

## For Immediate Release:

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# Symphony in the Park with The Virginia Symphony Orchestra at Town Point Park, along the Downtown Norfolk Waterfront

Norfolk, Virginia (July 21, 2017) – Norfolk Festevents, along with the Patricia and Douglas Perry Foundation, are proud to announce the **Virginia Symphony Orchestra** will perform at the Symphony in the Park event in Town Point Park, along the Downtown Norfolk Waterfront on **August 20, 2017**.

In honor of the Norfolk Naval Station Centennial celebration, the entire performance is titled, “**Salute to America**”. The Virginia Symphony Orchestra is honoring the men and women of the Navy and its inspiring history in our region. Guest can expect to hear pieces like *God Bless America*, *Victory at Sea* and the *Armed Forces Salute* that will inspire patriotism and gratitude for our sailors who brave the world’s seas in service to our great country.

Benjamin Rous, Virginia Symphony Orchestra’s resident conductor will be on the podium for this performance. Admired for his dynamism on the podium, Benjamin Rous was hired as Associate Conductor of the Virginia Symphony Orchestra in 2010 and quickly became a favorite among audiences throughout southeastern Virginia. Promoted to Resident Conductor in 2013, he took on an expanded role in the VSO’s calendar, where he performs annually on every series including Classics, Regional Classics, Pops, Young People’s Concerts, and state tours. In the summers, he pursues his love of education, serving as faculty conductor of Greenwood Music Camp in the Berkshires in western Massachusetts.



Recent guest appearances include debuts with the National Symphony, the Buffalo Philharmonic, the Hartford Symphony, and the Santa Fe Symphony. Highlights of past seasons include performances with the National Arts Centre Orchestra (Ottawa), Ensemble Orchestral de Paris, the Illinois Symphony, and on St. Louis's Pulitzer Concerts with musicians of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. Rous was featured in the 2013 Bruno Walter National Conductor Preview with the Jacksonville Symphony, and in the summer of 2014 he was called upon by the Grant Park Festival to fill in for a delayed conductor on less than 24 hours' notice.



An accomplished instrumentalist, Rous has concertized extensively on violin, viola, and keyboard instruments. He has served as guest principal 2nd violin with Mahler Chamber Orchestra, with whom he performed under the batons of Claudio Abbado and Daniel Harding, including European tours and a teaching residency with El Sistema students in Caracas. He was a regular member of the Boston-area Arcturus Chamber Ensemble for a decade, and has led the Virginia Symphony Orchestra from the harpsichord in baroque repertoire.

Benjamin Rous studied music at Harvard with an emphasis on composition, graduating with highest honors. His works have been performed by diverse ensembles including the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra, the Greenwood Orchestra, and the Fromm Players. During his college years he served as Music Director of Harvard Bach Society Orchestra and of Lowell House Opera, studied performance practice with Robert Levin, and performed on baroque violin with the Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra as section leader and soloist. He went on to earn the Doctor of Musical Arts in orchestral conducting with Kenneth Kiesler at the University of Michigan, where he also studied harpsichord and pursued his interest in dance. He received further guidance in festivals and masterclasses from David Zinman, Kurt Masur, Gustav Meier, Marin Alsop, and Lorin Maazel.

### **Virginia Symphony Orchestra**

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

**Date:** August 20, 2016

**Time:** 6pm -10pm

**Admission:** Free and Open to the Public

**Inclement weather location:** Half Moone Cruise Terminal 1 Waterside Dr. Norfolk, VA 23510

Produced by Norfolk Festevents, in partnership with the Patricia and Douglas Perry Foundation, admission to the concert is free and open to the public. Open lawn seating is available and picnics are welcome. The evening will include gourmet artisan foods and beverages for purchase. **Town Point Park will open at 6:00pm for pre-concert picnics. The concert begins at 8pm.**

For more information about this event and many others at Town Point Park visit [festevents.org](http://festevents.org), or call 757.441.2345.

**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.



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