



Westchester Philharmonic

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**WESTCHESTER PHILHARMONIC'S FEB. 10th "FRIENDS & FAMILY" CONCERT
FEATURES TAP DANCE SENSATION SAVION GLOVER
Unique symphonic program led by Guest Conductor Rachael Worby
*Kids attend free.***

(White Plains, New York) — It isn't often when the guest soloist engaged to perform with a symphony orchestra is a tap dancer, but that's just what the Westchester Philharmonic has in store for its "Friends & Family" Concert, presented on February 10th at 3:00 pm at the Purchase Performing Arts Center, 735 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase, NY.

Teaming up with the world-renowned, Tony-decorated Savion Glover (*The Tap Dance Kid, Bring In Da' Noise, Bring In Da' Funk, Happy Feet*), the Westchester Phil and Maestra Rachael Worby have planned a thoroughly unique and unforgettable collaboration of music and dance, with Worby offering a special "guided tour" through the music to delight audiences of all ages. Glover will perform the Tap Dance Concerto, the only work of its kind in all symphonic repertoire, composed by mid-century master Morton Gould. Then flipping the calendar on its head with Vivaldi's Baroque masterpiece, *Four Seasons*, Glover will perform an improvisational duet with the violin soloist, Philharmonic concertmaster Robert Chausow.

Aaron Copland's *Rodeo*, the East Coast Premier of Jed Feuer's *Harambe*, and two works by jazz genius Thelonius Monk will draw listeners into an unexpected world they won't want to leave.

The Phil's "Friends & Family" Concert is designed to enthrall young listeners while delighting the seasoned concert-goer. Ms. Worby's engaging narrative throughout the program will be an education for all. **For this performance, children age 12 and under are admitted free with a paid adult purchase.**

A pre-concert discussion with the artists will take place in the hall at 2:00 pm, free for ticket holders. A free open rehearsal occurs at the hall at 11:00 am.

General Information and Tickets

Single tickets range from \$40 - 97. To purchase tickets, call or visit the Purchase College Performing Arts Center box office at (914) 251-6200. Box office hours are Wednesday through Friday, 12 noon to 6:00 pm, and on the day of the concert.

Mainstage performances take place in The Concert Hall at The Performing Arts Center, Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase, New York.

Program, 2/10/19, 3:00 pm

Harambe by Jed Feuer (East Coast Premiere); *Misterioso* and *'Round Midnight* by Thelonius Monk; Tap Dance Concerto by Morton Gould; *Rodeo* by Aaron Copland; *Four Seasons* by Antonio Vivaldi.

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About Savion Glover

Savion Glover is an American dancer and choreographer who became known for his unique pounding style of tap dancing, called "hitting." He brought renewed interest in dance, particularly among youths and minorities.

As a young child, Glover displayed an affinity for rhythms, and at age four he began taking drumming lessons. Deemed too advanced for the class, however, he then enrolled at the Newark Community School of the Arts and soon became the youngest person in the school's history to receive a full scholarship. At age seven he began taking tap lessons and quickly developed a passion for rhythm tap, a form that uses all parts of the foot to create sound. His talent attracted the attention of a choreographer for the Broadway musical *The Tap Dance Kid*, and Glover served as an understudy before taking the lead role in 1984. He returned to Broadway in 1989, performing in the musical revue *Black and Blue*, and was nominated for a Tony Award. A role in the motion picture *Tap* (1989) followed. Glover, who had long made a point of learning as much as he could from old tap masters, soon began teaching tap classes. He also developed his own tap style, which he christened "free-form hard core," while working with dancers such as Gregory Hines, Henry Le Tang, and Sammy Davis, Jr.

In 1990 Glover created his first choreography, for a festival at New York City's Apollo Theater. Two years later he became the youngest ever recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts grant. He portrayed a young Jelly Roll Morton in the musical *Jelly's Last Jam*, which debuted in Los Angeles in 1991 before opening on Broadway the following year and touring in 1994. In 1995 *Bring in 'Da Noise, Bring in 'Da Funk* opened Off-Broadway. Glover choreographed and starred in the musical, which featured a series of vignettes that chronicled African American history. A huge success, the show soon moved to Broadway, and in 1996 it won four Tony Awards, including a best choreographer award for Glover.

His numerous other appearances included a regular role (1990–95) on the children's television show *Sesame Street*. In 2000 Glover appeared in director Spike Lee's film *Bamboozled* and in 2001 made an appearance in *Bojangles*, a television biopic of tap dancer Bill ("Bojangles") Robinson starring Gregory Hines. He premiered "Classical Savion," a production that featured him tapping to classical music, in New York City in 2005; the show later toured the United States. In 2006 Glover choreographed the tap dances performed by the penguin Mumble in the computer-animated *Happy Feet*. That year he also formed his own production company, which oversaw his HooFeRzCLuB School for Tap and produced later shows, including "Sole Power" (2010).

About Rachael Worby

A native of Nyack, NY, Rachael Worby is one of the first highly successful female conductors of national and international renown, a preëminent figure in American arts education, and an innovative force in reimagining traditional performance formats. A dedicated orchestra builder, she is credited with the remarkable growth of organizations under her leadership.

Worby rose to fame during her 17-year tenure as Music Director and Conductor of the Symphony Orchestra in Wheeling, West Virginia. Her previous posts also include that of Music Director and Conductor of the Young People's Concerts at Carnegie Hall and Music Director and Conductor for the Pasadena POPS. She received a presidential appointment to the National Council of the Arts, on which she served for four years. Ms. Worby has toured extensively with legendary soprano Jessye Norman, conducting Ms. Norman's concert engagements around the globe.

Worby has distinguished herself as a visionary in the orchestral world, celebrated internationally for her extraordinary talents and exuberant style, as well as her versatile command of all musical genres. She is in demand as a guest conductor and has led orchestras throughout Europe, South America, Australia and Asia.

About the Westchester Philharmonic

Now in its 36th season, the Westchester Philharmonic is the oldest, continuously running professional symphony orchestra and largest performing arts organization of any kind in Westchester County. The Philharmonic's main stage concert series makes its home at the 1,300 seat Concert Hall at the Purchase Performing Arts Center, with outdoor concerts, chamber concerts, children's programs, and special events throughout the area, attracting savvy music-lovers from Rockland, Bergen, Fairfield, and Putnam counties, New York City, and beyond.

Founded in 1983 as the New Orchestra of Westchester under the leadership of Music Director Paul Lustig Dunkel, the orchestra was later re-named the Westchester Philharmonic. Renowned artists who have performed with the Phil include Joshua Bell, Jeremy Denk, Branford Marsalis, Midori, Garrick Ohlsson, Itzhak Perlman, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, Gil Shaham, Isaac Stern, and André Watts. The Philharmonic is proudly led by principal conductor Jaime Laredo.

Among the many new works commissioned and premiered by the Westchester Philharmonic is Melinda Wagner's Concerto for Flute, Strings and Percussion, which won the Pulitzer Prize in 1999. New commissions over the past three seasons included a violin concerto by David Ludwig and an orchestral work by Christopher Theofanidis.

The Westchester Philharmonic has a rich history of supporting artists of diverse backgrounds and is setting a new standard for how mid-size regional symphony orchestras can have an impact on the face of classical music. Many of the composers whose works have been commissioned or premiered with the Philharmonic come from diverse backgrounds and/or are women. In fact, in just the past eight seasons the Phil has engaged 27 conductors or guest soloists of African-American, Hispanic, and Asian backgrounds. Women conductors and composers have appeared in eight of the past twelve seasons.

The orchestra's award-winning education program reaches thousands of elementary school students each year and culminates in a full orchestra concert. The Phil also partners with local organizations to present free and low-cost chamber concerts, as well as to provide subsidized seating at main stage concerts, welcoming hundreds of area residents each year who might not otherwise have an opportunity to attend.

The orchestra is comprised of the finest professional free-lance musicians from around the greater metropolitan area, who also perform regularly with the New York City Ballet, Orchestra St. Luke's, Orpheus, Mostly Mozart, and for many Broadway shows. Members of the Phil hold faculty positions at Juilliard, Mannes, Manhattan School of Music, Purchase Conservatory, Vassar and Bard Colleges, and at local public schools.

Upcoming at the Westchester Philharmonic

March 13, 2019, at 12:10 pm, Downtown Music at Grace, White Plains

Eugene Moye, cello

Susan Walter, piano

Rachmaninoff: Cello Concerto

April 7, 2019 at 3 pm, Purchase Performing Arts Center

Jaime Laredo, conducting

Pamela Frank, violin

Beethoven: Violin Concerto

Beethoven: Symphony No. 5

May 8, 2019, at 12:10 pm, Downtown Music at Grace, White Plains

Robert Chausow, violin

Roberta Cooper, cello

Eleanor Bindman, piano

Mendelssohn: Piano Trio No. 2 in C Minor