

Wallingford Symphony Orchestra

performs with Harmony on the Sound Women's Chorus Sweet Adelines

> Featuring Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker and beloved music from Broadway & Hollywood

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The Wallingford Symphony Orchastra

is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing professional, high quaity, 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,

(11)elcome!

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 on October 22 featured Halloween orchestral classics, Danse Macabre, Night on Bald Mountain, Symphonie Fantastique and selections from Jaws, Psycho and Ghost Busters. The WSO and Frantic City performed Michael Jackson's Thriller and ACDC's Highway to Hell. Frantic City concluded the concert with music by ZZ Top, Metallica, Black Sabbath and Guns N'Roses. Our WSO so enjoyed performing with Frantic City and the audience so enjoyed the concert!

Our December 17th WSO concert will feature Connecticut's Harmony on the Sound Female Barbershop Chorus Sweet Adelines, which was founded in 1964 and has won the Region #1 Chorus Championship many times and has competed at the international level. Our WSO will perform with Harmony on the Sound, Lorry Anderson's A Christmas Festival, Irving Berlin's White Christmas and Sy Miller and Jill Jackson's Let There be peace on earth. Harmony on the Sound will perform 5 of their favorite effervescent holiday selections, including Christmastime is here and Rockin' around the Christmas tree.. The WSO will perform selections from Tchaikovsky's ballet, Nutcracker and cherished holiday songs, including I'll be home for Christmas, Let it snow, Frosty the snowman, Hanukah selections and many other cherished holiday classics. Mezzo-Soprano Susan Yankee will join the WSO for 'Twas the night before Christmas. This will indeed be a very festive Holiday Concert!

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!

This Went



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 richatmosphere 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

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

Call us at: (203) 697-2261

or purchase directly at:

Gallagher Travel Shoppe 369 Center Street Wallingford, CT 06492 (203) 265-2856



Adult \$30 Student \$20 15 ys & younger accompanied with an adult are FREE.



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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 Lavalle'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.



Best wishes to the WSO

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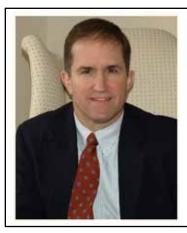
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Thank you to the Wadsworth Family Foundation for their generous gift that helps the Wallingford Symphony Orchestra enrich the cultural life of the community through music.









July 7, 2024 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!

You Can Support the Arts Enjoy our 49th 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: Sonja Haley • Andrea Johnson • David Noe Suzanne Ramsdell • Marci Resler

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Wallingford Symphony Orchestra

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₩50⁴ Holiday Carols & Songs Concert

Philip T. Ventre, Music Director Eric Mahl, Guest Conductor

December 17, 2023 @ 2:00pm Ann and George Colony Hall, Choate Rosemary Hall

Nutcracker Suite Marche Dance of the Sugar-Plum Fairy Danse Russe Trepak Winter Wonderland

Let It Snow

Festive Sounds of Hanukah Santa Claus is Coming to Town

Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer

Frosty the Snowman

I'll Be Home for Christmas

'Twas The Night Before Christmas

Piotr I. Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

Felix Bernard (1897-1944) Richard Bernhard (1901-1936) Arr. Calvin Custer (1939-1998) Jule Styne (1905-1994) Sammy Cahn (1913-1993) Arr. Steven Rosenhaus (1952) Arr. Bill Holcombe (1924-2010) J. Fred Coots (1897-1985) Haven Gillespie (1888-1975) Arr. Bob Cerulli (1935-2016) Johnny Marks (1909-1985) Arr. Richard Hayman (1920-2014) Walter "Jack" Rollins (1906-1973) Steve Nelson (1907-1981) Arr. Bill Holcombe (1924-2010) Walter Kent (1911-1994) Kim Gannon (1900-1974) Arr. James Ployhar (1926-2007) Clement Clarke Moore (1779-1863) Arr. Brad Ross (1957)

Susan Yankee, Vocalist, Mezzo-Soprano

Sleighride

Leroy Anderson (1908-1975)

Harmony on the Sound Chorus - Karen Sweeters, Master Music Director

White Christmas

A Christmas Festival Let there be peace on earth

Snow Day Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree Christmastime Is Here

FA LA LA It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas Irving Berlin (1888-1989) Arr. Robert Russell Bennett (1894-1981) Leroy Anderson (1908-1975) Sy Miller (1908-1971) Jill Jackson (1913-1971) Arr. Hawley Ades (1908-2008) Danya Metzger Johnny Marks, Arr.Tedda Lippincott Lee Mendelson and Vince Guaraldi Arr. Sharon Holmes Teddi Lippincott Meredith Willson Arr. Joni Bescos Lee Mendelson and Vince



Nutcracker is an adaptation of E.T.A. Hoffmann's 1816 short story The Nutcracker and the Mouse King. The ballet's choreographer was Marius Petipa, with whom Tchaikovsky had worked three years earlier on The Sleeping Beauty. The first performance of the Nutcracker ballet was not a success, however, Nutcracker soon became popular and is today performed worldwide during the Christmas holiday season. Today we shall perform four very popular selections.

Winter Wonderland has been a cherished Christmas song worldwide and since the first recording by Richard Himber, today has been recorded by over 200 different artists. The song's lyrics were about a couple's romance during the winter season and were inspired by Richard Smith after he had seen his hometown Honesdale, PA Central Park covered in snow. Smith wrote the lyrics while being treated for tuberculosis in a sanitarium.

Let It Snow was composed in Hollywood, CA during a heat wave as Cahn and Styne imagined and wished for cooler weather. The song was first recorded in the fall by Vaughn Monroe and released just after Thanksgiving soon to become a very often performed holiday song. The lyrics do not mention any holiday and today is regarded worldwide as a Christmas song performed by various artists on Christmas-themed LPs and CDs. In the Southern Hemisphere, it is quite often performed during the winter months of June, July, and August.

Hanukkah is a Jewish festival of eight nights and days commemorating the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt against the Seleucid Empire, also known as the Festival of Lights, celebrating the lighting of the nine candles of a candelabrum with nine branches, called a menorah or hanukkiah. One branch is typically placed above or below the others and its candle is used to light the other eight candles. This unique candle is called the shamash ("attendant"). Each night, one additional candle is lit by the shamash until all eight candles are lit together on the final night of the festival. Hanukah festivities include singing Hanukkah songs, playing the game of dreidel, and eating oil-based foods, such as latkes, sufganiyot, and dairy foods. Tonight, we shall perform a selection of the most popular Hanukkah songs.

Santa Claus is Coming to Town is a Christmas song that was first recorded in 1934 by banjo player Harry Reser and then performed by Eddie Cantor on his radio show. Within 24 hours, 500,000 copies of sheet music and 30,000 records were sold! Today this classic holiday song has been recorded by over 200 artists, including Bing Crosby, Bruce Springsteen, The Temptations, Michael Bublé, and the Jackson 5!

Interesting Insights

Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer is a fantasy story created by Robert L. May. Rudolph first appeared in a 1939 booklet written by May and published by Montgomery Ward, the department store. Over 2.4 million copies were distributed. In 1949 May's brotherin-law, Johnny Marks adapted the story into a song, which became one of Gene Autry's signature songs, selling 2.5 million and then 25 million, and was No.1 on the Billboard pop singles chart the first week of Christmas. No doubt the most well-known version is the 1964 Stop-motion animation special and the sequels in 1976 & 1979. In many countries, Rudolph is a figure of Christmas folklore. "The fantasy story made to order for American children: each child needs to express and receive approval for his or her individuality and/or special qualities. Rudolph's story embodies the American Dream for the child, written largely because of the cultural significance of Christmas." Ronald D. Lankford, Jr.

Frosty the Snowman was first recorded in 1950 by Gene Autry and the Cass County Boys, then recorded by Jimmy Durante and many other pop vocalists, including Nat King Cole, Phil Spector's The Ronettes, and the Jackson 5! Frosty has appeared in many animated film shorts and the TV special Frosty the Snowman. 1976's Frosty's Winter Wonderland was based upon the song, which you shall hear tonight in 1979 Rudolph and Frosty's Christmas in July and 2005 The Legend of Frosty the Snowman.

I'll Be Home for Christmas was made famous by Bing Crosby's 1943 recording, which was a top-ten hit. The song's lyrics are about a soldier stationed overseas during World War II writing a letter to his family telling them he will be coming home and to prepare the holiday for him, and requests snow, mistletoe, and presents under the tree. The song ends with a melancholy moment with the soldier saying, "I'll be home for Christmas, if only in my dreams." The flip side of the original recording was "Danny Boy." Both songs touched everyone's heart worldwide as they do today.

Frozen. Let It Go. Performed today in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Walt Disney Company. Frozen is a 2013 animated musical fantasy film, featuring. The voices of Kristen Bell and Idina Menzel as Princess Anna and Kristoff team up with Sven and Olaf to find Anna's estranged sister Elisa, whose icy powers have enveloped their kingdom in eternal winter. The film explores feminism, social identities, and sisterly bonds.

Twas The Night Before Christmas is a poem that was published on December 23, 1823, in a newspaper called The Sentinel. In 1837 Clement Clarke Moore accepted credit for writing A Visit. He kept his authorship secret because he was a professor and considered the poem to be not a scholarly work at the time. Moore is said he based his vision of Santa Claus on both St. Nicholas and a local Dutch handyman where he lived in New York and that the handyman operated the sleigh that took Moore home. Today, we shall hear a very creative arrangement by Brad Ross for orchestra and a vocalist who sings the text. Brad Ross says, "I was in an antique shop and there was an old pamphlet sitting on a table with a big happy illustration of Santa on the cover. I opened it up and started to read it to myself. (It had been a while since I had read it.) I knew immediately that I could set this to music and I did....every word!"

Interesting Insights

Sleighride was composed in 1946 by Leroy Anderson during a July heat wave and finished in February 1948. The premiere was conducted by Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops in 1949 and the recording was a tremendous success. Leroy composed many other light orchestra compositions for the Boston Pops, including The Typewriter, Bugler's Holiday, and A Trumpeter's Lullaby.

White Christmas is a 1954 musical film starring, Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney, and Vera-Elan. Irving Berlin composed the songs, including a revised version of the title song, White Christmas, which Crosby sang in the 1942 film Holiday Inn. Irving Berlin often composed 'til dawn and while in warm and sunny La Quinta, CA and he told his secretary "I want you to take down a song I wrote over the weekend. Not only is it the best song I ever wrote, but it's also the best song anybody ever wrote."White Christmas was the first film to use VistaVision, which was twice the size of standard 35mm film and earned 12 million dollars – today that's \$131 million. Crosby's recording sold over 50 million and was #1 on Billboard charts for 11 weeks. The song's melancholy and comforting images of home inspired the Armed Forces Network to have the song performed for troops in Europe and the South Pacific.

A Christmas Festival. Arthur Fiedler asked Leroy Anderson, the

Boston Pops arranger and orchestrator, to write a special concert piece for a Christmas recording in 1950. Leroy Anderson selected eight of the most popular Christmas carols and one Christmas song, "Jingle Bells". Anderson said, I composed "concert music with a pop quality." For A Christmas Festival he said, "I rather took the themes and built you might say a concert overture, around the Christmas songs." Leroy Anderson indeed captured the joy, celebration, and solemnity of Christmas. In 1950 LP single records were 78 rpm and he had to compose A Christmas Festival with 4 minutes of music on each side of the LP! And look where we are today!

Let There Be Peace on Earth. One summer evening in 1955, a group of 180 teenagers of all races and religions were meeting at a workshop high in the California mountains, locked arms, formed a circle, and sang a song of understanding and peace – peace for all mankind. They believed that singing the song, with its simple basic sentiment, would help to create a climate for peace worldwide. When they came down from the mountain, they shared the song with thousands of people in America, and soon the song was being performed all over the world. Today the song travels heart to heart and is performed by the world's greatest pop and classical singers and choirs. The song has been awarded the George Washington Honor Medal by the Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge, PA.

ERIC MAHL Guest Conductor

Mr. Mahl serves as the Music Director of the Northport Symphony, Geneva Light Opera Company, The Philharmonia Orchestra at Third Street, and Lakeland Youth Orchestra, and the Western Connecticut Youth Orchestra as well as Associate Conductor of the Greenwich Village Orchestra. He is also the founder and Music Director of OrchestraOne, a NYC based organization founded on community involvement, and ensembles conductor at the Charles Ives Music Festival in Danbury, CT. Mr. Mahl is a musician who believes in the transformative powers of music above all else.

He has had guest conducting experiences with the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet, Ridgefield Symphony, New Amsterdam Symphony, Greenwich Village Orchestra, The Chelsea Symphony, Urban Playground orchestra, and the University Orchestras of the College Conservatory of Music (CCM), Orchestra de l'Universite de Montreal, and SUNY Fredonia.

A fervent supporter of New Music, Mr. Mahl frequently conducts New Music Ensembles in the Greater NYC area, has led ensembles in the performance of more than twenty world premiers and has commissioned nine pieces for full orchestra through the ensembles he directs. These and other projects have led to many collaborations and commissions with professional and student composers including the world premieres of fully-staged operas, experimental ballet, and countless small and large ensemble pieces of all genres and instrumentations. He was also selected from over 100 applicants to participate in the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music Conducting Workshop, where he worked closely with Marin Alsop and James Ross.

As a passionate educator, Mr. Mahl has personally taught all ages and instruments at public and private schools throughout the five boroughs of New York City, and frequently works with student musicians from under-served communities. As a firm believer that music can provide a transformational experience for any child regardless of background, he attempts to engage and inspire students from as many cultural and geographic backgrounds as possible through community engagement activities such as free lectures, workshops, and concerts in addition to working with student orchestras. It is his goal to expose the humanistic meaning behind great works of art, to tear down any and all barriers between the audience and performers and bring the world together.



Mr. Mahl received his Bachelors of Music in Education from Ithaca College and continued his studies both at Universite de Montreal and the State University of New York at Fredonia, where he received his master's degree. He has studied with some of the foremost conducting pedagogues in the United States including Marin Alsop, James Ross, Harold Farberman, Neil Varon, Marc Gibson, Larry Rachleff, Don Schleicher, Jean-Francois Rivest, Paolo Bellomia, and Joeseph Gifford. He has participated in workshops and competitions in the United States, Canada, the Czech Republic; at the Eastman School of Music, College Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati and Bard College. Mr. Mahl's primary instrument is the trumpet, although he is schooled in all orchestral instruments. He continues to perform in orchestral, jazz, and chamber music settings.

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"Music is the shorthand of emotion."

Leo Tolstoy



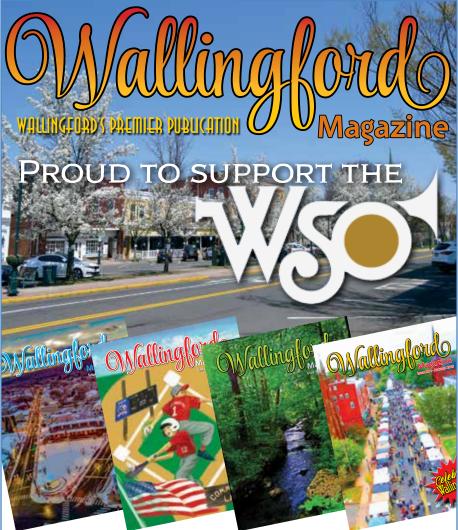
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The Wallingford Symphony Orchestra History

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 Catasus



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.



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

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.



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 Liederkranz 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.



Janice Setzer

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.





Carolyn Engle

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 is 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 Connect-icut State University. Previously, he served as Associate Profes-sor 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 Hart-ford 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 aca-demic 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 missionbased management in the administration of the contemporary university.



Jill Maurer-Davis

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.



Libby Van Cleve English horn and oboe

Described as "expert" by the Washington Post, "dazzling" by the San Francisco Chronicle, and "absolutely exquisite" by Paris Transatlantic, Libby Van Cleve's most extreme moniker was from the Hartford Courant which dubbed her "the double reed queen of the new music world." Libby Van Cleve is recognized as one of the foremost interpreters of chamber and contemporary music for the oboe. Her solo playing is featured on the New Albion, CRI, Aerial, and Centrediscs CD labels. Her solo English horn and oboe d'amore performances are featured on the internationally acclaimed New Albion CD "Dark Waters," music by Ingram Marshall. Compact discs featuring her solo and chamber playing have been released on the Tzadik, New World, OODisc, Braxton House, What Next?, CRI and Artifacts labels. Numerous compositions have been written for her and have been commissioned by organizations such as the National Endowment for the Arts, Connecticut Commission for the Arts, Canada Council, and Minnesota Composers Forum. Ms. Van Cleve has received grants for the performance and recording of new works from the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, Minnesota Composers Forum, Jerome Foundation, and North West Area Foundation. She has been awarded residencies at the Yellow Springs Artist Colony and the Banff Centre, and she won the prestigious Yale School of Music Alumni Association Prize. Ms. Van Cleve is the author of Oboe Unbound, a book on contemporary oboe techniques published by Rowman and Littlefield Press. She is co-author, along with Vivian Perlis, of the award-winning book/CD publication, Composers'Voices from Ives to Ellington, Yale University Press. She is the editor of the newly published Six Suites by J.S. Bach in a version for solo oboe published by T.D. Ellis Music Publishing and available through TrevcoMusic. com and TheMusicSource.org.

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.



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.

Harmony on the Sound







The Harmony on the Sound Chorus is a chapter of Sweet Adelines International. It is part of the North Atlantic Region #1, which includes all of New England, and the Canadian Maritimes. The chorus was founded in 1964 by a group of women who wanted to get together to sing and socialize. Two years later in 1966, they took the next step and applied to Sweet Adelines fora Charter under the name Stamford YankeeMaid Chorus. In 1999 the chorusfiled for a business license with the State of Connecticut and began operating under the name Yankee Maid Chorus, Inc. Now operating as Harmony on the Sound Chorus, Inc., it is a non-profit corporation.

Sweet Adelines International, a non-profit music education organization for women, was founded on July 13, 1945, when Edna Mae Anderson of Tulsa,Oklahoma, brought a few women together in her home. The group was named Sweet Adelines on August 13th. Today the organization has approximately 25,000 members in more than 600 chapters in North America, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Mexico, and six countries in Europe. The mission of the organization is to advance the original musical art form of Barbershop harmony through education and performance. An important part of Sweet Adelines International is the yearly competitions that occur at the regional and international levels. They are an effective way to honer the musical and performance skills of choruses and quartets. Members look forward to the gatherings because they get to take part in friendly competition, and they get to catch up with acquaintances from other choruses.

In keeping with the mission of Sweet Adelines, Harmony on the Sound is very involved in competition. The Chorus has won the Region #1 Chorus Championship multiple times and has competed at the International level in London, Washington DC, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Fort Lauderdale, Reno, Minneapolis, Nashville, Orlando, Indianapolis, Honolulu, Denver, Las Vegas and New Orleans. In order to stay at the top level, the members continuously work on their vocal abilities both in and out of rehearsal. They also continue their education by attending regional educational events.

Harmony on the Sound is currently under the direction of Master Director Karen Sweeters, who is also a certified Sweet Adelines International judge in the category of Expression. The competitions are judged in three other categories as well – Music, Sound and Visual Communication, with each quartet and chorus singing two songs. Each of the four judges awards each song a score, with a maximum of 100 per song or 800 total. The number score is acquainted to a letter level. Karen is the fourth director to lead the chorus over the years. With her vision and leadership, it has risen to "A-level" status and is therefore in a position to be very competitive at the International level.

The original purpose for which Sweet Adelines was organized in 1945 was educational, to teach and train its members in musical harmony and appreciation. One goal was to "create and promote barbershop quartets and other musical groups"; another goal was to give musicals. . .public and private performances for. . .learning and general appreciation of all the things pertaining to music."

The chorus remains true to the original goals of theparent organization by reaching out to the community throughperformances, and by sharing their knowledge of the art form by providingfree music and voice lessons to members and guests.

Ranging in age from approximately 28 to 93, the HOTS chorus members find participation in the chorus to be tons of fun, not only because of the thrill of singing close harmony, but also because of the opportunity to "strut their stuff" in front of the many appreciative audiences. The chorus performs several times a year for local organizations. Most years, it also puts on a showas its major fundraiser. The unique style of the chorus lends itself to creating original musical plays written by the members. These programs have humorous themes that tie together the many songs performed. This format is not always used, but when it is, it's an hysterical treat for the audience.



There are several active quartets, as well as two small groups within the chorus. The quartets get together and practice their craft on their own as they prepare to represent the chorus in competition and performances. The small groups don't compete, but any of these

small formations can appear at nursing homes, farmers markets, and any other area organization to entertain at parties, luncheons and meetings. These ensembles are either hireddirectly, or assigned to the performance by the chorus Performance Manager.

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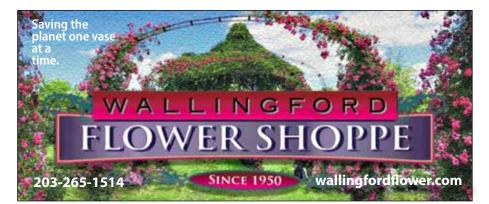


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William Shakespeare



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Ludwig van Beethoven



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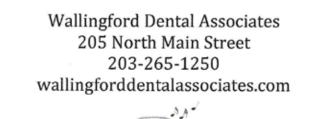


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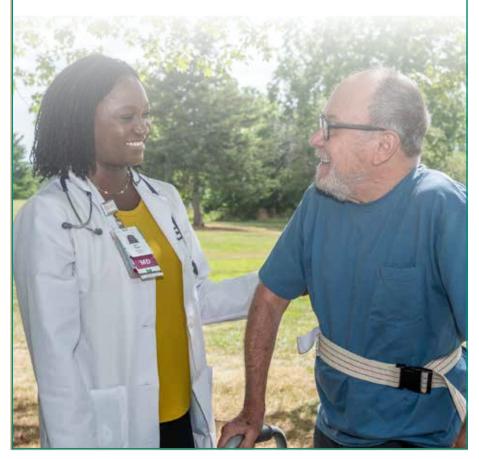


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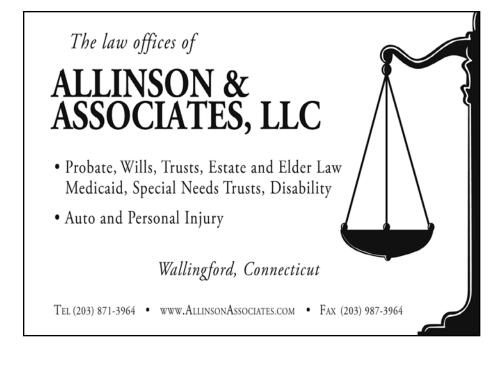
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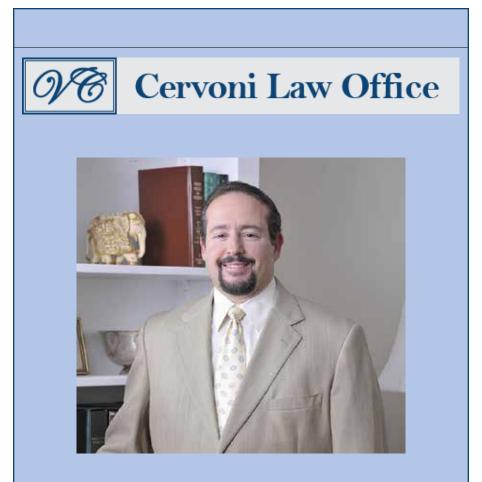


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The WSO Chairs

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





VIOLIN 1

Nina Crothers, concertmaster Corinne Metter Amy Schumann-Griswold Grace Coolidge Sayumi Takahashi Janice Setzer

VIOLIN 2

Janet Jacobson, principal Chie Yoshinaka Matejek Susannah Bryan Sarah McNamara Dana Saccomano Susan Kaufman

VIOLA

Jody Rowitsch, principal Nicholas Citro Nadya Potemkina Amy Jones

CELLO

Carolyn Engle, principal Corinne Cunha Sarah Shreder Gjorgj Kroqi

BASS

Joseph Russo, principal David Uhl

FLUTE

Elizabeth Kitson, principal Allison Hughes

PICCOLO

Cecilia Burns

OBOE

Libby Van Cleve, principal Kirsten Lipkens

CLARINET

Julie Levene, principal Chadwick Thomas

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 Jerome Burns Jessie Wills

TROMBONE

Topher Logan, principal Jordan Jacobson

BASS TROMBONE

James Marbury

TUBA

Gary Sienkiewicz, principal

TIMPANI

Greg Candy, principal

PERCUSSION

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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 greatgrandmother 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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