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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 Back and Happy Holidays!

We hope that all is well with you and your family. We appreciate your support and are very grateful to bring the music back to you!

Along with the WSO Board and the WSO musicians I am very excited to see everyone back in this new concert hall, where we performed for the first time in 2019. Music calms your mind, warms the heart and enriches the soul, and it has been very much missed. How wonderful it is to be able to celebrate the music with you again!

Our December 18 Concert features, Recorder virtuoso David Langstaff and WSO Principal Flute, Elizabeth Kitson, performing heartfelt movements from Georg Philippe Telemann's Concerto in e Minor, and the Dag Hammarskjold Middle School Chorus, Julianne Boucher, Choral Director and the Moran Middle School Chorus, Laurie Brandl, Choral Director, and mezzo-soprano Susan Yankee will perform 'Twas the Night Before Christmas and classic and cherished holiday selections with the WSO.

The WSO will perform beloved Boston Pops holiday classics, including Leroy Anderson's Sleigh Ride and A Christmas Festival, The Little Drummer Boy, Cornelius Gurlitt's Toy Symphony, the Festive Sounds of Hanukah and Christmas Carols arranged for orchestra. We shall also have our annual Christmas Carols singalong with the audience. Additionally, please enjoy interesting insights about the lives of the composers whose works we perform.

Our March 12, 2023 Concert is in honor of the people of the Ukraine. Our WSO will perform masterworks by two of Ukraine's greatest composers, Sergei Prokofiev's music from Cinderella and music from his ballet Romeo and Juliet. Our cherished piano virtuoso Kariné Poghosyan, who has received standing ovations from our audiences, will perform Sergei Rachmaninoff's beloved Piano Concerto No. 2. Our WSO cherished vocalist Susan Yankee will perform Prayer for Ukraine. Additionally, please enjoy interesting insights about the lives of the composers whose works we perform.

Our annual Children's Concert on Monday morning March 13 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. Additionally, please enjoy interesting insights about the lives of the composers whose works we perform.

Our July 2023 Pops Concert is Britannia Pops! Our WSO will perform the cherished masterworks of Great Britain's greatest composers, Sir Edward Elgar, Eric Coates, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Doreen Carwithen, Grace Williams Arnold Bax and Albert Ketelby. Our WSO cherished vocalist Susan Yankee will perform with the WSO a tribute to Julie Andrews. We shall close our concert with our annual tribute to our armed service veterans and music to honor our country's heritage. Additionally, please enjoy interesting insights about the lives of the composers whose works we perform.

The music is back, and we look forward to entertaining you this season and beyond!

Philip Ventre





WSO 2022-2023 Concerts

This year's concert season 2022-2023 begins with the December Concert, a family tradition of seasonal and lively celebrated music, featuring the Boston Pops holiday 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.

December 18, 2022

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

Holiday Sing-Along Concert with Susan Yankee, David Langstaff and Elizabeth Kitson. The Choirs from Dag Hammarskjold and Moran Middle Schools.

March 12, 2023

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

Honoring the people of Ukraine with Ukraine's greatest composers, Serge Prokofiev's music from Cinderella and Romeo & Juliet as well as Sergei Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2, performed by our celebrated pianist Kariné Poghosyan.

March 13, 2023

Monday, 11:00am at the Ann and George Colony Hall

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

July 2, 2023

Sunday, 7:00pm on Choate Rosemary Hall Chapel Lawn

Our ever-popular free **July Pops Concert** will be Britannia Pops, featuring Guest Britain's greatest pops composers.

HOW TO BUY TICKETS

Tickets are available on our website:
www.wallingfordsymphony.org

Call us at: (203) 697-2261
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**Founder and
Music Director
of the Wallingford
Symphony Orchestra**

PHILIP T. VENTRE

When Philip Ventre and Terrence 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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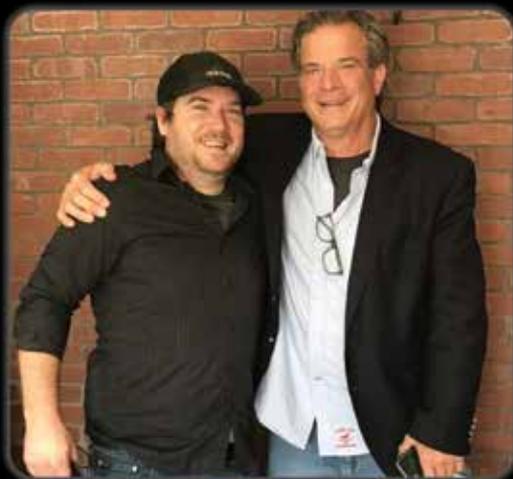
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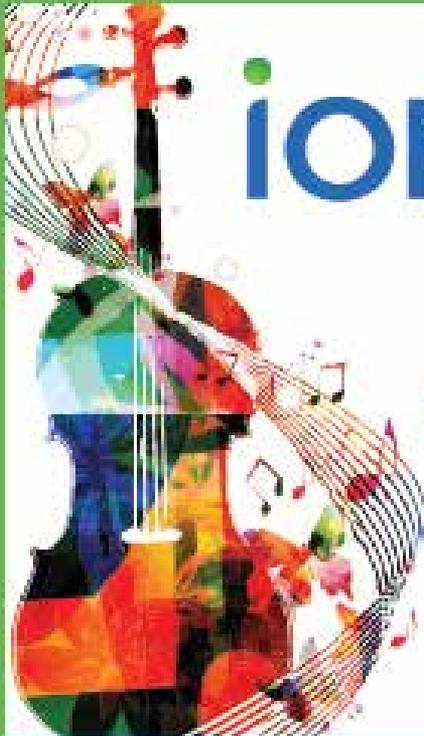
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Join Us for Our Annual Free Pops Concert!



July Pops, Britannia Pops!

Sunday, July 2, 2023 at 7:00pm
on Seymour St John Chapel lawn-Choate School Wallingford

Each 4th of July the WSO presents a grand concert free of charge to celebrate our great country. Familiar selections and sing alongs bring us all to our patriotic roots.

Special evening with friends who gather together on the lawn of the Choate's St John Chapel on Sunday.

A truly unforgettable WSO Concert!

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Enjoy our 48th Concert Season

A Cultural Jewel in Wallingford, Connecticut

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!

In Memory of Robert "Bob" Oswald:
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Marilyn Catusus

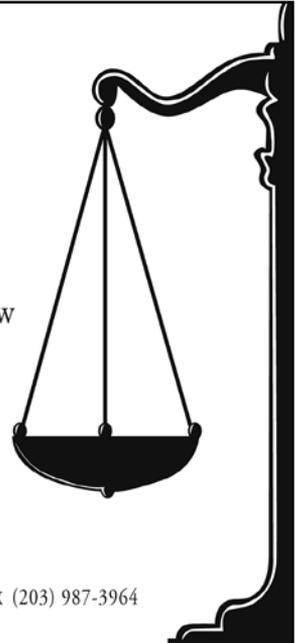
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Wallingford Symphony Orchestra Holiday Concert

Philip T. Ventre, Music Director

December 18, 2022 @ 2:00pm

Ann and George Colony Hall

Choate Rosemary Hall



Featuring

Susan Yankee, Mezzo Soprano

Dag Hammarskjold Middle School Chorus - Julianne Boucher, Chorus Director

Moran Middle School Chorus - Laurie Brandl, Chorus Director

Troika

Sergei Prokofiev 1891-1953

Georg Philipp Telemann 1681-1767

Concerto for Recorder and Flute in E Minor, Twv 52:e1

I. Largo

II. Largo

David Langstaff, Recorder

Elizabeth Kitson, Flute

Our Winter Wonderland

Audrey Snyder 1953-

Paul Murtha 1960-

Dag Hammarskjold Middle School Chorus

Julianne Boucher, Chorus Director

We wish you a Merry Christmas

Arr. by John Rutter 1945-

Moran Middle School Chorus

Laurie Brandl, Chorus Director

A Christmas Festival

Leroy Anderson 1908-1975

Joy to the World

Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly

God Rest ye Merry Gentlemen

Good King Wenceslas

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

The First Nowell

Silent Night

Jingle Bells

O Come All Ye Faithful

(continued)

Wallingford Symphony Orchestra Holiday Concert

Three Christmas Carols

God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
O Come All Ye Faithful

Arr. by David Wilcocks 1919-2015

Let There Be Peace On Earth

Sy Miller 1908-1971
Jill Jackson 1913-1971
Arr. by Hawley Ades 1908-2008



Intermission

Kinder-Symphonie. Toy Symphony, Op. 169 Cornelius Gurlitt 1820-1901

The Little Drummer Boy Katherine Kennicott Davis 1892-1980
Arr. by Bob Cerulli 1935-2016

Sleigh Ride Leroy Anderson 1908-1975

Festive Sounds of Hanukah Arr. by Bill Holcombe 1924-2010
Mi Y' Malel Who Can Retell
Hanukah, Hanukah
My Dreidel
S'Vivon Spin Dreidel
Hanukah, Oh Hanukah

Maoz Tsur Rock of Ages

Wexford Carol Arr. Elaine Hagenberg 1979-

Pavane Gabriel Fauré 1845-1924

'Twas the Night Before Christmas Music by Brad Ross 1957-
Story by Clement Clarke Moore 1779-1863

Susan Yankee, Mezzo Soprano

A Christmas Scherzo Don Sebesky 1937-

Bring a Torch, Janette Isabella
Here We Come A-Wassailing
The Holy and the Ivy
I Saw Three Ships
O Come, All Ye Faithful
O Tannenbaum



The Wallingford Symphony Orchestra History

The Wallingford Symphony Orchestra (WSO) was the brainchild of Philip T. Ventre and the late Terrence 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 48 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 48 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 48th season.



Marilyn Catusus

The WSO Chairs

Each year a designated chair of honor is given to a WSO musician by special donors. Some are furnished by a charitable foundation and others as a tribute or in memory of a loved one.

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

Philip T. Ventre, Founder and Music Director

• *Wadsworth Family Foundation Chair*

Nina Crothers, Concertmaster

• *Elizabeth Mushinsky Mitchell Family Fund Chair*
In memory of Elizabeth Mitchell

Elizabeth Kitson, Principal Flute

• *The Ithaca Foundation Chair*

James Walker, Percussion

John Henderson II

• *In memory of Barbara Henderson*

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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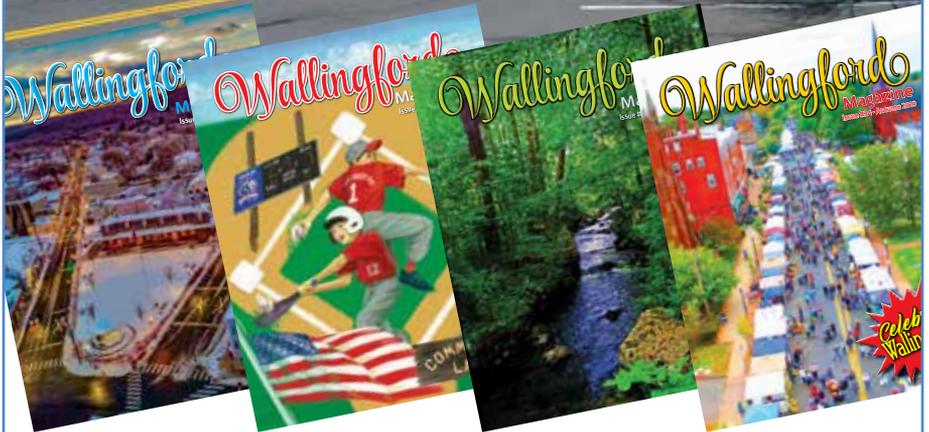
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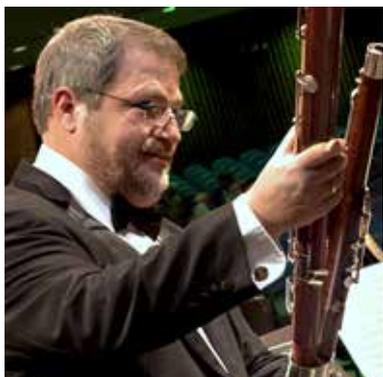
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T.D. Ellis

Principal Bassoon

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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.



Susan Yankee

Mezzo Soprano

Susan Yankee, hailed by The Capital as, “velvet-toned” and the Baltimore Sun raved that “her large and lustrous voice has a creamy texture and compelling beauty” Performed Soprano and Mezzo-soprano repertoire across the country, including two solo appearances at Carnegie Hall. First, a Carnegie Hall debut as soloist in the Beethoven Mass in C and Mozart Requiem under the baton of Jerald Ottley, conductor of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. This was followed by the World Premiere of Imant Raminish’s Symphony of Psalms. Appearances with the Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, New York City Opera National Company, Tulsa Opera, Opera Memphis, Longview Opera, Shreveport Opera, Harrisburg Opera, Opera Theater of CT, and Sarasota Opera. As a concert artist with The Little Orchestra Society of New York, Memphis Symphony, Norwalk Symphony Orchestra, New Haven Symphony, Connecticut Chamber Choir, Wallingford Symphony, Orchestra New England, Bethlehem Bach Festival, Lake Charles Symphony, Shreveport Symphony, Annapolis Opera, and the Mozart in Mass Series at Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center, NYC. She has been honored to perform alongside some of the top opera singers in the world, among them Rosalind Elias, Stephanie Blythe and Mignon Dunn. As a young artist, with the Glimmerglass Opera, Virginia Opera, Israel Vocal Arts Institute, the Sarasota Opera Studio, and two seasons with the Opera Theatre of Saint Louis. World Finalist in the Luciano Pavarotti International Voice Competition, a Mid-Atlantic All District Division winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, as well as a winner of the Palm Beach Opera Competition, the Connecticut Opera Competition, Amici Vocal Competition and the Liederkrantz Foundation Awards for Voice. She has been on the voice faculty of Centenary College, University of Tampa, East Texas Baptist University, Florida Gulf Coast University and Patel Conservatory. As well as the voice faculty for several prestigious voice programs, including the Sherrill Milnes V.O.I.C. Experience at Walt Disney World and Opera Tampa, Intermezzo Foundation for Voice and Seagle Music Colony, where she also directed. She is the past artistic director of the Shreveport Opera Xpress Young Artist program. In addition, Ms. Yankee is a three times National Endowment of the Arts grant recipient for her interactive educational operas for children. Ms. Yankee is a graduate of the Hartt School of Music and the Yale School of Music. She is an Associate Fellow of Trumbull College, Yale University.



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.



David H. Langstaff

Recorder Soloist

David H. Langstaff is a business and community leader with extensive experience as Chief Executive Officer and Director of advanced technology and professional services companies. Since 2018, has served as Executive Vice President for Leadership and Seminars at The Aspen Institute where he has been actively involved for over twenty years as a senior moderator of values-based leadership seminars and as Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Aspen Business and Society Program. Previously, Mr. Langstaff was President & CEO of Veridian Corporation and TASC, Inc. Currently, he is Chairman of the Board of Idemia – National Security Solutions, Mr. Langstaff; he is also on the Board of the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts.

As a musician, Mr. Langstaff has played recorders and other renaissance and folk instruments for over forty years. He has performed as a recorder soloist with The Houston Symphony Orchestra, The Wallingford (CT) Symphony Orchestra, and the Choate Rosemary Hall Chamber Orchestra, with which he toured China in 2005 with recorder virtuoso, Scott Reiss. He is also a choral singer, having performed with a number of symphony orchestras and choral ensembles over the years, and has continued his family traditions with Revels in Cambridge, Houston and Washington, D.C. He was Executive Producer of the Emmy and Grammy-nominated, eight-episode television special on the history of recorded music (Soundbreaking), with the late Sir George Martin, that aired in Fall 2016 on PBS Television and globally. He is a graduate of The Choate School, earned a B.A., cum laude, from Harvard University and an M.B.A. from Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration. He resides on a farm in Comus, MD with his wife of more than forty years.

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Laurie Brandl
Choral and string teacher
at Moran Middle school

Laurie Brandl has been a music teacher in Wallingford for over twenty years. Her instructional experience includes elementary music at Parker Farms and Rock Hill before moving to Moran Middle School where she serves as the Choral and String teacher. Laurie directs the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade choruses and string ensembles throughout the school day. She also serves as co-director of the annual musical, having directed more than fifteen shows during her time at Moran. When she is not teaching, Laurie also serves as Minister of Music at South Trinity United Methodist Church in South Meriden, CT for 25 years.

Laurie holds a Bachelor's Degree in Music from the University of Connecticut, a Master's in Liberal Studies from Wesleyan University and a 6th Year Certificate in Technology Education from the University of New Haven.

Students from Moran Middle School

Scott Aminawung, Avery Amodio, Ashlee Athan, Olivia Baehr, Addison Baltramaitis, Emerson Baltramaitis, Ethan Barnes, Geville Bowleg, Lauren Briglia, Cassidy Britton, Addison Brunelle, Carol Callahan, Chloe Callahan, Brooke Campbell, Arianna Cappiello, Lila Cervero, Mikaela Chica, Sydney Cristini, Olivia Cuomo, Brianna Curtis, Susan Dancer, Cooper DeMaio, Scarlett Diaz, Andre Duprey, Shianna Duprey, Lilliana Esparo, Mia Ford, Elizabeth Giammattei, Gabriel Giaquinto, Julia Gootman, Kianna Grier, Nina Gross, Jesse Hana, Lorabella Hardy, Parker Harnois, Grace Hill, Gavin Hoffman, Tuyen Hua, Natalie Jambor, Olivia Jee, Noah Jones, Parker Kennedy, Gavin Kopylec, Cameron LaBree, Leah Larson, Danika Le, Isabella Lengyel, McKenna Liu, Autumn Mancini, Camille Maresca, Zoe Mason, Harlee Mayer, James McCaffrey, Riley McMahon, Lucas Moutinho, DaShawn Newton, Aidan Nottingham, Aliza Pacuku, Kylie Palumbo, Mia Passante, Haylie Pepe, Elianna Piroli, Brody Platt, Annaliese Raffle, Jylliayne Ramos, Kaysie Reilly, Nathan Remer, Kaitlyn Rolan, Spencer Rygiel, Shane Saccu, Gianna Sandillo-Nastri, Tristan Sarenas, Madison Schleif, Natalya Schweiger, Tristan Scillia, Lincoln Sheren, Zoe Southland, Brooklynn Stocking, Ava Suter, Lauren Tansley, Mason Taylor, Celina Timothy, Sincere Toney, Mikayla Tortora, Isabell Walsh, Paige Welch, Maddison Westbrook, Lea Wielgosh, Juhyun Yang



Julianne Boucher

**Choral and general music teacher
at Dag Hammarskjold Middle School**

Julianne Boucher has been a music teacher in Wallingford since 2007, teaching elementary general music for 3 years. She taught at St. John School, Middletown for one year and returned to Wallingford in 2011 where she teaches choral and general music at Dag Hammarskjold Middle School. In addition to teaching, she is the co-director of the school musical. Julianne previously taught vocal music at Amity Junior High School in Bethany and at Brownstone Intermediate School and Portland Middle School in Portland. She has served as the accompanist for various groups in Connecticut, including the Cheshire Community Chorus and Harmonia Choral Society (both formerly in Cheshire, CT). She was the pianist for the Castle Craig Players in Meriden, where she played for Carousal and The Secret Garden.

Julianne holds a bachelor's degree in Music Education from Nazareth College of Rochester, NY and a master's degree in Plano, with an emphasis on accompanying, from Hartt School at the University of Hartford.

Students from Dag Hammarskjold Middle School

Eva Ardito, Isabella Azevedo, Michael Bolton, Alexa Boucher, Lily Brunjes, Szetu Caldwell, Daniel Caruso, Arturo Cerasale, Dannah Chena Nicolichchia, Spencer Cicarella, Sophia Cortes, Allison Delgrego, Casey Dingus, Boen Dong, Adriana Encalada, Sophia Fernandez, Autumn Fraser, Lainey Galligan, Brooke Heidenis, Anamaria Hussey, Luciana Iniguez Moscol, Hayden Kellogg, Julia Klakouski, Aubrie Kovacs, Ella Lanzl, Isabella Maione, Sofia Mancino, Cameron Mas, Noelle Matteo, Phoenix McDermott, Priscilla Mejia, Airriani Millan, Gia Morava, Leah Mosher, Callie Mule, Jahnvi Patel, Jachelle Perno, Alexander Pinon, Aryanna Plouffe, Abril Prado-Farias, Brenna Predmore, Justus Rathbun, Collin Reilly, Reagan Rudman, Ayla Sim, Daniel Somers, Emily Stolins, Samantha Thomas, Dejon Torres, Gianna Vollono, Olive Whitehouse



Marilyn Catusus

VIOLIN 1

Nina Crothers, concertmaster
Claudia Hafer Tondi
Amy Schumann Griswold
Ariana Straznicky
Jennifer Trahan
Janice Setzer

VIOLIN 2

Kathleen Dorfman, principal
Kai Hedin
Susannah Bryan
Kayla Bryan
Meridith Bryant
Susan Kaufman

VIOLA

Jody Rowitsch, principal
Jill Pellet Levine
Nicholas Citro
Nadya Potemkin

CELLO

Carolyn Engle, principal
Cheryl Labrecque
Corinne Cunha
George Kroqi

BASS

Joseph Russo, principal

FLUTE

Elizabeth Kitson, principal
Jill Maurer-Davis

OBOE

Libby Van Cleve, principal
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Michael Piraneo

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Kathryn Twombly
Jaime Thorne
Renee Redman

TRUMPET

Craig Hlavac, principal
Jessie Wills
Stephen Owens

TROMBONE

Topher Logan, principal
Jordan Jacobson

BASS TROMBONE

James Marbury

TUBA

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TIMPANI

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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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