



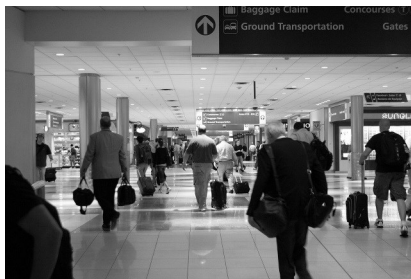
# Arrivals

## Featuring:

**Betsy Goldberg, Harpsichord**

**Reesa Gringorten, Clarinet**

**Jacob Lattanzi, Clarinet**



**Friday, November 17th, 2017**

**7:30 PM**

**Hamden Memorial Town Hall**

***Sponsored by Paul & Elizabeth Mathey***

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# About Us

This Fall marks the beginning of Hamden Symphony Orchestra's 56th season. An all-volunteer orchestra of more than 60 musicians from the Greater New Haven area and beyond, Hamden Symphony members share a passion for rehearsing and performing great music together.

Founded in 1962 by Ruth T. Brooks, the Orchestra provides cultural enrichment to the community of Hamden, Connecticut through its series of concerts, its annual Young Musicians Concerto Competition (YMCC), the Ruth T. Brooks Scholarship Award, and the rewarding experience offered to its members and guest-artists.

The Orchestra's commitment to the musical development of local students is a source of great pride. For the last 47 years the Hamden Symphony Orchestra's YMCC has provided an invaluable educational experience to gifted high school musicians in the area; the chance to perform as a soloist with a full symphony orchestra. The competition is held annually each winter, and the winners are featured at the Orchestra's spring concert. In addition, for over 35 years the Orchestra has honored a graduating Hamden High School senior, who has demonstrated excellence in their musical studies, with the Ruth T. Brooks Scholarship Award. The 2017 winner of this award was Evan D'Adamo, a Saxophonist & Guitarist.

From 1969-2007, Hamden Symphony Orchestra was under the baton of Maestro Paul Gacek. To honor his distinguished leadership, continuing support and several return appearances to the podium in recent years, Maestro Gacek was officially designated Hamden Symphony Orchestra's "Conductor Laureate" in 2017.

In 2008, Vesna Mehinovic became the Music Director of Hamden Symphony Orchestra. Under Vesna's baton, the Orchestra has continued to expand, and has presented compelling and innovative concert-programs, that have featured new compositions, talented instrumental and vocal soloists, and even dance and multimedia components. In 2016, Hamden Symphony Orchestra was honored to be invited by the Town of Hamden to perform at its Independence Day Fireworks Celebration for a vast audience.

# Hamden Symphony Orchestra

Vesna Mehinovic, Music Director

Friday, November 17th, 2017

7:30 PM

Hamden Memorial Town Hall

## Concert Program

Metalfare

Ilari Hylkilä

Konzertstück No.2

Felix Mendelssohn

Reesa Gringorten, Clarinet

Jacob Lattanzi, Clarinet

Harpsichord Concerto No. 3 in D major

Johann Sebastian Bach

1. Allegro

2. Adagio

3. Allegro assai

Betsy Goldberg, Harpsichord

## *Intermission*

Symphony No. 9 in E minor, *From the New World*

Antonin Dvorák

1. Adagio - Allegro molto

2. Largo

3. Scherzo: Molto vivace - Poco sostenuto

4. Allegro con fuoco

*Performed in Honor of Ray Mazan,*

*Hamden Symphony Orchestra Violinist from 1978-2017*

*Please join us for a reception in the lobby following this  
performance.*

## Musicians Of The Orchestra

### Violin I

Susan Paisley '04  
Concertmaster,  
*The Ruth T. Brooks Chair*

Kathleen Barbour '09  
Christa Beyer '16  
Elizabeth Braddon '16  
Fred Leng '12  
Andrea Osburne '17  
Anna Schnee '91  
Frank Schnee '91  
Nicole Sekol '17  
Stacy Shafer '09

### Violin II

Andrea Cordovez '17  
Emily Janeira '17  
Amber Knight '16  
Christa Lehr '15  
Nancy Mangino '14  
Cheryl Roberts '17  
John Scalici '08  
Anat Shiloach '15  
Joy Snyder '05  
Erich Wacker '17  
Lawrence Zukof '14

### Viola

Wyatt Bosma '17  
Amanda Griffith '13  
Karen Kriner '13  
Giuliana Rodriguez '16  
Roland Strasser '17

### Cello

Elizabeth Baldwin '17  
Lynne Bonnett '15  
Liam Hynes '13  
Jessica Payne '09  
Cai Roberts '17  
Tanya Townsend '17

### Bass

Amy Baker '15  
Quinn Meehan '17  
Andrew Muench '15

### Flute & Piccolo

Judith Beers '15  
Susan Knox '17  
Judith Kramer Koret '08  
Nicole Siley '16

### Oboe

Terri Bennett '16  
Charlie Krich '10

### English Horn

Liana Tilton '15

### Clarinet

Anne Cory '14  
Shire Feingold '17  
Reesa Gringorten '12  
Kathy Muench '15  
Samuel Petry '16

### Bassoon

Stephanie Buggie '14  
Eric Glaviano '17

### French Horn

Grace Kenney '16  
Al Oneto '14  
Sue Mattero '17  
Katie Robison '17

### Trumpet

Michael Cristina '16  
Ed Crowder '16  
Larry Spector '16

### Trombone

Leslie Amatruddo '16  
Anna Franz '14  
Bill Gambardella '92  
Molly Gambardella '11

### Tuba

James Neely '14  
David Neider '17

### Timpani

David Liskov '10

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## About The Performers

**Betsy Goldberg** was first exposed to harpsichord as an undergraduate at The New England Conservatory, as a student of Blanche Winogron. After two years at NEC, she was invited to join Arnold Grayson's Early Music Ensemble of Miami, performing on recorders, lute, and harpsichord, and touring both in the Southeast and Latin America. Furthering her academic studies at McGill, she there earned a Bachelor of Music and Concert Diploma, both with high honors. A summer at Aspen Music Festival, and sojourns in Paris and Antwerp as a student of Kenneth Gilbert, are highlights of that time. More recently, Betsy has turned to ensemble playing on recorder, viola da gamba, and harpsichord. She is grateful to Vesna and the Hamden Symphony Orchestra for allowing her the opportunity to give voice to her passion during this concert.

**Reesa Gringorten** is currently principal clarinetist with Orchestra New England, plays first clarinet with the Hamden Symphony Orchestra, and teaches clarinet and saxophone at Neighborhood Music School and privately. She earned a Master of Music Performance degree from University of Michigan. She was previously principal substitute clarinetist with Toronto Symphony Orchestra, has performed opera with La Scala conductors and singers in Canary Islands, and was assistant principal clarinetist with *La Orquesta Sinfónica de Maracaibo de Venezuela*. She held the position of assistant principal clarinetist in New Haven symphony orchestra for 3 decades. She has also taught clarinet at Mount Holyoke, Western Connecticut State University, and Calvin College, and was Primary woodwind chamber music coach in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

**Jacob Lattanzi** is a clarinetist of 10 years who has studied under the guidance of Reesa Gringorten since 2010. He is currently a junior at Guilford High School, where he is a member of both the Wind Ensemble & Symphony Orchestra. With his free time, Jacob enjoys participating in a variety of community ensembles, including the Guilford Town Band & the Greater New Haven Youth Orchestra. He would like to thank Vesna Mehinovic and the Hamden Symphony Orchestra for offering the opportunity to play with such a capable group of musicians!

**Vesna Mehinovic** has been the Music Director and Conductor of Hamden Symphony Orchestra since 2008. She began her formal education in music by receiving a diploma in Music Theory and Piano Teaching and Performing from the High School for Music in Sarajevo. She continued her Bachelor of Arts degree in Conducting and Music Theory at the Sarajevo Music Academy, and a Master of Arts in Conducting and Music Theory at Wesleyan University in Middletown.

Vesna has been the recipient of many honors in her native country, and is the first professional woman to conduct an orchestra in Bosnia and Herzegovina. She specialized in Conducting at the Academy for Music and Stage Arts in Graz, Austria in the class of Milan Horvat. Ms. Mehinovic has also served as guest conductor for orchestras in Austria, Serbia, and Croatia.

While in the United States, she has worked with several church and non-religious choirs both in Connecticut and Arizona. As a music teacher Vesna has taught in many elementary, middle, and high schools, as well as having worked with college students at Yale and Wesleyan Universities. Currently, she teaches music and directs the Orchestra and Choirs at Sacred Heart Academy in Hamden. She is also the Conductor of the Quinnipiac University Orchestra, and Organist & Choir Master at St. Michael's Church in Naugatuck..

## Clarinet Family Trivia Night



Mendelssohn originally scored both of his two Konzertstück for clarinet, bassett horn and piano. The bassett horn is a larger clarinet, usually curved in the middle.



## Program Notes

**Ilari Hylkilä** (b. 1978) is a prolific composer from Finland, whose catalog includes twenty-three works for wind band, twelve for orchestra, and numerous pieces for chamber ensemble. He has won prizes in six composition competitions and has been a finalist for several others. His music has been performed by the University of Helsinki Symphony Orchestra, the Conscript Band of the Finnish Defense Forces and many other ensembles in concerts and festivals throughout Europe. Hylkilä currently resides in Espoo, Finland.

Born in Toholampi in the province of Western Finland, his parents were not trained musicians, although music was an important part of the household and two of the Hylkilä children have pursued music careers.

Hylkilä began playing piano at the age of five and began composing melodies and rudimentary works at age six. At the age of fourteen, he began trombone studies at Ostrobothnia Conservatory and joined Toholampi's wind band. He graduated high school 1997 and began his military service immediately after that. For eight months of his service he was a trombone player in the Kainuu Military Band.

Following his military service, Hylkilä enrolled at the University of Jyväskylä. He played trombone in the University's Orchestra. It was this ensemble that gave the first public performance of his music, a piece called *Missing a Lost Friend*, in 1999. The orchestra would eventually perform three more of his works. Hylkilä graduated in 2004 with the Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Relations and a minor in Music. He has continued his music studies at the Sibelius Academy Open University.

*Metalfare* was chosen as the winner of the Helsinki University Symphony Orchestra's Fanfare Composition Contest. In the composer's description; "Metalfare lasts roughly a minute and a half. It opens with a burst of energy that does not subside. The opening timpani roll and sustained low winds give way to a brilliant fanfare theme stated first in brass, then woodwinds and finally in the full ensemble. A brief, lyrical second theme follows before giving way to the original fanfare theme, stated in the full ensemble. The brief piece comes to a dramatic conclusion on a tutti E major chord."

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**Johann Sebastian Bach** (1685-1750) was a German composer and musician of the Baroque period. He is known for both instrumental compositions such as the *Brandenburg Concertos* and the *Goldberg Variations*, and vocal music such as the *St Matthew Passion* and the *Mass in B minor*. Since the 19th-century Bach Revival, he has been generally regarded as one of the greatest composers of all time.

His harpsichord concertos, BWV 1052–1065, were seven complete concertos for a single harpsichord, strings and continuo. Most of Bach's harpsichord concertos (with the exception of the *5th Brandenburg Concerto*) were thought to be arrangements made from earlier concertos for melodic instruments, probably written in the German City of Köthen. In many cases, only the harpsichord version survived. They were among the first concertos for keyboard instrument ever written. The *Harpsichord Concerto No. 3 in D Major* was originally performed in 1845.

Jakob Ludwig Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy (1809-1847), more widely known as **Felix Mendelssohn**, was a German composer, pianist, organist and conductor of the early Romantic period.

Mendelssohn was recognized early as a musical prodigy, but his parents were cautious and did not seek to capitalize on his talent. He enjoyed early success in Germany and in his travels throughout Europe. He also revived interest in the music of Johann Sebastian Bach. He was particularly well received in Britain as a composer, conductor and soloist,



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and his ten visits there – during which many of his major works were premiered – form an important part of his adult career. His essentially conservative musical tastes, however, set him apart from many of his more adventurous musical contemporaries such as Franz Liszt, Richard Wagner, Charles-Valentin Alkan, and Hector Berlioz.

The Leipzig Conservatoire (now the University of Music and Theatre Leipzig), which he founded, became a bastion of this anti-radical outlook.

Mendelssohn wrote symphonies, concerti, oratorios, piano music and chamber music. His best-known works include his overture and incidental music for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Italian & Scottish Symphonies, concert overture *The Hebrides*, his mature *Violin Concerto*, and his *String Octet*. His *Songs Without Words* are his most famous solo piano compositions. His large body-of-work makes him one of the among the most performed composers of the early-Romantic era.

*Konzertstück (Concertpiece) No.2* was composed in 1832, and was originally written for clarinet and basset horn. We owe this concert piece to Mendelssohn's friendship with Heinrich Baermann and his son Carl. They were two of the great clarinet virtuosos of the 19th century. This work was associated with an amusing anecdote retold by Carl Baermann, who reported that the alternative title of the piece, 'grand duet for sweet yeast dumpling and cream puff, clarinet and basset-horn', stems from a culinary duel fought between him and Mendelssohn in Berlin at the end of 1832. By preparing yeast dumplings and cream puffs, Baermann apparently persuaded Mendelssohn to respond to a commission that his father had given him some time earlier, encouraging him to slave away at his 'piano stove', while he himself was busy in the kitchen.

**Antonin Dvořák** (1841-1904) was a Czechoslovakian composer who utilized the folk melodies of Moravia and Bohemia in his works, integrating them into the norms of Western symphonic music. From 1892 to 1895, he was Director of the National Conservatory of Music of America, in New York. In his travels throughout America, reaching as far as Spillville, Iowa, where he spent significant time composing, Dvořák incorporated several American folk melodies and idioms into his works. Notable examples of this occur in his *American String Quartet*, *Cello Concerto*, and *Symphony # 9, "From the New World"*. More popularly known as the New World Symphony, this monumental work was composed in

1893 and was premiered by the New York Philharmonic in December of that year at Carnegie Hall. Writing to a friend back home he declared, "I should never have written these works just so if I hadn't seen America."

Not only one of his most most-performed works, it is today one of the most popular of all symphonies. Fittingly, as Dvorak was visually inspired by America's "wide-open spaces", specifically the miles of prairies he saw in his travels, Astronaut Neil Armstrong chose to take a recording of the New World Symphony on the Apollo 11 mission, the first Moon landing, in 1969.

*Program notes by Gary Levy.*

*(Ilari Hylkilä's biography provided courtesy of the composer.)*



Antonin Dvorak and his family resided in the above building, now a clock museum, in Spillville, Iowa during the summer of 1893.

*Photo: Bily Clocks Musuem*



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**Additional thanks** go to the following for their help in making today's concert possible:

- ♪ Hamden Memorial Town Hall Staff (Ron Esposito & Team) & Town of Hamden CT Administration (Kim Renta & Staff)
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## **A PDF and an Orchestra Arrives in Hamden**

**by David Liskov**

In September of 1892, Antonin Dvorák and much of his family undertook a nine day voyage by ship from his native Czechoslovakia to America, to begin his two-and-a-half years of composing and teaching in New York and beyond. An arduous journey for all of his companions, though not apparently himself, he described: "everyone on the ship was ailing. My wife, the children and Mr Kovarik were poorly to the extent that they couldn't eat anything for about two days; I, on the other hand, thank God, managed to resist sickness and, for the entire journey, I did not suffer any ill health." With the airplane and commercial aviation years away, this was the only way to cross the Atlantic. Within the vast country that Dvorak would explore during his travels, long-distance transportation was limited to the train.

Of course, much has changed in transportation, technology and music in the last 125 years. Take, for example, tonight's performance of *Metalfare*; a work written in Finland, discovered and purchased only a few months ago via the internet, the score and parts subsequently downloaded within seconds - printed in minutes, and a video recording, hosted on the composer's Youtube channel, emailed to all musicians a few weeks before the Orchestra's first rehearsal.

Hamden Symphony Orchestra's membership is a reflection of this global connectivity. Musicians and other volunteers reported that they were either born or most recently lived in the following states, and the District of Columbia, as well as Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Great Britain, and Israel.



Every Thursday evening for the past three months, this group of individuals has arrived at this auditorium to both play music and socialize together, and in doing so has greatly contributed to the vitality of Hamden, and the Greater New Haven community we call home.

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## Upcoming Events

**49th Annual Young Musicians Concerto Competition (YMCC)**  
Saturday January 20th, 2018 - 10:00 AM (Snow Date January, 27th)

Location *TBD*

*Audition performances are open to the public. Competition schedule & venue will be posted on Hamden Symphony Orchestra website during the week prior.*

**Spring Concert**  
Sunday April 29th, 2018 - 3:00 PM  
Featuring the 2018 YMCC Winners

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## Play An Instrument?

Hamden Symphony Orchestra seeks musicians interested in joining the group for its spring 2018 season. Rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings from 7 pm to 9 pm at Hamden Memorial Town Hall beginning in late January. If you are interested in joining, please email [info@hamdensymphony.org](mailto:info@hamdensymphony.org) or visit the website below for more information and an up-to-date list of openings.

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