

Westchester Philharmonic

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WESTCHESTER PHILHARMONIC TO PERFORM AT COUNTY'S 9/11 TENTH ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY

Samuel Barber's famed "Adagio for Strings" featured

(Valhalla, New York) — Westchester County will commemorate the 10th anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, 2001, on September 11, 2011 at 6 pm at *The Rising*, the County's 9/11 memorial at Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla. The Westchester Philharmonic will perform the famed *Adagio for Strings* by American composer and 40-year Mt. Kisco resident Samuel Barber, and will be led by the orchestra's *Winter Pops* conductor and New Rochelle native Ted Sperling.

"The Westchester Philharmonic plays a significant role within the community, one that goes well beyond our performances in the concert hall," commented the orchestra's Executive Director Joshua Worby. "We deliver award-winning educational programs to public schools, chamber ensembles to community centers and places of worship, and we proudly participate in special community events, such as this most solemn occasion. In one form or another, music occupies a distinct place in the consciousness of every individual; our orchestra is blessed to be able to fill that space for so many."

For the first time, the annual event will be held at twilight, to allow people to participate in events held elsewhere throughout the region. "Having the Westchester Philharmonic perform at our September 11th memorial ceremony will make the event even more moving," said County Executive Robert P. Astorino. "I hope Westchester residents will join us in honoring those who lost their lives on 9/11, as well as the first responders."

County Executive Robert P. Astorino will lay a wreath at the memorial, joined by family members of some of the one hundred-eleven Westchester residents whose lives were taken in the World Trade Center attacks. Other elected officials are expected to attend. The event is free and open to the public.

The Westchester Philharmonic's performance at this event is made possible, in part, with generous support from the Westchester Community Foundation.

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About Conductor Ted Sperling

As one of today's leading theater artists, Ted Sperling is a conductor, music director, arranger, singer, pianist, and violinist. He is music director and conductor of the first Broadway revival of *South Pacific*, which won seven Tony Awards and has been playing to sold-out Lincoln Center Theater houses since its opening in 2008. Moreover, in 2005, Mr. Sperling won the Tony and Drama Desk Awards (with Adam Guettel and Bruce Coughlin) for his orchestrations of *The Light in the Piazza*, for which he was also music director.

Mr. Sperling has an active conducting career, performing with Audra McDonald, Victoria Clark, Patti LuPone, Kelli O'Hara, Paulo Szot, and Deborah Voigt. He has conducted performances regularly with the New York Philharmonic, for Live at Lincoln Center, the American Songbook series at Lincoln Center, the Lyrics and Lyricists series at the 92nd Street Y, and, recently, a concert presentation of Ricky Gordon's opera *The Grapes of Wrath* at Carnegie Hall.

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.