

NJSO Meets BOLLYWOOD

BY MABEL PAIS

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra Chamber Players

PERFORM

FREE Bollywood Virtual Concert

March 26, 2021 at 7 PM on ZOOM

Audiences Enjoy Signature Bollywood Music and Insight into Hindi-language Film Industry

Interactive program features a Q&A with NJSO musicians

March 26 at 7 pm on Zoom

Audiences register for FREE event at njsymphony.org/bollywood



(Top) Archana Athalye; (Bottom) James Musto - Photo / Courtesy NJSO

Bollywood, the Hindi-language film industry of India, inspires a free virtual concert featuring the NJSO Chamber Players on March 26 at 7 pm.

"Best of Bollywood" explores historical influences on the growth of Bollywood and offers insights into signature music and lyrics of the genre. Famed works include themes from the Oscar-winning movie "Slumdog Millionaire."

These interactive virtual events-co-hosted by Archana Athalye and James Musto-will include a Q&A with NJSO musicians. The programs feature NJSO violinists Wendy Chen and James Tsao, violist David Blinn, cellist Sarah Seiver and percussionist James Musto.

This is a free Zoom event. Registration is required; audiences can register at njsymphony.org/bollywood

"We are proud to continue our longstanding support of the NJSO for the Diversity & Inclusion Community Initiative. The NJSO's programs are designed to enrich the lives of communities and are well aligned with our goals to support those programs that reach new and diverse audiences with a lasting impact on communities throughout New Jersey," says PSEG Director of Corporate Social Responsibility and President of the PSEG Foundation Calvin Ledford.

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (NJSO)

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

"The NJSO is incredibly grateful for the commitment and support provided by the PSEG Foundation. Their generosity helps us fulfill our mission in bringing engaging programs to the diverse communities of New Jersey," says NJSO President & CEO Gabriel van Aalst.

"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.

In addition to its lauded artistic programming, the NJSO presents a suite of education and community engagement programs that promote meaningful, lifelong engagement with live music. Programs include school-time Concerts for Young People and the NJSO Youth Orchestras family of student ensembles, led by José Luis Domínguez. NJSO musicians annually perform original chamber music programs at community events in a variety of settings statewide through the NJSO Community Partners program.

The Orchestra's online hub for free NJSO Virtual 20-21 content is njsymphony.org/virtual.

Connect with NJSO:

Website: njsymphony.org

Facebook, Twitter and Instagram: @NJSymphony

YouTube: @NewJerseySymphony

Email: information@njsymphony.org

NJYS HOSTS PLAYATHON

BY MABEL PAIS

NJYS VIRTUAL PLAYATHON

SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 3 - 4:30 P.M. EST

"Although we cannot be together in person, the New Jersey Youth Symphony is super excited to present a virtual orchestra of over 300 musicians performing two of our Playathon favorites, 'Can-Can' and 'Superman'. We will also feature newly created virtual performances by our Clarinet Ensemble and Charles Mingus Jazz Combo, as well as video messages from graduating seniors. It will be a true celebration of our beloved NJYS community and beyond!" -Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor

The New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS) hosts a virtual Playathon on Sunday, March 21 from 3:00-4:30 p.m. EST on WhartonArts.tv.

The event will feature virtual ensemble performances, raffles, trivia contests, and interviews with NJYS conductors, as well as a live auction to win the conductor's baton and the chance to conduct the New Jersey Youth Symphony performing John Williams' 'Superman'. WNYC's Weekend Edition and 'The Christie Tracker Podcast' Host David Furst will preside as the event's emcee.



Collage of NJYS Musicians - Photo /CourtesyWIPA/NJYS

The annual fundraiser raises a nearly 6-figure amount for the organization to support performing arts education, including scholarships and tuition assistance for New Jersey's largest youth orchestra program. This year, NJYS students are participating in a practice challenge to help raise funds for the event and have logged 279,500 minutes to date. To support music education at the New Jersey Youth Symphony and the 2021 Playathon, continue to give by texting MUSIC to 74121 or donating online at WhartonArtsDonate.org

NJYS

The New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS), founded in

1979, is a tiered orchestral program offering ensemble education for students in grades 3-12 across New Jersey. NJYS has grown from one orchestra of 65 students to over 500 students in 15 different orchestras and ensembles, including the internationally recognized Youth Symphony. NJYS ensembles have performed in venues including the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Carnegie Hall, and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. NJYS has received numerous prestigious awards for its adventurous programming from the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) and has had six European tours, including participation in the Summa Cum Laude International Youth Festival and Competition (Vienna), winning First Prizes in July 2014 and 2017.

WIPA

The New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS) is a program of the Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts (WIPA). Wharton is New Jersey's largest non-profit performing arts education organization serving over 1,500 students of all ages and abilities through a range of classes and ensembles. In addition to the New Jersey Youth Symphony, programs include the Paterson Music Project, an El Sistema-inspired program that uses music as a vehicle for social change by empowering and inspiring children through the community experience of ensemble learning and playing in its hometown of Paterson. Beginning with early childhood music classes for toddlers, the Performing Arts School offers 500 private lessons and group classes each week, ensuring there is something for everyone of all ages and abilities.

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