



**FOR IMMEDIATE  
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**NPR'S HIT SHOW *FROM THE TOP* COMES TO VIRGINIA ARTS FESTIVAL FOR A LIVE  
CONCERT TAPING MAY 15**

***FROM THE TOP* PARTNERS WITH YOUNG AUDIENCES OF VIRGINIA FOR  
SCHOOL PROGRAM MAY 16**

***From the Top***, NPR's hit radio showcase for America's best young classical musicians heard locally on WHRO 90.3 FM Saturdays at 7pm, will tape a live radio program as part of the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Virginia Arts Festival on **Thursday, May 15 at 8 pm** at the **Ferguson Center for the Arts at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia**. This episode is slated to broadcast on June 21 on WHRO.

Hosted by acclaimed concert pianist **Christopher O'Riley**, this special concert will feature performances and interviews with talented young musicians from across the country. They include 13-year-old violinist and Newport News, VA resident **Brendon Elliot** performing a selection from *Symphonie Espagnole* by Édouard Lalo, along with 16-year-old pianist **Priscella Chan** from Arcadia, CA, 15-year-old cellist **Jennie Brent** from New Haven, CT, 17-year-old baritone **Elliott Hines** from Sugar Land, TX and *What's Cookin'* a saxophone quartet from the Chicago-area.

One of the most popular weekly programs on public radio, *From the Top* reaches nearly 750,000 loyal listeners every week on more than 200 radio stations coast to coast. *The Boston Globe* describes *From the Top* as "An entertaining, accessible and often inspirational mix of outstanding musical performances, informal interviews, skits and games, the show is a celebration of extraordinary musicians who happen to be teenagers leading fairly normal lives."

On May 16, *From the Top* will partner with Young Audiences of Virginia to stage an interactive performance and demonstration for Newport News area elementary schools. Each year, *From the Top* reaches millions of young people through school outreach and scholarship programs, and a music textbook partnership with Macmillan/McGraw Hill Publishers. This year, *From the Top* has brought its young performers into classrooms in Boston, MA, Bozeman, MT, Rochester, NY, New Albany, OH and the Hawaiian Islands to share their passion for music.

"We believe that young people have an amazing capacity to inspire people of all ages to explore music and the arts as a deeply enriching part of life," says *From the Top*'s co-CEO Gerald Slavet.

Tickets for *From the Top* are available online at [www.vafest.org](http://www.vafest.org) or by calling 757-282-2822.

*From the Top* on NPR is made possible through grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. It is also supported through the generous contributions of individuals and foundations as well as public radio stations. *From the Top* radio program is produced in association with WGBH Radio Boston and New England Conservatory of Music, its home and education partner.

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### **MORE ABOUT FROM THE TOP**

***FROM THE TOP*** is a non-profit organization that celebrates the passion, dedication and personal stories of the nation's outstanding young classical musicians. Through entertaining radio and television broadcasts, online media, and a national tour of live events and outreach programs, these performers inspire the pursuit of excellence and encourage participation in the arts as an integral part of a vibrant and civil society.

*From the Top's* training and mentorship programs prepare young musicians to connect with new audiences, serve as positive peer role models, and give back to their communities in many ways.

**Music. It's Powerful Stuff.**