

**For Immediate Release:**

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**Presenting**

**The Virginia Symphony Orchestra**  
at the

**40<sup>th</sup> Annual Norfolk Harborfest®**

**Presented by AT&T**

***The Largest, Longest-Running, FREE Maritime Festival in the Nation!***

Thursday, June 9, 2016

on the Downtown Norfolk Waterfront

NORFOLK, VA – (May 20, 2016) –Join us as we kick off the 40th Anniversary of Norfolk Harborfest and celebrate the finale of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Virginia Arts Festival with a stellar performance by the Virginia Symphony Orchestra Thursday, June 9, 2016, at 8:30 pm on the main stage in Town Point Park. Conducted by internationally recognized music director and pianist, Rob Fisher, who will lead an impressive program under the stars with the favorites from Gershwin to the Americana scores of Sousa, with vocalists for the concert, Christine DiGiallorardo and Ross Benoliel.

The evening concludes with a not-to-be missed performance of Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture complete with VAF bells; this concert will certainly be remembered!

**Date:** Thursday, June 9, 2016

**Time:** Park opens at 8:00pm, concert starts at 8:30pm

**Location:** Town Point Park, along the Downtown Norfolk Waterfront

Rob Fisher is an internationally recognized music director, conductor and pianist, and a leading figure in

American music and musical theatre. He has been a guest of virtually every major orchestra in the country as conductor or pianist. He conducted The New York Pops on many occasions, sharing concerts with the late Skitch Henderson. As a pianist, Fisher has been soloist for Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue and Concerto in F with orchestras across the country.

Fisher is currently represented on Broadway as the score supervisor and arranger for *An American in Paris* (Grammy nomination).

In addition to collaborating in concert with such artists as Renée Fleming, Kristin Chenoweth, Kelli O'Hara, Victoria Clark, Idina Menzel, Brian Stokes Mitchell, and David Hyde Pierce, he has conducted Patti LuPone's engagements with the Pacific, Phoenix, Atlanta, Fort Worth, and Chicago symphonies. He conducted the San Francisco Symphony in the Emmy-winning concert production of *Sweeney Todd* starring Patti LuPone and George Hearn. At the Chicago Lyric Opera, he led the record-breaking production of *The Sound of Music*.

Fisher was founding music director and conductor of the New York City Center Encores! series from its inception in 1994 until 2005. The series earned a 2000 Tony Award, and in 1997, Fisher was given the Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Special Achievement. He continues to be a regular guest music director for the series. Fisher has made numerous recordings for Encores!, including the Grammy Award-winning *Chicago* cast album. He is supervising music director for *Chicago* productions worldwide.

Fisher has a long association with Lincoln Center's American Songbook series as a producer and music director, creating tributes to the Gershwins, Bernstein, Cole Porter, and Kander and Ebb. The Porter program was also presented at the Ravinia Festival, and the Kander and Ebb evening was broadcast on Live From Lincoln Center. He has also made many appearances as music director for the Lyrics and Lyricists series at New York's 92nd Street Y, often with his friend Sheldon Harnick as host. Fisher conducted the 2011 world premiere of Ricky Ian Gordon's *Rappahannock County* at the Virginia Opera, followed by performances in Richmond, VA and Austin, TX.

A Norfolk native, he lives in Manhattan and upstate New York.

Christine DiGiallonardo is a New York-based vocalist whose performances range from early music to jazz and rock. DiGiallonardo has performed with the New York Philharmonic and, with her sisters, on A Prairie Home Companion as The DiGiallonardo Sisters. The group's first CD release, "Shout Sister Shout, the DiGiallonardo Sisters & Rob Fisher @ The Virginia Arts Festival" was recorded at the Robin Hixon Theatre, in the Clay & Jay Barr Education Center in 2013.

Ross Benoiel, baritone, has appeared with Glimmerglass Opera, Hong Kong Opera and New York City Opera. Benoiel debuted at the Metropolitan Opera in 2010.

Co-presented with Virginia Arts Festival, the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, and the City of Norfolk.



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**Norfolk Festevents, Ltd.**, based in Norfolk, Virginia, is a private, not-for-profit organization dedicated to creating the most dynamic urban waterfront community in America through innovative programming and imaginative uses of its historic waterfront spaces. An extensive 10 month schedule of diverse outdoor cultural events, festivals, concerts, entertainment, holiday programs, tall ship visits, sports and recreation are presented in two popular and welcoming waterfront environments; Town Point Park located in downtown Norfolk on the banks of the Elizabeth River and Ocean View Beach Park situated on the shore line of the Chesapeake Bay. Norfolk Festevents has served as the City of Norfolk’s official event marketing agency since the city’s downtown waterfront revitalization initiatives began in 1982. The organization has garnered international acclaim for its advocacy for public access to waterfronts, outstanding quality programming and development of public spaces, transforming Norfolk into one of the most progressive, fun and livable waterfront communities in the country. Residents, workers, and visitors to Norfolk and the Hampton Roads region are invited to experience all the fun and excitement of the 2016 season!

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