

December 18, 2019

Contact: Joshua Worby, (914) 682-3707

jworby@westchesterphil.org

A Sound Vision:

From Bernstein to Motown, a Portrait of the Beating American Heart

Rachael Worby returns to the podium with violinist Ray Ushikubo and tenor Ashley Faatoalia

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

(White Plains, New York) — How do you paint a portrait of the beating American heart?

Westchester Philharmonic's February 9th program, *A Sound Vision*, provides the musical answer. **Bernstein's** *West Side Story* Suite re-imagined as a violin concerto, **John Williams'** and **Bernard Herrmann's** crowning compositional achievements in the film scores for *Catch Me If You Can* and *North by Northwest*, and a journey to Motown for classics by **Smokey Robinson**, **Marvin Gaye**, the **Temptations**, and **Stevie Wonder** signs, seals, and delivers the sonic picture.

The fearless and boundary-breaking conductor **Rachael Worby** returns to lead the Phil, joined by 18 year-old violinist **Ray Ushikubo** (Davidson Fellow Laureate, Aspen Festival Competition winner, frequently featured on *From the Top*), and tenor **Ashley Faatoalia** (LA Times: "Outstanding;" Opera News: "A voice of winning purity and variety of expression").

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, February 9, begins at 11:00 am.

General Information and Tickets

Single tickets range from \$36 - \$98. Order online at artscenter.org, or 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, 02/09/20, 3:00 pm

Rachael Worby, conducting

Ray Ushikubo, violin

Ashley Faatoalia, tenor

Westchester Philharmonic

Bernstein: *West Side Story* Suite, (violin concerto arrangement by David Newmann)John Williams: "Escapade" from *Catch Me If You Can*Bernard Herrmann: *North by Northwest*

Music of the Temptations, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, and Smokey Robinson... and more.

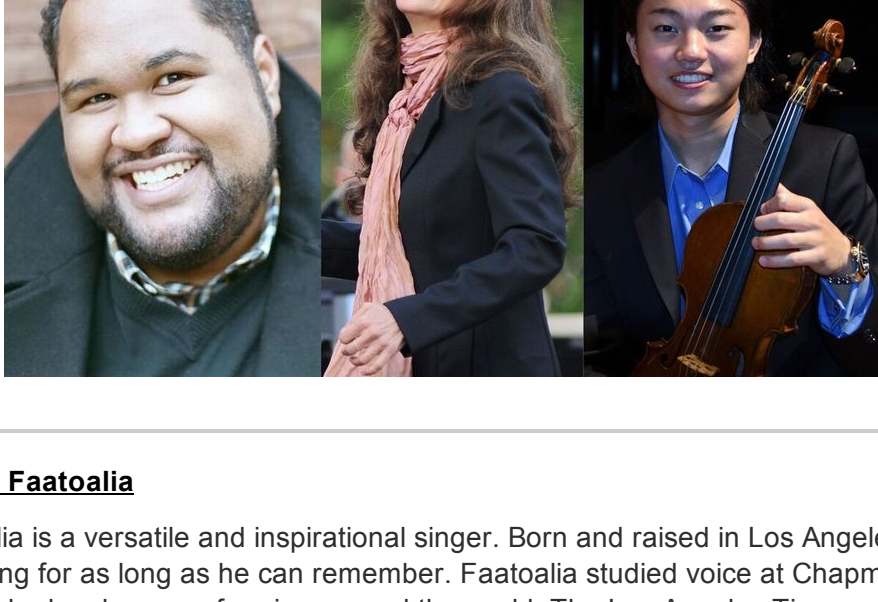
[Press Photos for Download >>](#)

About Rachael Worby

Musician. Innovator. Curator. Rachael Worby is an inspirational American conductor renowned for successfully reimagining the traditional concert format as well as dissolving the barriers that exist between performers and audiences. With her passionate, versatile command of musical genres, Rachael creates memorable, one-of-a-kind, live multi-disciplinary events that expand today's cultural landscape as Artistic Director and Conductor of California's pioneering MUSE/IQUE, which she founded in 2011. With MUSE/IQUE, Rachael Worby brings together members from every part of the community, connecting performers from various disciplines with audiences of all ages through curated experiences designed to challenge preconceived notions about the concert-going experience, and "illuminate the world around us." Enlarging the conversation about community, the organization's dynamic, inclusive events take place in unexpected, non-traditional venues throughout the Los Angeles area. MUSE/IQUE creates an intimate experience for all with an untraditional policy of in-the-round seating with no intermissions and no backstage areas, strengthening the bond between performers and audiences. Through an expansive, carefully curated outreach program, the organization has developed strong, ongoing immersive relationships with 14 separate nonprofits throughout the region that include season performances. Rachael Worby has guest conducted throughout Europe, South America, Australia and Asia. Her many honors include serving on the National Council of the Arts for four years as an appointee of President Bill Clinton. She has held multiple posts in the classical music world, including serving as Music Director and Conductor of Wheeling Symphony Orchestra (1986- 2003), founding the American Music Festival in Bucharest and Cluj, Romania, and leading the Pasadena Pops from 2000-2010. Earlier posts include Music Director and Conductor of Carnegie Hall's Young People's Concerts, stepping into the former post of her idol Bernstein, and Assistant Conductor for Youth Concerts at the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

About Ray Ushikubo

Exhibiting an innate musicality fused with mesmerizing technique, seventeen-year-old Japanese-American pianist and violinist Ray Ushikubo has soloed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, performed on the stages of Carnegie Hall and Walt Disney Concert Hall, and appeared on NBC's *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno. Since his solo orchestral debut at age ten with the Young Musicians Foundation Orchestra in Los Angeles's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Ushikubo has soloed with the Fort Collins Symphony Orchestra, Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Modesto Symphony Orchestra, Pasadena Symphony Orchestra, Reno Philharmonic, and San Diego Symphony Orchestra. A recipient of the prestigious Davidson Fellow Laureate Award in 2014, Ushikubo won the 2017 Hilton Head International Piano Competition and the 2016 Piano Concerto Competition at the Aspen Music Festival and School, where he soloed with the Aspen Conducting Academy Orchestra.

[For Full Bio >>](#)

About Ashley Faatoalia

Ashley Faatoalia is a versatile and inspirational singer. Born and raised in Los Angeles, CA, Ashley has been singing for as long as he can remember. Faatoalia studied voice at Chapman University and since then he has been performing around the world. The Los Angeles Times calls him "Outstanding", Opera News credits Ashley for having "a voice of winning purity and variety of expression", and The San Francisco Chronicle labeled him "Sweet-toned" In these first few years of his professional career Ashley has become a sought-after vocalist for new works and experimental projects working closely with composers from across the country including, Andy Akiho, Lewis Pesacov, Bruno Louchouart, Christopher Cerrone, Anne LeBaron and many more. Often noted for his soaring tenor and warm stage presence, Ashley's most recent engagements include: Albert Hoffman in *LSD: The Opera*, his debut as Marco Polo in the premiere of the Emmy Award winning, Pulitzer Prize nominated, *Invisible Cities with The Industry*, his debut as Jesse in *Crescent City* also with *The Industry*, concerts with Riverside County Philharmonic, California Philharmonic, performances in *Porgy and Bess* with Seattle Opera, *Candide* with The Los Angeles Philharmonic, *The Festival Play of Daniel* with Los Angeles Opera, his debut with San Francisco Opera and many more. Ashley has also had the honor of singing *The Star Spangled Banner* to sold-out audiences at both Dodger Stadium and The Staples Center as well as command performances at Los Angeles City Hall and other prestigious venues in the Southern California area. Upcoming engagements include concerts with Los Angeles Opera and Galileo with The Industry. Ashley also currently works with The Education and Community Engagement Dept. at LA Opera as a performing artist. Faatoalia is featured on multiple professional recordings including: *Invisible Cities – Original Cast Recording* (CD/DVD/Digital Release), *The Edge of Forever – Original Cast Recording* (Vinyl), *Porgy & Bess – San Francisco Opera* (BluRay-DVD) *Steppin Out – Solo Jazz Album* (CD/Digital Release) AND MORE!

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 Theofanis, 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.

Upcoming at the Westchester Philharmonic

CHAMBER SERIES

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

Lih-Wen Ting, viola

Barbara Podgurski, piano

Darius Milhaud: *Quatre Visages*Gilbert Galindo: *Viola Sonata*

Gilbert Galindo: 6 etudes for piano solo

Jeanne Behrend: *Lamentation*

MAINSTAGE SERIES

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

Rachael Worby, conducting

Ray Ushikubo, violin

Ashley Faatoalia, tenor

Westchester Philharmonic

Bernstein: *West Side Story* Suite, (violin concerto arrangement by David Newmann)John Williams: "Escapade" from *Catch Me If You Can*Bernard Herrmann: *North by Northwest*

Music of the Temptations, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, and Smokey Robinson... and more.

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

Gregg August, double bass

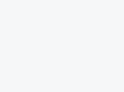
Jesse Mills, violin

Manuel Valera, piano

Gregg August: *Trio for violin, piano, and bass*Ignacio Cervantes: *Los Tres Golpes*

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.



Share this email:

[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove™Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.View this email [online](#).

170 Hamilton Avenue Suite 350

White Plains, NY | 10601 US

This email was sent to .

To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.[Subscribe](#) to our email list.