



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Lenore Eggleston, (914) 682-3707 ext. 15
leggleston@westchesterphil.org

Westchester Philharmonic's Annual *Winter Pops!*
Welcomes Return of Broadway's *Mary Poppins* star Ashley Brown

***Conductor Sperling leads concert of Broadway and classical hits
plus awe-inspiring renditions of *What a Wonderful World*,
Ave Maria, *Hello*, *Young Lovers* and more***

"Android" TV commercial one-named pianist Ji will dazzle with Rachmaninoff

(Purchase, New York) — On **December 18, 2016 at 3 pm** one of Broadway's brightest stars returns to the Concert Hall at the Purchase Performing Arts Center for the Westchester Philharmonic's ***Winter Pops!*** A sold-out seasonal favorite since its introduction a decade ago, *Winter Pops!*, led by **Principal Conductor Ted Sperling**, this year welcomes the return of audience favorite, **singer Ashley Brown** who originated the title role in *Mary Poppins* on Broadway receiving Outer Critics, Drama League, and Drama Desk nominations for Best Actress.

Ms. Brown has performed with virtually all of the top orchestras in North America including the Boston Pops and the New York Philharmonic and her other Broadway credits include *Belle in Beauty and The Beast*. Her performances have been described by critics as "golden throated" (*Time Out Chicago*) and having "perfect pitch" (*Chicago Tribune*) and *Showbiz Chicago* called her "the most versatile and noteworthy young talent on the Broadway stages."

By overwhelmingly popular demand, vocalist Ashley Brown returns to deliver awe-inspiring renditions of *What a Wonderful World*, *Ave Maria*, *Hello*, *Young Lovers*, and much more. The one-named **pianist Ji**, whose appearance in the "Android" TV commercial seen during the Grammys instantly went viral and made him a breakout sensation, will dazzle in an audience-favorite selection of Rachmaninoff. This delectable program of popular and classical hits also includes Bernstein's *Candide Overture* and the Waltz from Tchaikovsky's *Serenade*.

Tony award-winning music director Ted Sperling, who has been Principal Conductor of the Westchester Philharmonic since 2014, recently led the rapturously received revivals of *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The King and I* and *South Pacific* on Broadway. He is also Artistic Director of MasterVoices (formerly The Collegiate Chorale), is a consultant to the Public Theater, and is Creative Director of the 24-Hour Musicals.

Audiences can keep the holiday fun going at our popular ***Pops After-Party!*** Mingle with Ted Sperling, Ashley Brown, Ji and orchestra musicians while enjoying more live music, scrumptious hors d'oeuvres and a wine tasting with Aries Fine Wines & Spirits. Early reservations are a must! Only \$30 with a Pops ticket purchase.

[PRESS PHOTOS AND ARTIST BIOS FOR DOWNLOAD HERE](#)

December 18, 2016 at 3 pm — Winter Pops!

Ted Sperling, conducting

Ashley Brown, vocals & Ji, piano

By overwhelmingly popular demand, vocalist Ashley Brown returns to deliver awe-inspiring renditions of *What a Wonderful World*, *Ave Maria*, *Hello*, *Young Lovers*, and much more. The one-named pianist Ji, whose appearance in the “Android” TV commercial seen during the Grammys instantly went viral and made him a breakout sensation, will dazzle in an audience-favorite selection of Rachmaninoff. This program of popular and classical hits also includes Bernstein’s *Candide Overture* and the Waltz from Tchaikovsky’s *Serenade*. *Tickets: \$40-\$97. Winter Pops After-Party with the stars: \$30.*

General Information and Tickets

All performances will take place in The Concert Hall at The Performing Arts Center, Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase, New York. Single tickets range from \$97-\$40. Winter Pops After-Party tickets are \$30 and include light appetizers and wine tasting. Concert-goers 25 years of age or under pay half-price for single concert tickets. Group discounts are also available. To purchase, call the Westchester Philharmonic at (914) 682-3707 ext. 10 or visit westchesterphil.org.

About the Westchester Philharmonic

Now in its 34th 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 (who became Music Director Emeritus in 2008), 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 two principal conductors: renowned violinist Jaime Laredo and Grammy-award winning music director, Ted Sperling.

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. A new commission by David Ludwig is scheduled for debut during the 2016-17 season.

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 seven 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.

*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.*



Westchester
Philharmonic

THE 2016-17 MAIN STAGE SEASON CONTINUES

December 18 at 3 pm **Ted Sperling, conducting**

Ashley Brown, vocals

Ji, piano

Winter Pops

Louis Armstrong: *What a Wonderful World*

Rodgers & Hammerstein: *Hello, Young Lovers*

Bernstein: *Candide* Overture

Schubert: *Ave Maria*

Rachmaninoff: Piano Concerto No. 2, Mvmt. 3

Tchaikovsky: Waltz from *Serenade for Strings*

More works TBD

**Post-concert After-Party with the stars.*

February 12 at 3 pm **Ted Sperling, conducting**

Julia Bullock, soprano

The Friends & Family Concert

Glinka: *Ruslan & Ludmilla* Overture

Josephine Baker: *La conga Blicoti & J'ai deux amours*

Gershwin: *Summertime & Walking the Dog*

Bernstein: *A Julia de Borgos*

Mozart: "Deh vieni non tardar" (from *Le nozze di Figaro*)

Stravinsky: *Firebird* Suite

**Pre-concert Instrument Petting Zoo. Kids 17 and under attend concert free.*

April 9 at 3 pm

Jaime Laredo, violin soloist-leader

Joseph Kalichstein, piano

Sharon Robinson, cello

40th Anniversary of the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio

Mozart: Piano Quartet No. 1 in G minor

Bach: *Brandenburg* Concerto No. 5

Beethoven: *Triple* Concerto

June 18 at 3 pm

Andrew Litton, conducting

Conrad Tao, piano

Burgers, Beers & B-flat Minor

Weber: Overture to *Euryanthe*

Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto No. 1

Dvorak: *New World* Symphony

**Post-concert Father's Day Barbeque: Burgers, Beers & B-flat Minor*

4 and 5-Concert subscriptions: \$406-\$150

Single tickets: \$97-\$40

Winter Pops After-Party: \$30

June Barbeque: \$25 adults/\$12 children

Tickets: (914) 682-3707 or westchesterphil.org

Concerts are presented at:

The Concert Hall, The Performing Arts Center Purchase College,
735 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase, NY