

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **VCO Contact**

Name: Ann Sica

Telephone: 703-960-3772

E-mail: [annsica@aol.com](mailto:annsica@aol.com)

Website: [www.virginiachamberorchestra.org](http://www.virginiachamberorchestra.org)

Twitter: @VCOchestra

### **What:**

The Virginia Chamber Orchestra, David Grandis, Music Director, presents “Celebrate England!”

- Featuring music by Elgar, Britten, Holst, and Warlock
- Complimentary reception to follow
- Pieces by artist Noreene Janus on display in the adjoining art gallery

### **When:**

Sunday, March 2, 2014 at 4:00 P.M.

### **Where:**

Ernst Community Cultural Center

Northern Virginia Community College – Annandale Campus

8333 Little River Turnpike

Annandale, VA 22003

*Note: Parking is free*

### **Tickets:**

Tickets are available at the door for \$25 and available for advance purchase for \$20 online at [www.virginiachamberorchestra.org](http://www.virginiachamberorchestra.org).

For more information or to purchase by phone, please call: 703-758-0179.

## **“Celebrate England!” with David Grandis and the VCO**

*Professional chamber group brings 19th and 20th century English favorites to local audience*

The Virginia Chamber Orchestra (VCO) continues its 43rd season—first under its new Music Director David Grandis—with a selection of 19th and 20th century English compositions. The concert, “Celebrate England!” will be held at 4:00 p.m. on March 2nd at the Ernst Community Cultural Center on the Annandale campus of the Northern Virginia Community College.

After starting the season with highlights from continental Europe’s Romantic Era, Grandis has chosen a more contemporary program for this concert showcasing some of the best-known English composers. The VCO will perform Edward Elgar’s *Serenade for Strings*, a three-movement piece that Elgar himself singled out as one of his favorite works, and Gustav Holst’s *Brook Green Suite*.

The VCO will also feature a piece by Benjamin Britten. Britten has been a particularly popular artist over the past year with orchestras celebrating his 100th anniversary. The chamber orchestra will perform Britten's *Simple Symphony* which was recently included in the soundtrack of the Wes Anderson movie *Moonrise Kingdom*.

In addition to its popularity Grandis also chose this piece out of nostalgia, remarking: "*The Simple Symphony* is an entertaining piece and it was one of the first ones I ever conducted with an ensemble I formed in France nearly two decades ago." Rounding out the program is the energetic *Capriol Suite* by Peter Warlock, *Les Jeux* by George Melachrino, and *An 18<sup>th</sup> Century Scherzo* by Haydn Wood.

VCO President Douglas Lovejoy adds his enthusiasm for the March 2nd show: "With outreach to regional non-profit groups and families in the northern Virginia community, we strive to make our concerts fun, approachable, and educational. This concert will offer a 'mini tour' of England, showcasing notable works by six different composers."

Grandis echoed Lovejoy's comments: "In this celebration of English compositions, I was inspired to introduce the audience to works they may not yet be familiar with, while balancing the program with our feature pieces by Elgar and Britten."

The VCO strives to keep its concerts, including intermission, to less than 90 minutes in length. Tickets for the concert will be available at the door or at discounted advance purchase prices online at [www.virginiachamberorchestra.org](http://www.virginiachamberorchestra.org). Parking is free and a complimentary reception follows. Art works by a renowned local artist will be on display in the adjoining art gallery.

### **About David Grandis**

Music Director David Grandis is currently the Conductor of the College of William and Mary Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Grandis' guest conducting opportunities have included the Virginia Chamber Orchestra (at the National Presbyterian Church in April, 2011), Bordeaux National Symphony Orchestra, Nice Philharmonic Orchestra, Sofia New Symphony Orchestra and Minsk Philharmonic Orchestra. He is regularly Assistant Conductor at the Lyon National Opera.

### **About the Virginia Chamber Orchestra**

The quality and vitality of the Virginia Chamber Orchestra's performances attract enthusiastic concert attendees from all Virginia suburbs, Maryland, and the District of Columbia. Listeners appreciate the transparent, intimate sound of a chamber ensemble as well as its power, richness, and remarkable dynamic range. In the words of a Washington Post critic, the maestro evokes "energetic excitement" from his players. The repertoire spans the centuries, ranging from Bach to Bartók and beyond.

Celebrating its 43rd season, the Virginia Chamber Orchestra is also committed to community outreach and education. Concerts include partnerships with Wounded Warriors, Our Military Kids, and their families. The VCO also makes programs available to students nationwide via the

Internet to further enhance the integration of musical heritage into current curriculum. Visit [www.virginiachamberorchestra.org](http://www.virginiachamberorchestra.org) for more information.

### **About the Artist**

Noreene Janus, Falls Church, has been painting in watercolor for more than ten years working with several well-known artists at the Torpedo Factory in Old Town Alexandria. She is a member of the Art League in Alexandria, the Vienna Arts Society, the Lake Barcroft Art League, Falls Church Arts, and Potomac Valley Watercolorists.

She gets her inspiration from all parts of the world as she traveled extensively for work and pleasure. She has lived in Europe, Asia, and Latin America. She loves painting people—in markets, city streets, and beach and coastal scenes. Some of her most successful series of paintings have featured coral reefs, fish, and underwater scenes, inspired by the reef protection work carried out at USAID—the agency where she worked for many years.

[www.noreenejanus.com](http://www.noreenejanus.com)

###