

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****October 5, 2022**

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**40TH SEASON OPENS OCTOBER 16TH WITH JAYCE OGREN, RAN DANK**

**After a 2-year hiatus, the orchestra returns to the Purchase Performing Arts Center with works of Beethoven and Mozart, and star composer Jessie Montgomery.**

(White Plains, New York) — After a pandemic-induced two-year hiatus, the Westchester Philharmonic joyfully returns to live performances at the Purchase Performing Arts Center on **Sunday, October 16th at 3:00 pm. Conductor Jayce Ogren** leads the Phil with guest **pianist Ran Dank** in works of Beethoven, Mozart, and award-winning composer **Jessie Montgomery**.

Montgomery's works have been described as "turbulent, wildly colorful and exploding with life" (*The Washington Post*), with "...a voice as refreshing as it is, inexplicably, recognizable." (*Chicago Tribune*). Commissions and composer-in-residence appointments with the New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, Orpheus Chamber Ensemble, St. Paul Chamber Ensemble, and many others have solidified Montgomery's standing in the contemporary composing world.

Ogren is the former Assistant Conductor of The Cleveland Orchestra and has conducted many of the world's most prominent orchestras, including the BBC Symphony, Boston Symphony, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, the Dallas and San Francisco Symphonies. He conducted New York premieres of Leonard Bernstein's only opera, *A Quiet Place*, puppeteer Basil Twist's *The Rite of Spring*, both at Lincoln Center; the world premiere of David Lang's *symphony for a broken orchestra*, and is a longtime collaborator of singer/songwriter/composer Rufus Wainwright, conducting the 2012 U.S. premiere of Wainwright's opera *Prima Donna* at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

Israeli pianist Ran Dank has appeared with virtually every major orchestra and esteemed conductors throughout the world. Winner of the Naumberg Competition, the *New York Times* wrote that "Mr. Dank played brilliantly, giving a muscular and virtuosic performance that highlighted the varied sonic palette of the piece, with its Brahmsian sweep, fiendish octaves and serial techniques."

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**PROGRAM****Sunday, October 16, 3:00 pm****Purchase Performing Arts Center**

Jessie Montgomery: Banner

Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 2

Montgomery: Strum

Mozart: Symphony No. 4

**LINKS TO ARTIST PHOTOS**

JAYCE OGREN

<https://colbertartists.com/artists/jayce-ogren/>

RAN DANK

<https://colbertartists.com/artists/ran-dank/>

JESSIE MONTGOMERY

<https://www.jessiemontgomery.com/about/>**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:**<https://www.artscenter.org/events/westchester-philharmonic-40th-anniversary-season-opener/>

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, Yassar 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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