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The Waterbury Symphony Orchestra Announces Its 2017-2018 Season, *Sonic Structures: A Visual Journey of Sound and Our Surroundings*

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Waterbury Symphony Orchestra (WSO) celebrates its 80th anniversary with its 2017-2018 season, *Sonic Structures: A Visual Journey of Sound and Our Surroundings*.

The WSO made its debut 80 years ago, just as the iconic Route 66 was being completed, in 1938. One of the most famous, nostalgic roads in the United States, Route 66 builds connections that take travelers through places that contain many of the USA's architectural treasures. The 2017-2018 season offers listeners an opportunity to journey with the WSO through an epic odyssey that explores the hidden gems of Waterbury and the surrounding communities, forging connections throughout the region that the Symphony calls home.

The 80th season features several high-profile classical artists, including Grammy Award-winning pianist Garrick Ohlsson and virtuoso violinist Natasha Korsakova. German newspaper *Süddeutsche Zeitung* describes Korsakova's playing as a "sinfully beautiful listening experience."

In celebration of four score years, the WSO is branching out with a new 5 performance series called ***Music in Great Spaces***. These musical excursions take listeners beyond the concert hall and into venues throughout the region that represent an artful collision of structures and sonorities. From historic homes and magnificent churches, to cutting-edge galleries and artisanal distilleries, these spaces foster a uniquely intimate bond between artists and audience members.

The WSO begins its exploration with *Hits of 8 Decades*, launching its celebration with the return of ***Picnic & Pops***, in Woodbury's Hollow Park, Sunday, July 9 at 6pm. The program commemorates the Symphony's history in the community with timeless tunes that span decades and generations. Classic standards and beloved ballads provide the perfect musical backdrop for an evening under the stars with friends, family, and good cheer. General admission tickets begin \$15, purchased in advance through the WSO website or office, and \$20 purchased the day of the event.

Classical Series Overview

Romantic Virtuosity: September 23, Saturday 8PM—NVCC Fine Arts Center.

DVORAK: *Carnival Overture*, TCHAIKOVSKY: *Violin Concerto*, ELGAR: 'Enigma Variations'

A celebration with friends - what could be better? And Dvorak's boisterous *Carnival Overture* provides a suitably festive invitation to join the party! Elgar dedicates his *Enigma Variations* to "my friends pictured within." It is a series of musical portraits of friends, neighbors and fellow musicians who helped him discover his unique musical voice. And one of the WSO's closest musical friends, Russian violinist Natasha Korsakova, will bring her special brand of artistry to this celebration with a performance of Tchaikovsky's popular *Violin Concerto*.

Phantom of the Opera: October 29, Sunday 3PM—NVCC Fine Arts Center

The WSO celebrates Halloween early with a classic haunting tale told with film and music. With the 1925 silent horror film *The Phantom of the Opera* projected on a giant screen, featuring Lon Chaney in the role of the tortured title character, the WSO brings the suspense to life by performing music of Tchaikovsky, Gounod, Saint-Saëns, Schubert, Liszt and others. Join the WSO before the concert for a costume parade filled with tricks and treats for all ages.

A Connecticut Christmas: December 3, Sunday 3PM—NVCC Fine Arts Center

PROKOFIEV: Peter and the Wolf

It's a fairytale time of year in Connecticut. The clear, starry skies and snow-clad hills serve as an enchanted setting for childhood memories, past and present. The WSO ushers in this festive season with musical fairy tales for the ages. Come hear Cinderella meet her Prince, Goldilocks outsmart the Three Bears, and Peter do battle with the Big Bad Wolf. Audience members can enjoy a Christmas carol sing-along complete with milk and cookies for all, making this event a reoccurring and treasured experience for the entire family!

Master Musician Garrick Ohlsson: March 11, Sunday 3PM—NVCC Fine Arts Center

HAYDN: Symphony No.100 in G major, BRAHMS: Piano Concerto No. 2 Bb Major, Op.83

There is no better music to lighten up a dark winter day than Johannes Brahms' brilliant Second Piano Concerto, and no better artist to bring this masterpiece to life than pianist Garrick Ohlsson. A distant opening horn call invites us to enter a mysterious, enchanted world. Virtuosity and profound depth of feeling are required in equal measure in this concerto, traversing a passionate *scherzo*, an intimate dialogue between cello and piano, and a concluding rondo full of gypsy swagger. Haydn's 100th symphony begins with a wistful sigh of woodwinds, but soon gives way to music of joy and exuberance, ending in a literal crash of cymbals brilliant enough to illuminate even the gloomiest of winter days.

Force of Nature: April 22, Sunday 3PM—NVCC Fine Arts Center

BEETHOVEN: Symphony No.6, F Major, Op.68, "Pastorale", STRAVINSKY: Rite of Spring

The WSO concludes its 80th season with a celebration of nature, courtesy of two of the greatest composers the world has ever known. Beethoven saw nature as a refuge, a place to escape the agonies of the world. His *Pastoral Symphony* is an expansive, lyric respite for this angry revolutionary of 19th century music. Stravinsky saw nature in all its wildness and spring as a rebirth of life from roots as ancient as the earth itself. His music for the ballet *The Rite of Spring* stirred sensation when it was premiered in 1913, changing the course of musical history forever.

Tickets & Subscriptions

Single tickets to each performance start at \$20, with special discounts available for students. Subscribers enjoy exclusive benefits all season long, with flexible packages beginning at just \$54. To learn more, visit www.waterburysymphony.org, or call 203-574-4283.

About Waterbury Symphony Orchestra

Founded in May 1938 under the direction of Maestro Mario DiCecco, the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra (WSO) has spent the past several decades promoting the understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of symphonic and orchestral music. Originally incorporated as the Waterbury Civic Orchestra (1940), the Symphony and its mission have grown in both vision and artistic merit, expanding from a community orchestra to the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra (1956). The WSO has been led by Music Director and Conductor Leif Bjaland since 1994.

The WSO builds connections across our region with exploratory concerts, events, and educational programs. The WSO maintains a firm commitment to produce programs that are of value to its patrons, participants and community partners. This commitment is rooted in the Symphony's core belief that the study of musical instruments and participation in musical performance is essential to creating community.

The WSO has been Orchestra-in-Residence at Naugatuck Valley Community College since 1992. NVCC Fine Arts Center, 750 Chase Parkway, Waterbury, CT 06708

The WSO's 80th season is sponsored in part by **MacDermid Performance Solutions.**

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