

Westchester Philharmonic

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Philharmonic Highlights Changing Face of Classical Music with Performances by Young Japanese Conductor and Groundbreaking African-American Harpist

Preconcert film celebrates illustrious career of Hobson Pilot as first African-American woman to hold a principal chair with a major orchestra

Concert to Feature Work by Famed Film Composer John Williams

(Purchase, New York) —On **Saturday, November 12, 2011 at 8 pm and Sunday, November 13, 2011 at 3 pm** audiences will have a rare opportunity to experience the exquisite technique and electrifying podium presence of 41-year-old Japanese maestra **Tomomi Nishimoto**. The Philharmonic also welcomes **Ann Hobson Pilot**, who recently concluded her 40-year tenure as the Boston Symphony Orchestra's principal harpist, was the first African-American woman to win a principal chair with a major orchestra.

A celebrity figure in both Japan and Russia Tomomi Nishimoto is hailed as a “delicately sensitive conductor [who] fascinates even the orchestra.” From her captivating presence on the stage, to her celebrity appearances in car and motorcycle commercials, she has attracted attention around the world. Maestra Nishimoto will lead the orchestra through Liszt's haunting symphonic poem, *Les Preludes*, Rimsky-Korsakov's exultant *Scheherazade* and John Williams' *On Willows and Birches*, commissioned to honor Ann Hobson Pilot.

After the 2009 Tanglewood concerts with the BSO, which marked Ann Hobson Pilot's official retirement, she returned to the stage as soloist opening the BSO and Carnegie Hall seasons with the premiere of *On Willows and Birches*, composed for her by Oscar- and Grammy-winning composer John Williams. “The exciting thing for me about writing concertos is that you are writing for a person—someone. Ann is more than a great harpist, she really is a great woman—it has to do with the inner ear or the inner soul, but she has it all,” says Williams.

Inspired by the life and musical career of a gifted African-American woman's triumph over barriers of race and gender to become an artist and teacher, producer Susan Dangel produced a documentary that tells the story of Ann Hobson Pilot. Philharmonic audiences will be moved by a **pre-concert screening of *A Harpist's Legacy – Ann Hobson Pilot and the Sound***

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123 Main Street, Lobby Level White Plains, New York 10601 (914) 682-3707 www.westchesterphil.org

of Change, which profiles Ms. Pilot's personal and professional journey as the first black woman principal player in a major symphony orchestra and a moving force behind music education programs for underserved minorities. The screening will begin at **6:45 pm on November 12 and 1:45 pm on November 13**. Following the film, Ms. Pilot will join our audience for a discussion on their careers and how the world of classical music has become more diverse and more welcoming for minority musicians, soloists and conductors.

About this intriguing concert Executive Director Joshua Worby commented: "The Westchester Philharmonic always has and always will push boundaries, and this exciting program, which features two groundbreaking artists, two classical masterpieces and a new work by the film composer John Williams, crystallizes the evolutionary change that has taken place in our field over the past forty years."

All events take place at The Performing Arts Center at Purchase College. A free open rehearsal is scheduled for Saturday, November 12 at 10 am in The Concert Hall.

High resolution photos and artist bios are available and may be downloaded from:
www.westchesterphil.org/pressphotos.asp

Concert Tickets

All performances will take place in The Concert Hall at The Performing Arts Center Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase, New York. Four concert subscriptions are now available and range from \$330-\$94. Single tickets range from \$90-\$25. Student/child/group discounts are available.

To purchase tickets and for additional information call the Westchester Philharmonic Box Office at (914) 682-3707 ext. 10. Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover Card accepted. Visit the Westchester Philharmonic's website at www.westchesterphil.org.

About the Westchester Philharmonic

The Westchester Philharmonic orchestra is the only fully-professional symphony orchestra devoted to serving the people of Westchester County. Founded in 1983 by Paul Lustig Dunkel, who was named Music Director Emeritus, and most recently led by the legendary violinist Itzhak Perlman, the Philharmonic fulfills its mission in the concert hall, in the community, and in the classroom. The Philharmonic performs a main stage Concert Series at the Performing Arts Center Purchase College and partners with local agencies to present free and low-cost concerts for all County residents. Its award-winning education program serves over 2,000 elementary school students.

The orchestra is comprised of the finest musicians from the greater New York area and has worked with the world's finest soloists, including Midori, Joshua Bell, and the late Isaac Stern. With a focus on presenting the best music of the past and present, the orchestra places particular emphasis on providing young musicians with an opportunity to perform with, or compose for, a professional symphony orchestra early in their careers. The Philharmonic has become a home for living American composers and has proudly commissioned many orchestral works such as Melinda Wagner's *Concerto for Flute, Strings and Percussion*, which was awarded the Pulitzer Prize.

The orchestra is dedicated to inviting and attracting people of diverse backgrounds to its concerts and continues to explore new partnerships with local schools, libraries, and community centers, so that all in the community have the opportunity to experience the joy of a live, classical music concert.

*This season is made possible with public funds from the **New York State Council on the Arts**, celebrating 50 years of building strong, creative communities in New York State's 62 counties. This season is also made possible, in part, by **ArtsWestchester** with funds from Westchester County Government. Generous underwriting provided by **Entergy Nuclear and Westchester Magazine**.*

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2011-12 Season At-a-Glance

November 12, 2011 at 8PM – *Preconcert film at 6:45PM*

November 13, 2011 at 3PM – *Preconcert film at 1:45PM*

Tomomi Nishimoto, conductor

Ann Hobson Pilot, harp

Liszt: *Les Preludes*

John Williams: *On Willows and Birches*

Rimsky-Korsakov: *Scheherazade*

Sunday, December 18, 2011 at 3PM

Winter Pops: Broadway's Classic Hits

Ted Sperling, conductor

Kelli O'Hara, soprano

Ben Davis, baritone

Ballads, duets, and orchestral suites from Rodgers' *Carousel*, Bernstein's *West Side Story*, Weill's *Street Scene*, Porter's *Kiss Me Kate*, and others.

April 14, 2012 at 8PM

April 15, 2012 at 3PM

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, soloist-leader

Rossini: Sonata for Strings in G Major

Piazzolla: Four Seasons of Buenos Aires

Shostakovich: Quartet No. 8 (“Chamber Symphony”)

Brahms: Hungarian Dances

May 19, 2012 at 8PM

May 20, 2012 at 3PM

George Manahan, conductor

Branford Marsalis, saxophone

Mozart: Symphony No. 38 (“Prague”)

Glazunov: Concerto for Alto Saxophone

Mussorgsky: *Pictures at an Exhibition*

Subscriptions: \$330-\$94

Single Tickets: \$90-\$25

Call for tickets: (914) 682-3707

Concerts are presented at:

The Concert Hall at Performing Arts Center, Purchase College

735 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase, NY

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