



RICHMOND
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ALLIANCE

600 E. Grace Street, Suite 400 | Richmond, Virginia | 23219

Press Release
For Immediate Release
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Celebrate Black History Month with Virginia Opera's *Deep River: Marian Anderson's Journey*

**Tickets on Sale Now for Second Performance in RPAA's
2017-18 Wells Fargo OnStage Family Series**

Richmond, VA – The 2017-18 Wells Fargo OnStage Family Series presented by Richmond Performing Arts Alliance (RPAA) continues with Virginia Opera's *Deep River: Marian Anderson's Journey*. The performance takes place on February 17 at 10 a.m. in Libby S. Gottwald Playhouse at Dominion Energy Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are on sale now.

Deep River shows Marian Anderson's rise to fame as one of the world's greatest concert artists, in spite of experiencing racial prejudice. Anderson was an important figure in the struggle for civil rights and met each barrier with courage, grace and determination.

"It is Edu-tainment at its best," said Tawnya Pettiford-Wates, Virginia Opera Director. "The life of Miss Anderson remains an incredible testimony to the power and persuasion of art. Through her artistry, she became an unconventional leader in the Civil Rights Movement, compelling one of our nation's most influential First Ladies, Eleanor Roosevelt, to challenge all Americans to stand up for justice and equality. In so doing, history was forever changed. "

Tickets are \$8 for children and \$12 for adults (plus other applicable fees) and are available at the Dominion Energy Center for the Performing Arts Box Office, located on the first floor of Carpenter Theatre at 600 East Grace Street in Richmond. The box office is open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. the day of other afternoon and evening shows in Dominion Energy Center for the Performing Arts, and 9-11 a.m. the morning of the *Deep River* performance. Tickets are also available at Etix.com or by phone at 1-800-514-ETIX (3849).

"Virginia Opera has partnered with us for years now to reach new audiences of families, many of whom are experiencing live, performing arts for the very first time, and to make opera engaging and accessible for young children," said Janet Starke, RPAA Executive Director. "We're especially pleased to partner with them to introduce families to the historical and artistic influence of Marian Anderson."

The Wells Fargo OnStage Family Series will conclude with Synetic Theater's *The Magic Balloon* on May 5. For more information on this hilarious performance, visit RPAAlliance.com.

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Richmond Performing Arts Alliance (formerly Richmond CenterStage Foundation) is a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to provide diverse local and world-class performing arts, transformative arts education experiences for students of all ages, and inspirational venues—all to strengthen the culture and economic vitality of the Greater Richmond region. It is the home to eleven resident arts companies and performing arts groups. RPAA venues include the historic Carpenter Theatre, Libby S. Gottwald Playhouse and Rhythm Hall at Dominion Energy Center for the Performing Arts and Altria Theater – the largest performance venue between New York and Atlanta. Its arts education initiative operates out of the Genworth BrightLights Education Center and reaches students of all ages in the City of Richmond and surrounding counties.