

NJYS40 Celebrates with 'Carmina Burana' at NJPAC

New Jersey Youth Symphony Celebrates 40th with "Carmina Burana"

By Mabel Pais

The New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS) will honor a milestone with its 40th Anniversary Concert and Gala on Sunday, May 19 at 3:00 p.m. at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) located at 1 Center Street in Newark.

Under the baton of Helen Cha-Pyo, the celebratory concert will showcase the youth symphony's extensive talent with Carl Orff's iconic "Carmina Burana." Described as "one of the most richly tuneful choral pieces of modern times," the orchestra will be joined by soprano Mia Pafumi, tenor Theron Cromer, and baritone John-Andrew Fernandez as well as the Newark Boys Chorus, J.P. Stevens High School Chorus, Newark Academy Concert Choir, New Providence High School Chorus, Ridge High School A Cappella Honors, and the Somerville High School Chorus for a show-stopping performance by an ensemble of nearly 500 performers.

Artistic Director and Conductor Cha-Pyo says, "I anticipate this concert to be what post-Millennials would call an 'epic event!' When nearly 500 high school musicians from 13 counties of NJ take the stage at NJPAC to perform "Carmina Burana," it is truly an extravaganza! I am also thrilled to present a 145-member Festival String Orchestra of our elementary and middle school-age string players assembled just for this concert."

"Come and experience the transformative power of music shared by the young musicians that is guaranteed to be larger than life!" The combined festival string orchestra made up of NJYS Sinfonia, Concertino Strings, Primo Strings, and the Paterson Music Project Concert Orchestra will perform works by Jenkins and Rimsky-Korsakov. Also joined by Newark Boys Chorus and the Paterson Music



NJYS

Photo / WIPA.

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**Helen Cha-Pyo,
Artistic Director-Conductor**

Project Chorus, the Festival String Orchestra will give a world premiere performance of "Three Poems of Langston Hughes" by Jack Bender, a newly commissioned work to commemorate the New Jersey Youth Symphony's 40th Anniversary celebration. Gala honorees include Mayor of Paterson Andre Sayegh and Farhanna Balgahoom Sayegh and WBGO Jazz 88.3 FM.

Concert tickets are available online at www.njpac.org. Gala ticket price includes preferred seating at the concert available at www.whartonarts.org. For more

information, call 908-790-0700.

The Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts' (WIPA) mission is to provide the highest quality performing arts education to a wide range of students in a supportive and inclusive environment, where striving for personal excellence inspires and connects those it teaches to the communities it serves.

Wharton is New Jersey's largest independent non-profit community performing arts education center serving over 1,500 students through a range of classes and ensembles including the 15 ensembles of the New Jersey Youth Symphony, which serve 500 students in grades 3 to 12 by audition.

Beginning with "Out of the Box Music" and "Pathways" classes for young children, Wharton offers private lessons, group classes, and ensembles for all ages and all abilities at the Performing Arts School. Wharton believes in the positive and unifying influence of music and the performing arts and that arts education should be accessible to all people regardless of their ability to pay.

Wharton teaches all instruments and voice and has a robust musical theater program. Based in Paterson, New Jersey, the Paterson Music Project is an El Sistema-inspired program of the Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts that uses music as a vehicle for social change by empowering and inspiring children through the community experience of ensemble learning and playing.

WIPA is located in Berkeley Heights, New Providence and Paterson, NJ and reaches students from 10 counties. All of Wharton's extraordinary faculty members and conductors hold degrees in their teaching specialty and have been vetted and trained to enable their students to achieve their personal best.

NJSO Double Concertos

By Mabel Pais

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (NJSO) Concertmaster Eric Wyrick takes center stage in a pair of double concertos, pairing with electric guitarist Steven Mackey in Mackey's "Four Iconoclastic Episodes" and with Sphinx Competition winner Annelle Gregory in Bach's Concerto for Two Violins-May 16-19. Music Director Xian Zhang conducts the program, which also features Beethoven's "Leonore" Overture No. 3 and Weber's Overture to "Oberon."

These performances are the second NJSO program featuring Mackey, a longtime NJSO collaborator and artistic partner; that week. He conducts and hosts a program of contemporary chamber works curated by composer Juri Seo with the NJSO Chamber Players on May 13 at 8 pm at Princeton University's new Lewis Arts Complex.

Mackey and Wyrick gave the NJSO premiere of "Four Iconoclastic Episodes" at the closing concert of the 2017 NJSO Edward T. Cone Composition Institute. Mackey is the director of the Orchestra's Princeton University-based program for emerging composers, which the NJSO founded in 2014.

Gregory is the 2017 senior winner of the Sphinx Competition. She appears with the NJSO as part of the Orchestra's continuing partnership with the Sphinx Organization, a non-profit dedicated to transforming lives through the power of diversity in the

arts.

CONCERT PROGRAM

Art of the Double Concerto
Thu, May 16, at 1:30 pm | NJPAC in Newark

Fri, May 17, at 8 pm | Richardson Auditorium in Princeton

Sat, May 18, at 8 pm | NJPAC in Newark

Sun, May 19, at 3 pm | State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick

Xian Zhang, conductor
Eric Wyrick, violin
Annelle Gregory, violin
Steven Mackey, electric guitar
New Jersey Symphony Orchestra

WEBER Overture to "Oberon"

STEVEN MACKEY "Four Iconoclastic Episodes"

BACH Concerto for Two Violins

BEETHOVEN "Leonore" Overture No. 3

NJSO ACCENTS

Singalong Fun - Thu, May 16, at 12:30 pm

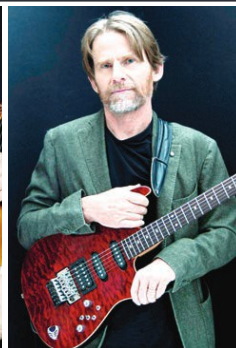
Come early and sing along to an entertaining selection of song favorites.

Classical Conversation - Fri, May 17, at 7 pm; Sat, May 18, at 7 pm and Sun, May 19, at 2 pm

Enjoy a lively Classical Conversation before the performance. Learn more about the music from NJSO musicians, guest artists and other engaging



Concertmaster Eric Wyrick



Steven Mackey



Annelle Gregory

Photos / Courtesy NJSO

insiders.

More information on NJSO Accent events is available at njsymphony.org/accents. For Concert and Student discount tickets, visit www.njsymphony.org or call 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476) or in person at The NJSO Patron Services office.

New Jersey Symphony Orchestra

Named "a vital, artistically significant musical organization" by "The Wall Street Journal," the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra embodies that vitality through its statewide presence and critically acclaimed performances, education partnerships and unparalleled access to music and the Orchestra's superb musicians.

Music Director Xian Zhang-a "dynamic podium presence" "The New York Times" has praised for her "technical abilities, musicianship and maturity"-continues her acclaimed leadership of the NJSO. The Orchestra presents classical, pops and family

programs, as well as outdoor summer concerts and special events. Embracing its legacy as a statewide orchestra, the NJSO is the resident orchestra of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark and regularly performs at State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick, Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank, Richardson Auditorium in Princeton, Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown and bergenPAC in Englewood. Partnerships with New Jersey arts organizations, universities and civic organizations remain a key element of the Orchestra's statewide identity.

For more information, visit njsymphony.org or email information@njsymphony.org

Additional concert information and artist bios are available at njsymphony.org/doubleconcerto

(Mabel Pais writes on the Arts and Entertainment, Social Issues, Spirituality, and Health & Wellness)