioned above, we hope to continue to support them with future catered events. They have given us permission to use their 4 private parking spots. I have attached their email to this one.

Fitness Together, 300 N Washington St Ste 106 (Across Street through Parking Lot): Fitness Together, at the end of the parking lot across the street, also support and attend our concerts. They also were a sponsor of our concert series, along with other businesses, and gained new business. They have given us permission to use their 4 private parking spots. The parking has entrances on Princess St, N Columbus St, N Washington St and Queen St. I will forward you their email shortly.

Please let us know if you need further clarification.

Regards,

Sara

Sara Casar

Vice President and Business Director

1-703-683-6040

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From: Ann Horowitz [<mailto:ann.horowitz@alexandriava.gov>]**Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2021 4:49 PM**To:** Neeta Helms**Cc:** Sara Casar; Johan van Zyl**Subject:** RE: clarification on SUP proposal

Neeta,

To add, please also ask the property owner across the street to email permission to use the parking spaces there, too.

Thanks again.

Ann

From: Ann Horowitz**Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2021 4:47 PM**To:** Neeta Helms <Neeta@classicalmovements.com>**Cc:** Sara Casar <Sara@classicalmovements.com>; Johan van Zyl <Johan@classicalmovements.com>**Subject:** clarification on SUP proposal

Neeta,

As I develop the SUP report, could you clarify these points pertaining to your proposal so that the Planning Commission, City Council and the public fully understand the request, please? I will include this in the staff report. Feel free to respond under each question.

1. You mention that concerts, weddings and rentals will occur six months out of the year. Please identify these months.
2. A range of hours through the day are marked as the times you would hold concerts and events. For example, you state that concerts will take place 1-2, 2:30-3:30, 5-6, 6:30-7:30, 7:30-8:30. By listing all these dates do you mean that you would hold five concerts a day?
 - a. If not, how many concerts would you hold a day?
 - b. How many weddings would you hold a day?
 - c. How many rentals would you schedule a day?
 - d. Would any of these events take place simultaneously?
3. How many parking spaces are you able to use at the neighboring property and could that property owner email me with an acknowledgement that they permit you to use the spaces?

Thank you.

Ann



“SOUNDS OF HOPE & HARMONY” and “SOUNDS OF JOY & HARMONY”**LIVE, SOCIALLY-DISTANCED OUTDOOR CONCERT SERIES****CHAMBER MUSIC | OPERA | CHOIR | JAZZ**

Saturday, June 20, 2020: Musicians of the National Symphony, Alexandria Symphony, Fairfax Symphony and New Orchestra of Washington

The Washington Post

[Going to my first concert of the pandemic felt like preparing for battle. Then I got there.](#)

Michael Brodeur, *The Washington Post* | June 22, 2020

“Classical Movements isn’t in the business of throwing garden parties, but its fledgling attempt to bring music back to real life, led by founder Neeta Helms, was an ambitious model for what live music might look like for the foreseeable future. As Phase 2 of reopening relaxed some restrictions in the District starting Monday, it’s likely that more attempts to gather skittish audiences will spring up around the area. Even so, the baby steps of Saturday’s gathering in the garden felt like a giant leap.”



“...the intimacy of the experience — and our collective hunger to hear just about anything — gave the feeling that audience and performers were conducting the same experiment: just being there. Even before the first notes were played, I found myself getting lost in the music of chitchat and laughter — our own birdsong.”

“For audience and musicians alike — and especially for Helms and her team, who found themselves immediately fielding questions about when the next concert will be (they’re figuring it out) — the various tweaks, compromises and precautions required to realize something as simple as a night of music felt like a major achievement.”



[Live music returns, offering a preview of the new concert normal](#)

Charles T. Downey, *Washington Classical Review* | June 21, 2020

“At 5 p.m. Saturday evening, something extraordinary happened: a group of people gathered to hear another group of people play classical music on their instruments.”



WAMU 88.5
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY RADIO

[How D.C.'s Live Music Venues Are Trying To Survive The Pandemic](#)

Mikaela Lefrak, *WAMU* | July 1, 2020

“The classical musicians wore jeans and khakis, not tuxes. Audience members stood six feet apart — for now, plush concert hall seats are a thing of the past. It wasn’t what anyone was used to, but for one afternoon, the music was back.

“‘These are great artists. For them, performing is sort of an essential thing,’ says Neeta Helms, Classical Movements’ founder and president. ‘And there’s nothing like live music.’”

Advance Press

[Hear That Sound? Live Music Returns to Alexandria on June 20](#)

Kevin Dauray, *The Zebra* | June 18, 2020

“With the City of Alexandria in the second phase of reopening, some musicians are about to have the opportunity to play before a genuine audience. Yes, you read that correctly. On June 20, members of several local orchestras, including the ASO, Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, and the New Orchestra of Washington, will once again delight concertgoers.”

[“Sounds of Hope & Harmony” chamber-music concerts from Classical Movements](#)

League of American Orchestras, *The Hub* | June 15, 2020

“Classical Movements Founder and President Neeta Helms has characterized ‘Sounds of Hope & Harmony’ as ‘an important gesture of support and optimism, both to local musicians and orchestras and to our community as a whole.’”



A Live, Stateside Concert to Promote Goodwill

Sarah Shay, *Musical America* | June 12 2020

INDUSTRY NEWS

A Live, Stateside Chamber Concert to Promote Good Will

June 12, 2020 | By Sarah Shay, *Musical America*



On June 20 Classical Movements, the Virginia-based touring company, will present a day of concerts designed for the era of pandemic. "Sounds of Hope & Harmony" will feature two one-hour-long programs, each performed three times, at 10am, 11:30am, and 1pm, and at 5pm, 6:30pm, and 8pm respectively.

The venue is the garden in the rectory of historic Christ Church (1783) in Alexandria, site of Classical Movements' office, and attendees will be required to wear face coverings and stand at least six feet apart per person or small household group. Tickets and programs will be distributed digitally.

Classical Movements Founder and President Neeta Helms has characterized "Sounds of Hope & Harmony" as "an important gesture of support and optimism, both to local musicians and orchestras and to our co million unity as a whole." Performers will include members of the National Symphony, Alexandria Symphony, New Orchestra of Washington, Fairfax Symphony, and several other local ensembles.

The morning program will include works by a potpourri of composers ranging from John Williams to Franz Schubert. The evening program features works by, among others, Mozart, Shostakovich, Astor Piazzolla, Poulenc, Schubert, Handel, and Beethoven.

Sunday, June 21, is the rain date. Tickets and program details can be found [here](http://www.classicalmovements.org).

Pictured: Neeta Helms

[Soon You Will Be Able to Go to an Actual Concert in Alexandria](#)

Rob Brunner, *The Washingtonian* | June 11, 2020

"This is not a live-stream event or something informal you watch on somebody's porch: It's an actual concert with tickets and a program and everything—a once-cherished ritual that now feels like a dim memory from a distant era."

Music • Review

Going to my first concert of the pandemic felt like preparing for battle. Then I got there.



Socially distanced crowds applaud for musicians during a performance at the Rectory, a music venue in Alexandria on June 20. (Amanda Andreacchio for The Washington Post)



By Michael Andor Brodeur

Classical Music Critic

June 22, 2020 at 1:26 p.m. EDT

It's coming up on four months since the [coronavirus](#) scattered every cluster of the classical music community back to their respective abodes, and over the course of this eerie interim, it's as though a whole new set of instincts has set in to replace the old ones. In the past, my preparations for a concert involved listening to the work a few times, finding a trustworthy pen and eating a big enough lunch to keep my stomach from joining in with the orchestra.

Saturday afternoon's checklist was a bit more thorough.

I was preparing to head to Old Town Alexandria, where the local orchestral and choral touring company [Classical Movements](#) was hosting "Sounds of Hope & Harmony," an outdoor trio of hour-long chamber concerts in the "Secret Garden" tucked behind its former-rectory headquarters on Princess Street. But it felt like I was preparing for battle.

I had my mask — two of them, actually — a blue plaid number that seemed formal enough to block pathogens at a garden party. I had a small bottle of Purell. A big bottle of water. A hankie for lens fog. An umbrella and a raincoat for the looming thunderheads. A printout of my assigned location in the garden (No. 11 of 35 or so reserved spots). And my usual kit of reporter stuff — phone, pad, pen. I also had a serious case of nerves.

Riding to the rectory in the back of a Lyft, I took shallow breaths (which I'm sure is effective) and hung my head halfway out the open window with all the enthusiasm of a golden retriever en route to the vet. It was raining, and the ominous droplets pelting my forehead felt like tiny omens that I should turn around and go back to the apartment, that this was all too soon, that it was actually crazy. My phone said crowds were starting to form at President Trump's campaign rally in Tulsa, and I felt around my tote bag to make sure I had my inhaler.

But upon reaching the garden, the rain stalled, the clouds parted, the sun glimmered through the trees, and the sounds of nearly two dozen musicians tuning in the various rooms of the 235-year-old rectory filtered into the courtyard. It was the sound of music preparing to return; and just like that, my jitters subsided.



A musician's mask hangs off her stand during a socially distanced concert at the Rectory. (Amanda Andrade-Rhodes/for The Washington Post)

Classical Movements isn't in the business of throwing garden parties, but its fledgling attempt to bring music back to real life, led by founder Neeta Helms, was an ambitious model for what live music might look like for the foreseeable future. As Phase 2 of reopening relaxed some restrictions in the District starting Monday, it's likely that more attempts to gather skittish audiences will spring up around the area. Even so, the baby steps of Saturday's gathering in the garden felt like a giant leap.

"There are a lot of reasons to worry," Helms would tell me in a debrief on the phone the next day. "But I feel like we have to try to go ahead."

[Caught between silence and clamor, these musicians find connection in birdsong]

This time out, hand-sanitizing stations stood at the ready and little flags staked out each listener's spot for standing, six feet apart (though couples could cluster). It felt odd at first, but also oddly luxurious if you've ever been vexed by the personal space afforded by seats in a concert hall. Attendees improvised their hey-I-know-you reunions in the rows through a mix of elbow bumps and weird waves and salutes.



Audience members stand at their designated socially distanced spots. (Amanda Andrade-Rhoades, for The Washington Post)

The musicians, too, had some improvising to do. Ensembles representing the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, the National Symphony Orchestra, the New Orchestra of Washington, as well as the Barclay Brass ensemble (which includes members of the Maryland, Annapolis and Fairfax symphony orchestras) were staggered across the three programs and spread around the stage — the unfamiliar acoustics of socially distant performance requiring more reliance on visual cues between the players.

A quintet of horn players from the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra opened the evening easing into selections from Giles Farnaby's "Fancies, Toyes, and Dreams" before segueing into "That's a Plenty," a 1914 rag-turned-jazz-standard by Lew Pollack, and one of a few detours into ragtime that lent the program a disarming lightness. Members of the NSO later took on Scott Joplin's "Maple Leaf Rag" and Barclay Brass chased the second suite from Handel's "Water Music" with Allen Toussaint's "Java." (And in all cases, even when a rag sounds a little rusty, it feels right.)



David Murray plays trombone at a socially distanced concert at the Rectory. (Amanda Andrade-Rhoades, for The Washington Post)

The wind quintet of National Symphony Orchestra players also gave a brilliant account of Valerie Coleman's "Umoja" (written for Imani Winds) that held court against the noisy birds in the tulip magnolia above us. And a quintet of string players from the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra showcased the skilled interplay of concertmaster Claudia Chudacoff and violinist Peter Haase, delivering a stirringly beautiful selection from Mozart's Divertimento No. 1 in D.

Their take on Shostakovich's lovably stumbling polka from "The Golden Age" — and its grasping toward a familiar form — felt freshly relatable; and likewise, their closing selection of "Toreador Song" from "Carmen" felt appropriately victorious for the occasion. After all, we'd made it!

Much like those nervously gathered to listen, the program was a little all over the place; but the intimacy of the experience — and our collective hunger to hear just about anything — gave the feeling that audience and performers were conducting the same experiment: just being there. Even before the first notes were played, I found myself getting lost in the music of chitchat and laughter — our own birdsong.



Socially distanced onwits listen to music during a performance at the Rectory. (Amanda Andrade-Rhoades for The Washington Post)

And while there were little reminders of the virus — the wiping down of musicians' seats between sets, the concerted effort to avoid touching the microphone, somewhat-matchy masks — it never overshadowed the evening. (The sun sails hung overhead did that, while helping keep the music contained from the roar of landing planes.)

For audience and musicians alike — and especially for Helms and her team, who found themselves immediately fielding questions about when the next concert will be (they're figuring it out) — the various tweaks, compromises and precautions required to realize something as simple as a night of music felt like a major achievement. I was tempted to high-five my neighbors in audience but, well, you know.

Saturday, July 25, 2020: Musicians of the National Symphony

Advance Press

The Washington Post

[Four summertime strolls: Where to take them and what to listen to](#)

Michael Brodeur, *The Washington Post* | July 15, 2020

“If you happen to be biking the Mt. Vernon Trail on July 25, consider locking up in Old Town Alexandria that evening as orchestral touring company Classical Movements launches “Sounds of Hope & Harmony,” a new series of 16 concerts in its socially distanced “secret garden.” I covered the company’s first go at a pandemic-defying outdoor concert (spoiler: it was great!), and its forthcoming programs (Aug. 1, 8, 15; Sept. 12, 19, 26; and Oct. 3) will reach beyond chamber music to include opera, jazz and even choral works.



This first date will bring together players from the National Symphony Orchestra to celebrate “the four B’s” — Barrière, Bologne, Bartók and Beethoven. (And especially that last guy, whose big sesquicentennial has been all but ruined by the pandemic.) Oh, and the ride over is as good a time as any to brush up on your Joseph Boulogne — a.k.a. Chevalier de Saint-Georges — whose String Quartet No. 3 in G Minor is a particular treat on the program.”

[The best things to do — virtually and in person — while quarantined in the D.C. area](#)

Going Out Guide Staff, *The Washington Post* | July 23, 2020

“For classical music fans missing the thrill of live performances, an unlikely destination is filling the void left by the Kennedy Center and Strathmore: A 235-year-old rectory in Old Town Alexandria. Classical Movements began holding concerts in the courtyard behind its headquarters in June, with socially distanced seats allowing up to 43 people (singles or couples) to attend. This Saturday, a seven-week series of chamber, opera, choral and jazz performances begins with string quartets and cello duos by musicians from the National Symphony Orchestra. Beethoven, Bartok and the Beatles are all on the one-hour program.”



[10 Virtual And IRL Things To Do In D.C. This Weekend](#)



Chelsea Cirruzzo, *DCist* | July 23, 2020

“Concerts are slowly making a comeback and this summer head to a very special show. Concert tour company Classical Movements is putting on a series of intimate garden concerts starting on Saturday.”

WAMU 88.5
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY RADIO

Lori McCue, *All Things Considered* | July 23, 2020

“I’m really looking to check out one of these intimate garden concerts put on by this concert tour company Classical Movements in Alexandria [...] they’re holding it outdoors in what they call the ‘Secret Garden’ at their facility on Princess Street and that sounds really magical and I’m looking forward to learning more.”



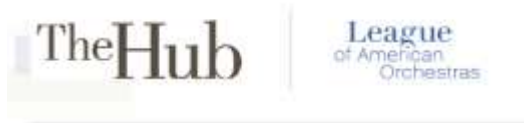
[Mostly Virtual Arts Round Up, July 16, 2020](#)

Richard Seiden, *The Georgetown* | July 16, 2020

“The secret garden of the Rectory, 711 Princess Street in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, is the venue for Classical Movements’ Sounds of Hope & Harmony series of intimate and socially distanced Saturday-evening concerts. On **July 25** at 6 and 7:30 p.m., cellists Eugena Chang and Britton Riley and a quartet made up of violinists Alexandra Osborne and Angelia Cho, violist Mahoko Eguchi and cellist Rachel Young — all National Symphony Orchestra musicians — will give one-hour performances of works by Barrière, Bartók, Bologne, Beethoven, Joplin and other composers.”



Series and Upcoming Programs



Classical Movements' outdoor "Sounds of Hope and Harmony" concerts, July 25-Oct. 4

INDUSTRY BUZZ

The concert tour company Classical Movements, based in Alexandria, Virginia, will present eighteen intimate, socially-distanced concerts and recitals from late July through early October at the Secret Garden of...

July 22, 2020



[Javier Arrey, Kaylee Norris, Issachah Savage Headline Classical Movements 'Sounds of Hope & Harmony' Garden Concert Series](#)

David Salazar, *OperaWire* | July 16, 2020

"The first major program for opera lovers is "Prague Comes to Washington," an evening of Art Song and Opera. The showcase will feature baritone Javier Arrey and soprano Kaylee Norris as they take on music by Mozart, Dvorak, Stravinsky, Brahms, Liszt, Wolf, and Beethoven, alongside pianist Taylor Hutchinson.

"An Evening of Grand Opera, Italian and American Art Songs' will star tenor Issachah Savage and pianist Joy Schreier. The duo will perform music by Verdi, Wagner, Strauss, Tosti, Donaudy, and Margaret Bonds."



[A critic's suggestions for music to fill the dog day](#)

Michael Brodeur, *The Washington Post* | July 29, 2020

“Alexandria-based orchestral touring group [Classical Movements](#) continues its Sounds of Hope and Harmony series through the month of August and beyond. On Aug. 1 at 6 and 7:30 p.m. it will host “Prague Comes to Washington,” a pair of hour-long programs of arias and art songs in its freshly pergola’d “[secret garden](#),” featuring Chilean baritone Javier Arrey ([an alum](#) of the Castleton Festival and WNO’s remonikered Cafritz Young Artist Program); soprano Kaylee Norris; and pianist Taylor Hutchinson. Upcoming installments of these 100-ticket, socially distanced soirees this month include NSO musicians performing chamber works by Molly Joyce, Victor Ewald, Andy Akiho, Alvin Singleton, Zhao Tian and Duke Ellington on Aug. 8, and an evening of grand opera arias sung by “heldentenor par excellence” Issachah Savage, accompanied by pianist Joy Schreier on Aug. 15.”

Live Outdoor Concerts by Four Indoor Organizations

Susan Elliott, *Musical America* | July 27, 2020

INDUSTRY NEWS

Live Outdoor Concerts by Four Indoor Organizations

July 27, 2020 | By Susan Elliott, *Musical America*

As the cancellations mount up for performing arts organizations, most are continuing their valiant efforts to stay in the public eye online.

A few brave souls are complementing that with small outdoor events, using safety protocols that are perhaps awkward and labor-intensive to execute, but nonetheless worth it, both for the players and the listeners. Among the first to go the *al fresco* route was the Minnesota Orchestra, earlier this month announcing a series of [24 chamber concerts on the adjacent Frayser Plaza](#) in August, each lasting no more than 70 minutes (no intermission), requiring advance reservations, face masks, temperature screenings, and keeping to a total capacity—including staff—of 250. Ensemble size is up to eight.

The Detroit Symphony has since followed a [similar path](#)—small ensembles of DSO musicians performing via concerts out of doors in varying locales, some of which require reservations; all events are free with strict protocols in place for social distancing (those who don’t follow the rules will be asked to leave); no seating provided—BYOBianket.

The San Francisco Symphony, which has a new online series titled *Currents*, also has joined the *al fresco* crowd with its [1:1 Concerts](#), bringing a new level to intimacy—literally one orchestra member performing for one listener at a time, using the Davies Hall outdoor terraces. First priority goes to donors, volunteers, etc., but it appears they may be available to the general public as well.

Classical Movements just launched the first of an ongoing outdoor series in Alexandria, VA, titled [Sounds of Hope and Harmony](#). National Symphony Orchestra musicians are among the performers and tickets can be purchased through CM’s website. Planned to continue through October 4 on Saturday evenings, the 18 concerts take place in a church garden in Old Town, Alexandria, and feature a range of repertoire.

Kudos to all for fighting the uphill battle of the pandemic.



WSJ

Socially Distanced Sound: Amid the pandemic, some orchestras are experimenting with modified live concerts. With its smaller number of players, chamber music is ideally suited to the moment.

Barbara Jepson, *The Wall Street Journal* | August 4, 2020

“Given the right conditions, more major orchestras should be taking similar steps. There’s a large and artistically rewarding repertoire on a smaller scale that could be played, where it is safe to do so, before mask-wearing, socially distanced listeners, from string quartets and other chamber music to opera overtures, serenades and symphonies. Doing so now would allow arts presenters to return to their core mission: putting on live concerts in front of audiences. And it would enable at least some orchestra members to perform and some concertgoers to re-experience the joys of live music-making. These events might also offer opportunities to experiment with alternative onstage placements before moving to the next phase with a full symphony orchestra.

“At the very least, orchestra members could play chamber music outdoors while the weather is good. Classical Movements, a concert tour organizer, has sponsored seven such events in Alexandria, Va., since June with no reported spread of the virus...”

Alexandria Crichlow & V. Savoy McIlwain Headline ‘Songs of Hope & Harmony’ Concert This August

David Salazar, *OperaWire* | August 19

“The Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts and Classical Movements will be joining forces to present a unique concert as part of the “Songs of Hope & Harmony” series on August 29, 2020.

“The showcase will feature soprano [Alexandria Crichlow](#) and baritone [V. Savoy McIlwain](#) alongside pianist Dr. Lester Green. Pamela Simonson will narrate the concert performance. The event is set to take place in Alexandria, Virginia in honor of the March on Washington back in the 1960s.”

Alexandria Times

Outdoor classical music concert series finds a way forward for live performances

Cody Mello-Klein, *Alexandria Times* | August 27, 2020

“The chance to see talented musicians up close in an intimate setting is also rare in the realm of classical music, where massive concert halls and pricy tickets are standard. Classical Movements is making music more accessible and, in the process, hopes to remind audiences why live performances are so valuable.”



Neeta Helms interviewed for “Voices of Change”

Nicole Lacroix, *WETA* | September 7, 2020

[Pandemic Forces Performing Arts Leaders to Rethink](#)

Richard Selden, *The Georgetown* | September 15, 2020

“While virtual programming has blossomed, there have been few attempts to return to live, in-person performance. Alexandria, Virginia, appears to be the area leader, with outdoor, small-ensemble performances by Alexandria Symphony Orchestra members planned for this fall and the 18-concert Sounds of Hope & Harmony series successfully launched in the Rectory’s secret garden by orchestra tour company Classical Movements.”

The Score: Seasons of Change

The League of American Orchestras, *Symphony Magazine* | Fall 2020

“With most orchestral touring on hiatus due to Covid-19, tour organizer **Classical Movements** looked closer to home for a suitable performance venue, and found one in its backyard: the garden outside its offices in Alexandria, Virginia. In July, Classical Movements President Neeta Helms launched “Sounds of Hope and Harmony,” a series of one-hour outdoor chamber concerts featuring musicians from the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra and National Symphony Orchestra, among others, in a wide range of music.”

“Sounds of Joy & Light”

[The world is loud. These upcoming classical music performances will give you some comfort.](#)

Michael Andor Brodeur, *The Washington Post* | October 14, 2020

Only live Classical Pick for October:

“With the new season comes another change as the Alexandria-based [Classical Movements](#) refreshes its series of socially-distanced chamber concerts with a new name and 22 more performances, starting on Halloween and continuing through December 19.

[...] That evening, they’ll clear the cobwebs for “[A Venetian Halloween](#),” featuring NSO musicians playing an autumnal chunk of Vivaldi’s Four Seasons as well as Puccini’s “Crisantemi.” (If this isn’t a perfect opportunity to step up your mask game, I’m not sure what is.)”

Also recommended in:

[The best things to do — virtually and in person — while quarantined in the D.C. area](#)



Going Out Guide Staff, *The Washington Post* | October 29, 2020



[Socially-Distanced Outdoor Concerts Selling Out in Alexandria, Virginia](#)

Grace Arnold, *The Zebra* | November 3, 2020

“Social distancing has affected every facet of life from work, to education, to entertainment. Classical Movements is countering that effect, introducing live classical music in a socially-distanced setting. As musicians perform underneath a pergola surrounded by lush foliage, the [Secret Garden at The Rectory](#) series is becoming the new social hub for all Alexandrians.”

“Music has the power to unite even the most uncommon of folks, and there is a poetic irony about unity during times of necessary separation, but that separation makes the power of music all the more relevant right now. Neeta Helms, Founder and President of Classical Movements, agrees, ‘We want to make the Covid winter as beautiful and happy as possible... We should just spread the joy and light that we can.’”

[Weekend Arts Round Up, December 10, 2020](#)

Richard Seldon, *The Georgetown* | December 10, 2020

“Classical Movements will present two afternoon performances of “Hallelujah! Gospel & Choral Favorites with Camerata Baltimore” on **Dec. 19** at 1 and 2:30 p.m. in the Secret Garden at the Rectory, 711 Princess St. in Alexandria, Virginia. The program of gospel music, spirituals and classical repertoire in celebration of Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and Christmas includes “Hallelujah” from Handel’s “Messiah,” Saint-Saëns’s “Christmas Oratorio” and works by John Rutter, Undine Smith Moore and Amy F. Bernon. Seating will be socially distanced and masks are required. Tickets are \$45.”



[“Creativity Abounds as Americans Mark Holidays in Times of COVID”](#)

Vero Balderas Iglesias, *Voice of America* | December 21, 2020

Quotes from the AUDIENCE

1. Thank you guys so much! What fun to have human interaction. Let's keep the Rectory Chamber Concert Series idea alive.
 - **George Hanson, Executive Director of the Alexandria Symphony**
2. You are an inspiration – and you are fearless. I used your announcement last week to prompt my folks.
 - **Deborah Rutter, President, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts**
3. This was beautiful and a powerful reminder that nothing can replace a live concert! Thank you!
 - **Grace Cho, Executive Director and pianist of the New Orchestra of Washington**
4. **Another fabulous Saturday evening outdoor concert, as part of a weekly Saturday series at 6 and 7:30. (Tickets can be purchased from link below.)** As I left, an organizer/usher thanked me for my FB review of the preceding one. She somehow recognized masked me as its writer! I was pleased, and now I feel I owe another one!

I'll just say it inspired a friend, to get a ticket for next week, which inspired my getting a ticket for me and , since she hasn't seen her friend and fellow artist for at least 5 months, a period that not coincidentally coincides with a certain current event. It will be a brass and percussion extravaganza, which means we may miss the many bird songs and occasional overhead jet.

I should say a word or two about this concert, which left me in varied states of mesmerization. It began with the beautiful soprano, Kaylee Norris, striking in a red-violet (I think?) gown, singing with poignant longing of love in French, Italian, and German. She has a lovely and expressive voice. The famous Chilian baritone Javier Arrey began with untypical song cycles by Dvořák and Beethoven, and I warmed to his singing as he progressed. He ended and brought the house down by acting and singing the Count's musical monologue from Act 3 of Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro", not a typical operatic aria with a recognizable structure, but a soliloquy whose phrasing flows with the intensity of the expression.

<https://www.classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts/>

- **Richard Davis III**

5. I was so excited to be able to attend the first Live, outdoor concert at The Rectory in Alexandria. It was my first live concert after being quarantined for four months. I was amazed at how well everything was organized. The staff cleaned everything again and



again. But most important was how special it was to hear live music again. Mostly importantly it was at the highest artistic standards. I look forward to attending many more.

- **Joan Gregoryk, Founder of the Children's Chorus of Washington**

6. Neeta Helms, Classical Movements president, felt compelled to offer a concert in musical support of the national efforts of the country to speak out for social justice. What a better connection than with the anniversary of the march on Washington in 1963 when Dr. Martin Luther King gave his iconic "I have a Dream" speech.

The performance was unique in that the entire concert either was an alternation between the baritone and soprano soloists singing spirituals, freedom songs, and civil rights anthems. Replicas of the signs held during the march were distributed throughout the venue - for everyone to keep as a keepsake. Of course, all audience members were appropriately socially distanced and masked-up.

Both voices were exceptional, complementing each other in intensity and sensitivity. Narration was provided by Pamela Simonson which superbly connected the songs in way to make them more relevant today than ever."

- **Dr. Eric Conway, Morgan State University, Fine and Performing Arts Department, Chair**

7. Congratulations to Classical Movements for stepping into the breach, providing live music and pleasure for both audience and musicians. I salute you.
- **Marlyn Klee**

Comments from Anonymous Audience Survey, October 2020

8. This is a brilliant conception and by far the most enjoyable concert experience I have had in a long time.
9. Thank you so much for offering these events. The one I attended made me so happy.
10. I thank you sooooo much for making it possible to hear live music. I have missed it so much.
11. Thanks for providing this soul soothing music!

Comments from an Audience Survey, January 2022

Virginia, within the City of Alexandria

12. A brilliant concept brilliantly executed.



– **George White**

13. An oasis of culture to enjoy highly accomplished artists in the seclusion of Old Town - a sophisticated antidote for our harried lives!

– **Scott Corzine**

14. World-class music in Classical Movements' secret garden is a wonderful respite in these challenging times.

– **Tanya Lervik**

15. We attended a lovely (and safe) program right before Christmas. I was super glad that I found the Classical Movements' project and was able to keep the family's tradition to attend Christmas themed events (choir, orchestra, etc) despite of Covid-19. I would love to go again - even after the holidays, and even after Covid-19 is over...

– **Renata Mayer Gukovas**

16. A wonderful way to enjoy fine music and support the arts.

– **Elaine Wick**

17. This hidden gem provided a peaceful sanctuary and world-class performances throughout the pandemic. It keeps our souls alive.

– **Barbara von Hauzen**

18. A splendid treat for the senses. Attending the concerts is also a way to connect with and support our community as well as have a wonderful day.

– **Gloria Black**

19. This has been a wonderful addition to Alexandria and hopefully will remain even when other performances return inside. The hosts have brought together an ideal venue, talented performers and most importantly energy and culture that brings joy!

– **Greg Curtis**

20. In the midst of the COVID pandemic the joy and freedom to watch the highest quality of musicians and performers live, in a wonder venue, has been a gift. Nothing better.

– **Pamela Zitron**

21. Many thanks for making it possible to have these musical breaths of fresh air!

– **Mary Jane Ruhl**

Virginia, outside the City of Alexandria

22. During the particularly challenging times that we experienced in 2020, it was uplifting to be able to enjoy the music, talent, and energy of the musicians. During the summer concert, the birds chiming in added an interesting dynamic that you wouldn't get in a concert hall. I appreciate all of the hard work, thoughtfulness, and effort that the team at



Classical Movements expended to successfully arrange these events. I enjoyed attending each of the ones I went to and would definitely consider attending future events.

– **Marla Bright**

23. Was bitter cold that evening so thanks for the space heaters! Stick with the concert venue to support more musicians looking for work in 2021.

– **Joseph Gigliotti**

24. Excellent performers and varied programs

– **James Carty**

25. A welcome, lovely, inspiring safe diversion during the pandemic. Thank you for doing this!

– **Heather McPhail**

26. The Secret Garden concerts we attended were a beautiful escape from the isolation of Covid-19, and a wonderful celebration of music and the joy of the holiday season. The musicians were brilliant, the staff responsive and lovely, and the gorgeous rectory garden with socially distanced seats, a temperature check, and space heaters was luxurious, but above all, magickal! My husband and I loved every moment of the concerts we attended, and hope these outdoor performances continue well past Covid! We are looking forward to 2021 performances.

– **Allister Nelson**

DC and Maryland

27. These concerts have been vital to maintaining one's sanity during the lockdown. Please keep on hosting these!

– **Tom Belote**

28. After the depression (in every sense) descended upon us all in mid-March, the fact that Classical Movements could safely open up the Secret Garden on 20 June gave a first ray of hope that has kept on shining ever since.

– **Howard Spendelow**

29. The setting, the musical offerings and the hosts are as classy as it gets. In addition, logistically it is a very easy affair in terms of parking, getting there, getting in AND it is Covid-safe.

– **Olga Rodriguez**

30. The music was wonderful in a very safe feeling environment. Hearing live music again made me feel more human and “normal.”

– **Holly Bode**

31. A wonderful outdoor concert venue following all the necessary COVID-19 protocols....a real hidden gem!



Wonderful relaxing outdoor venue with social distancing, masks, hand sanitizers. So nice to listen to live music with Broadway caliber stars! I highly recommend this venue & can't wait to go back.

– **Mimi Rottiers**

32. Thanks for keeping music alive!

- **Toni Codinas**

Quotes from the ARTISTS

“It was such a fun experience, to finally play live music for in-person humans!!! Thank you Classical Movements for hosting an evening with your music-loving friends!”

- **David Murray, Trombone of the National Symphony Orchestra**

“That was such a precious opportunity for us to play music together and see colleagues and friends from all over this area. It meant a lot to us and we were so grateful to be asked to be part of it. I think it was a success and proves that putting on a concert is possible! We appreciate all the efforts you all took to make it happen (and keep it safe). Thank you also for providing the delicious dinner from Pita House. It was fantastic and we felt cared for in a way we have not felt in a long time. I hope it was as much of a success for you all. It was so nice to see you all and hope that we are all back to work soon. Thank you again!”

- **Kathryn Meany, Oboe of the National Symphony Orchestra**

“What a wonderful event, we really appreciated the opportunity to participate, the careful planning and the grace under unimaginable pressure from the weather! Classy as always.”

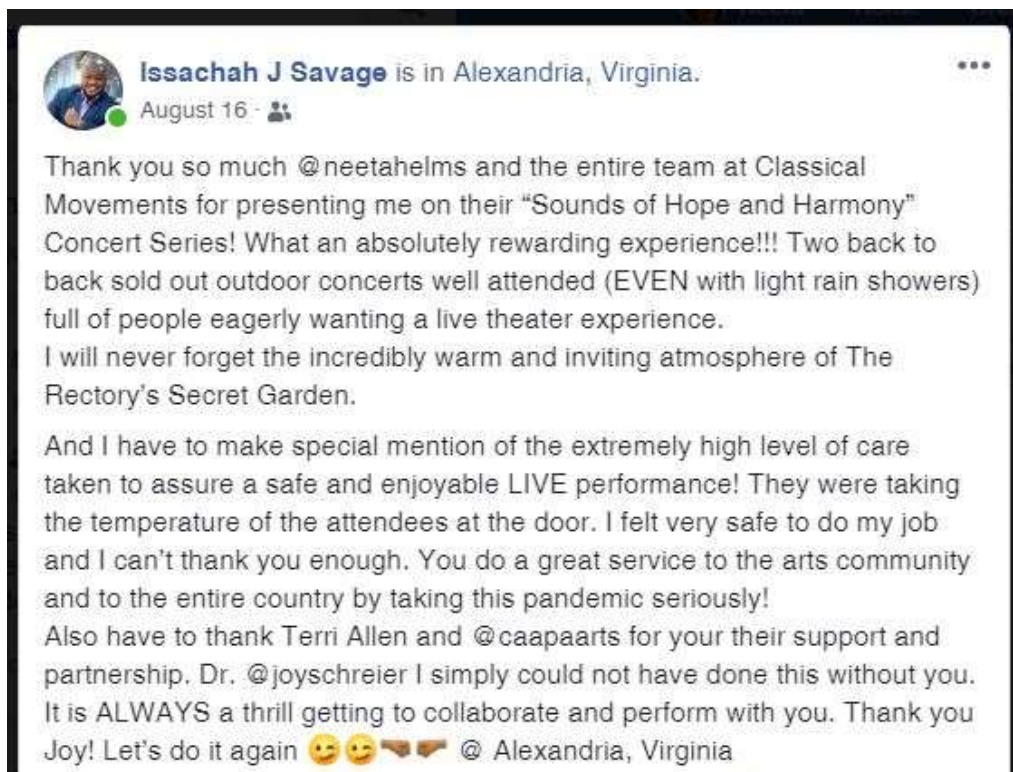
- **Claudia Chudacoff, Concertmaster of the Alexandria Symphony**

“Thanks so much for the opportunity to perform. It was such a treat for us to perform for a live audience and to perform again during these difficult times.”

- **Angelia Cho, Violin of the National Symphony Orchestra**

“The past three months have been surreal. As we watched concert after concert announce their cancellation, we eventually realized that the music industry would be changed in ways that would have been unimaginable just weeks before. As the cancellations started stretching past the summer months and into the fall, Becky and I resigned ourselves to the possibility that we may not have the opportunity to play live concerts for a year or more. Since March, we have devoted our creative energies to recording duos from our home in Philadelphia. While this has been very fulfilling work, the unique exchange that occurs in real time between audience and performer has been absent. We were beyond excited to be approached by our friends at the New Orchestra of Washington about representing NOW in this concert. The format of an outdoor, socially distanced chamber concert is such a creative solution to the unique problems facing the industry at this time. For the first time, will be sharing with a live audience some of our favorite duets that we learned and recorded in quarantine.”

- **Rebecca Anderson, Concertmaster and Alan Richardson, Principal Cello, of the New Orchestra of Washington**



Featured in the Kennedy Center's NSO at Home livestream, Sunday, November 1, 2020

From: Jorgen Petersen [<mailto:jorgen@seasonsculinary.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:53 AM

To: Johan van Zyl

Subject: Parking at 715 Princess street

Hello Johan,

Per our conversation today, we are agreeable to let Classical Movement utilize our four (4) private parking spots at 715 Princess Street on the weekend, as we are typically not in the office on Saturdays and Sundays.

Please let me know if we can be of any further assistance.

All the best,

Jorgen Petersen, Partner

Seasons Culinary Services, Inc.

Staff Restaurants, LLC.

715 Princess Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

P-703-706-0440

[Web.](#)



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From: Nicole Batts [mailto:nicolebatts@fitnesstogether.com]

Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2021 10:25 PM

To: Johan van Zyl <Johan@classicalmovements.com>; Neeta Helms <Neeta@classicalmovements.com>

Subject: Parking authorization letter

Dear Neeta and Johan,

I, Nicole Batts, owner of Fitness Together Alexandria, give consent for the use of Fitness Together Alexandria's four parking spaces to Classical Movements. 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 the 300 N Washington Street building.

Sincerely,

Nicole Batts

--

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

Re: 711 Princess St SUP Permit Neighborhood Outreach Responses**From:** Thomas Wise [mailto:tdw20634@yahoo.com]**Sent:** Saturday, January 30, 2021 5:55 PM**To:** CM Info**Subject:** special use permit for concerts and other events described in letter distributed on 27 Jan 2021

I am writing in support of the special use permit for the concerts and other events as described in the letter distributed on 27 Jan 2021. The use described seems like an excellent and attractive use of a commercial property adjacent to a residential area. The City of Alexandria seems to have a lot of vacant commercial real estate, so its reassuring to see that some enterprising soul has been able to come up with a business plan to make use of one of the commercial properties in a way that seems like a real asset for the City and community. This use seems ideal, and I don't see any downside to the proposed use.

Sincerely,
Tom Wise
513 1/2 N Columbus St
Alexandria, VA

-----Original Message-----

From: Matthew A. Gluth [mailto:matthew.gluth@me.com]**Sent:** Saturday, January 30, 2021 9:27 AM**To:** CM Info**Subject:** Letter in Support of Special Use Permit

To Whom It May Concern:

We are neighbors of the Classical Movements in the 500 block of North Columbus Street. We are beyond overjoyed to have a local concert venue presenting classical music. We first discovered it when on weekend walks through Old Town this past summer and hearing the singing or music waft through the air. At first, we thought someone had their home stereo playing through an open window, but later we saw notice of the weekly concerts. Unfortunately we discovered it too late to get tickets, but were thrilled that our neighbors enjoyed the performances. We look forward to being quicker off the gun this spring.

In our opinion, Old Town is woefully short of options for performance art, particularly after the conversion of the Old Town Theater to a retail establishment. Classical Movements's Secret Garden is a wonderful addition to the neighborhood, and we hope that they continue presenting wonderful concerts and inspire other neighborhood venues to present jazz and other genres.

Thank you,

Matthew Gluth



From: Nicole Batts [<mailto:nicolebatts@fitnesstogether.com>]
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2021 1:50 PM
To: Johan van Zyl <Johan@classicalmovements.com>
Cc: Neeta Helms <Neeta@classicalmovements.com>
Subject: Business Support Letter for Special Events Permit from Fitness Together Alexandria

Dear City of Alexandria,

As a local small business owner of Fitness Together Alexandria, a small 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 Events Permit. The Special Events Permit will allow Classical Movements to expand its business offerings, during these challenging business conditions, while also bringing support to local business and income to the City of Alexandria.

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. Specifically, as a partner with Classical Movements, their events have provided us visibility and business.

Again, I strongly support Classical Movements and their Special Events 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



From: Lidia Buzek [mailto:fbuzek@verizon.net]
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 3:12 PM
To: CM Info
Subject: supporting your cause

As a local neighbor of yours, I TOTALLY support what you are doing, your plans for expansion and wish you the very best of luck!

Hope to be able to attend an event once the weather warms up a bit!

Feel free to contact me if you need any further support.

In the meantime, stay safe and stay loved!

Lidia Buzek
501 N Alfred Str
Alexandria, VA 22314

From: Don Micallef [mailto:donjmicallef@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 1:40 PM
To: CM Info
Subject: Support for Special use Permit

Dear Classical Movements:

We are writing to let you know that we support your application for a Special Use Permit.

Sincerely,
Don Micallef
Lisa Resnick
408 North Saint Asaph St.
Alexandria, VA 22314

-----Original Message-----

From: Michael Thompson [mailto:miket0000@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 10:28 AM
To: CM Info
Subject: Special Permit Application

We would like to lend our support for your Special Permit Application from the City of Alexandria. As your neighbor, we very much enjoyed sitting on our deck this past summer and enjoying the concerts in your garden. It was a nice reprieve from the quarantine restrictions we all faced this past year. We fully support your efforts to expand the use of the garden going forward.

Sincerely,

Michael and Elizabeth Thompson
323 N. Columbus Street
Alexandria, VA 22314



-----Original Message-----

From: Caroline Orsi [<mailto:orsi.caroline@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 5:47 PM

To: CM Info

Subject: Email of Support

Hello,

We're the tenants at 523 N. Alfred Street and support the petition!

Caroline Kornitzer

Sent from my iPhone

From: Rick Bosland [<mailto:rick@boslandgray.com>]

Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 8:49 AM

To: CM Info

Subject: I support the use of your facility

I live at 609 Princess Street and I support your expanded use of your facility.

All the best.

Rick

Richard Bosland

BOSLAND GRAY ASSOCIATES

908 803 6092cell

rick@boslandgray.com

www.boslandgray.com

House nbr	Street	Name	Do you know we have had concerts in the Secret garden @711 Princess	Have you ever heard the music?	Have you attend ed any concer t?	Would you support us to have an occasional indoor or outdoor concert?			Tel Number	Email	Signature	
						Concert?	Micro Wedding or meeting	Why not?				
409	Columbus	Dave FRITZ	Yes		No	Yes	Yes	Prefer guests to walk through bldg	703 915 6878	dave.fritz@gmail.com		Fanfa
419	Columbus	Robert Bloom	Yes	Yes		Yes		unab marvelous	509 979 8568	Razze2@ (corgi) concert.net		"
421	Columbus											come back
423	Columbus											No answ
425	Columbus											"
427	Columbus											
429	Columbus	Flaine Wick	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		We would love need it 4 Bass	511 483 0737	efwick@aol.com		Fanfa
431	will support Columbus							must have				N/A
433	Columbus											N/A
435	Columbus											"
438	Columbus											"
426	Columbus	Saskia Jansen	Yes	Yes	would like to No			Franzets up we support it		SPjansen@ mindspring.com		
426	Columbus	Bill Cromley	Yes	Yes	N			preference		wm.cromleye@comcast.net		
325	Columbus	William										N/A

House nbr	Street	Name	Do you know we have had concerts in the Secret garden @711 Princess	Have you ever heard the music?	Have you attend ed any concer t?	Would you support us to have an occasional indoor or outdoor concert?			Tel Number	Email	Signature
						Concert?	Micro Wedding or meeting	Why not?			
325	Columbus										
323	Columbus										
322	Columbus	CYNTHIA FOGG	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	✓	703 832 2895	C.F. @gmail.com	
323	Columbus	Michael Thompson	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	listen on Balcony		mike0000 hotmail.com	
321	Columbus									(mike43000)	
319	Columbus										
317	Columbus										
334	Columbus	Jeannie O'Boyle	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	—	202 438 6675	jeannie @aol.com	
332	Columbus		u								
330	Columbus	Julie McPeck	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	—	847 533 762	JTBSK McPeck @msn.com	
328	Columbus	Robert Bogachev	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	—	703 717 1511	L.R. @gmail.com	
326	Columbus	Sue Rieppman	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	—	450 380 6425	SUE ELLEN B @gmail.com	SEB
324	Princess										
322	Princess										

+ 261 letters delivered

Quotes from the AUDIENCE

1. Thank you guys so much! What fun to have human interaction. Let's keep the Rectory Chamber Concert Series idea alive.
 - **George Hanson, Executive Director of the Alexandria Symphony**
2. You are an inspiration – and you are fearless. I used your announcement last week to prompt my folks.
 - **Deborah Rutter, President, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts**
3. This was beautiful and a powerful reminder that nothing can replace a live concert! Thank you!
 - **Grace Cho, Executive Director and pianist of the New Orchestra of Washington**
4. **Another fabulous Saturday evening outdoor concert, as part of a weekly Saturday series at 6 and 7:30. (Tickets can be purchased from link below.)** As I left, an organizer/usher thanked me for my FB review of the preceding one. She somehow recognized masked me as its writer! I was pleased, and now I feel I owe another one!

I'll just say it inspired a friend, to get a ticket for next week, which inspired my getting a ticket for me and , since she hasn't seen her friend and fellow artist for at least 5 months, a period that not coincidentally coincides with a certain current event. It will be a brass and percussion extravaganza, which means we may miss the many bird songs and occasional overhead jet.

I should say a word or two about this concert, which left me in varied states of mesmerization. It began with the beautiful soprano, Kaylee Norris, striking in a red-violet (I think?) gown, singing with poignant longing of love in French, Italian, and German. She has a lovely and expressive voice. The famous Chilian baritone Javier Arrey began with untypical song cycles by Dvořák and Beethoven, and I warmed to his singing as he progressed. He ended and brought the house down by acting and singing the Count's musical monologue from Act 3 of Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro", not a typical operatic aria with a recognizable structure, but a soliloquy whose phrasing flows with the intensity of the expression.

<https://www.classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts/>

- **Richard Davis III**

5. I was so excited to be able to attend the first Live, outdoor concert at The Rectory in Alexandria. It was my first live concert after being quarantined for four months. I was amazed at how well everything was organized. The staff cleaned everything again and



again. But most important was how special it was to hear live music again. Mostly importantly it was at the highest artistic standards. I look forward to attending many more.

- **Joan Gregoryk, Founder of the Children's Chorus of Washington**

6. Neeta Helms, Classical Movements president, felt compelled to offer a concert in musical support of the national efforts of the country to speak out for social justice. What a better connection than with the anniversary of the march on Washington in 1963 when Dr. Martin Luther King gave his iconic "I have a Dream" speech.

The performance was unique in that the entire concert either was an alternation between the baritone and soprano soloists singing spirituals, freedom songs, and civil rights anthems. Replicas of the signs held during the march were distributed throughout the venue - for everyone to keep as a keepsake. Of course, all audience members were appropriately socially distanced and masked-up.

Both voices were exceptional, complementing each other in intensity and sensitivity. Narration was provided by Pamela Simonson which superbly connected the songs in way to make them more relevant today than ever."

- **Dr. Eric Conway, Morgan State University, Fine and Performing Arts Department, Chair**

7. Congratulations to Classical Movements for stepping into the breach, providing live music and pleasure for both audience and musicians. I salute you.
- **Marlyn Klee**

Comments from Anonymous Audience Survey, October 2020

8. This is a brilliant conception and by far the most enjoyable concert experience I have had in a long time.
9. Thank you so much for offering these events. The one I attended made me so happy.
10. I thank you sooooo much for making it possible to hear live music. I have missed it so much.
11. Thanks for providing this soul soothing music!

Comments from an Audience Survey, January 2022

Virginia, within the City of Alexandria

12. A brilliant concept brilliantly executed.



– **George White**

13. An oasis of culture to enjoy highly accomplished artists in the seclusion of Old Town - a sophisticated antidote for our harried lives!

– **Scott Corzine**

14. World-class music in Classical Movements' secret garden is a wonderful respite in these challenging times.

– **Tanya Lervik**

15. We attended a lovely (and safe) program right before Christmas. I was super glad that I found the Classical Movements' project and was able to keep the family's tradition to attend Christmas themed events (choir, orchestra, etc) despite of Covid-19. I would love to go again - even after the holidays, and even after Covid-19 is over...

– **Renata Mayer Gukovas**

16. A wonderful way to enjoy fine music and support the arts.

– **Elaine Wick**

17. This hidden gem provided a peaceful sanctuary and world-class performances throughout the pandemic. It keeps our souls alive.

– **Barbara von Hauzen**

18. A splendid treat for the senses. Attending the concerts is also a way to connect with and support our community as well as have a wonderful day.

– **Gloria Black**

19. This has been a wonderful addition to Alexandria and hopefully will remain even when other performances return inside. The hosts have brought together an ideal venue, talented performers and most importantly energy and culture that brings joy!

– **Greg Curtis**

20. In the midst of the COVID pandemic the joy and freedom to watch the highest quality of musicians and performers live, in a wonder venue, has been a gift. Nothing better.

– **Pamela Zitron**

21. Many thanks for making it possible to have these musical breaths of fresh air!

– **Mary Jane Ruhl**

Virginia, outside the City of Alexandria

22. During the particularly challenging times that we experienced in 2020, it was uplifting to be able to enjoy the music, talent, and energy of the musicians. During the summer concert, the birds chiming in added an interesting dynamic that you wouldn't get in a concert hall. I appreciate all of the hard work, thoughtfulness, and effort that the team at



Classical Movements expended to successfully arrange these events. I enjoyed attending each of the ones I went to and would definitely consider attending future events.

– **Marla Bright**

23. Was bitter cold that evening so thanks for the space heaters! Stick with the concert venue to support more musicians looking for work in 2021.

– **Joseph Gigliotti**

24. Excellent performers and varied programs

– **James Carty**

25. A welcome, lovely, inspiring safe diversion during the pandemic. Thank you for doing this!

– **Heather McPhail**

26. The Secret Garden concerts we attended were a beautiful escape from the isolation of Covid-19, and a wonderful celebration of music and the joy of the holiday season. The musicians were brilliant, the staff responsive and lovely, and the gorgeous rectory garden with socially distanced seats, a temperature check, and space heaters was luxurious, but above all, magickal! My husband and I loved every moment of the concerts we attended, and hope these outdoor performances continue well past Covid! We are looking forward to 2021 performances.

– **Allister Nelson**

DC and Maryland

27. These concerts have been vital to maintaining one's sanity during the lockdown. Please keep on hosting these!

– **Tom Belote**

28. After the depression (in every sense) descended upon us all in mid-March, the fact that Classical Movements could safely open up the Secret Garden on 20 June gave a first ray of hope that has kept on shining ever since.

– **Howard Spendelow**

29. The setting, the musical offerings and the hosts are as classy as it gets. In addition, logistically it is a very easy affair in terms of parking, getting there, getting in AND it is Covid-safe.

– **Olga Rodriguez**

30. The music was wonderful in a very safe feeling environment. Hearing live music again made me feel more human and “normal.”

– **Holly Bode**

31. A wonderful outdoor concert venue following all the necessary COVID-19 protocols....a real hidden gem!



Wonderful relaxing outdoor venue with social distancing, masks, hand sanitizers. So nice to listen to live music with Broadway caliber stars! I highly recommend this venue & can't wait to go back.

– **Mimi Rottiers**

32. Thanks for keeping music alive!

- **Toni Codinas**

House nbr	Street	Name	Do you know we have had concerts in the Secret garden @711 Princess	Have you ever heard the music?	Have you attend ed any concer t?	Would you support us to have an occasional indoor or outdoor concert?			Tel Number	Email	Signature
						Concert?	Micro Wedding or meeting	Why not?			
419	Columbus	Randy Bloom	Yes			Yes			509-953 9905	vazr6 @comcast. net	R. Bloom
419	"	Rob Bloom				Yes			571 245 2354	bestg4 @gmail.com	Rob Bloom
421	"	George Best	Yes			Yes	Yes			bestg4 @gmail.com	
423		Rolanda	away @ Yes								
425		Kido Nanny									
1- 427	N/A	A									
429		Wick									
2- 431	(piano)	Anthony J Prest	Elena (Astoria)								Anthony J. Prest @gmail.com
433											
435											
420	WASHINGTON TOWN	GREG & ALLISON RICKETS	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES		914 886 8834	GREG. RICKETS @comcast.net	Greg Rickets



February 13, 2021

Re: Special Use Permit #2020-00102

Classical Movements SUP Application "Keep the Music Playing"

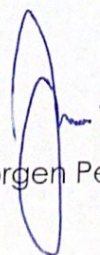
To Alexandria Planning Commission and City Clerk:


We are writing to support Classical Movements in their efforts to keep the music playing at the Rectory on Princess Street. The music in the garden has meant so much to so many. Our support on a personal level is about bringing happiness to the community in a safe setting at time where it is much needed. Outdoor cultural activities; much like outdoor dining are essential; specifically during a pandemic. It provides a message of hope for all who participate and keeps local business primed for future success. Our support as neighbors is about acknowledging the good works of our neighbors. Classical Movements has provided visibility and partnership opportunities to our business; which has been severely impacted by the pandemic.

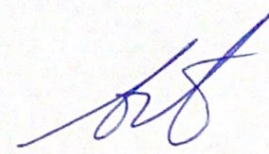
The activities at the Rectory, thus far, have been respectful, tasteful, and tranquil. We have every reason to expect the same in the future. We have all (as people and as professionals) been tasked with thinking creatively, helping our neighbors and working in a different manner than we did in the past. On a professional level; it is imperative to provide opportunities to local businesses and the vendors and customers supporting local businesses now and in the future!

Sincerely,


Mary Kate Spainhour


Jorgen Petersen


Claus Nielsen


Art Witebsky

From: alcox@comcast.net <alcox@comcast.net>

Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2021 12:05 PM

To: info@classicalmmovements.com

Cc: 'Kathy Cox' <cox.kathya@gmail.com>; 'jake hegeman' <jhegeman@gmail.com>; caroline.hegeman@gmail.com; Tony LaColla <Anthony.LaColla@alexandriava.gov>; clinton.t.thompson@gmail.com; Brian Weber <brianweber11@gmail.com>; Bill Cromley <wm.cromley@mindspring.com>; William Conkey <william.conkey@alexandriava.gov>; abwblown@gmail.com

Subject: [EXTERNAL]Support for Classical Movements' Live Entertainment SUP

Johan:

Thank you for forwarding a letter explaining your proposal for unamplified, live outdoor music and occasional special events at the Rectory on 711 Princess Street. My wife and I, who live in the adjacent block, fully support your application. We believe this is an excellent use for the garden of this significant historic property and the classical music is something that can be enjoyed through open windows by the adjacent residents at the Sunrise Assisted Living, as well as paying guests from the neighborhood.

However, given that there is often limited on-street parking in our neighborhood, we strongly recommend that the Special Use Permit include an upper limit on the size of the audience or guests at any event and that a contractual agreement be made with the owners of one of the several nearby surface parking lots for catering trucks and for parking when the audience is above a certain stated size, as determined by City Council.

Sincerely,

Al & Kathy Cox
311 N Alfred Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

202-531-7955

[EXTERNAL]Support for Concerts on Princess Street

Christopher J. Hoh <christopherjhoh@yahoo.com>

Tue 2/9/2021 6:27 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>; Gloria Sitton <Gloria.Sitton@alexandriava.gov>

Hello, Alexandria friends and leaders. I am writing in support of a special use permit for holding public concerts at the building known as The Rectory on Princess Street in Alexandria.

This outdoor venue has been a lifeline not only to performing artists whose livelihood has been decimated by Covid, but also to concertgoers like me who found inspiration and community in being able to hear live music again. I saw many folks I knew and more I did not who clearly felt the same way when I attended.

I have been active in Alexandria, although I live in Arlington. I was in the Alexandria Choral Society and on its Board many years ago and I have been involved in supporting and organizing other performances and events in Alexandria since. Most recently, as a composer, I was commissioned by the Choral Society to write music for its 50th Anniversary concert, which in part paid tribute to Alexandria. So I have an affinity for the City and its vibrant arts scene, which enriches the life of the whole DC region.

Before I retired, I was also involved as an American diplomat overseas in organizing concerts and artistic events as part of our cultural diplomacy, most recently in charge of our Embassy in Vienna, the world capital of music. The people at Classical Movements have impressed me with their care and professionalism in how they organize their concerts. They clearly took steps to uphold high standards of public safety, neighborhood care, and patron service. They delivered a world-class level of management. So their conduct of these activities merits praise and support. They are a credit to the neighborhood and town.

I urge you to grant this special use permit and to let your community continue to benefit from these wonderful offerings.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Hoh

Christopher J. Hoh

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[EXTERNAL]Special Use Permit #2020-00102**Renata Gukovas** <regukovas@gmail.com>

Tue 2/9/2021 7:14 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>; Gloria Sitton <Gloria.Sitton@alexandriava.gov>

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my support for Classical Movements' Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102.

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 environment. While traditional indoor performances remain unsafe, I appreciate this model of short, outdoor concerts that have 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 suffer due to the pandemic, I enthusiastically support Classical Movements' efforts to present live music. Please consider thoughtfully allowing this initiative to continue.

All the best,

Renata Gukovas

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[EXTERNAL]Concerts at the Rectory

Anne Simpson <aseyedoc@gmail.com>

Tue 2/9/2021 8:33 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

I am writing to express my support for Classical Movements' Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102.

I am a sixty-nine year old retired woman, and after almost a year of neither being able to sing nor go to concerts, Classical Movements' events are the only thing similar to what I enjoyed before the pandemic. While traditional indoor performances remain unsafe, 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 suffer due to the pandemic, I enthusiastically support Classical Movements' efforts to present live music.

Anne Simpson

1604 Old Drummer Boy Lane

Fort Washington, MD 20744

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[EXTERNAL]Classical Movements

Diana Banat <dbanat@hotmail.com>

Wed 2/10/2021 10:47 AM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

I am writing to express my support for Classical Movements' Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102.

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 environment. While traditional indoor performances remain unsafe, 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 suffer due to the pandemic, I enthusiastically support Classical Movements' efforts to present live music.

Diana Banat, 134 N Union Street

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[EXTERNAL]Classical Movements' Application for SUP#2020-00102

Diane de Guzman <deguzmand55@yahoo.com>

Wed 2/10/2021 10:57 AM

To: Gloria Sitton <Gloria.Sitton@alexandriava.gov>; PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

Dear Ms. Sutton and Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for Classical Movements' Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102.

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 environment. While traditional indoor performances remain unsafe, I appreciate the model of short outdoor concerts that have 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 suffer due to the pandemic, I enthusiastically support Classical Movements' efforts to present live music. I would sincerely recommend the approval of a Special Use Permit so these events may continue to bring comfort and joy to the people of Alexandria.

Sincerely,
Diane de Guzman

1304 Roundhouse Lane
#503
Alexandria, VA 22314
571-733-1793

Sent from my iPad

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[EXTERNAL]Support for Special Use Permit #2020-00102 (Classical Movements)

Tanya Lervik <tanyalervik@gmail.com>

Wed 2/10/2021 12:10 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

Good afternoon:

I am writing to express my support for Classical Movements' Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102.

As an Alexandria resident, I greatly appreciate the concerts at Classical Movements. They provide a rare bright spot during this dark time of pandemic.

Classical Movements' concerts and events have proven a vital opportunity for our community to experience the healing and illuminating power of live music with world-class musicians in a safe outdoor environment.

While traditional indoor performances remain unsafe, I appreciate this model of short, outdoor concerts which 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 suffer due to the pandemic, I enthusiastically support Classical Movements' efforts to present live music.

Sincerely,
Tanya K. Lervik

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[EXTERNAL]Classical Movements Special Use Permit: 2020-00102

Deborah Outlaw <deborah@outlawgroupdc.com>

Wed 2/10/2021 12:13 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>; Gloria Sitton <Gloria.Sitton@alexandriava.gov>

Dear Planning Committee/Ms. Sitton:

As a long time resident of Old Town, I am contacting you to offer my full and enthusiastic support for the Special Use Permit to allow Classical Movements to continue the availability of concert programming. Particularly in light of the overwhelming challenges faced by the city and its residents at this time, the opportunity to provide safe, socially-distanced musical events is more important than ever!

I encourage the Planning Committee and city to approve any permits needed to allow Classical Movements to continue its performances without delay.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Deborah Outlaw
513 Franklin Street

Deborah Outlaw
o) 703-819-7783
f) 703-836-7799
Deborah@outlawgroupdc.com

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[EXTERNAL]Special Use Permit #2020-00102: Keep the music playing at the Rectory on Princess Street: Support Classical Movements' SUP application

TARA <tardiman@prodigy.net>

Wed 2/10/2021 6:56 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>; Gloria Sitton <Gloria.Sitton@alexandriava.gov>

Cc: Adam Jackson <adam@classicalmovements.com>; Neeta Helms <neeta@classicalmovements.com>

Dear Planning Commission Members and Ms. Sitton,

I am writing to express my support for Classical Movements' Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102. 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 Advisory 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 their Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102 to present more concerts. 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 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 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 sponsoring the Halloween series -- 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. As word spreads of Alexandria's ability to innovate and safely lean in to support the arts, greater economic prosperity will likely follow.

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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[EXTERNAL]Support for the Special Use Permit application #2020-00102

Grace Cho <grace@neworchestraofwashington.org>

Thu 2/11/2021 10:57 AM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

To Whom it May Concern:

As a local small business owner in the DMV area, I would like to express my support for Classical Movements' application for a Special Use Permit #2020-00102. The Special Use Permit will allow Classical Movements to expand its business offerings, during these challenging business conditions, while also bringing support to local business and income to the City of Alexandria.

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. Specifically, as a partner with Classical Movements, their events have provided us visibility and business. We greatly appreciate Classical Movements' support and their creativity in finding a way to present live music in a safe and outdoor venue, while indoor performances remain unsafe due to covid-19.

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.

Grace Cho
Executive Director and Pianist
New Orchestra of Washington

[kNOWit Part One | Feb 16, 7PM](#)

[Lift Every Voice Part One | Feb. 27, 7PM](#)

Working on Tuesdays/Thursdays/Saturdays during the pandemic. Please excuse slow response.

[EXTERNAL]Rectory on Princess Street (for Planning Commission)

Daniel Foster <danfostervla@gmail.com>

Thu 2/11/2021 11:28 AM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

Dear Commission Staff,

As a musician who has been featured in Classical Movements' garden concerts, I enthusiastically support their Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102.

This pandemic has caused great trouble for the performing arts in general and especially for individual musicians. Classical Movements created a venue where we can once again perform for a live audience, my only such opportunity since March 2020. What a gift to both us artists and the arts lovers in the local community. I particularly appreciate the care that has been taken to make sure that all performers, audience members and staff have felt safe and protected. Their protocols were very thorough, and no person's health was put in jeopardy whatsoever.

As the only performance series of its kind – and the only opportunity for many of us to perform as professional musicians – I hope that the Planning Commission will recognize the tremendous value of this project. I can't imagine a greater gift to the Alexandria community, nor a better way to bring people together to experience the joy of life.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Foster

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[EXTERNAL]Classical Movement's Special Use Permit #2020-00102

pannk@verizon.net <pannk@verizon.net>

Thu 2/11/2021 12:01 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

Dear Planning Commission,

As an Alexandria resident I am writing to express my support for Classical Movements' Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102.

I attended several Classical Movement outdoor concerts last summer and fall and what a lovely, fulfilling, and calming respite from the stressful situation caused by the pandemic. Friends who live outside the area were envious that Alexandria offered safe outdoor concerts during this trying time.

Classical Movements offered a wide variety of music performed by accomplished local musicians, who you can image appreciated the opportunity to share their love of music with an audience hungry for culture, and presented in a lovely garden with the occasional bird who couldn't resist adding to the melody.

I strongly urge the Planning Commission to approve this application. Classical Movements is a gem in our community.

Ann Kaupp
501 Slaters Lane #516
Alexandria, VA 22314

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[EXTERNAL]Special Use Permit #2020-00102

Larry Milask <lmilask@ideatech.com>

Thu 2/11/2021 2:15 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>; Gloria Sitton <Gloria.Sitton@alexandriava.gov>

Dear Gloria and associates;

As a local small business owner in Alexandria, I would like to express my support for Classical Movements application for a Special Use Permit #2020-00102. The Special Use Permit will allow Classical Movements to expand its business offerings, during these challenging business conditions, while also bringing support to local business and income to the City of Alexandria.

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. Specifically, as a partner with Classical Movements, their events have provided us visibility and business. We greatly appreciate Classical Movements' support and their creativity in finding a way to present live music in a safe and outdoor venue, while indoor performances remain unsafe due to covid-19.

As a Biostatistician and Environmental health scientists I am well aware of the issue surrounding the current COVID-19 transmission issues and recognize that certain public gatherings can be problematic. I also know that relatively small groups in outdoor venues with well established social distancing procedures and mask wearing do not pose a significant risk and can be allowed to take place. We all must strive to provide whatever sense of relief and entertainment to our neighbors whenever possible.

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.

Warm regards,

Larry

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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[EXTERNAL]Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102

Bruce Carrie <brucecarrie1@cs.com>

Thu 2/11/2021 2:31 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

As a frequent attendee of Classical Movements' concerts in Alexandria, I strongly support their Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102 to present more concerts.

Their concerts have been very valuable during the trying events of the past year. I am very proud that through these concerts, Alexandria has emerged at the forefront of the resurgence of the arts, even as arts organizations and presenters in many other places have struggled to move forward. At a time when traditional indoor concerts remain impossible, I am grateful that Classical Movements has used their outdoor space to create a safe and comfortable environment to hear live music once again.

I am very grateful for the opportunities Classical Movements has offered to experience world-class music in an intimate and safe setting. I strongly encourage the Planning Commission to approve their application.

Regards

Bruce Carrie
124 Hilton Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

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[EXTERNAL]Comments on Special Use Permit #2020-00102

Scott Corzine <scorzine54@gmail.com>

Thu 2/11/2021 4:54 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>; Gloria Sitton <Gloria.Sitton@alexandriava.gov>

I am a newcomer to Alexandria after 45 years living in Manhattan. My wife and I, accustomed to sophisticated cultural events, were thrilled to learn about and attend several Classical Movements concerts in Alexandria.

We strongly support Classical Movements; Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102, and urge the Planning Commission to approve its application.

It is an amazing privilege to live in a small city like Alexandria that - in the "shadow" of Washington - boasts such a professional concert and live events producer like Classical Movements. And for us, it is a short walk away! These concerts have been an absolute bright spot in our otherwise quarantined existence during COVID-19. When indoor events have been essentially closed down to Alexandrians, the outdoor events staged at the Secret Garden have been our only artistic outlet. They are incredibly professional and a thorough success!

I strongly support Classical Movements' safe and intimate concert events, and I urge the Planning Commission to enthusiastically approve its application!

Scott Corzine
300 Queen Street

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[EXTERNAL]Note in support of Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102 for Classical Movements

ChudacoffWonneberger <wonnecoff@gmail.com>

Thu 2/11/2021 8:56 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

As a musician featured in two of Classical Movements' garden concerts in 2020, I wholeheartedly support their Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102.

This pandemic has been devastating for the performing arts in general and especially for individual musicians. I am personally grateful that Classical Movements has stepped in and created such unique and wonderful opportunities for musicians to be able to once again perform for a live audience, one of very few such opportunities since March 2020. I'm sure you have seen the glowing articles in the Washington Post and other publications about this special series. The programs are creative and classy, and the audiences have been unfailingly delighted. I particularly appreciate the care that has been taken to make sure that all performers, audience members and staff have felt safe and protected, as well as comfortable while performing in an outdoor space – as is necessary in order to perform in a safe manner.

As the only performance series of its kind – and the only opportunity for many of us to perform as professional musicians in this area – I hope that the Planning Commission will recognize the tremendous value of this project, and will agree that it is yet another unique and positive thing of which the City of Alexandria can be very proud!

Sincerely,

Claudia Chudacoff

Concertmaster, Alexandria Symphony Orchestra

Concertmaster (Ret.) U.S. Marine Band White House Chamber Orchestra

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[EXTERNAL]Support for Special Use Permit #2020-00102

Mila Cobos <milagros.cobos@gmail.com>

Thu 2/11/2021 11:22 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>; Gloria Sitton <Gloria.Sitton@alexandriava.gov>

To Alexandria Planning and Zoning staff, and City Clerk:

As an attendee of Classical Movements' concerts in Alexandria, I strongly support their Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102 to present more concerts.

Their thoughtful and engaging musical programming has been a balm during the trying events of the past year. I am very proud that through these concerts, Alexandria has emerged at the forefront of the resurgence of the arts, even as arts organizations and presenters in many other places have struggled to move forward. At a time when traditional indoor concerts remain impossible, I am grateful that Classical Movements has used their outdoor space to create a safe and comfortable environment to hear live music once again.

I am very grateful for the opportunities Classical Movements has offered to experience world-class music in an intimate and safe setting. I strongly encourage the Planning Commission to approve their application.

Mila Cobos
Fairfax City resident
Freelance Translator

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Re: Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102

David Murray <dbmurray@gmail.com>

Fri 2/12/2021 10:41 AM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>; Gloria Sitton <Gloria.Sitton@alexandriava.gov>

To Whom it May Concern:

As a musician who has been featured in Classical Movements' garden concerts, I enthusiastically support their Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102.

This pandemic has been devastating for the performing arts in general and especially for individual musicians. I am very grateful for the opportunities Classical Movements has created to be able to once again perform for a live audience, my only such opportunity since March 2020. I particularly appreciate the care that has been taken to make sure that all performers, audience members and staff have felt safe and protected, as well as comfortable while performing in an outdoor space – as is necessary in order to perform in a safe manner.

As the only performance series of its kind – and the only opportunity for many of us to perform as professional musicians – I hope that the Planning Commission will recognize the tremendous value of this project.

Many thanks for your consideration and I hope that you will accept this Special Use Permit Application.

Sincerely,

David Murray

Musician, National Symphony Orchestra

Faculty, Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University

202-747-4642

[EXTERNAL]Permit 2020-00102

Caroline Orsi <orsi.caroline@gmail.com>

Fri 2/12/2021 12:20 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

I am writing to express my support for Classical Movements' Special Use Permit Application # [2020-00102](#).

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 environment. While traditional indoor performances remain unsafe, 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 suffer due to the pandemic, I enthusiastically support Classical Movements' efforts to present live music.

Caroline & Nicholas Kornitzer
523 N. Alfred Street
Occupation: dual Active Duty Military

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[EXTERNAL]Special Use Permit #2020-00102

Jeanne O'toole <jotjlb@aol.com>

Fri 2/12/2021 4:16 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>; gloria.sitton@alexandria.gov <gloria.sitton@alexandria.gov>

As a neighbor of Classical Movements' in Alexandria, I strongly support their Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102 to present more concerts.

Their thoughtful and engaging musical programming has been a balm during the trying events of the past year. I am very proud that through these concerts, Alexandria has emerged at the forefront of the resurgence of the arts, even as arts organizations and presenters in many other places have struggled to move forward. At a time when traditional indoor concerts remain impossible, I am grateful that Classical Movements has used their outdoor space to create a safe and comfortable environment to hear live music once again.

I am very grateful for the opportunities Classical Movements has offered to our community to experience world-class music in an intimate and safe setting. I strongly encourage the Planning Commission to approve their application.

We lived through the constant barrage of noise of the construction of the Sunset Facility on Washington and Princess Streets. I find it odd that their application for a special use permit would not be approved. The music is beautiful and not amplified so totally a wonderful addition to the Old Town community

Jeanne OToole, Director Emeritus

Smithsonian Office of Protection Services

334 N Columbus St

Alexandria, VA 22314

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[EXTERNAL]Concerts at the Rectory on Princess Street

Pam Rubin <ptrubin47@gmail.com>

Fri 2/12/2021 5:23 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

I cannot tell you how wonderful it has been to live on the corner of N Columbus St. And Princess and to hear the lovely music wafting from The Rectory. I understand that that may no longer be the case. Is this tied to the Sunrise construction project? Music is very healing for the elderly. There are so many examples of people with dementia who are immobile but will smile or move their arms when music is played.

Please allow us and our new elderly neighbors to enjoy our wonderful local musicians.

Sincerely,
Pam Rubin

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[EXTERNAL]Classical Movements Permit Application

Sue Berryman <sueellenberryman@gmail.com>

Fri 2/12/2021 5:57 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>; Gloria Sitton <Gloria.Sitton@alexandriava.gov>

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I have attended several Classical Movements' concerts in Alexandria. These concerts brought desperately needed income for artists, They also gave residents in Alexandria an event to look forward to and enjoy during a horribly bleak year. Music soothes anxieties and counters the depression afflicting so many of us right now. I know these concerts will bring solace to those who will be residing at the new Sunrise Senior Living center adjacent to the concert space. I strongly support their Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102 to present more concerts.

I am very proud that through these concerts, Alexandria has emerged at the forefront of the resurgence of the arts, even as arts organizations and presenters in many other places have struggled to move forward. At a time when traditional indoor concerts remain impossible, I am grateful that Classical Movements has used their outdoor space to create a safe and comfortable environment to hear live music once again. I strongly encourage the Planning Commission to approve their application

With respectful regards,

Sue Berryman

Resident of Old Town, Alexandria

Email: sueellenberryman@gmail.com

326 North Columbus St.
Alexandria, VA 22314

Mobile: (650) 380-6425

[EXTERNAL]support for Classical Movements' Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102.

Annie Acosta <amacosta50@gmail.com>

Sat 2/13/2021 2:52 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

Dear Planning and Zoning Staff:

I am writing to express my support for Classical Movements' Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102.

My family and I discovered Classical Movements this summer and it has been the only source of live music that we have been able to attend in the nearly year since Covid started. We have gladly traveled the 40 minutes it takes from our Friendship Heights neighborhood in upper northwest DC for their varied musical offerings and beautiful setting.

Classical Movements' concerts provide desperately needed opportunities for people to gather in a safe outdoor environment. While traditional indoor performances remain unsafe, I appreciate this model of short, outdoor concerts that has made it possible to enjoy live music once again. We have also appreciated that this short format makes it easier to take advantage of the dining options available within walking distance. 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 suffer due to the pandemic, I enthusiastically support Classical Movements' efforts to present live music.

Sincerely,

Annie Acosta
3940 Garrison Street, NW
Washington, DC 20016

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[EXTERNAL]Special Use Permit for Classical Movements

lindabunce@aol.com <lindabunce@aol.com>

Sat 2/13/2021 5:41 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

As a frequent attendee of Classical Movements' concerts in Alexandria, I strongly support their Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102 to present more concerts.

Their thoughtful and engaging musical programming has been a balm during the trying events of the past year. I am very proud that through these concerts, Alexandria has emerged at the forefront of the resurgence of the arts, even as arts organizations and presenters in many other places have struggled to move forward. At a time when traditional indoor concerts remain impossible, I am grateful that Classical Movements has used their outdoor space to create a safe and comfortable environment to hear live music once again.

One of my favorite concerts was December 19th featuring a Brass Quintet with most of the musicians being from the National Symphony Orchestra. The programming was Christmas music and even though a little on the chilly side, the combination of heaters, fire pits and music made it a memorable evening.

I am very grateful for the opportunities Classical Movements has offered to experience world-class music in an intimate and safe setting. I strongly encourage the Planning Commission to approve their application.

Sincerely,

Linda Bunce

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[EXTERNAL]Classical Movements Permit Application

Amy McCabe <amymccabe@me.com>

Sat 2/13/2021 7:22 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

To whom it may concern:

As a musician who has been featured in Classical Movements' garden concerts, I enthusiastically support their Special Use Permit Application #[2020-00102](#).

This pandemic has been devastating for the performing arts in general and especially for individual musicians. I am very grateful for the opportunities Classical Movements has created to be able to once again perform for a live audience, my only such opportunity since March 2020. I particularly appreciate the care that has been taken to make sure that all performers, audience members and staff have felt safe and protected, as well as comfortable while performing in an outdoor space – as is necessary in order to perform in a safe manner.

As the only performance series of its kind – and the only opportunity for many of us to perform as professional musicians – I hope that the Planning Commission will recognize the tremendous value of this project.

It has meant so much to me personally to continue connecting with live audiences during a time that no one else was able to provide a safe space to do so. Let the music live!!

Sincerely,

Amy McCabe
Substitute trumpet with the National Symphony Brass

Sent from my iPhone

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[EXTERNAL]In support of Classical Movements' concerts

Marie-France Bunting <buntingmf@gmail.com>

Sat 2/13/2021 8:20 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

As a frequent attendee of Classical Movements' concerts in Alexandria, I strongly support their Special Use Permit Application # 2020-00102 to present more concerts.

Their thoughtful and engaging musical programming has been a balm during the pandemic. I am very grateful for the opportunities Classical Movements has offered to experience world-class music in an intimate and safe setting and I strongly encourage the Planning Commission to approve their application.

Marie-France Bunting

Local resident

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[EXTERNAL]#2020-00102 support

Alexandra Mora <mora.a246@gmail.com>

Sun 2/14/2021 4:45 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

I am writing to express my support for Classical Movements' Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102.

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 environment. While traditional indoor performances remain unsafe, I appreciate this model of short, outdoor concerts that has made it possible to enjoy live music once again.

I am also for out door concerts. They make old town special, charming to hear beautiful music while on a walk with family. We need music in our lives.

Please be kind and let this form of art live on.

At a time when arts organizations and other businesses in Alexandria and around the country suffer due to the pandemic, I enthusiastically support Classical Movements' efforts to present live music.

Alexandra Mora
321 North Columbus st
Alexandria Va. 22314

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[EXTERNAL]Classical Movements' Special Use Permit application

Julie McPeek <jmcpeek@provisormarketing.com>

Mon 2/15/2021 9:48 AM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>; Gloria Sitton <Gloria.Sitton@alexandriava.gov>

We enthusiastically support the special use permit for Classical Movements at the Rectory on Princess Street! We are neighbors who live just around the corner and welcome the opportunity to be able to walk to the Rectory and safely listen to music in their lovely outdoor space. We are thrilled to support the musicians that have been so negatively affected by the pandemic – more needs to be done to support the arts!

We moved to Old Town two years ago from the Chicagoland area. We lived near a very similar venue that provided outdoor music and found it a wonderful complement to a nice summer evening on our outdoor patio. Never once did it disrupt our activities or our ability to sleep. If done right, and the operating hours are set accordingly, the experience can be great for everyone!

Please grant the special use permit for Classical Movements – it will further improve the quality of life for Alexandria residents!

Julie and Jeff McPeek
330 N. Columbus Street

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[EXTERNAL]Support for Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102

Julie Ortmeier <julieortmeier@gmail.com>

Mon 2/15/2021 2:58 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

I am writing to express my support for Classical Movements' Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102. As a neighbor to The Rectory on Princess, I fully support the special use permit for live entertainment outdoors. In the Summer of 2020, I spent many evenings on my terrace enjoying the ambient music coming from The Rectory, and I hope to attend performances in Summer 2021 and again to enjoy the music from my terrace while at home. It was (and I hope will be) a lovely respite during the ongoing pandemic. 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 suffer due to the pandemic, I enthusiastically support Classical Movements' efforts to present live music.

Julie Ortmeier

319 N. Columbus St.

Alexandria, VA. 22314

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[EXTERNAL]Special Use Permit application to the City of Alexandria

Drew Owen <cellodrew@aol.com>

Tue 2/16/2021 10:32 AM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my support for Classical Movements and their concert series at the Secret Garden at the Rectory on Princess Street. I am a Virginia resident and a professional musician. The concerts that Classical Movements have been presenting at the Rectory during the pandemic have been one of the very few outlets for musicians to safely perform in person. These concerts help support the area's performing artists while providing much needed entertainment and enlightenment to the public during this difficult time. I urge you to allow Classical Movements to obtain the Special Use Permit so they can continue to bring live, in person performances to the public.

Best,
Drew Owen

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RE: Special Use Permit #2020-00102**robert Blume <ralanb2019@outlook.com>**

Tue 2/16/2021 3:42 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>; Gloria Sitton <Gloria.Sitton@alexandriava.gov>**Cc:** therectoryonprincess@gmail.com <therectoryonprincess@gmail.com>

As a neighbor of the Rectory in Old Town Alexandria, we would like to express our support for Classical Movements application for a Special Use Permit #2020-00102. The Special Use Permit will allow Classical Movements to expand its business offerings during these challenging business conditions, while also bringing support to local business and income to the City of Alexandria.

Classical Movements has our support as they continue to support and lend a helping hand to local music organizations and musicians, its partners and local businesses.

Our home is on Columbus around the corner from the Rectory and we sincerely enjoy hearing the outdoor music they provide which we can easily hear from our back yard. We appreciate the vitality and culture that they lend to our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Robert and Randee Blume
419 N Columbus St.
Alexandria, VA 22314

509-979-8568
Ralann2019@outlook.com

[EXTERNAL]Support for Special Use Permit #2020-00201

m.mora726@gmail.com <m.mora726@gmail.com>

Tue 2/16/2021 4:25 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

As a neighbor of Classical Movements' in Alexandria, we strongly support their Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102 to present more concerts.

Their thoughtful and engaging musical programming has been a balm during the trying events of the past year. We are very proud that through these concerts, Alexandria has emerged at the forefront of the resurgence of the arts, even as arts organizations and presenters in many other places have struggled to move forward. At a time when traditional indoor concerts remain impossible, we are grateful that Classical Movements has used their outdoor space to create a safe and comfortable environment to hear live music once again.

We are very grateful for the opportunities Classical Movements has offered to our community to experience world-class music in an intimate and safe setting. We strongly encourage the Planning Commission to approve their application.

Sincerely,
Manuel and Alexandra Mora

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

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[EXTERNAL]Classical Movements' SUP Application for Live Concerts in Alexandria

Adam Jackson <Adam@classicalmovements.com>

Tue 2/16/2021 5:08 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

Cc: Neeta Helms <Neeta@classicalmovements.com>; Sara Casar <Sara@classicalmovements.com>; Johan van Zyl <Johan@classicalmovements.com>

 1 attachments (887 KB)

Combined Press Audience and Artists Quotes.pdf;

Dear Members of the Alexandria Planning Commission: Ms. Lyle, Mr. Macek, Mr. Goebel, Mr. Brown, Mr. Koenig, Ms. McMahon, Ms. Ramirez,

We hope you are all very well.

As you might be aware, since June 2020, Classical Movements has been presenting innovative live concerts of classical music in the garden of our historic building in Old Town Alexandria, the first and largest series of its kind in the United States since the beginning of the pandemic.

Due to Covid-19, our company – based in Alexandria since 1997 – has seen a complete loss of income as a concert tour company for orchestras and choirs operating at the intersection of travel and music, two of the industries hit hardest by the pandemic. Without any expectation of a resumption of touring until 2022, our garden concerts have been one of our few and very limited sources of income and a valuable asset to the community.

Through these concerts, we have been able to hire many of our colleagues in the music community, the vast majority of whom are freelancers for whom this has been their only opportunity to perform in a safe and in-person environment since March 2020. We have received overwhelming support; the attached document includes some excerpts and quotes from coverage in the press, as well as comments from audience and artist.

This is in addition to **over 90 messages specifically in support of our application for Special Use Permit application** to continue producing our outdoor concerts. We have received these messages from our neighbors, audience members, artists and business we have supported through our concert, some sent to us and some sent to the City directly, with more continuing to arrive and many also planning to speak on our behalf at the hearings in March.



We would appreciate being able to arrange a call with our President and each of you individually, to discuss our application urgently. We have been advised by several staff members at the City that developers regularly approach members of the Planning Commission and City Council, so we will be very grateful if we can arrange to speak sometime later this week or next week.

Thank you for being in touch with us directly to let us know any times that would be convenient **tomorrow (Wednesday, February 17), Thursday (February 18) or Friday (February 19)**, or next week (the week of February 22).

We appreciate your time and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Adam Jackson

Artistic Planning & Executive Assistant to the President, Ms. Neeta Helms

1-703-683-6040, ext. 201

Classical Movements

Moving the Music, Changing the World

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[EXTERNAL]Support From a Neighbor for Classical Movements' Special Use Permit

Matthew A. Gluth <matthew.gluth@me.com>

Wed 2/17/2021 9:27 AM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>; Gloria Sitton <Gloria.Sitton@alexandriava.gov>

As a neighbor of Classical Movements' in Alexandria, I strongly support their Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102 to present more concerts.

We live around the corner on Columbus Street. Their thoughtful and engaging musical programming has been a balm during the trying events of the past year. We have particularly enjoyed hearing the music waft out while walking past their garden on our weekend strolls. The volume is quite pleasant and does not intrude on the neighborhood. We can't hear them at all at our house.

I am very proud that through these concerts, Alexandria has emerged at the forefront of the resurgence of the arts, even as arts organizations and presenters in many other places have struggled to move forward. At a time when traditional indoor concerts remain impossible, I am grateful that Classical Movements has used their outdoor space to create a safe and comfortable environment to hear live music once again.

In our opinion, Alexandria does not do enough to support a local, thriving performance arts environment. We not only strongly support Classical Movements outdoor concerts, but we would encourage the city to make it easier for other venues to bring music, theater, and other arts to our neighborhood (I hear Blues Alley is looking for a new home).

I am very grateful for the opportunities Classical Movements has offered to our community to experience world-class music in an intimate and safe setting. I strongly encourage the Planning Commission to approve their application.

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[EXTERNAL]Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102

James E. Ross <jross5@umd.edu>

Wed 2/17/2021 11:02 AM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

Cc: GEORGE HANSON <ghanson@alexsym.org>; Melynda Wilcox <melynda.wilcox@gmail.com>

Dear Planning commission-

As Music Director of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra and as a relatively new resident of Alexandria, I just needed to write to you expressing my full-throated support for the series of concerts that have taken place in Classical Movement's Secret Garden at the Rectory. I am James Ross and presently in my third season leading the ASO - one of the many Alexandria institutions and artists featured on CM's series this past fall. I have been both performer and audience member at a number of their events and I enthusiastically support their Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102.

As I'm sure you realize, the performing arts world has been particularly hard hit by the pandemic. Across the whole globe, live concerts in indoor venues came to a screeching halt last March. Concerts and livelihoods were snuffed out with no warning, and that situation has only very slowly begun to mitigate. At the ASO, we had to scrap our plans for the present season and, instead, we began offering small groups performing outdoor concerts at retirement communities, parks, and street fairs. The ASO is a fully professional orchestra made up of top notch free-lance musicians from across the DC region. We pivoted from presenting concerts with 80 musicians onstage (an orchestra) to a situation where the largest number of performers able to play safely for ASO events was 8.

The only concerts we have been able to offer with single ticket sales since last February were our October concerts at the Secret Garden. Covid concerns require us to rehearse and perform outdoors only and socially-distanced - not just the audience, but the performers spaced 6-feet apart as well. To sell single tickets, we needed a space that had protected egress and one that had good acoustics without requiring amplification. Thanks to this series being in operation, we were able to perform our hour-long concert mixing Beethoven with Tango four times over that October weekend with audiences of 42 at each concert. These concerts were crucial to the ASO's surviving this year of musical drought. Classical Movement's opening up their garden for live performances assured that all performers, audience members and staff could play in a safe and protected environment, and be reminded of the unique power of live music-making. Their series has been a lifeline for performing artists, including the ASO's, many of whom have had zero opportunities to earn their livelihood this past year.

I hope that the Planning Commission will take those factors into consideration and approve this Special Use Permit.

With many thanks,

James Ross

Music Director

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra

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[EXTERNAL]Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102

Melynda Wilcox <melynda.wilcox@gmail.com>

Wed 2/17/2021 12:04 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

Cc: James Ross <ross.alexsym@gmail.com>; GEORGE HANSON <ghanson@alexsym.org>

Dear Planning Commission and Department of Planning and Zoning staff,

I am a resident of Alexandria writing in support of Classical Movements' Special Use Permit **#2020-00102**.

Throughout the years, Classical Movements has been an integral and important part of the City of Alexandria. Very few businesses have been more seriously disrupted during the pandemic than Classical Movements, which depends on both live performances and group travel for its livelihood. And yet during these challenging and unprecedented times, they continue to support and lend a helping hand to their community, the local music organizations and professional musicians, its partners, and local businesses.

As Board President of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, I can share our organization's first-hand experience of how vital it was to have a safe venue in which to perform four sold-out outdoor concerts this fall. These four concerts constituted the ASO's *only* ticketed events since the start of the pandemic. For these concerts, we hired eight ASO musicians and one guest artist for six engagements each (two rehearsals and four performances). For some of these musicians, this opportunity was one of their few paid gigs since last March. Classical Movements also hired some of our musicians for other performances there.

We greatly appreciate Classical Movements' support and admire their creativity in finding a way to present live music in a safe and outdoor venue. As an example of that creativity, the guest soloist at our concerts performed from a second-story balcony!

At a time when countless businesses in Alexandria are struggling to survive and, sadly, many others have shuttered, and as declining commercial tax revenue jeopardizes our city's ability to provide needed services and capital improvements, our city cannot afford to create obstacles for businesses that are at grave risk of closure. In certain sectors such as bars and restaurants, important accommodations have been made that have been essential to their livelihoods (such as using street space for outdoor dining, or allowing take-out of alcoholic beverages). This Special Use Permit is a reasonable accommodation that will allow Classical Movements to remain a vibrant business and community partner.

Again, I strongly support Classical Movements and their Special Use Permit application. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 703 501 5087 or at this email address if I can provide any further information.

Melynda Dovel Wilcox
President, Board of Trustees
Alexandria Symphony Orchestra
she/her

[EXTERNAL]Support Letter for Classical Movements' Special Use Permit App. #2020-00102

Marianna Prjevalskaya <marianne_prj@yahoo.com>

Wed 2/17/2021 2:07 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

Good afternoon,

I am writing to express my support for Classical Movements' Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102.

Since I've heard about Classical Movements' mission, I could not stop following their activities. And when I got an invitation to perform in one of their uniquely organized events, I was thrilled and honored at the same time. It was a real pleasure to perform in the Secret Garden on November 14th, celebrating the life of four extraordinary composers. A safe, comfortable, intimate, and magically beautiful outdoor setting inspired me to perform for a small local audience with joy and passion. This experience was definitely one of the most memorable I've ever had as a performer. As a concert pianist, who is used to performing on big stages in front of large audiences in concert halls, I currently face an absolutely deserted concert schedule, immensely missing the connection with the public and the joy of music making. Audiences, as well as performing artists, have starved for this connection since the pandemic started, and so far, Classical Movements is the only organization that is doing absolutely outstanding work of bringing live music to its community.

I wholeheartedly support Classical Movements' mission and strongly encourage the Planning Commission to approve their application.

Sincerely,
Marianna Prjevalskaya

Marianna Prjevalskaya

Concert Pianist, Piano Faculty Peabody Preparatory and the Nelly Berman School of Music

www.prjevalskaya.com

info@prjevalskaya.com

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[EXTERNAL]Support for Special Use Permit #2020-00102

Anthony Priest <anthonyjpriest@yahoo.com>

Wed 2/17/2021 2:31 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

Dear Members of the Planning Commission of Alexandria, VA,

It is with great pleasure that I write to share with you my support for Classical Movements.

Finally, an innovative, classy neighborhood activity that is both well-run, and community sensitive.

This is exactly the type of activity that I would expect to find in Old Town, and one of the reasons I purchased a home here 5 years ago. And to think Classical Movements began during the virus crisis - what courage !

Please grant the Special Use Permit to allow Classical Movements to serve the local community with the elegance and grace that they have exhibited to date. Their presence will enhance our community and contribute to what makes Alexandria, VA one of the most interesting and unique places to live in the U.S.

As a neighbor on the same contiguous block as Classical Movements, I am thrilled to welcome them here.

Sincerely,

Anthony Priest
433 M. Columbus Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

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[EXTERNAL]Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102 -- Classical Movements

George White <george@4whites.com>

Wed 2/17/2021 5:54 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

I am a resident of Old Town Alexandria, and I am writing in support of Classical Movements' Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102.

My wife and I have attended seven of the outdoor concerts staged by Classical Movements in the garden at 711 Princess Street. The concept pioneered by Classical Movements to present live musical performances in a safe outdoor environment is brilliantly imaginative and has been superbly executed. No one can doubt the unique power of live music to heal and foster a sense of community. This is especially significant in light of the pandemic. The Classical Movements outdoor concerts have become an important cultural resource for Alexandria's residents at a time when indoor music venues are closed.

In addition to providing a cultural amenity for Alexandria's residents, the Classical Movements outdoor concerts have provided much needed support for local musicians and local businesses. The benefits of such support at this critical time cannot be overstated.

We are grateful to the team at Classical Movements for their cultural leadership in our community, and we want to see their program of outdoor concerts continue. My wife and I strongly support their Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102.

Sincerely yours,

George White
George H. White
Holland House
415 Wolfe Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

george@4whites.com
+1 (703) 836-7343

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[EXTERNAL]Special Use Permit #2020-00102**Loscalzo <jullos@aol.com>**

Wed 2/17/2021 5:58 PM

To: Gloria Sitton <Gloria.Sitton@alexandriava.gov>; PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

Hello!

We are writing to express our support for Classical Movements' Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102.

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 environment. While traditional indoor performances remain unsafe, we appreciate this model of short, outdoor concerts that has made it possible to enjoy live music once again. We have been very grateful for the opportunity to support not only local musicians, but also other local businesses while we see so many forced to close in Old Town.

At a time when arts organizations and other businesses in Alexandria and around the country suffer due to the pandemic, we enthusiastically support Classical Movements' efforts to present live music.

Debbie and Vin Loscalzo
717 Princess st
Alexandria VA

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