

Our Passion. Our Community.

Worcester Chamber Music Society



Season 11, Spring 2017



Reflections on a successful season

Dear Friends,

Season 11 is coming to a close and exceeded our expectations in every way. New venues, a new core member, new faces, and a new partnership have all moved our organization forward to serve the Worcester community in deeper and meaningful ways.

The season opened at Tower Hill Botanic Garden, featuring our newest core member, pianist Randy Hodgkinson. Both venue and artist elevated the artistic experience for performers and audience alike. Concerts at favorite venues such as the Worcester Historical Museum, Nuovo Restaurant, and Mechanics Hall were well-received. March saw a full house for our annual free family concert with young families eager to introduce their children to the magic of classical music.

Neighborhood Strings continues to flourish. The 47 youth in our program are enjoying the many facets of music-making and our teens are learning what it means to give back to the community. Their recent performance at Mustard Seed, a local community soup kitchen, touched them in ways they never expected.

None of this is possible without your support. We are \$20,000 shy of meeting our year-end fundraising goal. Please make a donation today to support our concerts and education programs as we look forward to Season 12. Your gift will make a difference in the lives of others. On behalf of the Board of Directors and musicians of WCMS, thank you!

With gratitude,

Announcing Season 12



We are extremely excited to announce our 2017-18 season of concerts and events! Season 12 opens with a free concert at Mechanics Hall in honor of our dear patron, Nora Keil, for her 75th birthday. This block-buster performance features Mahler's glorious 4th Symphony (in a chamber music arrangement), and Schubert's beloved Trout Quintet.

Other highlights include a performance of the Mendelssohn Octet (November) and a celebration of Debussy's 100th Birthday (April). A Christmas Baroque (December) at the Worcester Historical Museum and Old Sturbridge features Brandenburg Concertos No. 5 and 6. Our Cafe concerts at Nuovo Restaurant will include

an October brunch (October) and a performance of Dvorak's American Quartet (March). An array of new guest artists will join us throughout the season: Kendra Colton, soprano; Lilit Hartunian, violin; Kevin Owen, french horn; Demetrios Karamintzas, oboe; Andrus Madson, harpsichord; and Katherine Winterstein, violin, to name a few.

Neighborhood Strings Community Music and Social Action

Matt Malsky, Dean of Students, Clark University and WCMS Board Member

How can musicians, arts managers and administrators, arts educators and students contribute as citizens of a democracy? In what ways can people committed to the arts serve the wider world through their work? These are the questions that motivated an exciting new college course offered jointly by WCMS (Peter Sulski, Ariana Falk and Tracy Kraus) and Prof. Matt Malsky at Clark University. In this new class, "Community Music and Social Action," the Clark students participated in hands-on opportunities in the WCMS Neighborhood Strings program or in the WCMS office, as well as explored related academic topics in arts education, theory and policy.

Led by Peter and Ariana, the college students worked closely with youth at Woodland Academy, Seven Hills Charter School and at the Straight Up Café, to provide creative outlets and opportunities to hone life skills like discipline, cooperation, imagination, and leadership. Other Clark students in the class worked with Tracy and Jason in the office on a Neighborhood String Storytelling project and web data analytics. In the classroom, Matt, Peter, Ariana and the Clark students explored the notion of the classical musician as an important public figure with a critical role to play in society. We engaged important ideas from the philosophy of aesthetics and education, civil society, and ways that art can play a role in readying people for democracy, and studied musicians and artistic initiatives that have been particularly focused on a positive social impact. It has been a terrific and productive experience for all involved!



Community Involvement

Phyllis Pollack, WCMS Board member and Community Volunteer



It has been my privilege and pleasure to be involved in the formative years of the WCMS - first as a board member and later as President. I have witnessed its growth from chamber music performances to now include Neighborhood Strings, ChamberFest (the summer music camp), the annual free Family and Senior concerts, the Very Open Rehearsals and the Café Concerts. It truly provides enrichment for everyone! It was with great joy that we celebrated WCMS' Tenth Anniversary last year!

WCMS performances are truly inspiring due to the long-time collaboration and chemistry among its members. The added bonus is to hear the pre-concert talks by Rohan whose comments are always insightful and eloquent. The programming has been remarkable with a broad range of presentations from

Baroque to Berger (Mark Berger is a WCMSe and an award-winning composer).

The future of chamber music is with the children in our community. WCMS has impacted a growing number of students in the Neighborhood Strings program in Worcester's Downtown and Main South neighborhoods. It provides after school group and private lessons (and instruments) to youth, as well as mentoring opportunities for high school and college students. We look forward to celebrating its fifth anniversary at "Fiesta", coming up on June 2nd and hope you can all join us for the fun!

Celebrating Five Years of Neighborhood Strings

Please join us for food, music and fun on Friday June 2 at Clark University's beautiful Tilton Hall. The evening features performances by WCMS musicians and Neighborhood Strings youth, plus keynote speaker Rodrigo Guerrero, formerly of El Sistema Venezuela, current program director of the Massachusetts Cultural Council's SerHacer program.



Enjoy a Latin-themed dinner, cash bar, Community Awards presentation and live and on-line auctions. Visit our website to check out all the great auction items available beginning May 25. If you are unable to attend, please consider making a donation. Reserve online at worcesterchambermusic.org or call 508-757-5006.

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Season 12 Calendar

SCHUBERT AND MAHLER

9/23, Mechanics Hall

CAFE BRUNCH - MOZART

10/15, Nuovo Restaurant

MENDELSSOHN OCTET

11/3, Grafton Cong. Church

11/4, Shapiro Hall, Worcester

CHRISTMAS BAROQUE

11/30 Worc. Historical Museum

12/1, Old Sturbridge Village

MOZART AND GINESTERA

1/11, Nuovo Restaurant

PETER AND THE WOLF

3/4, Mechanics Hall

DVORAK AMERICAN QUARTET

3/8, Nuovo Restaurant

DEBUSSY'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

4/12, Harvard Unitarian Church

4/14, Shapiro Hall, Worcester

Tickets on sale June 15, 2015

ChamberFest 2017

Faculty Concerts

Each summer, our WCMS camp faculty continue the tradition of summer chamber music concerts!

7/6, MIRACLES TO MAJESTY

Performing music of Chopin, Bach, Piston and Brahms

7/13, MUSICAL MOSAICS

Performing music of Mozart, Arensky and Schumann

Featuring guests

Demetrios Karamintzas, oboe
Omar Chen Guey, violin

All concerts at Razzo Hall, Worcester
Tickets on sale now!
worcesterchambermusic.org