

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

Alicia Spence <alispence1@yahoo.com>

Fri 2/19/2021 5:42 PM

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

Dear Ms. Sitton, Members of the P&Z Staff and Members of City Council,

We are neighbors of Williams Whittle in Old Town Alexandria and live on the same block at 431 N Columbus Street. We support the application for a Special Use Permit #2020-00102 by Classical Movements. The approval of this permit will allow for increased business offerings, employment of many artists and musicians from the area during a challenging time, engagement of local organizations and restaurants while providing beautiful music to an eager audience as well as income to the City of Alexandria.

Classical Movements reflects a cultural and progressive City of Alexandria and is an important way to experience the peace and calm that music brings. Therefore, we fully support the Special Use Permit and ask for your approval.

Thank you very much,
Alicia Spence and Jake Baer
431 N Columbus St
Alexandria, VA. 22314
C- 703-407-7222

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

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Re: [EXTERNAL]SUP #2020-00102

PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

Mon 2/22/2021 4:25 PM

To: Rob Whittle <RWhittle@williamswhittle.com>

Cc: Johan van Zyl <Johan@classicalmovements.com>

Rob,

Thank you very much for providing this statement in relation to the Classical Movements (711 Princess Street) Special Use Permit docket item, which is currently scheduled to be considered by the Planning Commission at their hearing on 3/2/2021. Please let this email serve as a formal confirmation that it has been received and that it will be provided to the members of the Planning Commission for their consideration, will be provided to the Staff members assigned to this case, and will be made publicly available as "additional materials" within the hearing docket. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns that you may have regarding this matter, or otherwise.

Warmly,

Patrick Silva

Senior Planning Technician

City of Alexandria

Department of Planning and Zoning, Room 2100

301 King Street

Alexandria, VA 22314

Patrick.Silva@alexandriava.gov

(703) 746-3806

From: Rob Whittle <RWhittle@williamswhittle.com>

Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 4:23 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

Cc: Johan van Zyl <Johan@classicalmovements.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]SUP #2020-00102

Dear Planners:

I am writing in support of Classical Movements and their efforts to hold outdoor concerts at 711 Princess Street. These concerts have proved to be invaluable during the pandemic and will continue to provide us Alexandrians the quiet culture that we crave. My company, Williams Whittle Advertising, is a tenant in the building at 711 Princess St, and I can think of no better use for the garden there than these concerts. I know that they have taken great precautions to provide a safe environment. I am also a resident of Old Town, and welcome the diversion of these fine concerts.

Respectfully,

Rob Whittle



Rob Whittle | CEO

711 Princess Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

[EXTERNAL]Classical Movements concerts at the Rectory

Marcia Peck <mpcello@comcast.net>

Tue 2/23/2021 8:46 AM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

To the Alexandria Planning Commission:

During the bleak Covid summer of 2020, the Minnesota Orchestra hosted regular evening concerts in the plaza next to Orchestra Hall.

<https://www.minnpost.com/artscape/2020/07/minnesota-orchestra-cancels-16-full-orchestra-concerts-will-start-phased-reopening-with-smaller-concerts-outdoors/>

The demand for tickets far out-stripped the limited number available. Not only were these chamber music concerts extraordinarily welcomed, but they enlivened, cheered, and raised the spirits of a city that was feeling the stress of a dangerous pandemic. The power of music not only comforted, but knit together our community in hope for each other and better times.

I wish the same for your city of Alexandria.

Please support the Classical Movements concerts at The Rectory.

Sincerely,
Marcia Peck
Minnesota Orchestra

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FW: Special Use Permit request at 711 Princess Street

Ann Horowitz <ann.horowitz@alexandriava.gov>

Tue 2/23/2021 2:11 PM

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

 1 attachments (6 MB)

SUP2020-00102 Application Materials 711 Princess St.pdf;

Patrick,

Please include this with the SUP docket materials for 711 Princess Street.

Thank you.

Ann

From: Beach, Edward <Ed.Beach@sunriseseniorliving.com>

Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 4:06 PM

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

Cc: Old Town.ED (Jenkins, Julie) <OldTown.ED@sunriseseniorliving.com>

Subject: RE: Special Use Permit request at 711 Princess Street

Ann,

Thank you for your time discussing this special permit request last week. Sunrise would very much like to recommend approval for Classical Movements to have classical concerts, indoors and outdoors, as well as small weddings outdoors. I have copied Julie Jenkins (Executive Director for our Old Town community) as she can provide a letter of support as well.

Thank you,

Ed Beach | Construction Manager

COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICE

7902 Westpark Drive, McLean, VA 22102

Direct: (703) 854-0496 **Mobile:** (571) 226-0969

SunriseSeniorLiving.com    **BLOG**

Check out the Sunrise Podcast, TheSeniorCaregiver.com



[EXTERNAL]Javier Arrey-support application Special Use Permit #2020-00102**JAVIER ARREY** <javierarrey@gmail.com>

Tue 2/23/2021 5:24 PM

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

Good afternoon,

My name is Javier Arrey. I write to support the application Special Use Permit #2020-00102 of Clasical Movements organization. The value of the Arts, specially during these days, is something that all we must support and promote. Classical movements has been developing a marvelous job bringing live performances outside taking care of all the precautions and details to keep the music experience safe for everyone, including the artists that participate. I had the experience to perform there and it was no just a great experience for me and the audience who attended the event, but also a great help for me as artist, and many others, financially during a period of time where almost all opera houses and concert halls are closed.

I encourage you to give the permission to initiatives like that, it's a great contribution for the entire community and bring prestige to Virginia State.

Sincerely,

Javier Arrey
Baritone Metropolitan Opera House NY.

--

Javier Arrey
Baritone
www.javierarrey.com

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[EXTERNAL]Special Use Permit for Classical Movements Concert Series

Adria Foster <operaadria@gmail.com>

Tue 2/23/2021 6:53 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

Dear Alexandria Planning Commission:

I am a musician who will be featured in Classical Movements' garden concerts and 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. 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 concert venues in the DC area and around the country have been shuttered, **outdoor performances** are the only opportunities available for musicians like myself. And this concert series provides a wonderful **benefit to the community**.

I hope that the Planning Commission will recognize the tremendous value of this project.

Thank you,

Adria Sternstein Foster

Principal Flutist, Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra

6136 32nd Place, NW

Washington, DC 20015

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[EXTERNAL]Support Special Use Permit #2020-00102

Guayi Landia <guayilandia@gmail.com>

Tue 2/23/2021 7:43 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.

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.

Guayi Fernández

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Planning Commission Hearing re: Classical Movements

Jenny Bilfield <JBilfield@washingtonperformingarts.org>

Tue 2/23/2021 8:52 PM

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

Good evening,

I am writing in support of Classical Movements' SUP request to hold outdoor concerts. I write from numerous vantage points — as a peer organization that presents events all around the region (when we are not in a pandemic), as an arts advocate, and as a guest at Classical Movements' performances.

Classical Movements has created something special and distinctive with its outdoor performances — lauded by press (nationally, locally) and audiences. The organization has provided support for artists, crucial comfort and connection for an audience during one of the most isolating times in our history, and a glow of possibility and hope: a model of courage, vision, and sincere engagement...well beyond our region. It is especially wonderful that this is happening in Alexandria...as outdoor patios are filled with diners and people are seeking safe ways of leaving home and connecting to one another. The concerts are relatively brief and low-impact from a sound/noise perspective — reflecting CM's sensitivity to the surrounding neighborhood. The performances have also offered a platform for many extraordinary BIPOC artists to perform, reflecting an authentic spirit of inclusive programming.

It would be so inspiring to see the City of Alexandria support Classical Movements' contribution to the vibrancy of the city, all within the parameters of the SUP. And, in fact, it would be wonderful if the City were to explore how other arts organizations might be encouraged to rise to serve the community and economy of the city in similarly safe, entrepreneurial ways.

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,

Jenny Bilfield
President & CEO

Jenny Bilfield | President & CEO | **Washington Performing Arts**

1400 K Street NW, Suite 500 | Washington D.C. 20005

202.533.1895

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Diedre Robinson | Executive Assistant

202.533.1872

drobinson@washingtonperformingarts.org

[Web](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

Adam Jackson

From: Catherine Schaefer <cathyviolin9@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2021 4:53 PM
To: CM Info
Subject: letter of support for Classical Movements' SUP

Dear City of Alexandria officials,

The unique and charming Old Town Alexandria has attracted nationwide admiration for the creative concert venue offered by Neeta Helms and Johann Zyl during the pandemic.

While so many musicians and artists have been completely silenced by the pandemic lockdown, Alexandria shines as the host of safe live music in Classical Movements' "Secret Garden" on Princess Street.

As a musician, my experience with Classical Movements has been as an awestruck admirer of their logistical expertise in safely transporting touring orchestras and choirs around the world.

Their company embodies client care and attention to detail, with complicated advance planning and very quick problem solving and adaptation to issues as they arise. The many safe concerts they hosted in 2020 provide ample reassurance.

Classical Movements can be completely trusted to have the expertise and experience to safely host small, quiet concerts that bring joy and hope to your residents and neighbors, and enhance Alexandria's reputation.

Thank you for your consideration in quickly offering Classical Movements a SUP.

Catherine Schubilske
Minnesota Orchestra

FW: [EXTERNAL]Staff Report

Ann Horowitz <ann.horowitz@alexandriava.gov>

Tue 2/23/2021 4:31 PM

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

Patrick,

Can you add this email to the PC docket materials, too, for 711 Princess Street?

Thanks.

Ann

From: Sara Casar <Sara@classicalmovements.com>

Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 4:05 PM

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

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

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL]Staff Report

Ann,

Thank you very much. We also wanted to send this to this video clip we made which includes several excerpts from previous performances in our series: <https://youtu.be/hKH7XQWKufw> to be included in our application. It is a good example of the type of live music we are asking to have on our property. We hope that watching the video will provide a good respite to your day as well.

Thanks,

Sara

Sara Casar

Vice President and Business Director

1-703-683-6040

Classical Movements

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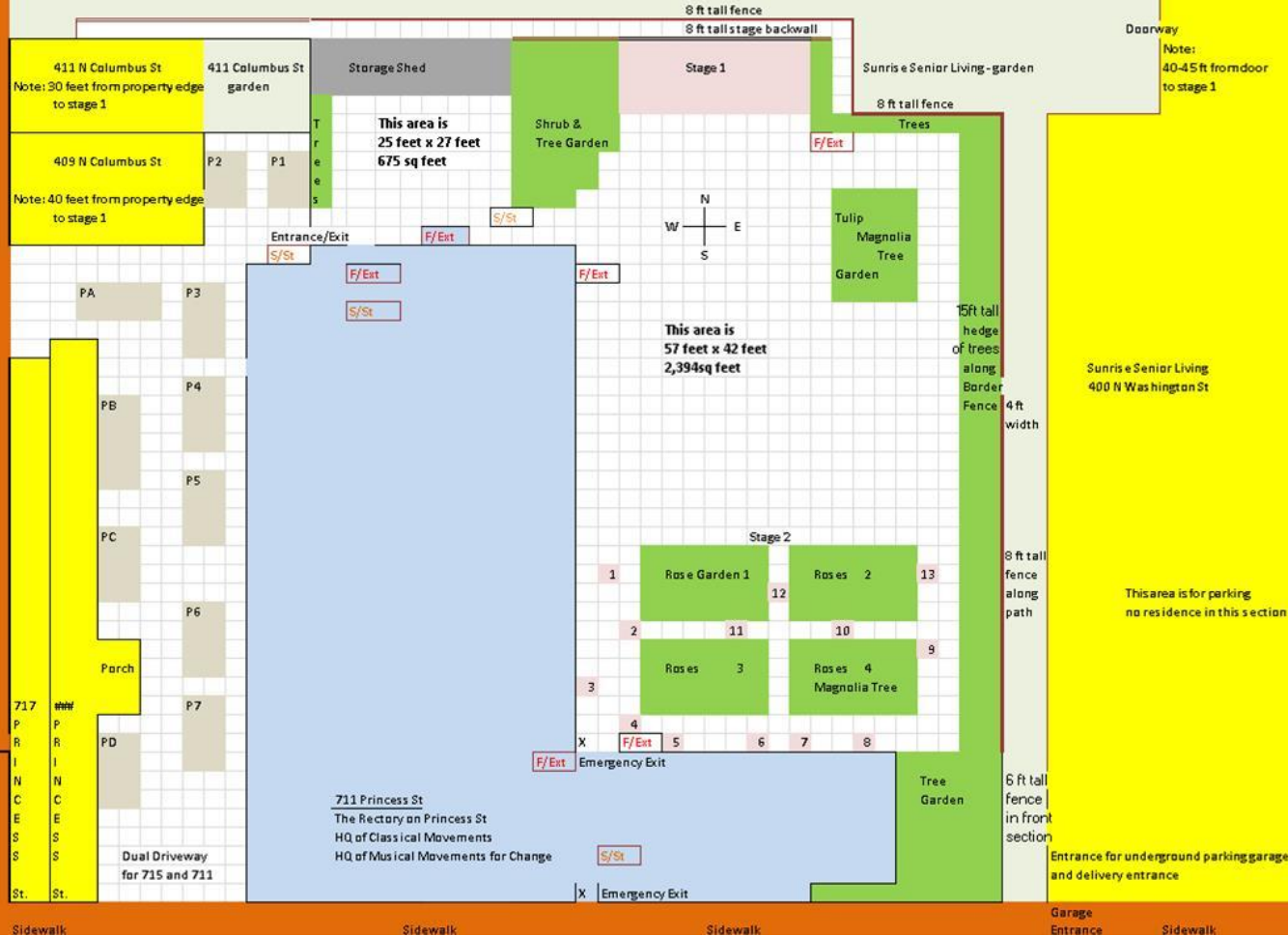
711 Princess Street

Historic Rectory Building circa 1785



Note: 30 feet from building to stage 1
73 feet from building to rose garden

Sunrise Senior Living-garden walkway



711 Princess St

Distances:

From 411 N. Columbus
to Stage 1 – 30 feet
to Stage 2 – 75 feet

From 409 N. Columbus
to Stage 1 – 40 feet
to Stage 2 – 65 feet

From 400 N. Washington St.
to Stage 1 – 45 feet
to Stage 2 – 73 feet

715 Princess Street

Staff Restaurants LLC (Seasons Catering): Commercial Property

- 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.

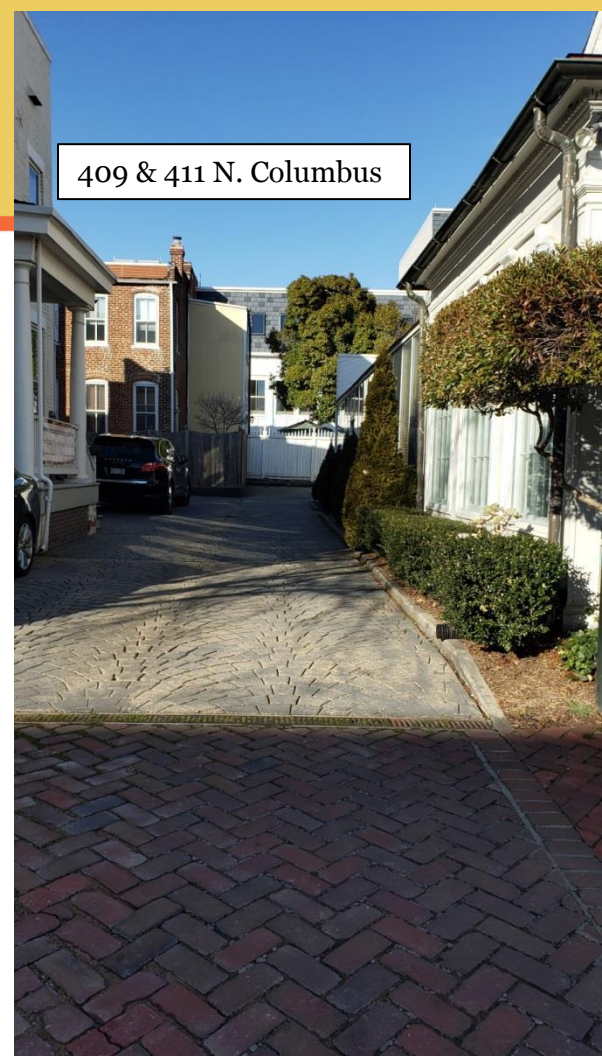


Front Entrance and Side Entrance

715 Princess St
Seasons Catering

Sunrise Senior Living:
400 N Washington St

409 & 411 N. Columbus



400 N. Washington Street

Sunrise Senior Living

711 Princess St.

400 N. Washington
3 story underground parking

- Sunrise of Alexandria Propco LLC, 400 N Washington St
- We started discussions with them about a possible partnership for a concert series.
- We are offering to help them with their opening event
- 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.

Entrance for deliveries, ambulances,
garbage, laundry, food service, etc.

Walkway between properties

Commercial Properties

Across Princess street



Washington Street

Princess Street

Wells Fargo Bank
And drive thru

- 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.

Commercial Properties

Across Princess Street



- 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.

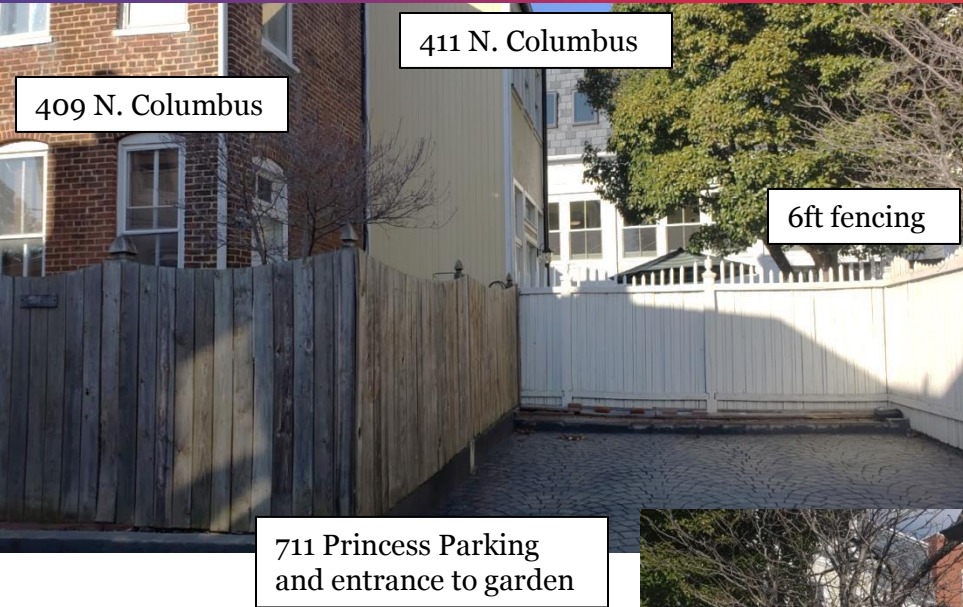
Available Parking



- 30% of concert attendees came by foot, by public transportation, and ride shares.
- 6 parking spots including a handicapped accessible spot at 711 Princess St.
- 4 parking spots from Seasons Culinary (Staff Restaurants LLC) at 715 Princess St next door. Our private driveways are attached.
- 4 parking spots at Fitness Together at 330 N Washington St with entrances to parking lot on Princess St, 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.



409 & 411 N. Columbus St.



- 409 N Columbus St. Behind us and next to all of the commercial properties surrounding us, one of two private row homes. 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. This couple and their two little girls love our concerts
- 411 N Columbus St. Behind us and next to all of the commercial properties surrounding us. They submitted the sole complaint, but have consistently listened to our concerts from their back garden with friends and told us they enjoyed the music.

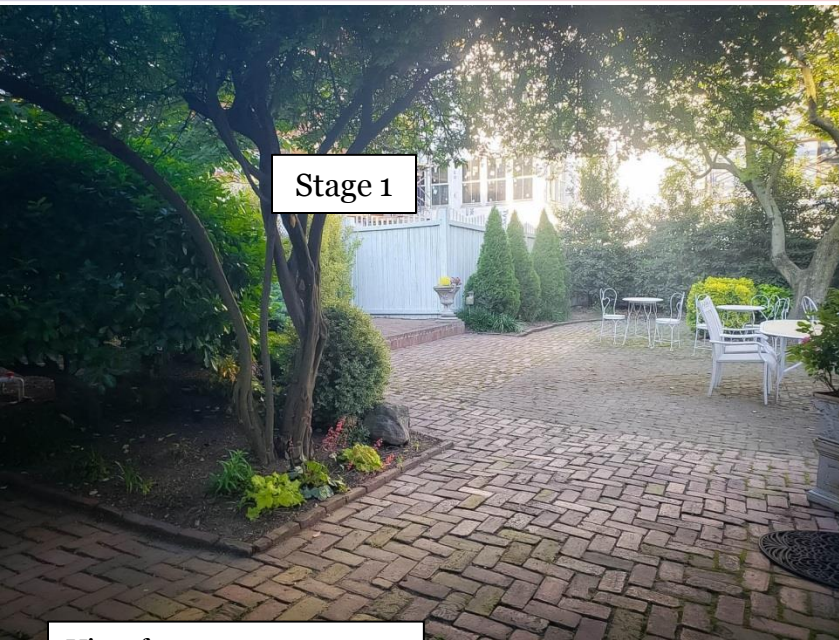
Border between 711 Princess Garden & 411 Columbus St.



Stage 1 area

711 Princess Garden and Proposed Concert Area

Stage 1



Stage 1

View from entrance gate

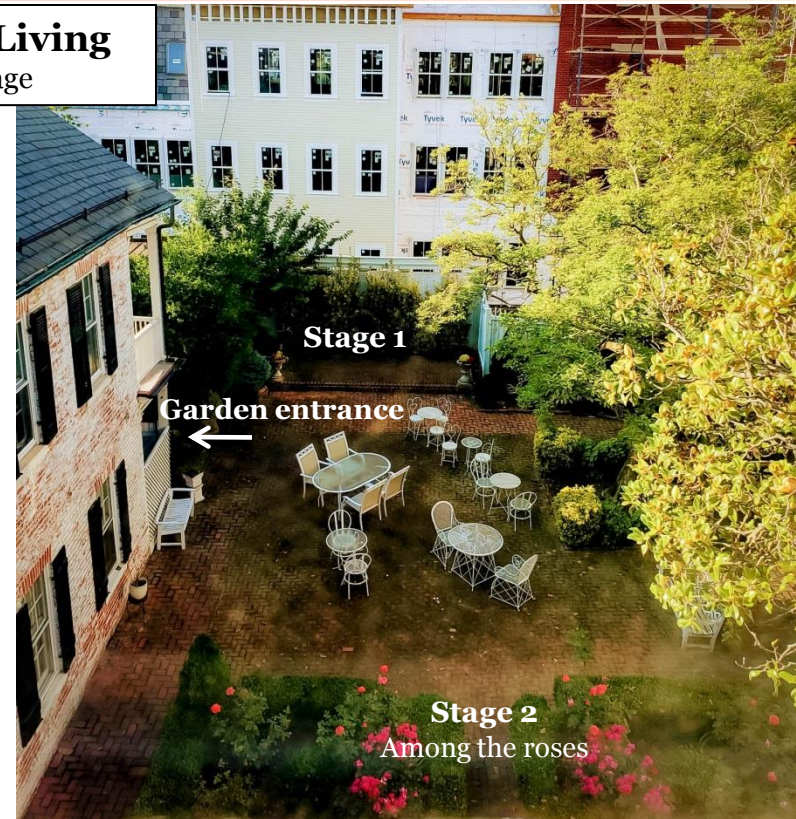
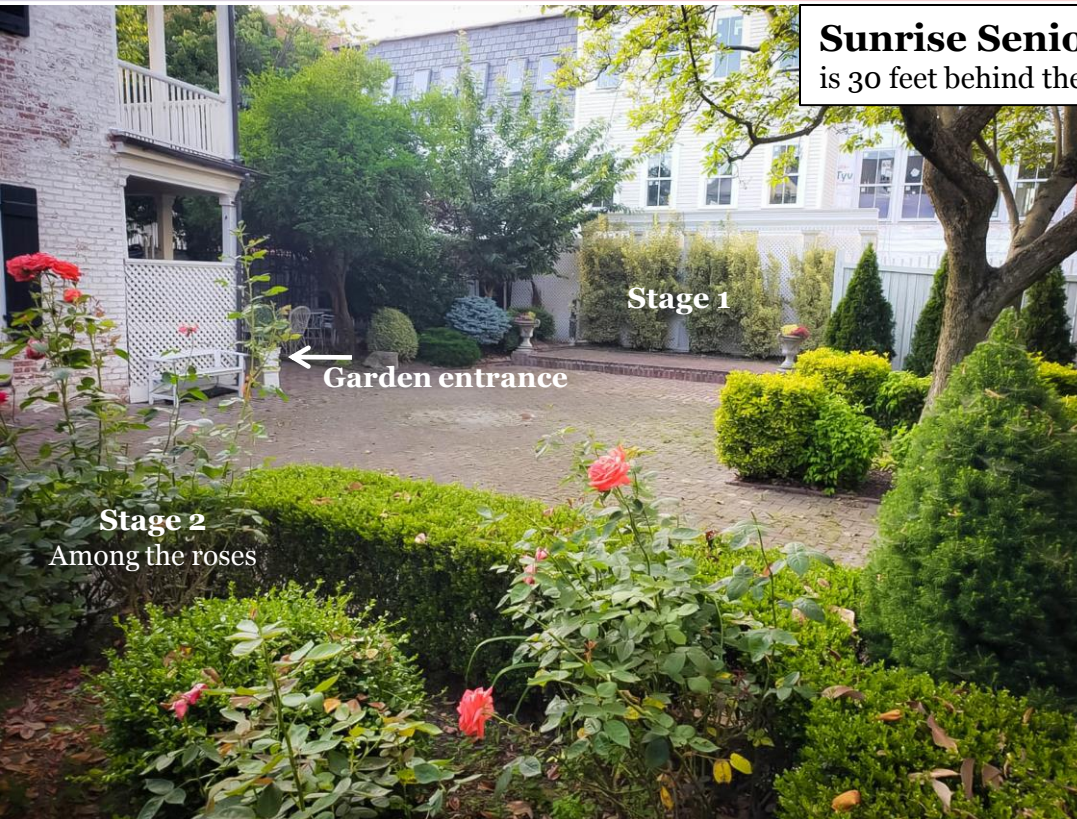


Sunrise Senior Living
is 30 feet behind the stage

N. Columbus St is to the left (West)

711 Princess Garden and Proposed Concert Area

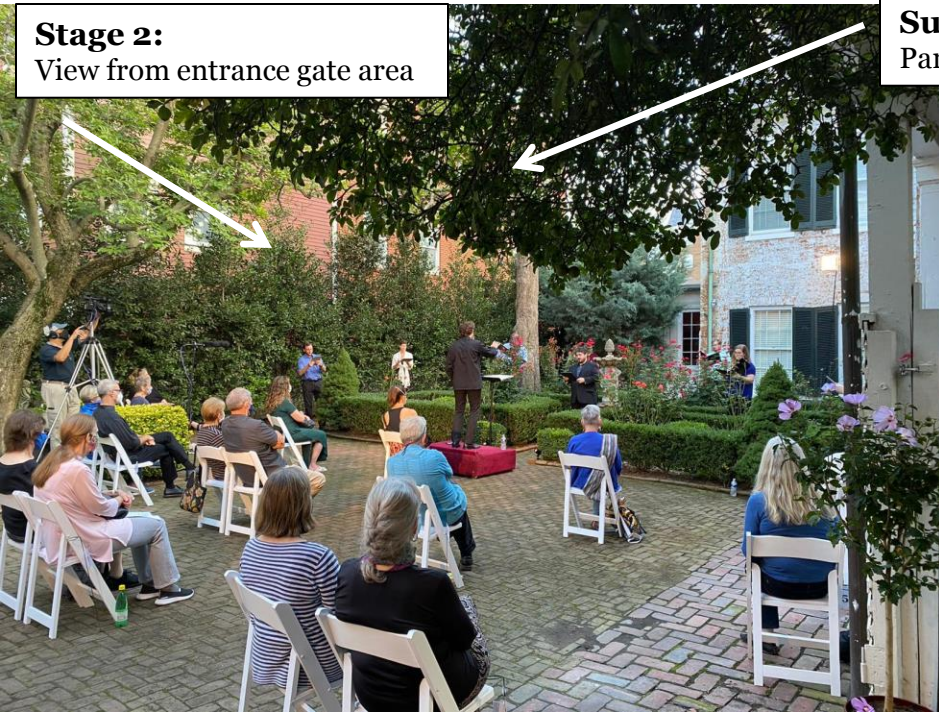
Stage 1 (continued)



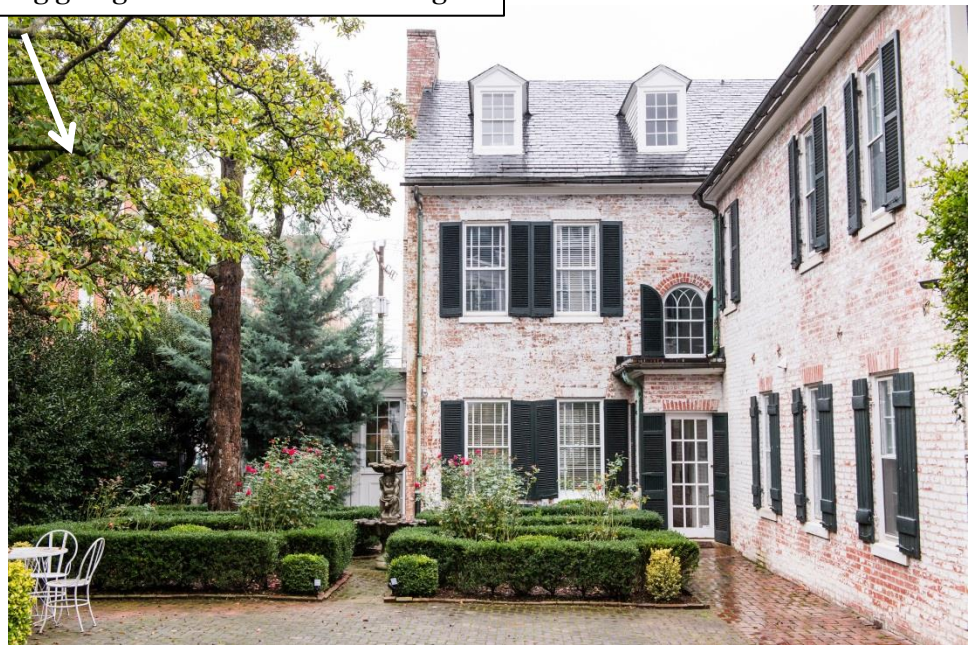
711 Princess Garden and Proposed Concert Area

Stage 2 – Among the roses

Stage 2:
View from entrance gate area



Sunrise Senior Living
Parking garage is to the left of this stage

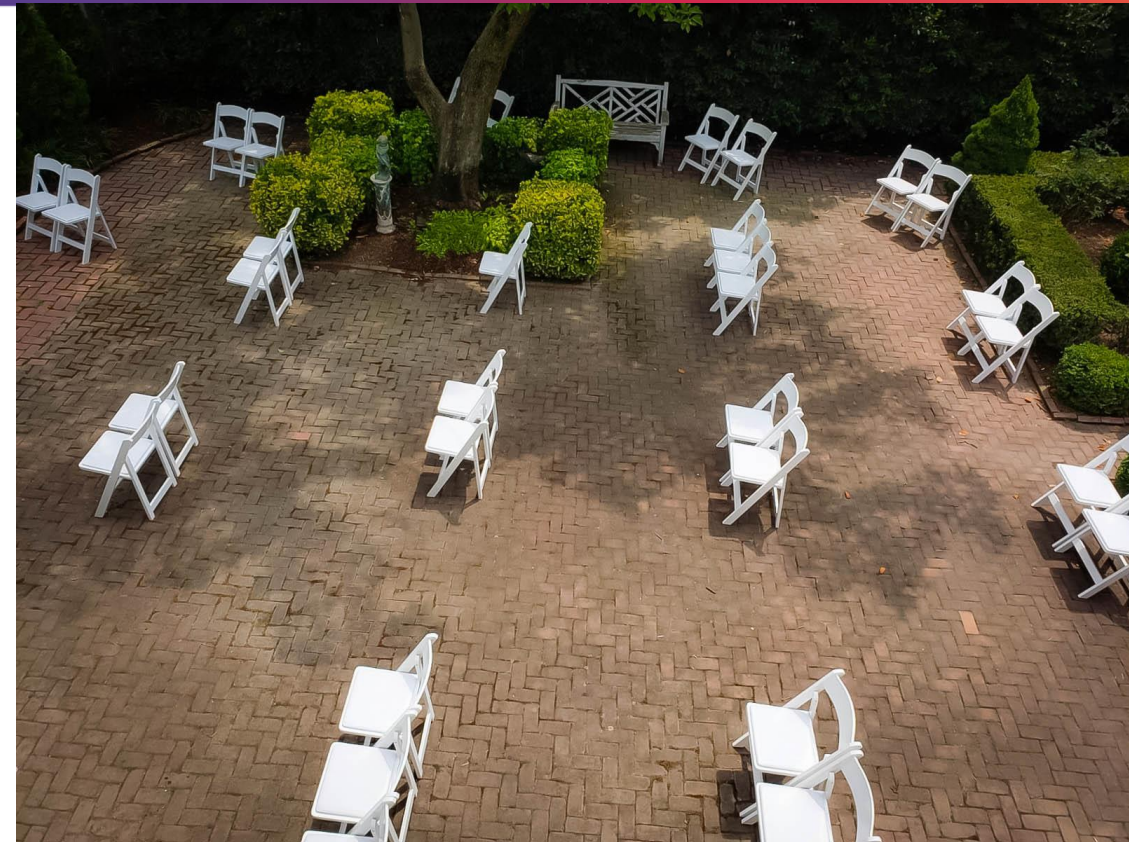


View from stage 1

409 & 411 N. Columbus
Are blocked by our own building

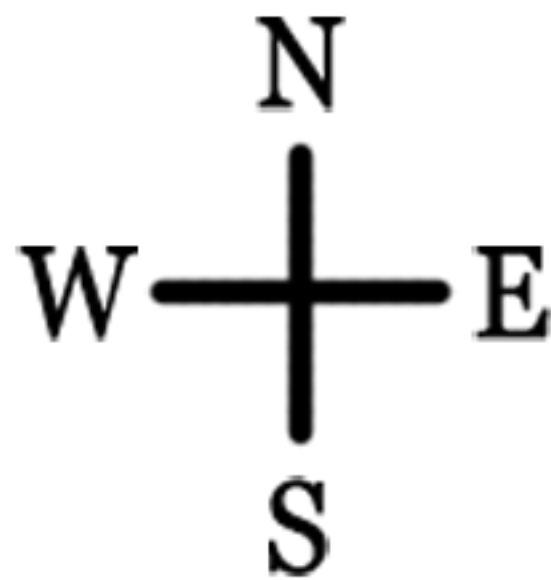
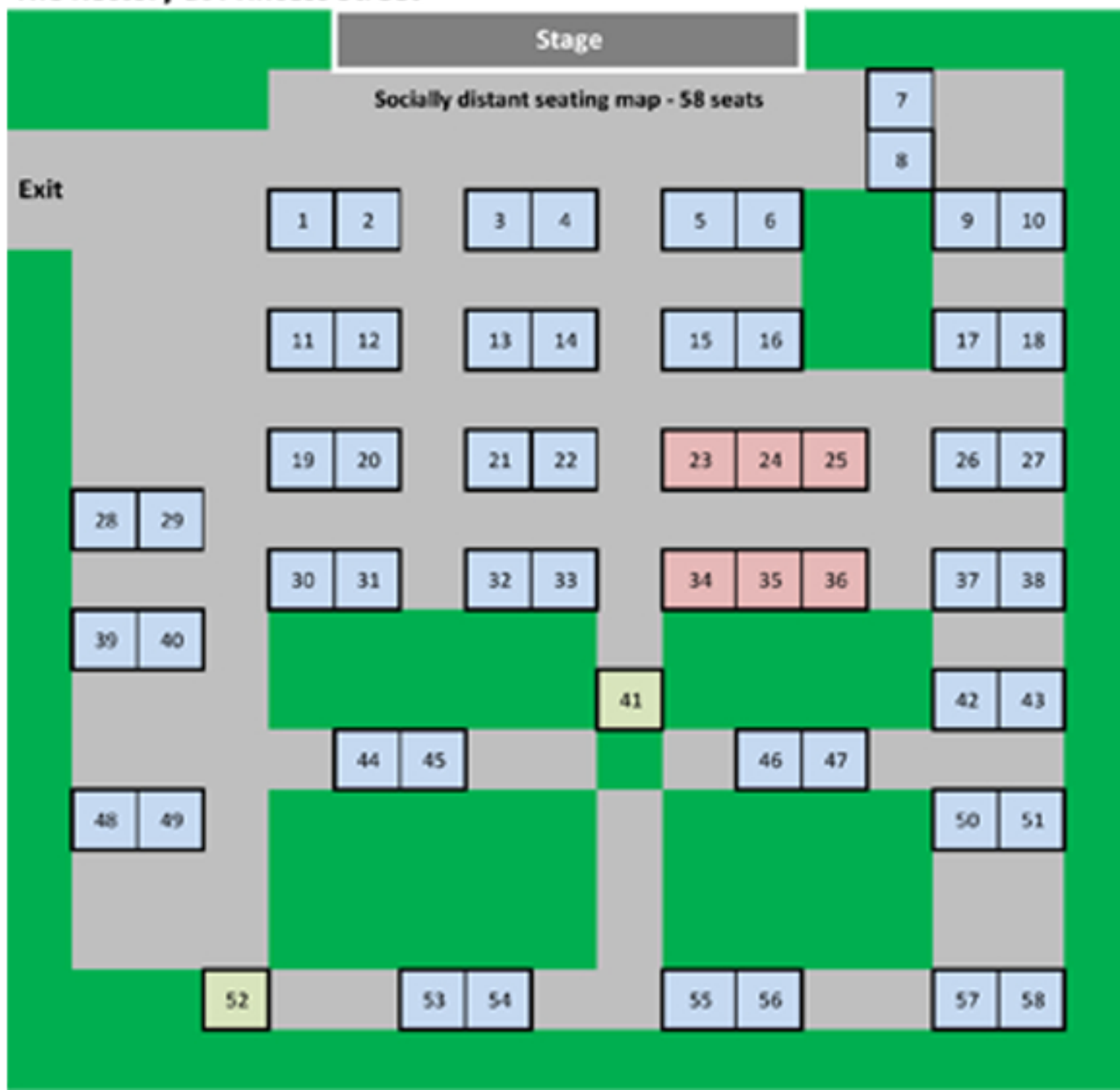


Sample Seating - Socially Distanced



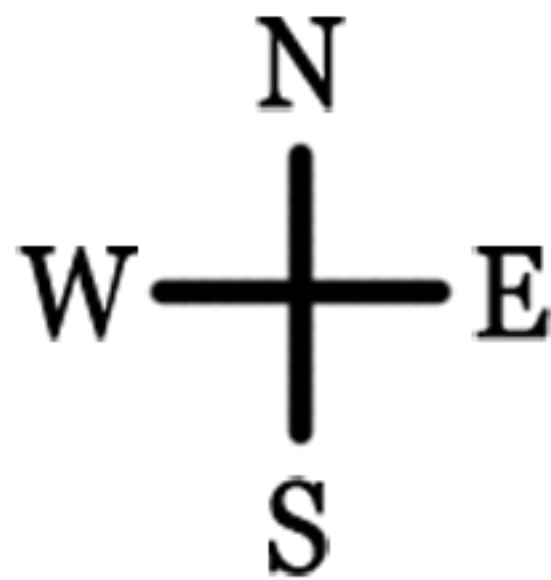
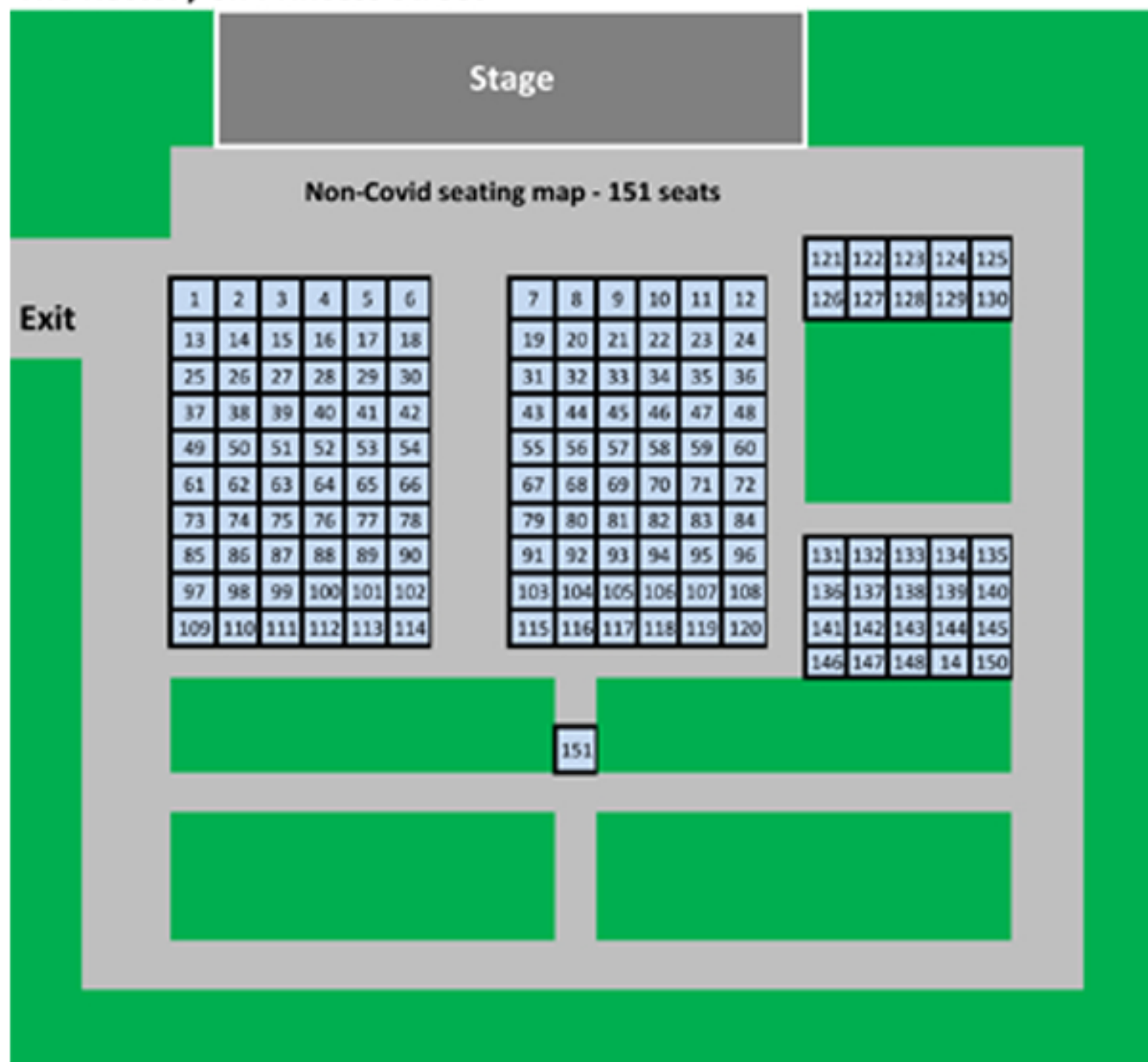
Covid Seating Map - Concerts/Weddings

The Rectory at Princess Street



Normal/Non-Covid Seating Map

The Rectory on Princess Street





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Re: 711 Princess St SUP Permit Support

From: Ulysses Thomas [<mailto:ulysses515@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 4:11 PM

To: Johan van Zyl

Subject: Re: Letter of Support re: Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102

Dear Members of the Alexandria Planning Commission and City Council,

I am writing to express my support for Classical Movements' Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102 for events at 711 Princess St.

My late Father was the Caretaker of the building at 711 Princess St. for some 30 years and as a young boy I often went with my Dad and played in the garden and got to know the property well. When I became older I often helped my father with his work at the property and in the garden, so it came as no surprise that I was hired as Caretaker in 1985 when my father passed away.

I have worked for the previous owner Rob Whittle of Williams Whittle all these years and when the building was sold in 2014 and Classical Movements moved in, I started working for them as well to assist with the maintenance of the property. I had also worked in the building on the grounds of 400 N Washington St. for several years until Sunrise bought this property.

As one of my tasks are is to ensure that the building is clean and the offices, bedrooms, bathrooms and kitchen are cleaned regularly, since the beginning of the pandemic, I have attended a training course for cleaning and sanitizing a property for Covid which came in very helpful for preparing the building and specifically the bathrooms before and during events. I have been trained even though the office had been closed since the beginning of March 2020. Classical Movements engaged me additionally on several weekends to sanitize and clean the building and help prepare for the concerts. I have appreciated this especially during the difficult period of this past year.

As someone who has worked in the building for so long, I was sorry but not surprised to hear about the complaint against the music – I have previously been subjected to the police being called on me by the same neighbor, for clearing the driveway of snow and often for otherwise simply fulfilling the duties of my job, working in the garden.

I understand that if outdoor concerts are not approved, there will be no other way to proceed with future performance in a safe way and the series will have to be cancelled entirely. This will be a loss to me personally and to the community as a whole, I regularly saw people I know from around the neighborhood who are happy to attend the concerts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ulysses Thomas

From: Jennifer Crocker <jennifercrocker16@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 4:56 PM
To: CM Info
Subject: Special Use Permit #2020-00102

The City management of Alexandria

Dear Madam, Sir

This petition to support the use of Classical Movements property for outside, safely distanced music events comes from Cape Town, South Africa, where I had the privilege to work with them strategically and at times operationally when they brought out the biggest orchestral and choral tour for a countrywide series.

Working with Neeta Helms and her team was a lesson in precision, getting everything right. So, why do I care that the concerts at the Rectory on Vine Street, should be allowed, and the necessary permit granted?

Because after a year of lockdown in SA I have drawn comfort in watching their feeds. I know them to be the most diligent of people. The world needs any safe space it can get right now. Don't deny this one.

Kind

Jennifer Kathleen Crocker

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

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

Laura Quiroga <lauraquirogaperformingarts@gmail.com>

Wed 2/24/2021 5:13 PM

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

Sincerely,

Laura Quiroga

Performer Teacher

Choreographer

202-213-1768

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[EXTERNAL]Regarding Special Use Permit for Classical Movements

sylvia <sylalimena@aol.com>

Wed 2/24/2021 7:11 PM

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

Dear Planning Commission and Members of the City Council,

As a resident of Alexandria, I would like to express my support for these beautiful, high quality concerts that have been presented by Classical Movements in their office courtyard. In these times, music is always the salve for the soul to which so many turn for uplifting and soothing. I will hope that you will consider all of the many positive aspects that these concerts bring to the Alexandria Community and those lucky enough to live nearby to hear the beautiful music wafting over to their homes.

Sincerely, Sylvia Alimena

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RE: [EXTERNAL]Classical Movements' SUP Application for Live Concerts in Alexandria**Adam Jackson** <Adam@classicalmovements.com>

Wed 2/24/2021 6:02 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>**Cc:** Neeta Helms <Neeta@classicalmovements.com>; Sara Casar <Sara@classicalmovements.com>; Johan van Zyl <Johan@classicalmovements.com>; mindyllyle@comcast.net <mindyllyle@comcast.net>

Dear Members of the Planning Commission:

We would still love to set up a call with those of you with whom we have not yet been in touch – but we wanted to follow up that if you would like to visit our garden and building at **711 Princess Street**, we would be delighted to welcome you and to schedule a time on **Sunday, Monday** or even **Tuesday**.

We will need to arrange to have someone on site, so please call **Johan** at **(703) 795-7711** to coordinate.

Additionally, we wanted to share with you this brief video of excerpts from our past concerts, which we hope you will enjoy: <https://youtu.be/hKH7XQWKufw>

Please be in touch with any questions at all. We look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Adam Jackson

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

1-703-683-6040, ext. 201

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

Rodolfo Hernandez <rodohr@gmail.com>

Thu 2/25/2021 7:15 AM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

My name is Rodolfo Hernandez.

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.

Thank you,

Rodolfo Hernandez

347-301-4671

rodohr@gmail.com

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February 24, 2021

Ms. Ann Horowitz,

On behalf of the entire Sunrise of Old Town community-based management team, I would like to express our support for the recently submitted Classical Movements special use permit.

I experienced the beautiful music firsthand when working onsite at Sunrise of Old Town this past fall season. Frankly, the music I heard was outstanding.

We hope to hear more music in the 2021 season!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julie Jenkins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Julie Jenkins

Executive Director

[EXTERNAL]SUP 2020-00102 Classical Movements

Beth Engelmann <beth.engelmann@gmail.com>

Fri 2/26/2021 11:07 AM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

Cc: Gloria Sitton <Gloria.Sitton@alexandriava.gov>

City of Alexandria,

I support the Special Use Permit #2020-00102 for Classical Movements. We travel to Alexandria twice a month and love that there are companies like Classical Movements that support the arts, especially during a pandemic.

Alexandria should be thrilled that companies are surviving by adapting to the times; supporting struggling artists and citizens who are desperate to have an outlet from isolation.

I would think most neighbors would enjoy the free music especially since the timing of concerts is during the day or early evening.

The only safe way to attend live classical concerts is outdoors during the pandemic.

I hope that you will consider the hope and enjoyment provided to your citizens and tourists and issue a permit.

Thank you,
Beth Engelmann

Sent from my iPhone

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[EXTERNAL]In support of Classical Movements

Anna Scott <anna.l.stark@gmail.com>

Fri 2/26/2021 12:18 PM

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

I understand that Classical Movements has been asked to cease their outdoor performances until they receive some sort of permit. As a resident of Old Town Alexandria, I want to share my enthusiastic support for this organization and their efforts to bring entertainment and culture to our community in a safe environment.

As we enter the final days of winter, the toll of social isolation and lack of community brought on by this pandemic is becoming increasingly evident and heart wrenching. I have watched as those I love have lost their sense of purpose and grounding, catalyzing mental health challenges that are devastating. An outdoor concert cannot fully heal these wounds, but they can play a part as they offer something akin to normal community engagement. I fear that if groups like Classical Movements face these sorts of barriers, that others who want to create safe places for our community to heal will as well, and many of these groups simply won't have the bandwidth or resources to fight for their right to contribute.

We are suffering multiple pandemics right now, but only one is getting the attention that it rightly deserves. Please consider empowering this organization to help us heal as individuals and as a community, and please consider doing so for others that undoubtedly are trying to do the same.

Sincerely,
Anna Scott

P.S. If you are interested in addressing a true noise-related nuisance in our community, I'd recommend diverting your attention to the *nightly* drag racing on Patrick Street between 495 and King.

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[EXTERNAL]SUP 2020-00102 Classical Movements

Arlette Clayton <arlette@clayton2.net>

Fri 2/26/2021 2:45 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

Cc: Gloria Sitton <Gloria.Sitton@alexandriava.gov>

I support the Special Use Permit #2020-00102 for Classical Movements. We live in Alexandria and have attended some of these lovely concerts. It sure has made the COVID confinement more bearable .

Alexandria should be thrilled that companies are surviving by adapting to the times; supporting struggling artists and citizens who are desperate to have an outlet from isolation.

Most neighbors probably enjoy the free music especially as long as the timing of concerts is during the day or early evening. Has a survey been done? How many neighbors have actually objected?

The only safe way to attend live classical concerts is outdoors during the pandemic.

I hope that you will consider the hope and enjoyment provided to your citizens and tourists and issue a permit.

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Anh Vu

From: Ann Horowitz
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 5:24 PM
To: Anh Vu
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL]Staff Report

For 711 Princess Street additional PC materials.

From: Sara Casar <Sara@classicalmovements.com>
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 4:59 PM
To: Ann Horowitz <ann.horowitz@alexandriava.gov>; Tony LaColla <Anthony.LaColla@alexandriava.gov>
Cc: Neeta Helms <Neeta@classicalmovements.com>; Johan van Zyl <Johan@classicalmovements.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL]Staff Report

Dear Ann and Tony,

It was recommended today that we submit in writing our comments on the Staff report. Thank you for the opportunity. We are grateful for all that is being done to assist us by members of the Planning Commission. While we are mainly writing to comment on the conditions placed on us, we would like to first address the matter of acquiring a noise permit that we were offered as a solution.

Staff Report Page 3/4: 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.

CM Reply: We feel this is not properly represented because even though it was an impossible goal (as you will see below,) we did pursue it and made a valiant effort in the bitter cold and during Covid. Yes, we were told that there was the possibility of being granted a temporary noise permit for the scheduling of some concerts (limited to one per month in Jan, Feb and Mar and to end by 8 pm!) but that we also needed to do the following: submit written statements from 100 percent of the neighboring properties stating support for our concerts (from Ann Horowitz) and submit a block party petition (from Lisa Goldberg), signed by each property owner or primary resident/business in the block, showing their agreement. We did start going door to door to obtain signatures of support, even though this was not a safe course of action for us during COVID and especially since one signature we needed was the complainant and hence the process was a non-starter. Nor were many residents at home and the main businesses were empty (Democracy Federal Credit Union and Sunrise for example totally empty in January and February). In particular, we went to 411 N Columbus St over 8 times in person and only once did the resident answer but said they had a migraine and to come back another time. We wrote about our efforts to obtain signatures in January but were told that in light of COVID-19 that only dropping off a letter at homes is sufficient and there was no need for us to knock on doors and speak face-to-face with individuals. This obviously contradicted what we needed to do to obtain a noise permit and caused much confusion. Ann Horowitz wrote to us that holding the concert on February 13 without a noise permit would lead to enforcement citations and that it may impact the Planning Commission and City Council reviews of our SUP, so we cancelled the event.

We feel strongly that apparently city rules require noise permits for amplification and for free events on public land. We were charging admission, we are not public land, and we do not have amplification. We feel it is also not correct to ask neighbors to sign off on a block party that requires the closing of the street when we were not doing that. Nor was it possible to get signatures without explaining that we needed them to sign something that in fact was not what was actually happening. This "solution" was something our business would have to do each

time we did a concert. This was an undue burden placed on our small, struggling business, in the freezing rain and cold, during COVID. Yet we tried.

As far as the Conditions on the SUP; We appreciate the recommendation that we be allowed to have outdoor events. We also appreciate the recommendation that we be allowed to have events like weddings and meetings and live concerts indoors. We are glad to have confirmation that we are allowed to have meetings and events inside our commercially zoned building. We disagree that we are not allowed to have live concerts outdoors.

We would be most grateful if consideration can be made for the following.

We disagree and strongly oppose the staff limitation on outdoor live entertainment. We are zoned CD. We feel that our unamplified, classical music concerts with very few musicians, is not noise. Further there are numerous other properties that the city supports (see the city website for event facilities) that allow outdoor live entertainment including amplified music such as dance bands and DJ's on private and public property. Our outdoor live entertainment impacts are limited and mitigated due to the location of our property. The acoustics of our garden courtyard are excellent and do not require amplification of the musicians.

RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS:

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).

CM Reply: We request that we can arrange OUTDOOR and indoor live entertainment, restaurant and outdoor dining on any day of the week and not be limited to only two specific days of the week.

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)

CM Reply: We request that the maximum number of OUTDOOR live entertainment, restaurant and outdoor dining shall we determined by the Fire Marshall and the State COVID-19 guidelines.

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)

CM Reply: We request that outdoor live entertainment not be limited to background music. Our primary use is for live entertainment so we also request not to have a limit on the number of musicians. We request that we can charge admission for the outdoor live entertainment. We request that outdoor live entertainment not be subordinate to the restaurant and outdoor dining. The restaurant and outdoor dining use is to support the outdoor live entertainment and other events. Almost all our concerts are without food and beverage. Our audiences, since we have started and still at the moment are all silent and masked. We need to advertise our outdoor live entertainment events.

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)

CM Reply: We request that we receive permission to have outdoor live entertainment as well.

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)

CM Reply: We request that we do not provide printed materials to reduce paper waste. Since we do not provide printed tickets, programs or instructions, we will include information about alternative forms of transportation to access the site through electronic materials and posting on our business website.

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).

We request that the maximum number of OUTDOOR live entertainment, restaurant and outdoor dining shall be determined by the Fire Marshall and the State COVID-19 guidelines.

25. Outdoor live entertainment is permitted on Saturdays and Sundays between 10 a.m. and 9 p.m. (P&Z)

CM Reply: We request that we can arrange OUTDOOR and indoor live entertainment, restaurant and outdoor dining on any day of the week and not be limited to only two specific days of the week. We also request that like other properties we are allowed to continue on rare occasions until 10pm.

26. The outdoor live entertainment use must comply with the City's noise ordinance. (T&ES)

CM Reply: We request that the SUP permit allows for unamplified outdoor live entertainment and that we are not denied use.

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)

We recommend that we provide a printed planned outdoor live entertainment schedule for all concerts to the neighbors within one block of our property once so that we can limit paper waste. After that we will inform the neighbors electronically. The notice will include contact information for them to send us their email address so that we can send updates if any changes. This information will also be updated on our website. We will also have the concerts advertised in postcards and kept in any info box in the front. We will also include the contact information of a designate community liaison to respond to property owners' questions and noise concerns.

City Code Requirements

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)

We request that we can suspend service as needed when the office is empty and we have no live entertainment, restaurant and outdoor dining, or other events, to limit our expenses when the property has no use.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Sara

Sara Casar

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

Re: Letter of Support re: Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102

Ulysses Thomas <ulysses515@gmail.com>

Tue 2/16/2021 10:46 AM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

Dear Members of the Alexandria Planning Commission and City Council,

I am writing to express my support for Classical Movements' Special Use Permit Application #2020-00102 for events at 711 Princess St.

My late Father was the caretaker at 711 Princess St. of this building for some 30 years and as a young boy I often went with my Dad and played in the garden and got to know the property well. When I became older I often helped my father with his work in the property garden, so it came as no surprise that I was hired as Caretaker in 1985 when my father passed away.

I have worked for the previous owners and when Classical Movements moved in, in 2014 I started working for them as well to assist with the maintenance of the property. I had also worked in the building on the grounds of 400 N Washington St. until Sunrise bought the premises.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, I have attended a training course for cleaning and sanitizing a property for Covid which came in very helpful for preparing the building and specifically the bathrooms before and during events the events been trained even though the office has been closed, Classical Movements has engaged me additionally on several weekends to help prepare for the concerts. I have appreciated this especially during the difficult period of the past eleven months.

As someone who has worked in the building for so long, I was sorry but not surprised to hear about the complaint – I have previously been subjected to the police being called on me by the same neighbor, for clearing the driveway of snow and otherwise simply fulfilling the duties of my job.

I understand that if outdoor concerts are not approved, there will be no other way to proceed with future performance in a safe way and the series will have to be cancelled entirely. This will be a loss to me personally and to the community as a whole.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ulysses Thomas

[EXTERNAL]Classical Movements Special Use Permit

Janet Horvath <jhorvathcello@yahoo.com>

Sat 2/27/2021 1:23 PM

To: Info@ClassicalMovements.com <Info@ClassicalMovements.com>

Cc: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>; Gloria Sittton <Gloria.Sittton@alexandriava.gov>

To whom it may concern,

I am a long-time professional musician and writer. During my three decades with the Minnesota Orchestra I closely observed Neeta Helms and her team at Classical Movements. Her dedication and the energy she has put into bringing high-quality music to communities who may not otherwise have the benefits of hearing performances is quite astonishing. But she also brings communities together-- students and amateurs, as well as professionals--to perform with and for other cultures in our country and beyond.

At a time when people yearn for music, and connection, we need people like Ms Helms who has come up with creative solutions to the barriers, isolation, and lack of interaction we are experiencing due to the dangers of the covid virus. When I heard about her chamber music concerts, which took place in their lovely garden at the Rectory on Princess Street, strictly and carefully planned and regulated, I thought it was a brilliant idea. The people who attended these programs were thrilled and the programs sold out quickly.

I have heard that the City of Alexandria is mandating a Special Use Permit for the outdoor concerts that Classical Movements has presented. As someone who has published articles about noise and hearing issues, street traffic, rock music piped outside, leaf blowers, and games of sports are well over the decibels that a chamber music ensemble produces. A small group of classical musicians is not noise, especially in an intimate setting.

I believe your community needs these programs: we need to be able to safely gather, contemplate, celebrate, lose ourselves and our troubles if for only an hour, in music, while we wait to able to return to some kind of normalcy. This is the only safe way to present live music at this time. This is the only way musicians can currently continue to perform.

Please support Classical Music's application for a Special Use Permit #2020-00102.

Thank you for your attention,

Sincerely yours
Janet Horvath

Janet Horvath

The Cello Still Sings -- A Generational Story of the Holocaust and the
Transformative Power of Music | Spring 2021 @ PageMill Press
Playing (Less) Hurt -- An Injury Prevention Guide for Musicians
Associate Principal Cello - Minnesota Orchestra (1980 - 2012)

612-685-3900

JHorvathCello@yahoo.com

[<https://www.janethorvath.com%20%7C%20www.playinglesshurt.com/>]
www.JanetHorvath.com | www.PlayingLessHurt.com

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[EXTERNAL]Planning Commission 3/2

James Ross <ross.alexsym@gmail.com>

Mon 3/1/2021 12:48 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

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

Dear Planning commission,

George Hanson and I have just signed up to speak at tomorrow evening's Planning Commission meeting in Docket #3 regarding Special Use Permit #2020-000102. We both represent the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra of which I'm Music Director and he is Executive Director. If at all possible, we would like to be given adjacent spots to speak since our messages are interlocking. Thank you for allowing George Hanson to follow James Ross consecutively tomorrow evening.

All my best, James Ross

Music Director

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra

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Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of Council:

I am writing to express my opposition to a Special Use Permit request (#2020-00102) from Classical Movements (CM) at 711 Princess St. They propose to turn their property into a concerts and event facility. My backyard patio is adjacent to their property. They have been having concerts this past spring and summer, and these events have significantly decreased the enjoyment of my home and patio throughout this time.

CM has been holding concerts nearly every weekend and doing so without a permit. (They claim to have contacted the City and not received an answer and therefore assumed a permit was not needed. (I was able to determine the need for such a permit with a single email to the City.)

At no time prior to holding these concerts did CM contact any of its neighbors. I only heard from CM after I complained to the City.

I can clearly and loudly hear these concerts in my back patio as well as in my home – and in the part of my home where my wife and I spend most of our time. Our kitchen and sunroom/family room are at the rear of the house. As you know, the Sunrise senior living facility is about to open. The residents on the south side of this building, adjacent to CM, will surely be affected by the proposed concerts, weddings, showers and other events, ending as late as 10 p.m., for which permission is requested.

You should also know that on more than one occasion, the owner of CM held a sign up toward my patio, while I was hosting guests, asking us to keep our voices down. I cannot imagine any of you would appreciate having someone ask you to keep quiet when all you are doing is having a conversation in your yard.

I have no problem with CM holding indoor events, as long as they cannot be heard outside their building. But I am also very concerned with the lack of parking for these events. CM claims to have made arrangements for remote parking, but why would anyone use that parking when they can conveniently park much closer on the street? The closest public facility is at the corner of Cameron and St. Asaph Street – hardly convenient. There is a parking lot at Wells Fargo across the street, but CM makes no mention of making arrangements with the bank to use its lot. CM also claims, wrongly, that most concertgoers are using Metro. I have watched people come to these events, and I can assure you I saw no one walking over. They were in cars, taking up scarce residential parking. As many as 40 people attended these events.

Should this permit be allowed to go through with outside events and no arrangements for parking at the Wells Fargo across the street, our ability to use our home to its fullest extent will be severely damaged. I believe such use will also decrease the value of my property. We have owned this house since 1987 and have loved living in it. That will no longer be the case should this SUP be granted. Please note that the lone letter of submission you have received is from a property owner who lives around the corner and 10 doors away from my house at 411. They are unaffected by CM's request.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Guy Lamolinara/Anne Horan
411 N. Columbus St.
guylamolinara@gmail.com
202 258-0232

COU-Contact Mayor, Vice Mayor and/or City Council (21-00004142) service request has been created, updated, and/or requires your attention.

Service Request Type:	COU-Contact Mayor, Vice Mayor and/or City Council	Status:	Open
Service Request Number:	21-00004142	Created By:	Customer Site Guest User
Priority:	Standard	SLA Detail:	5 Business Days
Method Received:	Web	Submitted On:	2/28/2021 2:37 PM
Location:		Overdue On:	3/5/2021 2:37 PM
Description:	<p>I am writing to oppose a Special Use Permit request being considered by the Planning Commission this Tuesday. Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of Council: I am writing to express my opposition to a Special Use Permit request (#2020-00102) from Classical Movements (CM) at 711 Princess St. They propose to turn their property into a concerts and event facility. My backyard patio is adjacent to their property. They have been having concerts this past spring and summer, and these events have significantly decreased the enjoyment of my home and patio throughout this time. CM has been holding concerts nearly every weekend and doing so without a permit. (They claim to have contacted the City and not received an answer and therefore assumed a permit was not needed. (I was able to determine the need for such a permit with a single email to the City.) At no time prior to holding these concerts did CM contact any of its neighbors. I only heard from CM after I complained to the City. I can clearly and loudly hear these concerts in my back patio as well as in my home – and in the part of my home where my wife and I spend most of our time. Our kitchen and sunroom/family room are at the rear of the house. As you know, the Sunrise senior living facility is about to open. The residents on the south side of this building, adjacent to CM, will surely be affected by the proposed concerts, weddings, showers and other events, ending as late as 10 p.m., for which permission is requested. You should also know that on more than one occasion, the owner of CM held a sign up toward my patio, while I was hosting guests, asking us to keep our voices down. I cannot imagine any of you would appreciate having someone ask you to keep quiet when all you are doing is having a conversation in your yard. I have no problem with CM holding indoor events, as long as they cannot be heard outside their building. But I am also very concerned with the lack of parking for these events. CM claims to have made arrangements for remote parking, but why would anyone use that parking when they can conveniently park much closer on the street? The closest public facility is at the corner of Cameron and St. Asaph Street – hardly convenient. There is a parking lot at Wells Fargo across the street, but CM makes no mention of making arrangements with the bank to use its lot. CM also claims, wrongly, that most concertgoers are using Metro. I have watched people come to these events, and I can assure you I saw no one walking over. They were in cars, taking up scarce residential parking. As many as 40 people attended these events. Should this permit be allowed to go through with outside events and no arrangements for parking at the Wells Fargo across the street, our ability to use our home to its fullest extent will be severely damaged. I believe such use will also decrease the value of my property. We have owned this house since 1987 and have loved living in it. That will no longer be the case should this SUP be granted. Thank you for your consideration of my request. Guy Lamolinara/Anne Horan 411 N. Columbus St. guylamolinara@gmail.com 202 258-0232</p>		

Contact Information:

Name:	Guy Lamolinara	Primary Phone:	+1 (202) 258-0232
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COU-Contact Mayor, Vice Mayor and/or City Council (21-00004142) service request has been created, updated, and/or requires your attention.

Email:	guylamolinara@gmail.com	Social Persona:	
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Service Questions:

Question	Answer
Which Council Member would you like to contact?	All Members
What is the nature of your request?	Boards and Commissions Endorsement
Is your request related to the upcoming public hearing or Council meeting?	Yes

[EXTERNAL]March 2 2021 Docket, Item 7, DSUP 2020-00102, 711 Princess

Agnès Artemel <aartemel@gmail.com>

Mon 3/1/2021 4:27 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

Dear Chairman and Members of Planning Commission

I am writing in support of allowing Classical Movements to hold outdoor concerts for 50-56 people in the courtyard of 711 Princess Street. I had the pleasure of attending an Alexandria Symphony concert on the afternoon of last October 3, and thoroughly enjoyed the performance and the venue. The intimate courtyard setting (properly socially distanced of course) was totally different from the interior of a concert hall; it allowed a very different kind of performance, and left a lasting pleasant memory. As I sat in the courtyard I noticed that the Sunrise Senior Living is just adjacent and at that time already thought how lucky it was that the residents of that building would be able to hear beautiful concerts from their rooms. Having spent several months in the last two years visiting relatives in nursing homes, I can say with confidence that musical entertainment tends to be the highlight of the day for the elderly and infirm in such facilities.

While the music, even unamplified, may exceed the standards of the noise ordinance, it does not rise to the level of being a nuisance, particularly if the hours during which concerts are allowed are restricted to something like 10 am to 9 pm. Perhaps it is the noise ordinance that needs to be reviewed and changed, rather than this applicant being denied.

In summary, allowing unamplified outdoor concerts with limited seating and limited hours has many benefits: it helps keep a valuable business in business, provides enjoyable entertainment for Alexandrians, supports local artists and performing arts organizations, and as a bonus, provides soothing respite for Sunrise residents. This is quite a low-key and civilized activity, without rowdy crowds or loud music. This request should be approved, with the appropriate limitations on hours of operation.

Agnès Artemel

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City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 2, 2021

TO: CHAIRMAN NATHAN MACEK
AND MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION

FROM: KARL MORITZ, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & ZONING

SUBJECT: DOCKET ITEM #7 - SPECIAL USE PERMIT #2020-00102,
711 PRINCESS STREET

This memorandum contains clarifying information on several topics related to Special Use Permit #2020-00102 at 711 Princess Street that arose at the Planning Commission briefings. These topic areas are outlined below.

A) Basis for approval recommendation for live entertainment

A Planning Commission recommendation of approval for outdoor live entertainment would acknowledge that the use would comply with the City's noise ordinance of 60 decibels at the shared property lines.

B) Proposed condition amendments

The applicant suggested they may consider scheduling events on weekdays (application page 29) and concerts on Federal holidays and weekdays (application page 28 and page 24, respectively). To accommodate scheduling flexibility, staff recommends allowing daily indoor and outdoor dining and indoor live entertainment as amended in Condition #2.

2. **CONDITION AMENDED BY PLANNING COMMISSION:** Indoor live entertainment, restaurant and outdoor dining are permitted ~~on Saturdays and Sundays~~daily, between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. All patrons must leave the premises at 10 p.m. ~~(P&Z)~~ (PC)

Staff recommends amending Condition #3 to add specificity to the building code reference.

3. **CONDITION AMENDED BY PLANNING COMMISSION:** The maximum number of indoor seats for the indoor live entertainment and the restaurant uses shall comply with the Virginia Uniform s~~Statewide~~ building code. ~~(P&Z)~~ (PC)

After discussing this condition with the applicant, staff agrees to remove the limitation for one musician playing background music.

9. **CONDITION AMENDED BY PLANNING COMMISSION:** 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)~~ (PC)

Similar to the rationale for amending Condition #2, staff recommends amending Condition #25 to include daily opportunities for live outdoor entertainment, should City Council choose to approve outdoor live entertainment.

25. **CONDITION AMENDED BY PLANNING COMMISSION:** Outdoor live entertainment is permitted on Friday and Saturdays between 10 a.m. and 9 p.m. and Sundays through Thursday between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. ~~(P&Z)~~ (PC)

C) Estimated decibel range for outdoor live entertainment

In the absence of actual sound measurements that take into account stage location and surrounding building structures as well as the background sound level, which staff had hoped to collect at concerts approved through a T&ES temporary noise permit prior to March 2021, staff estimates that the sound level for an outdoor concert at this location would most likely be in the range of 80-95 dB(A) measured at 10 feet. The decibel range is based on sound levels of different acoustic instruments on the attached table:

https://www.daviddarling.info/encyclopedia_of_music/D/decibel.html.

Distances from proposed Stage 1 and Stage 2 to shared property lines range from ten feet (representing Stage 1 against the northern property line shared with Sunrise of Old Town) to approximately 60 feet (measuring from Stage 2 to the rear property lines of 409 and 411 North Columbus Street). Using the sound pressure versus distance formula, the sound level is calculated as 74-89 dB(A) at 20 feet from the stage, 68-83 dB(A) at 40 feet, and 62-77 dB(A) at 80 feet. Thus, considering the dimensions of the outdoor concert area and distances from the stage to the property lines, staff concludes that the associated sound levels of the proposed outdoor concert would most likely exceed the 60 dB(A) noise limit at the property line.

D) Conclusion

Staff continues to recommend partial approval of SUP #2020-00102 with amendments to Conditions #2, 3, 9 and 25.

[EXTERNAL]Please support Classical Movements Special Permit #2020-00102

Catherine Dehoney <catherine.dehoney@gmail.com>

Mon 3/1/2021 5:19 PM

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

To the Planning Commission and City Council for the City of Alexandria;

I write to you as both a resident of the City of Alexandria and the president of Chorus America, a service association for choral music in North America. I urge you to support the Special Permit request #2020-00102, to permit Classical Movements' outdoor concerts. Classical Movements is widely known in the choral field as a world-class tour company for ensembles and a strong supporter of professional musicians.

Classical Movements' mission in creating these concerts here in Alexandria during the pandemic has been to bring joy and inspiration to the community through excellent music, in a way that carefully follows safety protocols. These concerts are helping to promote and lift Old Town's profile as a charming cultural center and community, especially at a time when it is so difficult to do so. Classical Movements is also stretching to support professional musicians, most of whom are facing serious financial hardship due to loss of virtually all of their performance income since the pandemic shut down venues and events.

These concerts feature outstanding small ensembles and are primarily focused on orchestral, choral, and operatic works. They are not typically amplified and the number of participants is restricted as to not create health and safety hazards.

One of the key reasons my husband and I chose to live within the City's limits is the quality of its cultural offerings and commitment to community arts events. All of us have had to stretch and innovate as COVID-19 continues to disrupt our individual and community lives. I sincerely hope the Planning Commission and City Council will stretch in response to these historic times to help meet the community's need for access to music and art. Please permit the Classical Movements outdoor concerts to continue.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,

Catherine Dehoney
1649 Hunting Creek Dr.
Alexandria, VA 22314

Chorus America
1200 18th St. NW Suite 1250
Washington, DC 20036
202.830.0705 w

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[EXTERNAL]Objection to Special Use Permit #2020-00102

David Fritz <davidfritz@gmail.com>

Tue 3/2/2021 8:45 AM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>; Anh Vu <Anh.Vu@alexandriava.gov>

Cc: Guy Lamolinara <guylamolinara@gmail.com>; Sue Fritz <schultsud01@yahoo.com>

Alexandria Planning Commission

March 2, 2021 Meeting

Subject: Special Use Permit #2020-00102, 711 Princess Street

Dear Planning Commissioners,

I am unable to make tonight's planning meeting to speak out against the Special Use Permit #2020-00102, 711 Princess Street, filed by Classical Movements. Please accept this correspondence into the record and take it into consideration when deliberating on the permit application.

I am the adjacent resident and property owner of 409 N Columbus Street. I currently object to the request as proposed due to the access during events to the rear of the property along shared right of ways adjacent to my property. During the past summer when Classical Movements held unpermitted events, attendees waited in lines along my property with a visual line of sight into my kitchen and other rear structure windows of my home. As an adjacent residential property with young children (ages 1 and 5) I also fear outside live entertainment and dining would exceed the noise ordinance of 60 dB(A). Staff recommends no outdoor entertainment, but I would also encourage the commission to include no outdoor dining during the times of 7 PM in the evening to 10 AM the following morning. I fear 50 seats of dining will also exceed 60 dB(A) based on outdoor dining observations with conversational talking and dining service movements. Lastly, the property on 711 Princess Street has only a single parking spot at the rear entrance of the outdoor space. The staff recommendation of maintaining agreements for only 7 off street parking spots is far from what would be needed for the proposed venue application based on the past years events. Street parking by attendees just exacerbates foot traffic along my (409 Columbus) southern and eastern property lines to gain access to the rear of the property's outdoor space. As a long time office structure, I request that the Alexandria Planning Commission deny the 711 Princess Street Special Use Permit #2020-00102 changing its function from a "9 AM to 5 PM" indoor office space to an indoor/outdoor restaurant and event venue.

Thank you for your time considering my objection and apologies for not being able to attend this evening's meeting. If you have any questions with regards this matter, please do not hesitate to ask.

David Fritz

409 N Columbus Street

Alexandria, VA 22314

davidfritz@gmail.com

(703) 915-6878 (Cell)

cc:

Susan Fritz - Resident 409 N Columbus Street

Guy Lamolinara - Resident 411 N Columbus Street.

[EXTERNAL]Planning Comm Docket #7 March 2, 2021

Carolyn Griffin <Carolyn@metrostage.org>

Tue 3/2/2021 12:06 PM

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

I am respectfully submitting this to the Mayor, City Council and Members of the Planning Commission.

I am writing to express my opinions and concerns regarding the issues arising from the SUP request by Classical Movements. I do not know the founder or executive director of Classical Movements, but the issues being discussed in relation to their SUP have far ranging consequences for all arts programming in the city and need to be considered. As Producing Artistic Director of MetroStage (36 years) and in the process of building a new theatre in Old Town North that is designated an Arts Anchor in this Arts and Cultural District, I am deeply involved in the arts, trends affecting the arts, and the future of the arts.

Since COVID-19 shut down theatres and all other industries where people gathered in dangerously close contact, many creative solutions have arisen. Restaurants have outfitted outdoor dining which has become exceeding popular, and I believe will continue even after it is safe to return to indoor dining. (I am hoping that the temporary arrangement on lower King Street will continue as residents and tourists alike have embraced the concept.)

Theatres have gone virtual so a great deal of entertainment is being produced via zoom, streamyard and other platforms. Once theatres can safely reopen, I believe there will still be demand for virtual content. So theatres like restaurants are evolving with the times and challenges, and there is no turning back.

This brings me to Classical Movements where the same applies. Their concert tours ended, and they found a creative use of their property, especially the beautiful courtyard behind the building.

But now with considerable restrictions that use is limited. This is my concern because as historic as our beloved city is, we must move forward with the times, especially as it concerns the arts. With the many beautiful historic gardens in Old Town the opportunity for outdoor entertainment and concerts is extraordinary. A gift to the performing arts groups, residents and tourists. But there are restrictions on the books that may prevent this, and they must be reexamined.

In the case of Classical Movements it appears that nothing more than one musician providing background music is permitted under existing Codes. I would like to propose these Codes be reexamined to permit outdoor concerts in our city. Typically concerts range from 50 to 70 minutes long (at Classical Movements 60 minutes) and easily would end well before 10pm. Providing designated parking can be accomplished. And they would occur on weekends only (and possibly holidays), so how is this a problem in Old Town where most gardens are surrounded by commercial and occasional residential buildings?

Most would agree that it enhances the neighborhood (as the surrounding building of Sunrise of Old Town has expressed). Ridiculously low decibel levels for outdoor music certainly need to be addressed since the construction equipment, trucks, airplanes etc don't seem to have to comply. Levels that compare to normal conversation are silly. Nobody goes to a concert to hear soft muffled music (BTW I am not advocating for rock bands. I am only concerned with the typical sound coming from a small group of musicians and a singer.)

So in sum I would ask that whatever Code is preventing Classical Movements from outdoor concerts should be reexamined by Council so that outdoor concerts can be offered by the many arts organizations offering live music, without so many constraints as to make it impossible. It serves everyone, both residential and commercial, as the applicant has pointed out---they use a local caterer, graphics business, etc. It serves the residents, attracts tourists, supports local businesses and keeps Alexandria on the map as an Arts Destination City. The arts provide culture but are also an economic engine for the City. I'm sure that Visit Alexandria would agree.

Thank you for your consideration, and I would welcome an opportunity to discuss further.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Griffin

Producing Artistic Director

MetroStage

(future home) 901 N. Fairfax St.

www.metrostage.org