

GARDEN STATE

Philharmonic

DIANE WITTRY - MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR



be inspired!

HEAR IT
LIVE

SEASON

2021/22



TOP LEFT: Allison Kiger
MIDDLE LEFT: Boris Shpitalnik
LOWER LEFT: Patty Schmitt
MIDDLE: Edward Pleasant

TOP RIGHT: Christian Tran
MIDDLE RIGHT: Melissa Kritzer
LOWER RIGHT: Dan McMillan

DEAR MUSIC LOVERS,

The musical story of "Peter and the Wolf" by the Russian composer, Serge Prokofiev has long been a favorite of people all over the world. It is like a rite of passage that every young person should enjoy and that every adult has fond memories of. No matter what your age, it is always fun to hear a concert featuring the young hero "Peter" and his animal friends, the bird, the duck, the cat, the wolf, and of course Peter's grumpy grandfather.

In putting this concert together, I wanted to explore interesting music from all over the world. The composer of Peter and the Wolf, Serge Prokofiev, is from Russia, but this concert takes us to many different countries, with music from Africa, to the United Kingdom, to Korea, France, South America, and of course the program features some music from the United States of America.

Some of my favorite composers are showcased in this concert, including music by Claude Debussy with his impressionistic style of writing, contrasted with the more straight forward march style of the English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams. Folk songs from different countries are also prevalent as the ensemble performs "Arirang," a traditional Korean Folk Song, and an African-American Spiritual, "Wade in the Water," by the American composer Harry Burleigh, as well as a popular melody by the King of Ragtime, Scott Joplin.

The concert opens with a lively piece by the African- American composer Valerie Coleman called "Umoja" which means "unity" in Swahili, and concludes with a rhythmic rendition of the song made popular by the Andrew Sisters, "Tico Tico non Fuba" written by the South American Composer, Zequinha de Abreu. This piece definitely will get your toes tapping.

After the concert there will be a short reception so that you can get to know our wonderful musicians and our narrator better. We hope you enjoy the concert today.

DIANE WITTRY – *Music Director and Conductor*

The GSP is back with live performance! Your contribution will keep classical music and music education thriving in your community.

Visit our website www.GSPPhil.org to make a donation, to purchase tickets, or for more information. You can also call the GSP office at 732-255-0460.

The GSP uses volunteers as ushers and in other ways. If you would like to volunteer, call the office, 732-255-0460.

This concert is made possible in part by grants from the Ocean County Board of Commissioners, the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, and CARES Act Funding through the Small Business Association Shuttered Venue Operators Grant.

ALLISON KIGER, FLUTE

Allison Kiger has played with the Garden State Philharmonic since 2000. A native of New Jersey, she played flute in all the NJ All-State and Region One Bands and in the New Jersey Youth Symphony. She went on to study flute professionally at Indiana University, McGill University in Montreal and at the Royal Academy of Music in London. She currently plays in several professional orchestras, including the South Florida Symphony, Allentown Symphony, and many others. She is also the Flutist and Director of the Monteux Heritage Orchestra, Flute Soloist and Curator of the New Composers Program, and Associate Director of the Music Festival in Bar Harbor, Maine.

CHRISTIAN TRAN, OBOE

Christian Tran strives to bring the oboe and classical music to new audiences. As an in-demand freelancer, Christian has performed in a variety of venues, from casinos in Las Vegas, to cafes in Hanoi, to local elementary school classrooms, to New York City's Carnegie Hall. A fierce supporter of Vietnamese composers and musicians, Christian has received research grants, presented lecture-recitals, published articles, and was invited to give the opening recital of the International Double Reed Society Convention 2019, all focusing on oboe repertoire by Vietnamese composers. He currently plays in an oboe and clarinet duo, Duo from the Heights, with his wife Rebekah as well as with Sonos Venti Woodwind Quintet. Christian's chamber ensembles have won the Lilian Fuchs Chamber Music Competition, state-level MTNA Chamber Music Competitions, and Brigham Young University's Chamber Community Connection Grant. Christian holds degrees from the Manhattan School of Music and Brigham Young University and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Stony Brook University.

BORIS SHPITALNIK, CLARINET

Boris Shpitalnik is a versatile soloist, chamber and orchestral musician. He has performed at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, and on Broadway. Current engagements include, the Garden State Philharmonic, the Phantom of The Opera on Broadway, the Allentown Symphony, New England Symphonic Ensemble, Metamorphosis Orchestra, the Brooklyn Orchestra, the Glens Falls Symphony Orchestra, Metro Chamber Orchestra, and the Montreux Festival Orchestra. As recording artist, Boris can be heard in film and studio recordings, on television and radio. This includes work for Sony Records, Naxos, HBO, WQXR, PBS, GPR Records, Ukrainian National Television and various other media outlets.

MELISSA KRITZER, BASSOON

Melissa Kritzer is an experienced orchestral and chamber musician. She has performed with the New Jersey Symphony, the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, the Albany Symphony Orchestra, the New Haven Symphony, the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra, the United States Coast Guard Band, the Reeds Amis trio and the Apero Ensemble. Melissa holds bassoon positions with the Mozart Orchestra of New York and the Binghamton Philharmonic. In addition to her orchestral and solo playing, Melissa has collaborated with other musicians on a broad range of chamber music projects including bringing the previously unpublished reed trios of composer Fernande Decruck to light through transcribing manuscripts into notation and recording a CD of the works.

PATTY SCHMITT, HORN

Patty Schmitt graduated from the New England Conservatory under the tutelage of Daniel Katzen, a member of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. She moved to the New York metropolitan area in 2003, where she now holds positions in several professional ensembles, including Garden State Symphonic Band, Brooklyn Chamber Orchestra, Bergen Symphony Orchestra, and New York Chamber Players. Ms. Schmitt is a founding member of Chamberlain Brass, which has released two albums, including an album featuring renowned trumpeter Terell Stafford. She is also a substitute musician for Paper Mill Playhouse, New Jersey Festival Orchestra, Capital Philharmonic of New Jersey, Reading Symphony Orchestra, Allentown Symphony Orchestra and Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic. Ms. Schmitt has performed in such venues as Carnegie Hall, NJPAC, and Lincoln Center. She has worked with conductors Gerard Schwarz, Gunther Schuller, Constantine Kitsopoulos, and James Gaffigan, to name a few.

DAN MCMILLAN, TIMPANI & PERCUSSION

Dan McMillan graduated from Mannes College of Music with Bachelor's and Master's degrees, as earning a Diploma from the Manhattan Dalcroze Institute. Dan is a Grammy Winning Percussionist on the 2009 Revival Cast Recording of "West Side Story," and Drummer on internet sensation "Be More Chill", currently with over 500 Million Streams. He also plays with several symphony orchestras including the American Ballet Theater, Brooklyn Philharmonic, Princeton Symphony, and Long Island Philharmonic. Dan plays in several Broadway shows including West Side Story (2009 Revival), A Chorus Line (2006 Revival), Boy From Oz with Hugh Jackman, and Elton John's AIDA. He is the Associate Producer and Drummer for SILENCE! the Musical and has appeared on screen in Music and Lyrics with Hugh Grant and Drew Barrymore. Dan is a proud member of Local 802, American Federation of Musicians and the Percussive Arts Society.

EDWARD PLEASANT, NARRATOR & BARITONE

Edward Pleasant is recognized as one of the most versatile performers of his generation. Critically acclaimed in both opera, musical theater and recordings, he has distinguished himself as a gifted actor with brilliant comic timing and a luscious baritone voice. Pleasant champions the proliferation of the artistic contributions of early 20th century African-American writers, singers and composers, through live performances and recordings, propelling their works into the 21st century for the education and enjoyment of today's global audience. He appears on no less than a dozen recordings and operatic compilations.

Pleasant performs on the world's most prestigious concert stages, including Avery Fisher Hall, Alice Tully Hall, and Carnegie Hall. He appeared as a soloist with the world-renowned Moses Hogan Chorale and he has sung in other prominent venues such as the Texas State Capitol and the White House. His numerous oratorio and orchestral credits include Bach's St. John Passion and Christmas Oratorio, Beethoven's Mass in C, Brahms' Requiem, Ellington's Sacred Selections, Handel's Messiah, Vaughan Williams' Five Mystical Songs and Robert Ray's Gospel Mass. He is in high demand as a narrator/storyteller performing the perennial children's favorites Peter and the Wolf, Carnival of the Animals, Tubby the Tuba, The Thrill of the Orchestra and most recently a new work, Uzu and Muzu from Kakaruzu.

In recent seasons, Mr. Pleasant has toured with the "Storytime Quartet with Eddie Pleasant" as narrator/storyteller. He is a co-founder and producer of this venture dedicated to classical music outreach. STQ is designed to introduce young audiences to great literature and the world's finest music. In February, he returns to the National Philharmonic in a concert version of Porgy and Bess at the Strathmore Arts Complex, North Bethesda, Maryland. He recently performed Antonin Dvorak's Hiawatha Melodrama in an innovative multimedia presentation. He eagerly anticipates the release of Black Manhattan III on the New World Records label due out in November.

OUR MISSION

To present professional orchestral concerts of cultural and educational value and to foster related activities to encourage involvement in, and appreciation of, symphonic music.

PETER AND THE WOLF AND MUSIC FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Sunday, May 15, 2022 @ 3pm

Jay & Linda Grunin Center for the Arts at Ocean County College

EDWARD PLEASANT, Narrator & Baritone

ALLISON KIGER, Flute
CHRISTIAN TRAN, Oboe
PATTY SCHMITT, Horn

BORIS SHPITALNIK, Clarinet
MELISSA KRITZER, Bassoon
DAN MCMILLAN, Timpani & Percussion

"UMOJA"

Valerie Coleman (South Africa)

MARCH: "SEVENTEEN COME SUNDAY"
From Old English Folk Song Suite

Ralph Vaughan Williams
(United Kingdom)

"ARIRANG"

Trad. Korean Folk Song (Korea)

"ON A BOAT"
From Petite Suite

Claude Debussy (France)

THE ENTERTAINER

Scott Joplin (United States)

WADE IN THE WATER
Baritone Soloist - Edward Pleasant

Harry Burleigh (United States)
arr. Christina Brice Dolanc

PETER AND THE WOLF

Serge Prokofiev (Russia)

TICO TICO NON FUBA

Zequinha de Abreu
(South America)

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The performances and educational programs of the Garden State Philharmonic would not be possible without the generous support of many individuals, businesses, foundations and government agencies. We are deeply grateful to these donors who have supported us during the last three years, and to everyone who helps keep live music thrive. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

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GARDEN STATE

Philharmonic

DIANE WITTRY - MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR



TOP: The GSP and Edward Pleasant perform Peter and the Wolf
LOWER LEFT: Will Marinelli demonstrating to the students at a "Meet the Music" event
LOWER RIGHT: Estelle Brodkey, Ann Marie Baker, Ken Malagiere, Lisa Bierly Reulbach, Allison Walter

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**PETER AND
THE WOLF**
AND MUSIC FROM
AROUND THE WORLD

MAY 15, 2022



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