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Arts & Entertainment

New Jersey Festival Orchestra Announces New 2019-2020 Season



NEW SEASON... New Jersey Festival Orchestra, led by Music Director David Wroe, has announced a 2019-2020 season of classics and special events for Westfield and beyond starting October 5 in Westfield and October 6 in Madison.

WESTFIELD — The New Jersey Festival Orchestra (NJFO), led by internationally acclaimed Music Director David Wroe, has unveiled plans for its 2019-2020 season. Audiences can expect a series of dynamic musical celebrations to rival anything in New York City and beyond and an exciting roster of favorite and new guest artists.

Cited by the *Star Ledger* as “the leading professional freelance symphony orchestra in New Jersey,” New Jersey Festival Orchestra is known for its adventurous subscription seasons,

innovative programming, popular concerts near and far, a rousing New Year’s Eve celebration, as well as education and music therapy programs.

“NJ Festival Orchestra is back by demand and we are eagerly anticipating our exciting new season,” commented Maestro Wroe. “It’s a series of eclectic concerts that often have an exciting, disparate repertoire centered around a tangible theme.”

In March, for example, two operatic legends come together for the first time as Wagner’s monumental drama

Die Walkure (Act 1) meets the tragic pathos of Leoncavallo’s *Pagliacci* in a program titled “The ultimate Odd Couple.” A cast of internationally acclaimed guest performers assembled from Maestro Wroe’s extensive contacts in European and American opera houses joins NJFO to present these two magnificent operatic staples—an unlikely couple united by the tragedy and trauma of forbidden love.

The new season also showcases highly anticipated appearances by a series of international guest performers, including Chinese cellist Jiapeng Nie, Met. Opera tenor and UK native Barry Banks, with (according to Maestro Wroe) “the best high C in the business” and internationally acclaimed pianist Andrew Tyson.

The season begins dramatically on October 5 at 7 p.m. in Westfield with Invitation to the Waltz, a program of much-loved works by Johan Strauss, Richard Strauss, Tchaikovsky and more. Come hear how these renowned composers, and internationally acclaimed cellist Jiapeng Nie, each handle the three-beat phenomenon.

Audiences are invited to welcome in the holiday season with some of New Jersey’s most popular holiday traditions. In December, NJFO presents The Three Holiday Tenors, featuring a selection of renowned tenor fare, symphonic pops, and winter-time favorites guaranteed to make the season merry and bright.

The holiday festivities continue on New Year’s Eve, as NJFO’s quintessential celebration promises a superb revue of Broadway classics in glorious symphonic splendor. Come join the festivities as Dance Theatre of

Lana Liddy-LaPadura of Fanwood Exhibits Collection of Paintings

COUNTY — Lana Liddy-LaPadura, of Fanwood, exhibiting a collection of her paintings entitled “Suburban” in the gallery space at the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, located at 633 Pearl Street in Elizabeth, until October 19. Gallery hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

“We are pleased to have Lana Liddy-LaPadura’s work on display,” said Freeholder Chairman Bette Jane Kowalski. “Ms. Liddy-LaPadura is a gifted abstract painter who expresses emotion through vibrant color and form.”

Lana Liddy-LaPadura is a self-taught painter and visual artist who studied film at SUNY Purchase and completed an intensive certificate program at the NY Film Academy. Upon

graduating, Ms. Liddy-LaPadura continued in the field of arts working off-Broadway, in television productions, and teaching Communications courses for higher education.

In 2001, she switched gears and began a journey of the soul. As her focus moved inward, Ms. Liddy-LaPadura became a teacher of yoga, meditation and wellness practices. It was during one Art through Yoga class where she reconnected with her love of painting. Ms. Liddy-LaPadura said of her work, “Now several



“Paradox” by Lana Liddy-LaPadura

~continued~ NJFO Announces 2019-20 Season

Harlem’s Da’von Doane and friends join Maestro David Wroe and Broadway soloists to swing to favorites from America’s Great Songbook.

The 2019-2020 the NJFO season comes to a glorious conclusion with Russian Nights featuring works by Rimsky-Korsakov, Rachmaninoff and more. Internationally acclaimed pianist Andrew Tyson joins NJFO to present the thrilling centerpiece of the program: Rachmaninoff’s unassailably epic Concerto No. 2, surely one of the most powerful works in the entire piano repertoire.

Concerts will take place on Saturday evenings in Westfield and Sunday afternoons at Drew University in Madison. Watch for NJFO at other locations throughout New Jersey and beyond.

On October 8, NJFO returns to Carnegie Hall in a partnership with internationally renowned Spanish recording artist Raphael Sanchez—known to the world simply as “Raphael”—for his acclaimed ReSinfonico Tour 2019. Other featured performances will take place at Lincoln Center, New Brunswick and

Somerset Counties, offering an eclectic mix of classical and Broadway as NJFO accompanies other stars from the popular genre including Celtic Women, Mannheim Steamroller, Irish Tenors and more.

Commented NJFO Board President Keith S. Hertell, “Our beloved NJ Festival Orchestra has once again created a superb season with new experiences and lots of surprises. I, for one, can’t wait for the new season to begin right here in Westfield on Saturday, October 5th.”

Tickets to NJFO concerts, starting at \$30 (students \$15), are on sale now. Discounted ticket packages, saving concertgoers up to 20 percent over regular prices, are also available. Single tickets and “mix and match” packages may be purchased by calling the box office at (908) 232-9400. Avoid all ticket fees and handling charges by purchasing single tickets or discount packages online at njfestivalorchestra.org. For further information call (908) 232 9400, go to www.njfestivlaorchestra.org, or visit NJFO on Facebook and Instagram.

years later, I continue to use movement, medium and mood to push forth colorful stories on my canvases. I believe that my often vibrant and emotionally charged paintings are born ironically from a place of quiet stillness.”

Ms. Liddy-LaPadura’s artwork has been on display in local galleries and exhibits throughout New Jersey. In 2018 she received the “Judges Choice Award” at the RP Loves ARTS Festival in New Jersey and most recently had her work selected for the prestigious NJ Gaelen Juried Art show. Ms. Liddy-LaPadura often paints in nature or out of her studio “Below Gallery” within her happy home in Fanwood, where she resides with her wife and daughter.

To see more of her artwork, visit www.lanaliddylapadura.com or follow her on Instagram @lanaliddylapadura.

For more information about the Pearl Street Gallery, please contact the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs at (908) 558-2550 or email culturalinfo@ucnj.org. NJ Relay users can dial 711.

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