

# Westfield Symphony Orchestra Friends' Annual Keep Interest In Town's Architecture

By DAVID PALLADINO  
Specially Written for This Is Westfield

Start gearing up for the always memorable architectural event and fundraiser of the year - the Westfield Symphony Orchestra (WSO) Friends' "Tour of Notable Homes" which will intrigue observers from counties statewide on Saturday, May 6.

The Friends of the WSO, known in their early days as the Westfield Symphony Guild, have been sponsoring this event for the past 16 years with great success and acclaim. As the largest fundraiser for the Orchestra, all profits directly benefit the WSO and its programs and concerts.

The WSO, which has been on a steady climb since their inception, is led by the formidable Maestro David Wroe. Under his direction, the Orchestra has not only reached higher levels of performance excellence but gained considerable notoriety.

In fact, Maestro Wroe was recently named as one of the 20 New Jersey artists to watch

in the year 2000. The Orchestra is comprised of the finest professional musicians from the surrounding Metropolitan area.

Renee Trabert, who is handling publicity for the May fundraiser, mentioned that this year is going to be extra special for a number of reasons.

"Five Westfield homes of various architectural type will be featured, including Tudors, Colonials and Westfield Traditionals, some of which are located in the Wychwood and Stonleigh Park areas," she noted.

Ms. Trabert revealed that a different and interesting addition this year will be a certain, "very special luxury apartment that was just built directly in the heart of downtown Westfield."

"Many of the home-guests come from Westfield and the immediate surrounding area, but the draw is becoming wider with every passing year," she said.

Many guests to the Tour of Notable Homes travel in from Essex County, Bergen County and even out of state.

"It has become an annual spring



**NOTABLE HOME...** This magnificent Gothic Tudor, owned by Dr. Joseph P. DeAlessandro, who writes "The Dining Table" of the Arts & Entertainment section, has been showcased in the Tour of Notable Homes.

# Tour of Notable Homes This May Will Help Alive, Drawing Doves of Tourists

event with many people. Some bring lunch and make a day of it," said Ms. Trabert. In fact, last year a record 1,500 people attended the event.

Guests can enjoy an education of the homes by knowledgeable Friends of the Orchestra, who act as tour guides and are available to assist guests with any queries during their tours throughout the homes.

There are many other special features to the event. Each of the homes features free refreshments and food provided by local favorite, Trader Joe's of Westfield, who graciously donate both their time and products to support the orchestra.

Additionally, in each of the locations, special "enhancements" are planned; plant sales, raffles and dozens of gift baskets of full of exquisite merchandise and services donated by merchants and businesses.

This year may even feature special Feng Shui instruction - a philosophy based on balance and harmony in placement of home furnishing and decor.

Additionally, Ms. Trabert com-

mented on how lucky and grateful the Friends are to have such individually generous people associated with the orchestra.

"Even though many of the homeowners are not necessarily directly connected to the WSO, they understand how important and meaningful it is to support a cultural arts organization such as the Westfield Symphony Orchestra and generously offer, year after year, to show their homes to benefit the orchestra and ultimately, their community," she stated.

Remember to put May 6, on your calendars and come out to what will surely be a memorable spring event.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 the day of the tour and can be purchased at outlets throughout Westfield, Mountainside, Fanwood, Scotch Plains and Summit.

For more information, please call the symphony office at (908) 232-9400 or Andrea McDermott, President of the Friends, at (908) 654-8329.



**BEAUTY IN ARCHITECTURE...** Unique and outstanding, this Westfield home at Stoneleigh Park and Wychwood Avenue, will be included in the Symphony Friends' annual fundraiser, "A Tour of Notable Homes." The event will be held on Saturday, May 6.



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