



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Joshua Worby, (914) 682-3707

jworby@westchesterphil.org

Westchester Philharmonic Season Opens October 27

"The Knights" founder Eric Jacobsen conducts, with violin sensation Simone Porter

Works of Barber, Brahms, and Brooklyn's Caroline Shaw

Tickets on sale at the Purchase College Performing Arts Center

(White Plains, New York) — The talk of the music world revolves around an extraordinary new group of artists who are changing the face of classical music. Joining the Westchester Philharmonic for its season-opening concert on **Sunday, October 27th at 3:00 pm at the Purchase Performing Arts Center** are three such artists: **Conductor Eric Jacobsen** (co-founder of The Knights; music director of the Orlando Philharmonic and Bridgeport Symphony), who will guide the orchestra in a recent work, *Entr'Acte*, by Brooklyn **composer Caroline Shaw**, the youngest-ever recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for Music. Jacobsen and the Phil will then be joined by the astonishing **violinist Simone Porter** for Samuel Barber's exquisite and electrifying Violin Concerto. The *Edmonton Journal* said of Porter: "She reminded me most of all of the young Yehudi Menuhin...if you want to encounter someone who has all the potential to be one of the great violinists of her era, grab a ticket." Porter, just 23 years old, recently appeared with the LA Phil under Gustavo Dudamel, the NY Phil with Esa-Pekka Salonen. The concert closes with Brahms' towering Second Symphony, which took just two summer months to compose, after needing 21 years to compose his first symphony!

A pre-concert discussion with the artists, free for ticket-holders, takes place in the hall at 2:00 pm.

A free open rehearsal on the morning of Sunday, October 27, begins at 11:00 am.

General Information and Tickets

Single tickets range from \$36 - \$98. 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, 10/27/19, 3:00 pm

Eric Jacobsen, conducting
Simone Porter, violin
Westchester Philharmonic
Caroline Shaw: *Entr'acte*
Barber: Violin Concerto
Brahms: Symphony No. 2

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About Simone Porter

Violinist Simone Porter has been recognized as an emerging artist of impassioned energy, interpretive integrity, and vibrant communication. In the past few years she has debuted with the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic; and with a number of renowned conductors, including Gustavo Dudamel, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Stéphane Denève, Nicholas McGegan, Ludovic Morlot, and Donald Runnicles. Born in 1996, Simone made her professional solo debut at age 10 with the Seattle Symphony and her international debut with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in London at age 13. In March 2015, Simone was named a recipient of an Avery Fisher Career Grant.

At the invitation of the composer, Simone has just concluded a busy season with an appearance at the New York Philharmonic's presentation of Esa-Pekka Salonen's "Foreign Bodies," a multi-sensory performance experience involving live dance and a video installation. During the season she visited orchestras in Rhode Island, Albany (NY), Oregon, Texas and Alabama with recitals in Los Angeles and San Francisco, and performances at U.S. summer festivals in Aspen and Bellingham as well as Dublin and Edinburgh's International Festival.

This season she will join Gustavo Dudamel and the Los Angeles Philharmonic in subscription concerts honoring John Williams, in addition to concerts with orchestras in Oklahoma City, Boise, Orlando, Erie, Lexington, Fort Worth, Spokane, Asheville, Edmonton, Long Beach and Costa Rica.

[For Full Bio >>](#)

About Eric Jacobsen

Hailed by the New York Times as "an interpretive dynamo," conductor and cellist Eric Jacobsen has built a reputation for engaging audiences with innovative and collaborative programming. Jacobsen is Co-Artistic Director, and conductor of The Knights. and serves as the Music Director for the Orlando Philharmonic, the Greater Bridgeport Symphony, and as Artistic Partner with the Northwest Sinfonietta. Jacobsen founded the adventurous orchestra The Knights with his brother, violinist Colin Jacobsen, to foster the intimacy and camaraderie of chamber music on the orchestral stage. As conductor, Jacobsen has led the "consistently inventive, infectiously engaged indie ensemble" (New York Times) at such venues as Central Park's Naumburg Orchestral Concerts, Celebrate Brooklyn! Festival, (Le) Poisson Rouge, the 92nd Street Y, Carnegie Hall, and Lincoln Center, and summer music festivals at Tanglewood, Ravinia, and Ojai, and international venues such as the Cologne Philharmonie, Düsseldorf Tonhalle, the Salzburg Großes Festspielhaus, the Vienna Musikverein, National Gallery of Dublin, and the Dresden Musikfestspiele,. In their spring 2017 European tour, Jacobsen conducted The Knights in the new Hamburg Elbphilharmonie and completed a week-long residency with them at the Easter Festival (Festival de Pâques) in Aix-en-

Provence. Recent collaborators include violinist Itzhak Perlman, singers Dawn Upshaw, Susan Graham, and Nicholas Phan, and pianists Emanuel Ax and Jean-Yves Thibaudet.

[For Full Bio >>](#)



About Caroline Shaw

Caroline Shaw is a New York-based musician—vocalist, violinist, composer, and producer—who performs in solo and collaborative projects. She was the youngest recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for Music in 2013 for *Partita for 8 Voices*, written for the Grammy-winning Roomful of Teeth, of which she is a member. Recent commissions include new works for Renée Fleming with Inon Barnatan, Dawn Upshaw with Sō Percussion and Gil Kalish, the Orchestra of St. Luke's with John Lithgow, the Dover Quartet, TENET, The Crossing, the Mendelssohn Club of Philadelphia, the Calidore Quartet, Brooklyn Rider, the Baltimore Symphony, and Roomful of Teeth with A Far Cry. The 2018-19 season will see premieres by pianist Jonathan Biss with the Seattle Symphony, Anne Sofie von Otter with Philharmonia Baroque, the LA Philharmonic, and Juilliard 415. Caroline's film scores include Erica Fae's *To Keep the Light* and Josephine Decker's *Madeline's Madeline* as well as the upcoming short *8th Year of the Emergency* by Maureen Towey. She has produced for Kanye West (*The Life of Pablo; Ye*) and Nas (*NASIR*), and has contributed to records by The National, and by Arcade Fire's Richard Reed Parry. Once she got to sing in three part harmony with Sara Bareilles and Ben Folds at the Kennedy Center, and that was pretty much the bees' knees and elbows. Caroline has studied at Rice, Yale, and Princeton, currently teaches at NYU, and is a Creative Associate at the Juilliard School. She has held residencies at Dumbarton Oaks, the Banff Centre, Music on Main, and the Vail Dance Festival. Caroline loves the color yellow, otters, Beethoven opus 74, Mozart opera, Kinhaven, the smell of rosemary, and the sound of a janky mandolin.

About the Westchester Philharmonic

Now beginning its 37th 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. The orchestra was founded in 1983 under the leadership of late Music Director Paul Lustig Dunkel (who became Music Director Emeritus in 2008), 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 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. 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'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.

2019-20 Westchester Philharmonic Season At-a-Glance

CHAMBER SERIES

October 9, 2019, at 12:10 pm, Downtown Music at Grace, White Plains

Martin Agee, violin

Together with the Oculus4tet:

Cenovia Cummins, violin

Chris Cardona, viola

Stephanie Cummins, cello

Phillips Glass: Incidental music for *King Lear*

MAINSTAGE SERIES

October 27, 2019, at 3:00 pm, Purchase College Performing Arts Center

Eric Jacobsen, conducting

Simone Porter, violin

Westchester Philharmonic

Caroline Shaw: *Entr'acte*

Barber: Violin Concerto

Brahms: Symphony No. 2

MAINSTAGE SERIES

December 8, 2019 at 3 pm, Purchase Performing Arts Center

Rachael Worby, conducting

HyeJin Kim, piano

Members of Ballet Hispanico, Eduardo Vilaro, Artistic Director

Works of Gershwin, Bizet, Paquito D'Rivera, and more

CHAMBER SERIES

January 15, 2020, at 12:10 pm, Downtown Music at Grace, White Plains

Lih-Wen Ting, viola

Barbara Podgurski, piano

Music inspired by Native American culture.

Gilbert Galindo: Sonata for Viola and Piano (written for Ms. Ting)

Gabriela Lena Frank: Sueños de Chambí (from Cinco Danzas de Chambí)

MAINSTAGE SERIES

February 9, 2020, at 3:00 pm, Purchase Performing Arts Center

Rachael Worby, conducting

Ray Ushikubo, violin

Bernstein: West Side Story Suite (violin concerto arr. David Newman)

Works of Bernard Harman and John Williams

CHAMBER SERIES

March 4, 2020, at 12:10 pm, Downtown Music at Grace Church, White Plains

Program: TBA

MAINSTAGE SERIES

April 19, 2020, at 3:00 pm, Purchase Performing Arts Center

Jayce Ogren, conducting

Ran Dank, piano

Mendelssohn: Hebrides Overture

Copland: Appalachian Spring (complete ballet)

Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 4

CHAMBER SERIES

May 13, 2020, at 12:10 pm, Downtown Music at Grace Church, White Plains

Program: TBA

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.

