



MERIDIAN  
SYMPHONY  
ASSOCIATION

PETER RUBARDT, Music Director

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2022-23 SEASON  
*The Queen City Shines*



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PETER RUBARDT, MUSIC DIRECTOR

# 2022-23 SEASON

## *The Queen City Shines*

### *Season Highlights:*

Tracy Silverman and his electric violin; Track45; Beethoven,  
Ravel, and Debussy; The Princess Symphony; a Threefoot Dinner Theatre  
featuring Sweden's Queen of Swing; and so much more!

# *The Queen City Shines*

**I**t is evident our community would not be what it is today without its history of remarkable musicians — from the great Jimmie Rodgers and David Ruffin, to Redd Evans, Paul Davis, Steve Forbert, and so many more! These iconic Meridian musicians have helped shape our community into the thriving cultural arts community it is today, and for 62 years, the Meridian Symphony has been a part of it all. Although none of these artists that have been mentioned are known for classical music, each of them at some point in their lives was influenced by classical music — orchestral music — and they were fortunate enough to grow up in a city that boasts a professional symphony now 62-years strong. Today's modern-day opportunity set before the Meridian Symphony, like many businesses and organizations, is learning to balance its traditional classic roots with its ability to stay relevant and relatable to an ever-changing community of such extremes — those of Jimmie Rodgers' country, Lovie Lee's blues, Redd Evans' jazz, and the soft rock of Paul Davis.

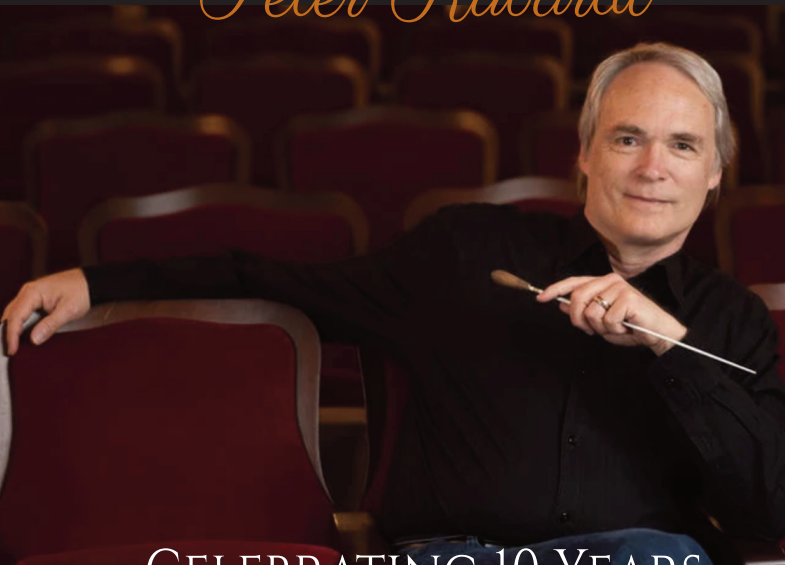
Yes, the Queen City is unique. It once was a thriving metropolis of artistic and innovative Southern genius, and it is on its way to becoming that again. You see, there is something in Meridian for everyone. There is something in Meridian worth saving for everyone. There always has been.

If there is something in Meridian for everyone, then there must be something here at the Meridian Symphony for everyone — something that makes us all better, stronger, and more vibrant than ever before. As the Queen City rises again to let her crown shine, may we honor these artistic roots, celebrate our thriving present, and invest in the future of music in Meridian.

**Welcome to the 62nd Season of the Meridian Symphony.**

*Truly, Meridian Sounds Amazing!*

Peter Rubardt



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS  
*The Maestro Shines*  
2012 - 2022

It is often said that great leaders do not elevate themselves, but instead, elevate everyone around them. Ten years ago, that is exactly what the Meridian Symphony Association gained when Peter Rubardt was hired as the new Music Director for our very own Meridian Symphony Orchestra. We shifted into a new era under Maestro Rubardt's direction as he heightened our standards, challenged our players, and was able to bring about powerful, meaningful musical experiences for our orchestra and our audiences. During the past ten years under Rubardt's leadership, the Meridian Symphony has seen growth in a myriad of ways — the orchestra itself has expanded, the level of community involvement and support has risen, the network of guest artists has grown exponentially, the artistic experience for the audience has broadened, relationships with patrons have solidified, and a new-found rapport and a reinvigorated spirit with the Meridian Symphony Chorus has helped set a new course for the organization.

The breadth of knowledge and experience Maestro Rubardt brings to each and every rehearsal continues to inspire the players, the singers, and the guest artists allowing everyone to share insightful, top-level musical experiences. A leader of this caliber causes those around him to rise to a higher level and experience true satisfaction and fulfillment with their craft.

*"On stage, the musicians hear and respond to every nuance of phrasing and shaping. I feel the ebb and flow of the music with the people around me. And the sharing happens across the proscenium as well; the presence of the audience feeds us and nurtures us, inspiring us to reach for something special."* —Peter Rubardt

That "something special" has been evident for the past ten years at The Meridian Symphony under Maestro Rubardt's direction. We look forward to the continuation of this exciting elevation as *The Maestro Shines*.



# SYMPHONY SERIES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2022 • 7 PM • MSU RILEY CENTER

OPENING NIGHT CLASSICAL

## *European Colors*

**Featuring: Ilya Yakushev, piano**

Winner of the 2005 World Piano Competition, Ilya Yakushev will open Meridian Symphony's 62nd Symphony Series with Prokofiev's showpiece *Piano Concerto No. 3*. This famously difficult composition that requires dexterity and stamina like none other is a true work of passion that seems to simply fly from the keyboard. The audience will be near exhaustion from the sheer emotion and bursts of spontaneity throughout the concerto's three movements, as the piano pounds out immense chords through the final pages, surrounded by blazing symphonic orchestration. This exciting and energetic piece, along with colorful displays composed by Berlioz, Brahms, and Schumann, will present an Opening Night full of pungent harmonies and dazzling dynamics that will give audience members an exhilarating evening beyond compare. *Opening Night reception to follow.*



*The Queen City Shines*



# SYMPHONY SERIES

OCTOBER 29, 2022 • 7 PM • MSU RILEY CENTER

FALL CLASSICAL

## *Latin Fire*

**Featuring: Nicholas Ciraldo, guitar & Luvada Harrison, soprano**

*Somewhere inside a tavern in Spain, people dance beneath a brass lamp hung from the ceiling. Cheers erupt as the female dancer leaps onto the long table, her steps becoming more and more animated, the colors of her ruffled skirt slicing rhythmically through the air.*

This is the scene portrayed in the program book on opening night of Ravel's *Bolero* at the Paris Opéra on November 22, 1928. Celebrating the vibrant beauty of the Latin musical culture, "Latin Fire" paints a vivid picture of this diverse history and its impact on the evolution of music. Award-winning classical guitarist Nicholas Ciraldo and chanteuse Luvada Harrison showcase the passion of Latin music with the lush harmonies and lively rhythms of Spanish traditions. *Join us as we celebrate these traditions and the heritage of Latin America following the concert.*



*The Queen City Shines*



# SYMPHONY SERIES

DECEMBER 3, 2022 • 7 PM • MSU RILEY CENTER

PEPPERMINT POPS

## *Hometown Harmonies*

**Featuring: Track45 & the Meridian Symphony Chorus**

Meridian's most beloved concert and singing siblings combine for holiday harmonies like no other! Gather all your family and get ready for a "Hometown Holiday Spectacular." We welcome Track45 back to The Riley Center stage for a full evening of festive music, home-spun tales, and seasonal merriment. The Meridian Symphony Chorus will lead us in our favorite holiday songs, and special guests top the night with some secret holiday cheer! It will be a night to remember as Santa and his elves conclude the celebration with cookies, cocoa, and other scrumptious holiday treats. *Children of all ages may post their Letters to Santa, and everyone can have their Christmas pictures made in The Symphony Winter Wonderland.*



*The Queen City Shines*





# SYMPHONY SERIES

JANUARY 28, 2023 • 7 PM • MSU RILEY CENTER

WINTER POPS

## *American Swing*

**Featuring: Michael Andrew & Gunhild Carling**

Sweden's Queen of Swing, Gunhild Carling, joins vocalist Michael Andrew, former headliner at New York City's Rainbow Room, for an evening featuring favorites from The Great American Songbook. Whether Gunhild is singing favorite swinging jazz standards, playing one of many instruments (trumpet, trombone, harmonica, oboe, harp, flute, recorder, or jazz bagpipe!) or juggling and tap dancing, her sublime showmanship will shine. Andrew has produced music for several films like the recent premier of "Being the Ricardos," including the "I Love Lucy" theme song and "Babalu." The dynamic duo of Andrew and Carling will bring iconic tunes to life in an unforgettable night filled with historic glamour, dazzling charm, and astonishing talent! *Join us in the Grand Lobby following the performance for a special opportunity to meet the artists for autographs, photos, and more!*



*The Queen City Shines*





# SYMPHONY SERIES

MARCH 4, 2023 • 7 PM • MSU RILEY CENTER

BEETHOVEN & BLUE JEANS

## *Modern Melodies*

**Featuring: Tracy Silverman, electric violin**

The return of Spring brings the return of Beethoven & Blue Jeans and the tradition of featuring world-class, innovative musicians! Lauded by BBC Radio as “the greatest living exponent of the electric violin,” Tracy Silverman’s groundbreaking work with the six-string electric violin defies musical boundaries. “I believe string playing must reflect our popular musical culture or risk becoming old-fashioned and irrelevant,” says Silverman. “My explorations with the electric six-string violin have resulted in a sound as familiar as the electric guitar yet retains the achievements and beauty of the last 500 years of string playing.” Honoring that musical past, this season’s BBJ will feature Beethoven’s powerful and expressive *Egmont Overture*, while also celebrating the current musical culture by debuting an original Roberto Sierra composition. *Once again, BBJ will offer a pre-concert BBQ dinner, themed T-shirts, and a musical experience like no other!*



*The Queen City Shines*



# SYMPHONY SERIES

MAY 1, 2023 • 6 PM • MSU RILEY CENTER

SYMPHONY ORKIDSTRA!

## *Tchaikovsky Discovers America*

Featuring: Classical Kids LIVE!



Join us for this fun family event featuring a theatrical concert designed especially for young audiences and their grownups! Based on a momentous historical event, *Tchaikovsky Discovers America* tells of the great composer Tchaikovsky's arrival in New York for the grand opening of Carnegie Hall in 1891, and his famous trip to Niagara Falls. Audiences will enjoy more than 25 excerpts of Tchaikovsky's music woven magically throughout the drama. This delightful performance is part play, part concert, and part ballet, and it is approximately 50 minutes in length. *Don't forget to join us after the performance for fun hands-on musical and art Symphony OrKIDStra activities!*



*The Queen City Shines*



# UNTUXED MUSICIAN SERIES

SEPTEMBER 8, 2022 • 6 PM • MERIDIAN MUSEUM OF ART

## *Mingle with the Maestro*

Begin the new concert season by celebrating Maestro Rubardt's 10th Anniversary! We will be sampling an array of the country's finest wine and enjoying hors d'oeuvres from one of Meridian's favorite culinary masters, all while being serenaded by the beautiful music of your favorite Meridian Symphony musicians. The Meridian Museum of Art will be displaying the work of renowned regional and Mississippi artists. *This annual crowd favorite has limited capacity — so make plans to attend now.*



*The Queen City Shines*



# UNTUXED MUSICIAN SERIES

NOVEMBER 19, 2022 • 6 PM • SOULÉ STEAM MUSEUM

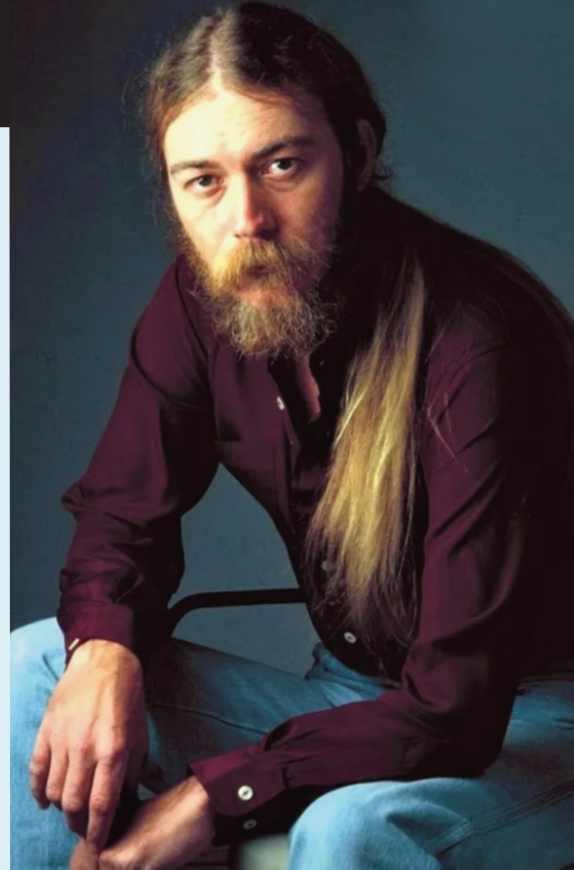
COOL NIGHT @ SOULÉ STEAM

## *The Music of Paul Davis*

Last March the steam at Soulé was so “Redd Hot” we thought we should cool things off a bit... how about a nice “Cool Night?” Join us for a night under the stars strolling along the hidden cobblestone alleyways of Meridian’s historic Soulé Steam Works while enjoying exquisite cocktails and local small bites. Step back into a groovy time as we reminisce about Meridian’s son of soft-rock, the one and only Paul Davis. Area musicians of today — including our beloved John Christopher Adams, David Benson, and Dan Confait — will bring back to life Davis’ smooth, laid-back yacht rock of yesteryear. A date night extraordinaire! *Although we will open up more seating this year, tickets will still be limited due to space restrictions. Reservations will be first come, first serve; and tickets will not be available at the door.*



*The Queen City Shines*





# UNTUXED MUSICIAN SERIES

MARCH 5, 2023 • 2 PM • HOME OF DR. KEN STAGGS

## *Charcuterie & Champagne*

**Featuring: Tracy Silverman, electric violin**

An intimate and unique musical experience featuring an afternoon of champagne, local culinary favorites, and entertainment by the world's foremost concert electric violinist, Tracy Silverman — all at the fine home of Dr. Ken Staggs. This once-in-a-lifetime, private concert opportunity will be an unforgettable experience that will absolutely thrill you! *Seating is limited.*



# UNTUXED MUSICIAN SERIES

APRIL 15, 2023 • MERIDIAN LITTLE THEATRE

## *The Princess Symphony*

Come experience a most magical, musical event as 10 of your favorite princesses introduce your child to beloved music from their kingdoms through songs, stories, dancing, and more! Each princess has a special piece of classical music that has been re-imagined and arranged just for her and her adventures. These one-of-a-kind performances will be performed by a trio of professional musicians who will inspire your little one to DREAM BIG!

Each guest will have the opportunity to meet every princess for photos, pixie wishes, autographs, hugs, and enjoy tea-time refreshments. This unique presentation introducing your child to the magic of classical music is the perfect Springtime family event or special early Mother's Day gift! The Meridian Little Theatre Courtyard will be filled with beautiful spring flowers for photo opportunities to capture all of the joy, laughter, and beauty of the day. *Multiple seating times will be available. Reservations will be first come, first serve.*



*The Queen City Shines*



# DINNER THEATRE @ THE THREEFOOT HOTEL

JANUARY 27, 2023 • 7 PM • THE THREEFOOT HOTEL

## *Curated Dinner + Private Concert*

**Featuring: Michael Andrew & Gunhild Carling**

An exclusive fundraiser for MSA's "Healing Harmonies" music therapy program.

Join us for a unique dinner curated by The Threefoot Hotel's Executive Chef, combined with an intimate private concert featuring Rockefeller Center's Michael Andrew and Sweden's Queen of Swing, Gunhild Carling. *Seating is limited to the first 54 patrons.*

Price is \$150 per person.

CALL NOW for reservations — 601.693.2224.



*The Queen City Shines*



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Scan here for a full listing of the season's program, excerpts from this season's musical selections, and more details about MSA.