



2024

BROADWAY

Musicals

Wallingford Symphony Orchestra

performs music from
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The Lion King, Wicked & Cats

featuring music by America's beloved composer
Aaron Copland

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

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

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

**KEEP THE
MUSIC ALIVE!**

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

wallingfordsymphonyorchestra@gmail.com

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Dear WSO Patrons and Donors,

Welcome!

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

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

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

Our Spooktacular Halloween Concert 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 featured 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 performed 5 of their favorite effervescent holiday selections, including

Christmastime is here and Rockin' around the Christmas tree. The WSO performed selections from Tchaikovsky's ballet, Nutcracker, and cherished holiday songs, including I'll Be Home for Christmas, Let It Snow, Frosty the Snowman, Hanukkah selections, and many other cherished holiday classics. Mezzo-Soprano Susan Yankee joined the WSO for 'Twas the night before Christmas. This was a very festive Holiday Concert!

Join us for our upcoming March concert, "On Broadway!" Experience the timeless melodies from some of the longest-running Broadway musicals, including Phantom of the Opera, Chicago, The Lion King, Wicked, and Cats. Additionally, revel in the harmonies of America's cherished composer Aaron Copland, and be captivated by a stunning performance from the First Prize Winner of the WSO Mitchell Family String Competition.

Mark your calendars for our annual Children's Concert on Monday morning, March 11, exclusively for Wallingford children in grades 5-6! Delight in selections from the Sunday concert, showcasing music from Hollywood and Broadway Productions crafted specifically for children. Plus, prepare to be mesmerized as the Winner of the Mitchell Family Fund String Concerto Competition for Young String Players in New Haven County takes the stage alongside the WSO.

Join us for our annual July 4th Pops celebration, showcasing America's Greatest Pops, Jazz, Broadway, and Hollywood Composers! Revel in the iconic melodies of Leroy Anderson, Scott Joplin, Louis Armstrong, George Gershwin, Morton Gould, Ferde Grofé, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Alan Menken, and John Williams. As the evening unfolds, we'll pay homage to our armed forces with a heartfelt tribute and close the concert with beloved Patriotic tunes. Don't miss this spectacular event!

Indulge in fascinating insights into the lives of the composers whose works grace our performances. We eagerly anticipate entertaining you this season and in the future!

Mark your calendars, as next year, we'll be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the WSO. It's sure to be a momentous occasion you won't want to miss!

Philip Ventre, WSO Founder and Music Director





WSO 2023-2024 Concerts

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

October 22, 2023

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

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

December 17, 2023

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

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

March 10, 2024

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

Our March concert is On Broadway! Music from the longest running Broadway musicals, Phantom of the Opera, Chicago, The Lion King, Wicked, Cats, featuring music by America's beloved composer Aaron Copland and a performance by the First Prize Winner of the WSO Mitchell Family String Competition.

March 11, 2024

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

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

June 30, 2024

7:00pm on Choate Rosemary Hall Chapel Lawn

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

HOW TO BUY TICKETS

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

PHILIP T. VENTRE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Wallingford Symphony Orchestra

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Philip Thomas Ventre, Founder & Music Director

March 10, 2024 @ 2:00pm

Ann and George Colony Hall, Choate Rosemary Hall

WSO On Broadway! Longest Running Broadway Musicals! LincolnCenter Classics!

Mitchell Family Fund Concerto Competition Winner

Violoncello Concerto in E Minor, Op. 85

Sir Edward Elgar 1857-1934

IV. Allegro – Moderato – Allegro, ma non-troppo – Poco più lento – Adagio

James Stuber, Violoncello

Winner of the 2024 Mitchell Family Fund String Concerto Competition

Cats

7,485 Performances

Closed on September 10, 2000

Overture

Jellicle Songs for Jellicle Cats

The Old Gumbie Cat

Macavity: The Mystery Cat

Skimbleshanks: The Railway Cat

Memory

Andrew Lloyd Webber (1948)

Arr. Robert Lowden (1920-1998)

Wicked

7,847 Performances

No One Mourns the Wicked

The Wizard and I

Dancing Through Life

Popular

Defying Gravity

Stephen Schwartz (1948)

Arr. Ted Ricketts

The Lion King

10,308 Performances

This Land

I Just Can't Wait to be King

Can You Feel the Love Tonight

Hakuna Matata

Circle of Life

Elton John (1947)

Arr. Michael Stephen Brown(1987)

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Buckaroo Holiday

Corral Nocturne

Saturday Night Waltz

Hoe-Down

Aaron Copland (1900-1990)

Chicago

10,689 Performances

My Own Best Friend

Razzle Dazzle

And All That Jazz

John Kander (1927)

Fred Ebb (1928-2004)

Arr. Victor Lopez (1950)

Phantom of the Opera

13,981 Performances

Closed on April 16, 2023

The Phantom of the Opera

Think of Me

Angel of Music

The Music of the Night

Masquerade

All I Ask of You

Andrew Lloyd Webber (1948)

Arr. Calvin Custer (1939-1998)

Interesting Insights

WSO Broadway Musicals

Rodeo Aaron Copland

For its 1942-1943 season, the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo commissioned the acclaimed choreographer Agnes de Mille and composer Aaron Copland to create a western ballet. The premiere performance was at the MET Opera in NYC on October 16, 1942. Agnes de Mille described the ballet as "Throughout the American Southwest, the Saturday afternoon rodeo is a tradition. . . The 'hands' get together to show off their skill in roping, riding, branding and throwing. . . The audience consists of fellow-workers, women-folk and rearrest neighbors. . . The afternoon's exhibition is usually followed by a Saturday night dance at the ranch house. The theme of the ballet deals with the problem that has confronted all American women, from earliest pioneer times, and which has never ceased to occupy them throughout the history of the building of our country: how to get a suitable man."

Aaron Copland's music features American folk songs from "Our Singing Country" by John A and Alan Lomax and Ira ford's "Traditional Music of America." Alan Lomax is a Choate graduate! In Buckaroo Holiday, depicting the cowboy's skills, the songs quoted are: "If he'd be a buckaroo by his trade" and "Sis Joe." The calm theme depicts the cowgirl. Corral Nocturne features no folk songs and portrays the lovesick cowgirl. Saturday Night Waltz is a "Texas Minuet" and features quotes from "I ride on old paint" and Hoedown quotes a square dance tune, "Bonyparte."

The story is about a young woman cowgirl who wishes to find a suitable man and dresses like a man as she tries to refine her skill as a cowgirl, but she is not successful. She wishes the Head Wrangler to be the love of her life, but he is in love with the rancher's daughter. In Saturday Night Waltz, the cowgirl and the Lead Roper dance and fall in love. Hoe-Down is an American square dance and often called a Jig, Reel, Dog Dance or Fiddle Tune. The quoted folk songs are "Miss McLeod's Reel" and the Irish theme "Gilderoy." Near the end the music slows down and there is long pause, the long kiss of the cowgirl and the Lead Roper expressing their true love. The movement concludes with a joyous reprise of "Bonyparte!"

Violoncello Concerto in E Minor, Op. 85

Sir Edward Elgar

Elgar composed the concerto during the summer of 1919 at Elgar's secluded cottage "Brinkwells" near Fittlework, Sussex where during WW I he had heard the sound of the artillery across the Channel at night from France. In 1918, after an operation and regained consciousness, he requested a pencil and paper, and began composed the first movement. Movement IV begins with a noble and effervescent theme, which the violoncello explores with many key-changes and virtuoso passages in dialogue with the orchestra. The movement then gradually flows to the end with the soloist performing heartfelt themes from movement three, ending brilliantly with theme one!

Interesting Insights

Cats

7,485 Performances

Closed September 10, 2000

Cats received 7 Tony Awards in 1983, including Best Musical; 3 Drama Desk Awards in 1983 and in 1984 a Grammy Award for Best Cast Show Album. Cats is based on the poetry collection “Old Possum’s Book of Practical Cats” by T. S. Eliot.

The musical tells the story of a tribe of cats called the Jellicles and the night they make the “Jellicle choice” by deciding which cat will ascend to the Heaviside Layer and come back to life.

Andrew Lloyd Webber composed music for the poems in 1977 as a song cycle. In 1981 the song cycle became a musical and premiered at the New London Theatre in the West End and on Broadway in 1982. The song “Memory” has become the most cherished song.

Wicked

7,847 Performances

Wicked is an adaptation of the 1995 Gregory Maguire novel, “Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West,” which is based upon L. Frank Baum’s 1900 novel “The Wonderful Wizard of Oz” and its 1939 MGM film adaptation starring Judy Garland. In 2016, Wicked surpassed \$1 billion in total Broadway revenue, joining The Phantom of the Opera and The Lion King as the only Broadway shows to do so. In 2017, Wicked surpassed The Phantom of the Opera as Broadway’s second-highest grossing musical, trailing only the Lion King.

While on vacation composer and lyricist Stephen Schwartz discovered Maguire’s novel and immediately saw its potential as a Broadway musical. Maguire and Schwartz agreed to changing the relationship and friendship between Galinda—who becomes Glinda—and Elphaba and how their characters lead them to completely different destinies.

The Lion King

10,308 Performances

The Lion King is based on the 1994 Walt Disney Animation Studios’ film. The musical features actors in animal costumes as well as giant hollow puppets, with music by Elton John, lyrics by Tim Rice with additional music by Hollywood composer, Hans Zimmer. The musical debuted on July 8, 1997 in Minneapolis, MN and was a tremendous success! On October 15 the show premiered on Broadway receiving standing ovations! The Lion King is Broadway’s third longest running show in history and is the highest grossing Broadway musical of all time, having grossed more than \$1.8 billion dollars!

Interesting Insights

Chicago

10,689 Performances

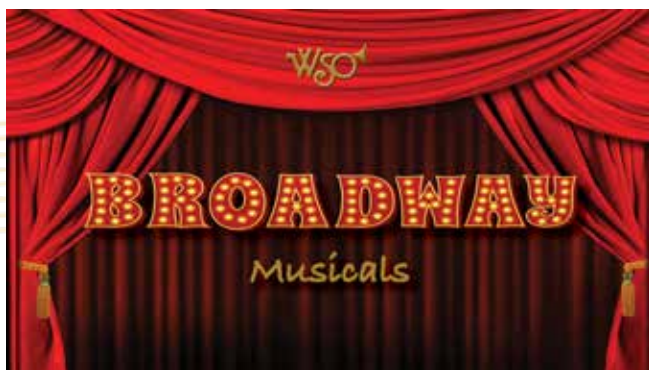
Kander and Ebb are two of Broadway's most successful composers, 21 musicals(!), including Cabaret, New York, New York, Zorba, Fosse and Hollywood films, Cabaret, Funny Girl, Chicago and Martin Scorsese's New York, New York, whose title song was made famous by Frank Sinatra! The musical is set in Chicago during the 1920's Jazz Age and is based upon a play of the same name by Maurine Dallas Watkins about the 1924 trials of accused murderers Beulah Annan and Belva Gaertner, who were acquitted by female jurors, which resulted in the belief that in Chicago, feminine or attractive women could not be convicted. In the 1960's Gwen Verdon, actress and dancer, read the play and asked her husband, Bob Fosse, actor, dancer and choreographer, about the possibility of a musical version. After Watkins died her estate sold the rights to producer Richard Fryer and Verdon, Fosse, Kander and Ebb created a vaudeville style musical.

Phantom of the Opera

13,981 Performances

Closed April 16, 2023

Phantom of the Opera is based upon the 1910 French novel of the same name by Gaston Leroux, which tells the tragic story of soprano, Christine Daaé, who is obsessed by a mysterious genius who lives in seclusion beneath the Paris Opera House. The musical opened in London's West End in 1986 and on Broadway in 1988 directed by Harold Prince, starring the English soprano Sarah Brighton (Andrew Lloyd Webber's wife) and Michael Crawford as the Phantom. In 1986 Phantom won the Olivier Award and in 1988 a Tony Award for Best Musical with Crawford winning the Olivier and Tony Awards for Best Actor in a Musical. Phantom of the Opera was the longest running show in Broadway history with the 10,000th performance on February 11, 2012, becoming the very first Broadway production in history to do so with \$1 Billion gross receipts!



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The Wallingford Symphony Orchestra History

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



Marilyn Catusus



T.D.Ellis

Principal Bassoon

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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

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.



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.



Janice Setzer

Violin

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

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

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

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



Carolyn Engle

Cellist

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

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

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

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

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



Creg Hlavac

Trumpet 2

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

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

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



James Stuber

Cellist

James Stuber (11/12/2005) is a Korean-American cellist from Chapel Hill, North Carolina. His love for the cello began at a young age as he has been studying the cello at age six.

He has been privately taught by Jonathan Kramer, Nancy Green, and Julia Lichten. During the summers, the cello has taken him to many different destinations such as Boston University Tanglewood Institute, International Cello Institute, and Eastman Cello Institute.

He has taken masterclasses from world-renowned cellists including Johannes Moser, Blaise Desjardins, Alan Harris, and Amir Eldan. James hopes to continue pursuing music in college and beyond.

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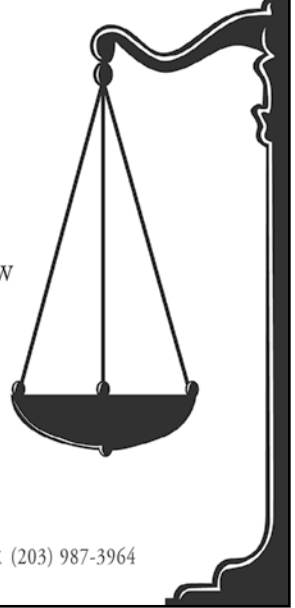
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Elizabeth Kitson, Principal Flute

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• *In memory of Barbara Henderson*

Jody Rowitsch, Principal Viola

• *In memory of WSO violist Polly Shulga Noonan*

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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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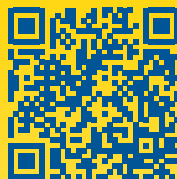
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