

# NJSO "RETURNS" TO MAIN STAGE BY MABEL PAIS

**"At a time when Haiti is recovering from a devastating hurricane, the ongoing effects of COVID and the wanton assassination of its president, this concerto seeks to remind us all of the magic and majesty of Ayiti, an island nation rooted in the fight for freedom and democracy that inspires my work as a composer, violinist and artist in collaboration and communion with the same people, places and songs of hope found in our beloved New Jersey community. How far is Haiti from New Jersey? The waters and wonder meet upon the same shores of liberty!" - Daniel Bernard Roumain (DBR), Resident Artistic Catalyst**



Xian Zhang - Photo / Courtesy NJSO



DBR  
Photo /  
Courtesy NJSO

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (NJSO) and Music Director Xian Zhang return to mainstage performances with an opening-weekend program featuring Beethoven's Seventh Symphony, Daniel Bernard Roumain's "Voodoo Violin Concerto" and the world premiere of Michael Abels' "Emerge," October 8 at 8 pm and 10 at 3 pm at NJPAC, Newark.

Zhang says: "Live concerts create such a powerful connection between the musicians and the audience that the Orchestra and I cherish, and we cannot wait to perform for our patrons in the concert hall again. I am thrilled to open this season with works by both of them alongside Beethoven's beloved Seventh Symphony. I am particularly excited to welcome Daniel, our Resident Artistic Catalyst, to the stage for his violin concerto."

Roumain takes center stage, performing the violin solo in his "Voodoo Violin Concerto" in his first mainstage performance with the Orchestra since being named NJSO Resident Artistic Catalyst this spring.

The season opener begins with the world premiere of "Emerge," a new work the NJSO co-commissioned from Michael Abels after performing the celebrated composer's riveting "Dances & Delights" in the Orchestra's first concert film in November 2020. Beethoven's beloved Seventh Symphony closes the program.

NJSO President & CEO Gabriel van Aalst says: "The emotion and energy that musicians and audiences alike felt at our recent outdoor parks concerts was overwhelming, and we are so excited to reunite with our audiences in the concert hall. The entire institution has committed all of our efforts to ensuring a safe return to our stages and communities. I am so grateful to all of our donors and patrons for the support that has enabled the NJSO to weather the challenges of the past 18 months and to return to live performances."

NJSO performances will follow safety measures in partnership with the venue and based on the guidance provided by the CDC and the State of New Jersey.

For more information, visit [njsymphony.org/openingweekend](http://njsymphony.org/openingweekend).

## TICKETS

Tickets are available online at [njsymphony.org](http://njsymphony.org) or by phone at 1. 800.ALLEGRO (255.3476).

## CONCERT PROGRAM

New Jersey Symphony Returns  
Friday, October 8, at 8 pm | NJPAC in Newark  
Sunday, October 10, at 3 pm | NJPAC in Newark

## XIAN ZHANG conductor

DANIEL BERNARD ROUMAIN violin  
MICHAEL ABELS "Emerge" (World Premiere, NJSO Co-Commission)

DANIEL BERNARD ROUMAIN "Voodoo Violin Concerto"

BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 7

Learn more at [njsymphony.org/openingweekend](http://njsymphony.org/openingweekend).

## The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (NJSO)

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra connects with the people and diverse communities of New Jersey through the power of live symphonic music to inspire, entertain and educate. Internationally renowned Music Director Xian Zhang has garnered critical acclaim on the podium and has deepened the NJSO's commitment to presenting diverse voices that reflect the communities the Orchestra serves.

The NJSO embraces its legacy as a statewide orchestra through mainstage and chamber performances at venues across New Jersey, as well as partnerships with fellow Garden State arts organizations, universities and civic organizations. The Orchestra's education and community engagement programs promote meaningful, lifelong engagement with live music.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the NJSO has made virtual performances and educational online programs available for free, reaching more than 10 million people across the Orchestra's digital channels.

The NJSO Youth Orchestras alongside continued virtual instruction collaborated on a year-long project, "Our Voices," an album of 25 original compositions available to stream at [www.njsymphony.org](http://www.njsymphony.org).

The Orchestra's online hub for free musical content is [njsymphony.org/virtual](http://njsymphony.org/virtual).

## COVID SAFETY

The safety of the organization's patrons, musicians and staff is of the utmost importance to the NJSO. Visit [njsymphony.org](http://njsymphony.org) for constantly updated details focused on attendees' well-being at our performances.

## Connect with NJSO:

Website: [njsymphony.org](http://njsymphony.org)

Facebook, Twitter and Instagram: @NJSymphony

YouTube: @NewJerseySymphony

Email: [information@njsymphony.org](mailto:information@njsymphony.org)

## WIPA USHERS IN NEW SEASON WITH SALON SERIES

By Mabel Pais



Flutist Natasha Loomis & Pianist Ryan Bridge

Photo / Courtesy WIPA

The Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts (WIPA) ushers in its Salon Series on Sunday, October 3 at 3:00 p.m. at the Performing Arts School located at 60 Locust Avenue in Berkeley Heights. Resuming in-person programming for the 2021-22 season, cabaret-style seating on stage with the performers in the Wharton Black Box Theater serves as the setting for an intimate concert featuring flutist Natasha Loomis and pianist Ryan Bridge. Loomis, Conductor of Flute Ensembles at the New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS), and Bridge, piano faculty at Wharton's Performing Arts School (WPAS), are both versatile performers as well as passionate music educators.

Works to be performed include William Grant Still's "Summerland" and "Mother and Child," Dora Peja?evi?'s "Sonata for Flute and Piano," selections from Nikolai Medtner's "Forgotten Melodies," Op. 38, Ian Clarke's "Touching the Ether," and Henri Dutilleux's "Sonatine for Flute and Piano."

The Sunday afternoon series continues on November 14 with Two Pianos, Eight Hands featuring Ryan Bridge, Po-Wei Ger, Diana Lin, and Eric Olsen and concludes on December 19 with Mr. T and the Next Wave jazz quartet.

For full concert details, visit [www.WhartonArts.org](http://www.WhartonArts.org)

**COVID SAFETY** : Mask and proof of Full Vaccination Card required at the door.

**TICKETS** : Tickets are FREE for WIPA students. Adults and seniors can purchase tickets at [whartonarts.myboxoffice.us/program/salon-series-ryan-bridge-piano-and-natasha-loomis-flute-1660](http://whartonarts.myboxoffice.us/program/salon-series-ryan-bridge-piano-and-natasha-loomis-flute-1660)

## The Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts (WIPA)

WIPA's mission is to offer accessible, high quality performing arts education that sparks personal growth and builds inclusive communities.

Wharton is New Jersey's largest independent non-profit 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 3-12 by audition.

Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts 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 our students to achieve their personal best. To learn more, visit [WhartonArts.org](http://WhartonArts.org)

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