



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WESTCHESTER PHILHARMONIC ANNOUNCES 2016-17 SEASON

Featuring celebrated principal conductors Jaime Laredo and Ted Sperling, renowned guest artists Joseph Kalichstein, Sharon Robinson and Andrew Litton alongside rising stars Bella Hristova, Ashley Brown, Ji, Julia Bullock and Conrad Tao

34th Season Opens October 23 with New York Premiere by David Ludwig Written For and Performed by His New Bride, Violinist Bella Hristova

(White Plains, New York) — Monumental works, superstar guest artists, and sensational new talent. It's the Westchester Philharmonic's 34th and most memorable season yet. Led by Principal Conductors **Jaime Laredo** and **Ted Sperling**, Westchester County's oldest and most prestigious symphony orchestra will present its 34th season at its home, the 1300 seat Concert Hall at the Purchase College Performing Arts Center.

Along with masterworks of Beethoven, Bach, Brahms, and Mozart, the orchestra will perform 20th century milestones of Gershwin, Bernstein and Stravinsky, and a 21st century masterpiece of the future by David Ludwig opens the season on October 23. The New York area premiere is commissioned by the Westchester Philharmonic alongside six other regional orchestras on the occasion of the composer's marriage to violinist Bella Hristova, who returns to the Phil to perform the work led by Jaime Laredo.

Audiences should buy early for the Phil's popular December 18 Winter Pops concert featuring Broadway favorites and classical hits with headliner star Ashley Brown (*Mary Poppins*) who returns this season by popular demand. A highlight of the season is the Philharmonic's annual February 12 Friends & Family Concert featuring a pre-concert Instrument Petting Zoo for young listeners (who also come free with a paying adult) followed by a guided-tour concert led by conductor Ted Sperling and featuring rising star singer Julia Bullock. Spring events include a musical celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio and a June 18 season finale led by Westchester-born Andrew Litton, newly named conductor of the NYC Ballet orchestra, and featuring the jaw-dropping technique of pianist Conrad Tao.

Pre-concert discussions with the artists before most main stage events as well as free open rehearsals perfect for young families offer a glimpse into the music-making process. Audiences can even keep the fun going at the Phil's popular post-concert events: the subscriber-only Kick-Off Party on October 23rd featuring delectable desserts and music; the Winter Pops After-Party on December 18 where guests mingle with the stars while enjoying scrumptious hors d'oeuvres and a wine tasting with Aries Wines & Spirits; and Father's Day celebrants on June 18 will enjoy a post-concert barbeque for the whole family including live bluegrass music.

[PRESS PHOTOS FOR DOWNLOAD HERE](#)

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The 2016-17 Main Stage Season

October 23, 2016 at 3 pm

Jaime Laredo, conducting & Bella Hristova, violin

David Ludwig, composer

The Emily and Eugene Grant Opening Series

Soon after her unforgettable Tchaikovsky with the Phil in 2014, Bella Hristova and composer David Ludwig were married (with Jaime Laredo presiding!), so the Philharmonic commissioned Mr. Ludwig to write a concerto for his new bride. David Ludwig's prior commissions include Carnegie Hall, Philadelphia Orchestra, eighth blackbird, Ravinia, and many more. Book-ending this "romantic" new work are two Romantic period giants, Weber (Oberon Overture) and Brahms, whose fourth and final symphony is regarded as his crowning achievement.

Post-concert event: Subscriber-only Kick-Off Party. Free for subscribers by invitation.

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*.

Post-concert event: Winter Pops After-Party with the stars, \$30.

February 12, 2017 at 3 pm — The Friends & Family Concert

Ted Sperling, conducting & Julia Bullock, soprano

The Philharmonic warmly invites music-lovers of all ages to hop aboard conductor Sperling's guided tour to a family-friendly program, perfect for all ages yet fully satisfying to the most sophisticated musical palates. The annual "Friends & Family" concert features Julia Bullock who has been described in the press as "ravishingly visceral," "the evening's most remarkable showstopper," and for her "...clarity of delivery...beauty of sound...opulent and glorious." Stravinsky's monumental *Firebird* marked a musical revolution that announced not only the young composer's genius but a completely new musical paradigm at the beginning of the 20th century. The program also includes works of Mozart, Josephine Baker, Bernstein and Gershwin plus Glinka's *Ruslan & Ludmilla Overture*.

Pre-concert Instrument Petting Zoo. Kids attend free with a paid adult.

April 9, 2017 at 3 pm

Jaime Laredo, violin soloist-leader

Joseph Kalichstein, piano & Sharon Robinson, cello

40th Anniversary of the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio

The "KLR" Trio is arguably the finest ever of its kind, and to honor their incredible 40-year collaboration we present the ultimate compositional achievement for trio and orchestra, Beethoven's *Triple Concerto*. Bach's glorious *Brandenburg No. 5* and Mozart's gorgeous chamber work will feature members of the Phil in solo roles.

June 18, 2017 at 3 pm — Burgers, Beers & -flat Minor B

Andrew Litton, conducting & Conrad Tao, piano

Westchester-born Andrew Litton is the recently named Music Director of the New York City Ballet. He teams with pianist Conrad Tao, whose jaw-dropping technique and sensitive phrasing belie his youth and inspire ovations world-wide, in one of the most famous concertos ever written, Tchaikovsky's *Piano Concerto No. 1*. When Dvořák came to America in 1892, he was transfixed by the music of Native Americans and African-American spirituals, incorporating these influences in his *Ninth Symphony* ("From the New World"), which is now among the most famous of all symphonies. Also on the program is Weber's *Overture to Euryanthe*.

Post-concert spring BBQ: Burgers, Beers & B-flat Minor, \$25 adults/\$12 children.

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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. A pre-concert discussion with the artists takes place inside the concert hall at 2 pm before each performance (excluding December 18).

Single tickets range from \$97-\$40. Four and 5-concert subscriptions range from \$105-\$406. Concert-goers 25 years of age or under pay half-price for single concert tickets. Group discounts are also available. Winter Pops After-Party tickets are \$30 each. The post-concert June BBQ event is \$25 for adults and \$12 for children. To purchase, call the Westchester Philharmonic at (914) 682-3707 ext. 10 or visit westchesterphil.org. Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover Card accepted.

Open Rehearsals

Free open rehearsals with the orchestra are scheduled for October 23, February 12, April 9 and June 18 at 11 am in The Concert Hall. Children and families welcome. Coffee and donuts will be served backstage for "Phil Families". Please visit westchesterphil.org for information before attending.

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

October 23 at 3 pm

Jaime Laredo, conducting

Bella Hristova, violin

David Ludwig, composer

Weber: Oberon Overture

David Ludwig: Violin Concerto (*NY premiere*)

Brahms: Symphony No. 4

**Post-concert subscriber-only Kick-Off Party*

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 Burgos*

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