



David Stewart Wiley, Music Director

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Roanoke Symphony Orchestra Secures Four-Year Contract Extension with Beloved Maestro David Stewart Wiley ~ Celebrated Music Director & Conductor Renews Commitment~

August 22, 2023 | Roanoke, Virginia

Having conducted such distinguished symphonies as Boston, Atlanta, Buffalo, Cincinnati, San Francisco, Milwaukee, Indianapolis, Minnesota, St. Louis, Oregon, Honolulu, Utah, as well as in dozens of countries in Asia, Africa and Europe, Maestro David Stewart Wiley will continue to lead the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra as Music Director and Conductor for another four years, beginning with the upcoming 2023/2024 season.

“Our family and I remain proud to call Roanoke and Virginia’s Blue Ridge our home” said David Stewart Wiley. “The RSO continues to evolve with such collaborative innovation and freshness that every time on the podium feels new and energizing. I remain grateful for our superbly gifted and committed musicians, our strong board and dedicated staff leadership, and audiences that clearly love and support their professional orchestra and chorus.”



Only the fourth Music Director in the RSO’s storied 71-year history, at the completion of this agreement, Maestro Wiley will be the RSO’s longest tenured Music Director, followed by Gibson Morrissey. Morrissey led the orchestra from 1953-1975. Jack Moehlenkamp followed from 1975 to 1986, then Victoria Bond from 1986 to 1995. Wiley’s leadership commenced in 1996.

“We are delighted to have secured an extension of Maestro’s contract,” said [Paul Economy](#), President of RSO’s Board of Directors. “Under his direction, Roanoke Symphony Orchestra has continued to flourish. We, along with the community, look forward to enjoying the fruits of his inspiration for years to come.”

Under Wiley’s tenure, the RSO has enjoyed continuous artistic growth, program expansion and innovation. The *Picnic at the Pops* series was created and has expanded; the *Destination* series was created to feature the chamber talent of RSO musicians; the *Masterworks* series celebrates the premieres of award-winning and mountain-inspired world premieres and great guest artists. The RSO has achieved new and acclaimed concert and film recordings, draws huge crowds at the annual *Music Under the Stars* Elmwood Park concert, and the *Holiday Pops* (with four performances) has become one of the largest concert events in the Commonwealth.



Named Roanoke’s “Citizen of the Year,” Wiley is actively engaged with the community through RSO, partnering with schools, arts and civic organizations. Through the orchestra’s partnership with city schools, Wiley received the *Distinguished Music Educator*

Award from Yale University. The NAACP awarded Wiley *Citizen of the Year in the Arts* for his efforts to make classical music more accessible to minority youth, and he has received a multitude of additional recognitions and honors for his many community contributions.

Making his professional debut as a composer and pianist in Boston at the age of 10, Wiley holds a Doctor of Music degree (in conducting) and a Master of Music degree from *Indiana University*. He also holds a degree with honors in Piano Performance from the *New England Conservatory of Music* and a degree in Religion, summa cum laude, from *Tufts University*.

When not home in Roanoke with his family, Wiley regularly travels to New York to lead Orchestra Long Island (OLI) as Music Director and Conductor. He also serves as Artistic Director for Virginia's Blue Ridge Music Festival.

More information about David Stewart Wiley's accomplishments can be found at DavidStewartWiley.com.

ABOUT THE ROANOKE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Founded in 1953, the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra is the largest orchestra in Virginia west of Richmond, and the oldest continuously operating professional symphony in the state. Under the baton of Music Director & Conductor David Stewart Wiley, the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra celebrates its mission to enrich lives, to educate, and to entertain diverse audiences in western Virginia with the highest quality instrumental and choral music.

The Roanoke Symphony Orchestra is partially supported by funding from the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts and The Secular Society. More can be found at RSO.com.