

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 14, 2024

Press contact: Deirdre Roddin

[droddin@charlottesymphony.org](mailto:droddin@charlottesymphony.org)

Office: 704-714-5112

## **KWAMÉ RYAN TO DEBUT AS NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR OF THE CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY IN HIS FIRST CONCERTS**

**Performances on Friday, November 22 and Saturday, November 23 To Feature  
Pēteris Vasks' *Musica Dolorosa* and Brahms' *A German Requiem***

### **Saturday Concert To Be Broadcast Live on WDAV**

**November 14, 2024 | Charlotte, NC** – The Charlotte Symphony Orchestra (CSO) will welcome Kwamé Ryan as its 12th Music Director at his inaugural concerts on Friday, November 22 and Saturday, November 23, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. at the Belk Theater. The program will feature two emotionally resonant works: Pēteris Vasks' *Musica Dolorosa* and Brahms' *A German Requiem*, with soprano Janai Brugger, baritone Alexander Birch Elliott, and the Charlotte Master Chorale.

Composed in 1991 following the death of Vasks' sister, *Musica Dolorosa* serves as a personal lament, both for her and for the Latvian people during a time when the country was still under Soviet rule and striving for independence. Known for his atmospheric string writing, Vasks blends somber melodies with lyrical beauty to convey a deep sense of mourning and loss, reflecting both personal and national grief. In contrast, Brahms' *A German Requiem* offers a unique perspective on death, focusing on the living and offering comfort to the grieving, inspired by the composer's own sorrow over the death of his mother.

The concerts mark a new era for the Charlotte Symphony, as Kwamé Ryan succeeds Christopher Warren-Green, becoming the 12th Music Director to lead the Orchestra in its 93-year history. Ryan was appointed to the role in December 2023 and served as the CSO's Music Director Designate for the remainder of the 2023–24 season.

“I am thrilled to begin my journey as the Charlotte Symphony's Music Director,” said Kwamé Ryan. “It's an honor to join this dynamic and progressively agile organization, which values preservation, innovation, and education while infusing every expression of its goals with passion and the highest artistic standards. I look forward to spending more time in Charlotte and getting to know this vibrant community, and I extend a warm invitation to both committed supporters and the curious to join us on this exciting musical adventure.”

### **Pre-Concert Talk and Live Broadcast**

Kwamé Ryan and Resident Conductor Christopher James Lees will offer a pre-concert talk an hour before each performance in the mezzanine lobby of the Belk Theater, providing audiences

with unique insights into the works being performed and Ryan’s approach to the music. The pre-concert talks are free and open to all ticket holders.

For those unable to attend in person, the Saturday performance will be broadcast live on WDAV 89.9 FM and streamed on [wdav.org](http://wdav.org), allowing a wider audience to experience this special occasion in real time.

### **Biographies**

[Kwamé Ryan](#), [Janai Brugger](#), [Alexander Birch Elliott](#), [Charlotte Master Chorale](#)

### **Tickets**

Tickets start at \$11 and are available for purchase now at [charlottesymphony.org](http://charlottesymphony.org). For press tickets, contact Deirdre Roddin at [droddin@charlottesymphony.org](mailto:droddin@charlottesymphony.org) or 704-714-5112.

### **About the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra**

The Charlotte Symphony Orchestra (CSO) is one of the premier music organizations in the Southeastern United States and the oldest continuously operating symphony orchestra in the Carolinas. As Charlotte's most active performing arts group, the CSO presents around 150 concerts each season, reaching more than 130,000 music lovers. The CSO is committed to its mission of uplifting, entertaining, and educating the diverse communities of Charlotte-Mecklenburg and beyond through exceptional musical experiences. Led by Music Director Kwamé Ryan, the CSO employs 65 professional full-time orchestra musicians, fosters four youth orchestras, and offers significant educational support aimed at serving the under-resourced areas of our community. Founded in 1932, the Charlotte Symphony plays a leading cultural role in the Charlotte area and serves the community as a civic leader, reflecting and uniting our region through the transformative power of live music.

### **Event Listing**

Charlotte Symphony Orchestra  
Brahms’ *A German Requiem*

Belk Theater  
Friday, November 22, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday, November 23, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.

Kwamé Ryan, conductor  
Janai Brugger, soprano  
Alexander Birch Elliott, baritone  
Charlotte Master Chorale

Pēteris VASKS      *Musica Dolorosa*  
BRAHMS            *Ein deutsches Requiem (A German Requiem)*

---

**ALL PROGRAMS AND ARTISTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

\*\*\*

The Classical Series is presented by **Bank of America**

\*\*\*

These concerts are made possible in part by the generous support of  
**Arlene and Milton Berkman**

*Hi-res photography is available in the Charlotte Symphony's [photo gallery](#)  
or by contacting Deirdre Roddin at [droddin@charlottesymphony.org](mailto:droddin@charlottesymphony.org)*

###