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The Wallingford Symphony Orchestra is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing professional, high quality, orchestral music to the greater Wallingford area.

Through public performances and community outreach, the WSO enables musicians to enhance their musical abilities and awareness, fostering an appreciation for music in the community's youth. The WSO is an integral and active member in the cultural life of the surrounding communities.

A volunteer board of directors oversees the operation of the orchestra; meeting monthly to monitor the budget, plan and approve the concert season, and organize fund raising.

**KEEP THE
MUSIC ALIVE!**

Wallingford Symphony Orchestra
P.O. Box 6023
Wallingford, CT 06492
(203) 697-2261

wallingfordsymphonyorchestra@gmail.com

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Dear WSO Patrons and Donors,

Welcome!

We hope that all is well with you and your family. We appreciate your support and we are very grateful to continue to bring the music to you this 2023/2024 concert season!

Along with the WSO Board and the WSO musicians I am very excited to see everyone in Ann and George Colony Hall.

Music calms your mind, warms the heart and enriches the soul and it has been very much missed. How wonderful it will be to perform for you the greatest symphonic and pops music!

Our Spooktacular Halloween Concert will feature Halloween orchestral classics, Danse Macabre, Night on Bald Mountain, Symphonie Fantastique and selections from Jaws, Psycho and Ghost Busters. The WSO and The Frantic City Band will perform Michael Jackson's Thriller and ACDC's Highway to Hell. They will conclude with music by ZZ Top, Metallica, Black Sabbath and Guns N' Roses.

Our Annual Holiday Concert will feature music from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker and cherished holiday carols and songs, including beloved music from Broadway and Hollywood. Harmony on the Sound Chorus (a chapter of Sweet Adelines International) directed by Karen Sweeters will sing with the WSO Leroy Anderson's A Christmas Festival, White Christmas and Let There Be Peace On Earth and will conclude with festive holiday songs, including Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree and Christmastime is Here.

Our March concert is On Broadway! It will feature music from the longest running Broadway musicals, Phantom of the Opera, Chicago, The Lion King, Wicked and Cats. It will also include music for Broadway by two of America's greatest composers, Leonard Bernstein and Aaron Copland.

Our annual Children's Concert on Monday morning March 11 for Wallingford children in grades 3-5 will feature selections from the Sunday concert, music from Hollywood and Broadway Productions composed for children, and the Winner of the Mitchell Family Fund String Concerto Competition for Young String Players in New Haven County will perform with the WSO.

Our annual July 4th Pops features America's Greatest Pops, Jazz, Broadway and Hollywood Composers, featuring music by Leroy Anderson, Scott Joplin, Louis Armstrong, George Gershwin, Morton Gould, Ferde Grofé, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Alan Menken and John Williams. We shall conclude the concert with our tribute to our armed forces and cherished Patriotic tunes.

Please enjoy interesting insights about the lives of the composers whose works we perform.

We so look forward to entertaining you this season and beyond! Next year we shall celebrate our WSO's 50th Anniversary!

Philip Ventre, WSO Founder and Music Director





WSO 2023-2024 Concerts

This year's concert season 2023-2024 begins with the Spooktacular Halloween concert. WSO performs with the Frantic City Band ACDC's Highway to Hell, Michael Jackson's Thriller & Halloween Rock Classics. All performances except for the Summer Pops Concerts will take place in the newly built Ann and George Colony Hall on the beautiful campus of Choate Rosemary Hall. The new building is dedicated to music, dance, and voice; and constructed with acoustics that offer a rich atmosphere for symphony concerts.

October 22, 2023

Sunday, 4:00pm at the Ann and George Colony Hall

Spooktacular Halloween Concert! Our WSO concert will feature the greatest classical and Hollywood Halloween/Horror film music. WSO will have a rock band, Frantic City Band, perform with them ACDC's Highway to Hell, Michael Jackson's Thriller & more Halloween Rock Classics.

December 17, 2023

Sunday, 2:00pm at the Ann and George Colony Hall

Our Cherished Holiday Carols and Songs performed by 17 Time Regional Champions, Harmony on the Sound Women's Chorus Sweet Adelines, including music from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker and cherished holiday carols and songs, including beloved music from Broadway and Hollywood.

March 10, 2024

Sunday 2:00pm at the Ann and George Colony Hall

Our March concert is On Broadway! Music from the longest running Broadway musicals, Phantom of the Opera, Chicago, The Lion King, Wicked, Cats, including music for Broadway by two of America's greatest composers, Leonard Bernstein and Aaron Copland.

March 11, 2024

Monday, 10:00am at the Ann and George Colony Hall

Our Free **Children's Concert** for Wallingford school children.

July 7, 2024

7:00pm on Choate Rosemary Hall Chapel Lawn

July 4th Weekend Pops! The Music of America's Greatest Pops Composers, Hollywood and Broadway composers and our traditional patriotic finale!

HOW TO BUY TICKETS

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**Founder and
Music Director
of the Wallingford
Symphony Orchestra**

PHILIP T. VENTRE

When Philip Ventre and Terence Netter founded the Wallingford Symphony Orchestra in 1974 in collaboration with the Wallingford Bicentennial Commission, the intention was to enrich the cultural lives of nearby residents through music. It has been the WSO's mission ever since.

Maestro Ventre retired in 2020 as the Head of Instrumental Music at Choate Rosemary Hall. During his 50-year tenure, Maestro Ventre conducted the CRH Orchestra, Jazz Ensemble, taught six music history courses and has been nominated three times for a GRAMMY Music Educator Award and has also been selected as a U.S. Presidential Scholar Teacher of Recognition.

As the Music Director of the Choate Rosemary Hall Orchestra (CRHO), Maestro Ventre toured with his CRHO in twelve European countries many times, in China four times, including four times on The Great Wall, in South Korea twice, performing in historic concert halls and cathedrals including such prestigious sites as the Madeleine Cathedral, The Salzburg Cathedral, The Barcelona Cathedral, The Esterhazy Mansion, Shanghai Conservatory, and Zhongshan Park Music Hall.

The CRHO has also performed as invited guests in Carnegie Hall twice, Lincoln Center, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Guggenheim Museum, Yale University's Woolsey Hall, and the Connecticut Music Educators All State Music

Conventions. In December 2009 the CRHO was presented with the honor of performing at the White House in Washington, D.C

Born into a family with a rich international musical heritage, Maestro Ventre's interest in music began at a young age. His mother was an accomplished vocalist, pianist, organist, and choral conductor. His father performed in the 1930's with the Paramount Theater, Roxy Theater and Radio City Music Hall Symphony Orchestra. He was on Tour with the Paul Whitman Orchestra.

As a child, Maestro Ventre studied piano with his mother and trumpet with his uncle, John Ventre, the principal trumpet of the iconic American Paul Lavalley's Cities Service Band of America. Maestro Ventre received a Bachelor of Music Degree in Music Education and a Master of Music Degree in Music History from the New England Conservatory (N.E.C.) in Boston. During his years at N.E.C., he was introduced to classical music while performing as principal trumpet with numerous Boston orchestras including the Boston Pops under the direction of Arthur Fiedler.

The Maestro began his educational career in 1967 as the Chair of the Music Department at Brown and Nichols School in Cambridge, MA, where he was the Director of Instrumental Music and taught music history. It is here that he developed a love for orchestral conducting. Maestro Ventre studied conducting with Maestro Otto-Werner Mueller at Yale School of Music and also with Maestro Charles Bruck at the Pierre Monteux School for Conductors, serving as Maestro Bruck's assistant for three years.

Maestro Ventre was the Music Director of the Greater New Haven Youth Symphony Orchestra (GNHYO) Chamber Orchestra and Symphonic Wind Ensemble from 1993-2005. He conducted the GNHYO in both Carnegie Hall and Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center. He conducted the WSO in performances with the Connecticut Opera, Connecticut Ballet, New Haven Ballet, and he guest conducted the University of Connecticut Orchestra.

Guest conducting engagements have included the Vivaldi Concertante Orchestra of London, the Kammerorchester Arpeggione of Zurich, the Longwood Symphony Orchestra (MA), the Fort Collins Symphony (CO), the Nashua Symphony Orchestra (NH) and the Northern Ballet Theater (NH). Since 1998, Maestro Ventre has been a frequent guest conductor in the People's Republic of China conducting the Xiamen Philharmonic, Tianjin Symphony, Guangxi Province Orchestra, Xi'an Symphony and the Shaanxi Philharmonic Orchestra.

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The WSO is a non-profit organization. Funding is achieved through ticket sales, individual and corporate donations, grants and various events.

These donations make possible unique musical experiences and bring professional orchestral music to the Wallingford area.

Why give to the WSO? Music heals the soul and brings joy to those who listen. Donors are the lifeblood of the arts! Your donation enables the WSO to foster community building through its four main concerts. It also introduces children to the arts by supporting the Uria and Johanna Manfreda Fishbein Children's Concert Series, as well as special initiatives through the Elizabeth Mushinsky Mitchell Concertmaster Chair. Your donation allows people to come together in solidarity for their love of the arts and love of community!

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Wallingford Symphony Orchestra

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WSO Spooktacular Halloween Concert

Philip T. Ventre, Music Director

October 22, 2023 @ 4:00pm

Ann and George Colony Hall

Choate Rosemary Hall

Danse Macabre
Funeral March of a Marionette

Camille Saint-Saens (1835-1921)
Charles Gounod (1818-1893)

Theme of TV show, Alfred Hitchcock Presents

Night on Bald Mountain
Walt Disney's Fantasia
Symphonie Fantastique
IV. March to the Scaffold
V. Dream of the Night of the Sabbath

Modeste Mussorgsky (1839-1881)
Arr. Nicolai-Rimsky Korsakov (1844-1908)
Hector Berlioz (1803-1869)

Ghost Busters. Theme

Ray Parker (1954)
Arr. Michael Story (1997)
Bernard Hermann (1911-1975)
Arr. Paul Lavender (1937)
John Williams (1932)
Arr. John Cacavas (1930-2014)

Psycho. Theme

Jaws

Main Title
The First Victim (Chrissie's Death)
Out to Sea
Epilogue

WSO performs with Frantic City Rock Trio

Thriller

Michael Jackson (1958-2009)
Arr. Soon Hee Newbold (1974)
ACDC
Arr. Daryl McKenzie (1962)

Highway To Hell

Frantic Rock Trio performs

La Grange
Enter Sandman
War Pigs
Welcome to the Jungle

ZZ Top
Metallica
Black Sabbath
Guns and Roses

Interesting Insights

WSO Spooktacular Halloween Concert

Program Notes

Dance Macabre **Camille Saint-Saens**

Legends tell us that Death appears at midnight every year on Halloween and calls forth the dead from their graves to dance with him as he plays his fiddle. The skeletons dance with Death until the cockerel crows at dawn, and then they must return to their graves until the next year. There are many artworks and music masterworks depicting this moment of horror. In 1874, Camille Saint-Saens composed *Danse Macabre*, for voice and piano, inspired by the play “*Danza macabre*” by Camillo Antona-Traversi and later expanded it into a brilliant tone poem for solo violin and orchestra. The *Danse* begins with the solo violin playing a tritone, “*dibolus in musica*” (the Devil in music), as it was known during Medieval and Baroque eras. The tone poem progresses with two themes being developed by different sections of the orchestra. Soon we hear the *Dies irae* Gregorian chant from the Requiem mass and we conclude with dramatic music and the cockerel’s crow as the skeletons return to their graves.

Funeral March of the Marionette **Charles Gounod**

Best known as the theme music for the very popular 1950’s television program, *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*, *Funeral March of the Marionette* was also one of the eight compositions that Hitchcock selected to take to a fictional desert island on the 1959 BBC radio program, *Desert Island Discs*. Charles Gounod included these notes in the orchestra score:

The Marionette is broken!!!
Murmurs of regret from the troupe
The funeral procession
The mourners taking refreshments before returning to the funeral march
Return to the house

Night on Bald Mountain **Modeste Mussorgsky, Orchestrated by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov**

Composed in 1867 and inspired by Russian literary works and legend, *Night on Bald Mountain* is one of the first tone poems composed by a Russian composer and portrays a Witches’ Sabbath at Bald Mountain on St John’s Eve. Creative, brilliant and heartfelt orchestration capture every moment eloquently.

This masterpiece, also referred to as program music, was featured in Walt Disney’s *Fantasia*. Here is the synopsis.

Interesting Insights

Night wind howling on the high mountain overlooking the village
Demon Gargoyle Chernobog appears on the mountain
Skeletons Dance and fly to the mountain
Demon welcomes the skeletons
Skeletons on horseback carry skeletons of dead war heroes to the mountain
Spirits rise from grave with ghosts riding on skeletal horses
Everyone dances evil and evil ones into Hell. Souls perish in flames
Gargoyle/Demon creates fire – people- monsters- frantic dancing
Daylight – Church Bell – demons flee from the light and return to their graves
Peace, tranquility, hope

Symphonie Fantastique **Hector Berlioz**

Leonard Bernstein, renowned American conductor and composer, described the symphony as the first musical expedition into psychedelia both because of its hallucinatory and dream-like nature, and because history suggests Berlioz composed at least a portion of it under the influence of opium.

In 1827, Berlioz fell in love with Irish actress Harriet Smithson after seeing her portray Ophelia in Shakespeare's "Hamlet."

He wrote many letters to Harriet, but none were answered. He composes his *Symphonie Fantastique* to express his obsession, writing, "Love cannot express the idea of music, while music may give an idea of love." In 1832 Harriet hears the symphony, they have a relationship and marry in 1833 and separate in 1943.

The *Symphonie Fantastique* is considered to be one of the greatest examples of Romantic Era program music, featuring a very large orchestra, unique and brilliant instrumentation demanding virtuosic playing techniques, which is remarkable given that Berlioz never learned to play an instrument! Each movement has an *Idée fixe*, a recurring theme depicting Berlioz's beloved Harriet. Today we shall perform movements IV and V. Here is each movement as described by Berlioz.

IV. Convinced that his love is spurned, the artist poisons himself with opium. The dose of narcotic, while too weak to cause his death, plunges him into a heavy sleep accompanied by the strangest of visions. He dreams that he has killed his beloved, that he is condemned, led to the scaffold and is witnessing his own execution. The procession advances to the sound of a march that is sometimes sombre and wild, and sometimes brilliant and solemn, in which a dull sound of heavy footsteps follows without transition the loudest outbursts. At the end of the march, the first four bars of the *idée fixe* reappear like a final thought of love interrupted by the fatal blow.

V. He sees himself at a witches' sabbath in the midst of a hideous gathering of shades, sorcerers and monsters of every kind who have come together for his funeral. Strange sounds, groans, outbursts of laughter; distant shouts which seem to be answered by more shouts. The beloved melody, *idée fixe*, appears once more, but has now lost its noble and shy character; it is now no more than a vulgar dance tune, trivial and grotesque: it is she who is coming to the sabbath ... Roar of delight at her arrival ... She joins the diabolical orgy ... The funeral knell tolls, a burlesque parody of the *Dies irae* the dance of the witches. The dance of the witches combined with the *Dies irae*.

The WSO will ten perform selections from three of Hollywood's classic horror movie film scores, *Ghost Busters*, *Psycho* and *Jaws*, to be followed by two Halloween hard rock classics performed by the WSO and Frantic City Rock Trio.
The concert will end with four hard rock Halloween classics

Interesting Insights

Frantic City with the Orchestra

Thriller

"Thriller" is a song by the American singer Michael Jackson. It was released by Epic Records on January 23, 1984, as the seventh and final single from his sixth studio album, *Thriller*.^[2] It is a funk song featuring a repeating synthesizer bassline and lyrics evoking horror films, with sound effects such as thunder, creaking doors and wolf howls. It ends with a spoken-word sequence performed by the horror actor Vincent Price. It was produced by Quincy Jones and written by Rod Temperton, who wanted to write a theatrical song to suit Jackson's love of film.

Highway to Hell

"Highway to Hell" is a song by Australian rock band AC/DC. It is the opening track of their 1979 album *Highway to Hell*. It was initially released as a single in 1979. The song was written by Angus Young, Malcolm Young and Bon Scott, with Angus Young credited for writing the guitar riff.^[2] AC/DC had made several studio albums before and were constantly promoting them via a grueling tour schedule, referred to by Angus Young as being on a highway to hell, hence the name.

Frantic City alone

La Grange

"La Grange" is a song by the American rock group ZZ Top, from their 1973 album *Tres Hombres*. One of ZZ Top's most successful songs, it was released as a single in 1973 and received extensive radio play, rising to No. 41 on the *Billboard* Hot 100 in June 1974. The initial groove of the song is based on a traditional boogie blues rhythm used by John Lee Hooker in "Boogie Chillen".^{[7][8]} In 1992, music publisher Bernard Besman filed a lawsuit against the members of ZZ Top, alleging that "La Grange" infringed on "Boogie Chillen". A federal judge dismissed the case in 1995.

Enter Sandman

"Enter Sandman" is a song by American heavy metal band Metallica. It is the opening track and lead single from their self-titled fifth album, released in 1991. The music was written by Kirk Hammett, James Hetfield and Lars Ulrich. Vocalist and rhythm guitarist Hetfield wrote the lyrics, which deal with the concept of a child's nightmares. The single reached number 16 on the US *Billboard* Hot 100 and achieved platinum certification for more than 1,000,000 copies shipped in the United States, spurring sales of over 30 million copies for Metallica and propelling Metallica to worldwide popularity. Acclaimed by critics, the song is featured in all of Metallica's live albums and DVDs released after 1991 and has been played live at award ceremonies and benefit concerts.

War Pigs

"War Pigs" is an anti-war protest song by English heavy metal band Black Sabbath, released in 1970. It is the opening track from the band's second studio album *Paranoid* (1970). "War Pigs" is widely considered one of Black Sabbath's greatest songs. In 2020, Kerrang ranked the song number four on their list of the 20 greatest Black Sabbath songs,^[17] and in 2021, Louder Sound ranked the song number one on their list of the 40 greatest Black Sabbath songs.

Welcome to the Jungle

"Welcome to the Jungle" is a song by American rock band Guns N' Roses, featured on their debut album, *Appetite for Destruction* (1987). It was released as the album's second single initially in the UK in September 1987 then again in October 1988 this time including the US, where it reached number seven on the *Billboard* Hot 100.

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The Wallingford Symphony Orchestra History

The Wallingford Symphony Orchestra (WSO) was the brainchild of Philip T. Ventre and the late Terence Netter. In 1974 Maestro Ventre, Music Director and teacher at Choate Rosemary Hall, and Mr. Netter, Director of the Paul Mellon Arts Center at Choate Rosemary Hall, wanted to honor our nation's bicentennial by creating a symphony orchestra comprised of Connecticut's finest professional musicians, private music teachers, college students and rising amateur musicians.

They brought their idea to the Wallingford Bicentennial Commission and its Horizons Committee endorsed and funded the WSO's first concert in December of that year. Professional musicians from both the New Haven and the Hartford Symphony Orchestras, Connecticut-based private music teachers, and gifted college and high school musicians were brought together under the Direction of Maestro Ventre.

Nikolai Sikorsky, the son of helicopter inventor Igor Sikorsky, served as the WSO's first lead violinist (Concertmaster). Also of important note is that the Associate Concertmaster, Jeanne Switzer, was a Wallingford music teacher who studied with Dr. Suzuki in Japan and brought his Suzuki method of violin instruction to the United States. She played with the WSO for many years to follow.

After the first year, Choate Rosemary Hall took over the funding of the WSO until it was incorporated in 1978 as a professional symphony orchestra. John Shulga, a local prominent businessman and community leader, was the first President of the Board of Directors. The WSO continues its purpose of enriching the cultural lives of nearby residents each year with four indoor classical concerts.



The season kicks off in October and includes a holiday concert that is enhanced by local singers and choirs. The spring concert reaches out to Wallingford students through the Uria and Johanna Manfreda Fishbein Children's Concert Series, a program started in 1980 and given its name in 1998. During the summer the WSO performs a free outdoor pops concert on the St. John Chapel lawn to celebrate the Fourth of July. At this concert, the audience will hear anything from Boston Pops classics to Broadway and Hollywood themed music. The WSO has performed in ten Connecticut communities, including since 1993 the Madison Cultural Arts July 4th Pops Concert on the Madison Green.

The WSO also supports surrounding communities through outreach programs. One such program is the Elizabeth Mitchell String Concerto Competition. This program offers high school students in New Haven County the opportunity to compete for a scholarship and the chance to perform with the Orchestra at the Spring concert.

Over the past 49 years many esteemed musicians have performed with the orchestra as well as opera singers, jazz and pop vocalists and ballet dancers. Among them are jazz legend Dave Brubeck, American Ballet Theater's prima ballerina Julie Kent, violinists Stephanie Chase and Livia Sohn, violoncellist Raphael Bell, pianists Ayako Tsuruta, Kariné Poghosyan, Péter Toth and opera singers Maria Spacagna, Jerry Hadley, Maxim Ivanov and Susan Yankee. The WSO has welcomed many outstanding Connecticut performance groups to its stage, including the Hartford Chorale, the New Haven Chorale, the Fairfield Chorale and Connecticut's finest middle school and high school public and private school choruses.

Performers have come and gone since that first concert almost 49 years ago at the Paul Mellon Art Center on the Choate Rosemary Hall campus. There are two, however, who still remain. Founder and Director Philip T. Ventre and Janice Setzer, a first section violinist, continue to grace the stage. They and their fellow musicians will bring the WSO into the future with the start of the WSO's 49th season.



Marilyn Catusus



T.D. Ellis

Principal Bassoon

www.themusicsource.org

T.D. Ellis has been principal bassoon of the Wallingford Symphony Orchestra since 2009. He became the personnel manager in 2010. Mr. Ellis is also the principal bassoon and personnel manager of the Ridgefield Symphony (where he performed as a soloist) and the Bermuda Philharmonic, as well as the personnel manager and acting principal bassoon of the Greater Bridgeport Symphony. Growing up in West Hartford, he attended the Hartt School of Music and State University of New York at Purchase.

Connecticut performances include soloist for the Western Connecticut Youth Orchestra and principal bassoon for the Ives Festival Orchestra. In addition to his home state, Mr. Ellis can be heard throughout the Northeastern states where he has been a soloist for the Chappaqua Orchestra and principal bassoon for the Tamworth Music Festival in New Hampshire and the Garrett Lakes Arts Festival in Deep Creek, MD. He has also played off-Broadway with the New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players and the Jewish Repertory Theater. He is the artistic director of the Keeler Tavern Museum Chamber Music Series in Ridgefield and was the founder and artistic director of the Ridgefield Symphony's summer concert series at Lasdon Park in Katonah, NY.

Mr. Ellis is the owner/operator of The Music Source, an online music store. He is also the owner of T.D. Ellis Music Publishing Company which publishes his own work, as well as that of Anthony Newman and other composers. Additionally, Mr. Ellis is a music copyist and has typeset scores for Tony Bennett, Elton John, Celine Dion, Luciani Pavorotti, the Boston Pops; as well as music for the Grammy Awards, Kennedy Center Honors, and President Obama's Inauguration. He currently resides in Waterbury, CT.



Nina Crothers

Concertmaster

Violinist Nina Crothers joined the Wallingford Symphony Orchestra in 1988 as concertmaster, soloing in Beethoven's Triple Concerto in the spring concert, and has performed Vivaldi's Spring and Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto with the WSO thereafter.

A native of Northford, CT, Dr. Crothers began her violin studies at the Neighborhood Music School in New Haven where she was taught the Suzuki method under Jeanne Switzer, former concertmaster of the WSO. She attended Choate Rosemary Hall where she was a member of the Choate Chamber Orchestra and a student string quartet under the direction of Philip Ventre, also playing with the WSO in her senior year. Dr. Crothers graduated magna cum laude from Yale University, receiving the Bach Society Prize for excellence in music. She earned her Master of Music degree from the Juilliard School and her Doctor of Musical Arts from the Manhattan School of Music, where she was awarded a cultural grant from the American Scandinavian Society for her research on Finnish violin music. Her principal teachers were Sylvia Rosenberg, Joseph Fuchs, Syoko Aki, and Louise Behrend. She also studied chamber music with Felix Galimir and members of the Tokyo and Juilliard String Quartets as well as Baroque performance practice with harpsichordist Kenneth Cooper.

Dr. Crothers served as violin coach to the actress Isabella Rossellini in 1994 for the film *Immortal Beloved* and is a former faculty member of Fairfield University, the Luzerne Music Center, the Greenwich House Music School, and the Turtle Bay Music School in New York City. At the Turtle Bay Music School, where she taught violin, chamber music, theory, and music history, she served as chair of the String and Theory/Literature Departments and director of the school's Certificate Program. In 2005, Dr. Crothers joined the faculty of the Suzuki Music School of Westport. She is currently assistant concertmaster of both the Greater Bridgeport Symphony and the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra as well as principal second violin of the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra. She maintains a private studio in Fairfield where she resides with her husband and twin daughters.



Elizabeth Kitson

Flutist

Elizabeth Kitson is the principal flutist of the Wallingford Symphony Orchestra and the Catskill Symphony Orchestra. She has made solo appearances with both orchestras performing works such as Fantasia on Greensleeves by Ralph Vaughn Williams, Brandenburg Concerto No. 4 in G Major, BWV 1049, and Orchestral Suite No. 2 in B Minor, BWV 1067 by J.S. Bach.

Ms. Kitson performs regularly with the Bridgeport Symphony Orchestra, New Britain Symphony Orchestra, Clinton Symphony Orchestra of the Mohawk Valley (New York), Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra, and Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra. She performed as principal flutist in the Utica Symphony Orchestra for two seasons and the American Wind Symphony Orchestra, AWSO, for three seasons. Ms. Kitson can be heard as a featured soloist on Villa-Lobos's Concerto Grosso for Woodwind Quartet and Wind Orchestra on the recording Music of the Americas by the AWSO. She can also be heard on AWSO recordings Reflections, and Concertos from Three Continents.

She is on the music faculty of Choate Rosemary Hall and was a faculty member of the Manhattan School Summer Music Camp from 2005-2008. She received her M.M from the Manhattan School of Music and her B.M from the University of North Texas graduating summa cum laude. Her former teachers include Michael Parloff, Mary Karen Clardy, and Alberto Almarza. Ms. Kitson was a winner of the Lillian Fuchs Chamber Music Competition and named an Outstanding Soloist at the Texas Flute Society's 23rd Annual Flute Festival.



Janice Setzer

Violin

WSO violinist Janice Setzer was born and raised in South Jersey and began her violin lessons at age 9 in the Moorestown, NJ public school summer music program.

She received a Bachelors Degree in Violin from the Hartt College of Music, University of Hartford.

After graduation, Janice remained in Connecticut to begin her musical career. Besides playing with the WSO since 1974, she is also a longtime violinist with the Waterbury, New Britain and Nutmeg symphonies.

Along with her musical activities, she was a reservations representative with American Airlines for 29 years. Janice resides in West Hartford with her husband John Robertson.



Jessie Joy Wills

Trumpet

Jessie Joy Wills is native to Connecticut and currently resides and teaches in New Britain. In preparation for her career as a music teacher in Connecticut's public schools, Jessie attended the University of Connecticut where she earned a B.S. in music education and B.A. in music.

After completing these degrees she continued her education at the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music, where she earned a Master of Music in trumpet performance. Jessie maintains a professional performing career playing with many groups around the state of Connecticut and Massachusetts including Bridgeport and Wallingford Symphony Orchestras

She is also equally comfortable performing on trumpet, cornet and the corno da caccia.

Her private students continue to receive top ratings at regional and state festivals. Her trumpet teachers include Dan Patrylak, Gene Young, James Ackely and Phil Collins.



Carolyn Engle

Cellist

Carolyn Engle joined the Wallingford Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Maestro Ventre in 1978. This inspired her to pursue a career as a professional cellist.

She earned her Bachelor of Music degree from the Hartt School of Music, and her Master of Music degree from the University of Connecticut. Carolyn teaches General Music and Chorus in a New Britain Elementary School. She is a church organist as well as an accomplished cellist and pianist. She has appeared as cello soloist with the Bristol Symphony Orchestra and the Nutmeg Symphony Orchestra. On piano, she has performed concerti with the Farmington Orchestra and the Concert Chamber Orchestra. She is principal cellist of the Wallingford, New Britain, Temple Beth El, and Nutmeg Symphonies and appears regularly with Connecticut Virtuosi. She's also an active participant in the Global Cello Society.

Carolyn was one of three cellists selected as part of a nationwide audition tour to perform for a summer as part of the Walt Disney All-American College Orchestra, where she spent three months working with over a dozen musicians in the entertainment industry, including Tom Scott, Mike Post, Richard Carpenter, and The Rockettes.

Ms. Engle has earned recognition with the New Haven Symphony Orchestra as an elementary school music teacher. She was also honored with the Holmes Elementary School Above and Beyond Award. She was the recipient of the Frederick Schorr Memorial Award.

Currently, Carolyn is the cellist and emcee of a string quartet that specializes in music by The Beatles. The quartet performs at senior centers, libraries, and museums. In addition to her active musical career, Carolyn enjoys riding roller coasters and other thrill rides. A student of Tae Kwon Do for the past 25 years, she recently earned her Third Dan. She loves spending time with her daughter Heather and her fiancé Michael.



Creg Hlavac

Trumpet 2

Craig Hlavac is the Associate Dean of the Liberal Arts (Arts, Humanities, Social & Behavioral Sciences) at Southern Connecticut State University. Previously, he served as Associate Professor and Chair of the Music Department at Southern. For the past 15 years, Dr. Hlavac has also been the director of the University Band at SCSU.

He received a Bachelor of Arts in Music and Bachelor of Science in Music Education from the University of Connecticut, a Master of Music from Yale University, and an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from the University of Hartford. An active orchestral trumpeter and freelance musician, Dr. Hlavac has performed with the New Haven Symphony, the Bridgeport Symphony, the Wallingford Symphony, the Hartford Pops Band, the Hartford Brass Ensemble, the New Haven Brass Ensemble, and alongside the Yale Glee Club, the Yale Camerata, the Connecticut Chamber Choir, the Cape Cod Chamber Music Society, and many others.

A frequent educational leadership clinician and presenter, Dr. Hlavac has delivered presentations throughout the country. He is also an advisory board member for The Department Chair, the premier academic department chair journal. Dr. Hlavac's research interests focus on the use of organizational and departmental missions to prioritize decision-making and the utility of mission-based management in the administration of the contemporary university.



Jill Maurer-Davis

Flutist

Jill Maurer-Davis, a 28 year member of the Wallingford Symphony, currently performs as Principal flutist with the Connecticut Virtuosi, CT Lyric Opera, Salt Marsh Opera, and the Opera Theater of CT, along with solo and chamber concerts with the Greve (Italy) Opera and Chamber Music Festival. As a flute and piccolo soloist, Ms. Maurer-Davis has been featured on National Public Radio and Australia Broadcasting Co. as well as on NHK in Japan. On PBS, she has appeared on Exxon's "Live at Wolf Trap" series and with Jean-Pierre Rampal on New York's WNET. Ms. Maurer-Davis was invited by the Boston Symphony Orchestra to perform in a recital at Symphony Hall for a special orchestral event. Other appearances have included flute and piccolo soloist at the National Flute Association convention and performances with the Worcester, Hartford, Greater Bridgeport, and New Haven Symphonies, Wallingford Symphony, Connecticut Opera, Orchestra New England, and a North American tour with tenor, Andrea Bocelli. In her 20 years with The U.S. Coast Guard Band Woodwind Quintet, she performed at the White House for U.S. Presidents and 40 Heads of State. The USCG Quintet also represented the U.S. in performances in the former Soviet Union and England and was featured in "Performance Today" studio broadcasts on NPR

Ms. Maurer-Davis is the Flute Professor at Central Connecticut State University and is also on the faculties of Choate Rosemary Hall, and Thames Valley Music School. Her past teaching affiliations include Brown University, Clark University, and the College of the Holy Cross. She has B.M. and M.M. degrees from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston and a diploma from the Orff Institute-Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria. She is certified to teach Suzuki Flute and the early childhood music system Musikgarten. Her principal teachers were Louis Moyse, Thomas Nyfenger, James Pappoutsakis, Sir James Galway, Helmut Zangerle and Lois Schaefer. She has performed in master classes for Sir James Galway, Lady Jeanne Galway, Marcel Moyse, Paula Robison, John Heiss, Karl-Heinz Zoller, and chamber music with Antonio Janigro.



Frantic City Band

The band was formed during July 2002 when Chris and Stacy Reilly's band MAGNETIC STORM parted ways with their bass player. Remo Capello who had previously played in the original version of the popular Connecticut band MAD RACKET with Chris back in 1981-82 had been down to see a MAGNETIC STORM show in his home town of Wallingford, CT during April of 2002 and the two had expressed an interest in getting together to jam sometime.

Shortly after MAGNETIC STORM disbanded after a nine-year run playing the Connecticut club scene and they set up a date to get together. It was evident right from the start of their first jam session that the three of them had a chemistry and their sound gelled immediately. They got together a few more times and decided that they had all the right ingredients to make them an awesome three piece rock band.

They came up with the name FRANTIC CITY from the Flintstones parody on "Atlantic City", and within a month they were out playing parties to see how a crowd responded and respond they did! They put together a mix of material consisting of some of the material that was being played by MAGNETIC STORM, some old favorites Remo & Chris had played with MAD RACKET and some newer material. Shortly after the band's formation they were sharing the stage with the legendary Long Island band The Good Rats and the crowd loved them.

FRANTIC CITY has been together now for 21 years and the musicians who make up the band are seasoned musicians who have been quite successful through out the years. In 2011 Frantic City won the Daddys Junky music Ct local band contest out of 800 bands. Chris Reilly, the bands guitarist/vocalist has been wooing the crowds with his fiery finger work and showmanship for years playing many stages with bands like SWEET REVENGE, KOBRA, SIGNAL 9, BLACK DIAMOND, MAD RACKET, THE ROCKS OF LONG ISLAND, ELECTRIC EYE and MAGNETIC STORM. His smoking guitar solo's have always dazzled audiences and add an intensity that is rarely seen in rock guitar playing these days.

His wife Stacey Reilly, the bands hard hitting rock solid drummer got her start playing in marching bands, played with an all girl rock band and eventually took over drumming spot in MAGNETIC STORM. There aren't many women in rock n' roll to begin with let alone drummers. After witnessing her play live most people would agree that she hits em' harder and with more conviction than most of the guys out there in rock these days. She also adds to the bands sound with her background vocals giving the band three-part harmonies when needed.

Fleshing out the bands rhythmic power and pulse is bassist/vocalist Remo Capello who like Chris has been playing for years. He has played in many successful bands and has played many of the top clubs and concert venues up and down the east coast. His thunder from down under has given the rhythmic thump to some of the top Connecticut bands over the years. Some of the groups he's helped bring to the limelight include MAD RACKET who he had played in several incarnations with, THIN AIR, BLITZ, CATCH 22, SEQUIN RUIJ, THOSE GUYS, STONE MANOR and Last Licks.

Also Driving the low end groove for Frantic City is bassist / vocalist Steve Kranzlin. A veteran of Rock, Jazz and Progressive bands in the NYC area and beyond, Steve has headlined at The Chance Theater, Harry Chapin Theater, Capitol Theater, Town Crier, Universities, and premier Clubs and outdoor events throughout the Tristate area and Pennsylvania. He can also be seen playing bass, guitar, keys and vocals in Prognosis - the Tristate area's premier Pink Floyd and Peter Gabriel tribute band, and Well Alright, the ultimate Rolling Stones experience.

The band's musicians have played many of their own successful shows as well as sharing the stage with national acts like Cheap Trick, Sly And The Family Stone, Joe Perry Project, Y&T, Talas, Nazareth, The Good Rats, Raven, Grim Reaper, Obsession and Black Oak Arkansas to name a few.

If you like guitar driven music that encompasses all of the best elements of classic rock, heavy metal, alternative and grunge as well as instrumentals look no further, FRANTIC CITY is out to give the audience something that's been missing in music these days, music that's fun, played with passion and yes people, guitar solo's! Next time you want to be rocked check out FRANTIC CITY!!!



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Ms. Van Cleve received her DMA from Yale School of Music, her MFA from California Institute of the Arts, and her BA, Magna cum Laude, from Bowdoin College. She is the oboe teacher at Connecticut College and Wesleyan University, and her former teachers have included Ronald Roseman, Allan Vogel, and Basil Reeve. Complementing her work as a performer, Ms. Van Cleve works as the Director of Yale’s Oral History of American Music, a substantial archive of interviews with American composers and jazz figures.

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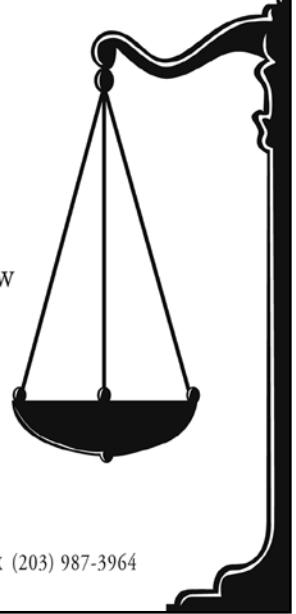
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Performers that are honored with chairs for 2022-2023 season are:

Philip T. Ventre, Founder and Music Director

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Nina Crothers, Concertmaster

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Jody Rowitsch, Principal Viola

• *In memory of WSO violist Polly Shulga Noonan*

Carolyn Engle, Principal Violincello

• *In honor of the James H. Napier Foundation*

Susan Cheng, Principal Piano and Keyboard

• *In memory of John and Ida Shulga*



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Marilyn Catusus

VIOLIN 1

Nina Crothers, concertmaster
Stephanie Hug
Edita Orlynte
Janet Jacobson
Amy Schumann-Griswold
Janice Setzer

VIOLIN 2

Kathleen Dorfman, principal
Susannah Bryan
Jamie Andrusyak
Sarah McNamara
Grace Coolidge
Susan Kaufman

VIOLA

Jody Rowitsch, principal
Nadya Potemkina
Amy Jones

CELLO

Cheryl Labrecque, principal
Corinne Cunha
Ravenna Michelsen
Sarah Shreder

BASS

Ken Rescsanski, principal
Sharon Liu

FLUTE

Elizabeth Kitson, principal
Jill Maurer-Davis

PICCOLO

Cecilia Burns

OBOE

Erik Andrusyak, principal
Ling-Fei Kang

CLARINET

James Forgey, principal
Julie Levene

BASSOON

T.D. Ellis, principal
Jackie Sifford Joyner

Philip T. Ventre, Founder and Music Director

• *Wadsworth Family Foundation*

HORN

Jamie Marci, principal
Kathryn Twombly
Jaime Thorne
Renee Redman

TRUMPET

Jens Larsen, principal
Craig Hlavac
Jessie Wills

TROMBONE

Jordan Jacobson, principal
Nicole Jean

BASS TROMBONE

James Marbury

TUBA

Gary Sienkiewicz

HARP

Margery Fitts

TIMPANI

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*“You can design and create, and build the most wonderful place in the world.
But it takes people to make the dream a reality.”*

Walt Disney



Elizabeth Mushinsky Mitchell Family Fund

Mitchell Family Strings Competition Children's Concert Series

Elizabeth Mushinsky Mitchell was born in 1936, the youngest of seven children. She grew up in Wallingford and graduated valedictorian of Lyman Hall High School. After receiving a bachelor of art degree from Brown University in Providence, RI, she returned to her hometown and started a career in journalism writing for the Meriden Record (now the Record-Journal). Elizabeth married Alphonsus Mitchell in 1960, lived in New Haven and Hamden until 1967, and returned to Wallingford where she remained until she passed away in January 2015.

A dedicated mother and citizen of Wallingford, Elizabeth was involved in the activities of her children and volunteered at their schools, as well as on civic committees. It was through her volunteering as part of the Wallingford Bicentennial Commission that she became involved with the Wallingford Symphony Orchestra. Having returned to writing at the Record-Journal, she wrote a feature story about the WSO when it was being organized; and she was so excited about the program that she volunteered to join the Board, serving multiple terms as its president. While she helped create such events as the symphony's Johann Strauss Ball and big-band dinners, it is the WSO's children's concert series that held a special place in her heart. She also aided in growing the WSO by establishing performances in neighboring towns. It was very important to her that everyone have access to the arts, no matter where they lived. To her, the arts were crucial to a human life filled with beauty, emotion, empathy, and inspiration.

The scope of Elizabeth's support of the arts reached well beyond the WSO. Her children attended Choate Rosemary Hall, and she worked there for the better of 25 years in the admissions office. She supported the Choate Chamber Orchestra by joining the student musicians during summer performance tours in France, Italy, Greece, and Spain. In the years prior to her death, she played a behind-the-scenes role in helping Choate students establish a program of free music instruction for local children through the Spanish Community of Wallingford.

Outside of Wallingford, Elizabeth's second home was Maine. The Mitchell family vacationed there almost every year. She would revel in the scenery, air, wind, and water; sharing her joy with anyone back home who would care to listen. Elizabeth spent almost all her life enriching Wallingford and her family with her innate curiosity about the world. Her legacy lives on in her children and grandchildren and through the Concertmaster Chair dedicated in her name; inspiring beauty, emotion, and empathy for all to witness.



Uria and Johanna Manfreda Fishbein Children's Concert Series

Uria and Johanna Manfreda Fishbein were lifelong residents of Wallingford, both graduating from Lyman Hall High School in 1933. They married in 1938, joining together two prominent Wallingford families that were both immigrant settlers taking an active role in the development of their town. Uria was the youngest of four children whose father ran a bakery. He and his brother ran an insurance agency in town for almost 50 years. He served in the U.S. Merchant Marines during WWII. Johanna was the youngest of 11 children whose father ran a shoeshine business at the Wallingford Railroad Station. They raised two children and were married nearly 60 years until Johanna passed away in 1997. Uria passed away in 2004.

Johanna started dancing at the age of six and didn't stop until the day she died because it was her connection to the world. She and her sisters would perform at the then Gaylord Farms for the patients. Johanna continued to star in musical productions throughout her school years and beyond. She taught ballroom dancing and etiquette classes to the local children for almost 50 years, also choreographing and directing many productions in the area.

Always a familiar face around town, Johanna was affectionately known as "The First Lady of Celebration" and "Mrs. Wallingford". She served on many church, town, and state committees throughout her life. Johanna was a member of Wallingford Symphony's first Board of Directors, during her tenure she founded and organized the Children's Concert Series, an accomplishment that can be deemed one of her proudest moments. In 1991, she received the Archdiocesan Medal of Appreciation, an award given to those who exemplify invaluable service to their parish on a voluntary basis. Johanna was the first member of Holy Trinity Church to receive this honor.

Faith, family, and friends were the cornerstones of Johanna's life. She was first and foremost a devout Catholic and devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who enjoyed her children's activities; as well as a Yankees game, a day at the beach, and a Broadway show. Though little, she was mighty; and her innate heroic spirit blessed all who knew her. In 1995, the Wallingford Railroad Station green and gazebo were named the Johanna Manfreda Fishbein Park. It is on this very spot that her father represented Wallingford to those looking for a home, raising an American flag every day while shining shoes to support his family. Five generations later, his family continues the work he started a century ago all because of the life, love, and commitment of Johanna and Uria.



The WSO Endowment Fund

In 2018 the Wallingford Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors established an Endowment Fund. The purpose of this fund is to help offset the increasing costs of performances. Our Maestro and musicians are all paid professionals that come to us from throughout the state. In addition to their salaries and fees for guest soloists, there are administrative costs incurred when producing a concert. The WSO is responsible for paying the stage personnel who work behind the scenes (management, lighting, sound). We also pay music rental, publication, and advertising fees.

The intent of the Endowment Fund is to invest the donations, using only the interest acquired each year from the investment. We are a 501C3 organization therefore your donation is eligible as a tax deduction. It is our hope that the Endowment Fund and planned use of interest will help to sustain our presence, continuing to benefit those in the Wallingford area and surrounding communities for years to come.



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“Music is the universal language of mankind.”

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



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