

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Joshua Worby, (914) 682-3707

[jworby@westchesterphil.org](mailto:jworby@westchesterphil.org)

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**CLASSICAL NIRVANA, DECEMBER 18TH with KAZEM ABDULLAH, ANTHONY MCGILL**

**Childhood friends re-unite at the Purchase Performing Arts Center with works of Mendelssohn, Weber, and Bizet**

(White Plains, New York) — Continuing its 40th Anniversary Season the Westchester Philharmonic returns to the Purchase Performing Arts Center on **Sunday, December 18th at 3:00 pm. Conductor Kazem Abdullah** leads the Phil with guest **clarinetist Anthony McGill**, performing a perfectly curated program of classical masterworks by Felix Mendelssohn, Carl Maria von Weber, and George Bizet.

For both artists this program represents return engagements with the Westchester Philharmonic, but the first time together since their boyhood days at Interlochen Band Camp, where both were clarinet students. Indiana-born Abdullah migrated to the conductor's podium, where he eventually took the reins as Music Director of the City of Aachen, Germany, and has since won wide acclaim in the U.S. for leading the revival of Anthony Davis' X: *The Life and Times of Malcom X* with the Detroit Opera, which will move to the Metropolitan Opera later in 2023. McGill has gone on to worldwide fame with the clarinet, first gaining wide attention when he performed with Yo-Yo Ma and Itzhak Perlman on the Capitol steps for the first inauguration of Barack Obama. He has since been named Principal Clarinet of the New York Philharmonic.

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**PROGRAM**

**Sunday, December 18, 3:00 pm**  
**Purchase Performing Arts Center**  
Mendelssohn: Hebrides Overture  
Weber: Clarinet Concerto No. 1  
Bizet: Symphony in C

**LINKS TO ARTIST PHOTOS**

KAZEM ABDULLAH

<http://kazemabdullah.com/biography/>

ANTHONY MCGILL

[PR photos of Anthony](#)

**GENERAL INFORMATION AND TICKETS**

Performance takes place in The Recital Hall at The Performing Arts Center, Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase, New York.

Tickets are \$40 and \$70, with half-price tickets for young people ages 6 – 16.

**ALL TICKETS ARE SOLD EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER WEBSITE:**

- Online sales: <https://www.artscenter.org/events/westchester-philharmonic-classical-nirvana/>
- Telephone sales, main box office: (914) 251-6200. Alternate number: (914) 251-6212 (business hours)
- In-person sales on the day of performance beginning at 12:00 noon.

For further information about the entire 2022-23 season, as well as links to the PAC box office, visit <https://www.westchesterphil.org>

**About the Westchester Philharmonic**

Now entering its 40th 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 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.

The orchestra was founded in 1983 under the leadership of late Music Director Paul Lustig Dunkel, and is now led by Executive & Artistic Director Joshua Worby. Renowned artists who have performed with the Phil include Joshua Bell, Julia Bullock, Barbara Cook, Jeremy Denk, Branford Marsalis, Midori, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Kelly O'Hara, Garrick Ohlsson, Itzhak Perlman, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, Gil Shaham, Isaac Stern, and André Watts.

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. Newly commissioned works by award-winning composers Christopher Theofanidis, David Ludwig, and Jed Feuer debuted in 2014, 2016, and 2018, respectively.

The Westchester Philharmonic has a long history of supporting artists of diverse backgrounds. Many of the composers whose works have been commissioned or premiered with the Philharmonic come from diverse backgrounds and/or are women. Over the past ten seasons the Phil has engaged 30 conductors or guest soloists of African-American, Hispanic, and Asian backgrounds. Women conductors and composers have appeared in eight of the last ten seasons.

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.

*This season is made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.*

*This season is also made possible, in part, by ArtsWestchester with funds from Westchester County Government.*



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