

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**WESTCHESTER PHILHARMONIC CONTINUES HISTORIC SEASON
WITH BROADWAY ICON BRIAN STOKES MITCHELL**

Concert to be led by guest conductor Constantine Kitsopoulos

(Purchase, New York) — Following two sold-out concert weekends in November and October the Westchester Philharmonic continues its historic season with a delightful **Winter Pops** program on **Saturday, December 20, 2008 at 3 pm** at The Purchase College Performing Arts Center. Dubbed “the last leading man” by *The New York Times*, Brian Stokes Mitchell will join the orchestra for this one-day only concert event. Brian Stokes Mitchell has been enjoying a spectacular career that spans Tony Award winning performances on Broadway in shows such as *Man of La Mancha*, *Kiss Me Kate*, and *Ragtime*, and a multitude of television and film appearances. The quintessential musical theatre performer, his work on the big and small screens as well as in concert halls around the country has been equally acclaimed.

Guest conductor Constantine Kitsopoulos who “makes the supple, sensitive orchestra sound like an extension of thought” (*The New York Times*) will lead this event for all ages featuring Broadway and popular hits plus orchestral favorites. Constantine Kitsopoulos has made a name for himself as a conductor whose musical experiences comfortably span the worlds of opera and symphony, where he conducts in such venues as Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall and Royal Albert Hall, and musical theater, where he can be found leading orchestras on Broadway for shows such as *Les Misérables*, *Dracula*, and *La Bohème*.

Tickets for the Winter Pops concert are still available in the Second Tier. Orchestra and Grand Tier sections are sold-out. Patrons wishing to purchase tickets are encouraged to do so as soon as possible by calling the Westchester Philharmonic Box Office at (914) 682-3707.

High resolution photos and artist biographies are available and may be downloaded from:
www.westchesterphil.org/pressphotos0809.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.

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Single tickets in the Second Tier are \$40 and \$25 (patrons must climb stairs to reach this section of the theater.) Student/child/group discounts are available. 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, which is led by world-renowned Artistic Director Itzhak Perlman, is the only fully-professional symphony orchestra devoted to serving the people of Westchester County. Founded in 1983, the Philharmonic fulfills its mission in the concert hall, in the community, and in the classroom. Currently, 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.

*Entergy Nuclear is a major sponsor of the Westchester Philharmonic.
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This season is made possible, in part, by the Basic Program Support Grant of the Westchester Arts Council with funds from Westchester County Government and with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.

Westchester  Philharmonic

2008-09 Season At-a-Glance
Itzhak Perlman, Artistic Director

Winter Pops

Saturday, December 20, 2008 at 3 PM

Starring Broadway Icon Brian Stokes Mitchell
Constantine Kitsopoulos, Guest Conductor

A Modern Spring

Saturday, April 18, 2009 at 8 pm and Sunday, April 19, 2009 at 3 pm

George Manahan, Guest Conductor

Ravel Le Tombeau de Couperin
Adams Shaker Loops
Barber Capricorn Concerto
Stravinsky Pulcinella Suite

Pre-concert: Tuning Up

Saturday, April 18 at 6:45 pm and Sunday, April 19 at 1:45 pm

A discussion of new music with pianist Michael Boriskin, composer Laura Kaminsky and conductor Manahan.

Season Finale

Saturday, May 16, 2009 at 8 pm and Sunday, May 17, 2009 at 3 pm

Itzhak Perlman, Conductor
Alisa Weilerstein, Cello

Mozart Symphony No. 27
Saint-Saëns Cello Concerto No. 1
Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 5

Concerts are presented in The Concert Hall at the Performing Arts Center Purchase College
at 735 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase, NY.

Single Tickets: \$75-\$25 Call for tickets: (914) 682-3707