



Passion & Pathos

**Featuring the 2016
Young Musicians Concerto Competition Winners:**

Sophie Baum, Violin

Kayla Bryan, Violin

Gilbert Tsui, Piano



Sunday, April 17th, 2016

3:00 PM

Hamden Memorial Town Hall



www.hamdensymphony.org

About Us

This past Fall marked the beginning of Hamden Symphony Orchestra's fifty-fourth season. We are an all-volunteer orchestra of more than fifty musicians from the Greater New Haven area and beyond. Members include working professionals, grandparents, and students and faculty from our local universities.

Founded in 1962 by Ruth Brooks, the orchestra provides cultural enrichment to the community of Hamden, Connecticut through its series of concerts, its annual Young Musicians Concerto Competition, the Ruth T. Brooks Scholarship Award and by the orchestral experience it offers area musicians and soloists.

Our commitment to the musical development of our local youth is a source of great pride. For the last forty-seven years the Hamden Symphony Orchestra's Young Musicians Concerto Competition (YMCC) has provided an invaluable educational opportunity to gifted high school musicians in the area: the chance to perform as a soloist with a symphony orchestra. The competition is held each year in January, and the winners are featured in our spring concert.

In addition, for roughly thirty years we have honored a graduating Hamden High School student with the Ruth T. Brooks Scholarship Award. Presented annually, the award goes to a qualified senior from Hamden High School who has demonstrated excellence in the field of music. The 2015 winner of this award was percussionist Rachel Hodes.

The orchestra was under the baton of Paul Gacek for thirty-eight years, and in 2008 Vesna Mehinovic became the Music Director. Ms. Mehinovic was the first female conductor in Bosnia and Herzegovina and is also the first female conductor of the Hamden Symphony Orchestra.

Hamden Symphony Orchestra

Vesna Mehinovic, Music Director

Sunday April 17th, 2016

3:00 PM

Hamden Memorial Town Hall

Concert Program

Violin Concerto No. 2 in D minor Henryk Wieniawski

1. Allegro moderato

Kayla Bryan, Violin

Piano Concerto No. 2 in F minor Frédéric Chopin

1. Maestoso

Gilbert Tsui, Piano

Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor Max Bruch

3. *Finale*: Allegro energico

Sophie Baum, Violin

Intermission

Symphony No. 6 in B minor, *Pathétique* Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

1. Adagio - Allegro non troppo

2. Allegro con grazia

3. Allegro molto vivace

4. Adagio lamentoso - Andante

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

Musicians Of The Orchestra

Violin I

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

Ann Clemmons '10
Yumi Koga '16
Fred Leng '12
Stacy Shafer '09

Violin II

Elizabeth Braddon '16
Nancy Mangino '14
Raymond Mazan '78
John Scalici '08
Anat Shiloach '15
Lawrence Zukof '14

Viola

Linh Do '13
Amanda Griffith '13
Karen Kriner '13
Nadya Potemkina '15

Cello

Eileen Benoit '90
Lynne Bonnett '15
Beth Clemmons '16
Aaron Horowitz '16
Liam Hynes '13

Bass

Amy Baker '15
Andrew Muench '15

Flute & Piccolo

Judith Beers '15
Gabriella Vacante '14
Judith Kramer Koret '08
Nicole Siley '16

Oboe

Charlie Krich '10
Beth Williams '13

Clarinet

Anne Cory '14
Reesa Gringorten '12
Aaron Marshall '14
Kathy Muench '15

Bassoon

Stephanie Buggie '14
Deborah Garber '16

French Horn

Al Oneto '14
Barry Piekos '80
Tom Schreiner '10
Jessica Shaver '96

Trumpet

Samuel Grossman '15
Martin Hebel '15
Marilyn Mather '09

Trombone

Anna Franz '14
Bill Gambardella '92
Molly Gambardella '11

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James Neely '14

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Betsy Goldberg '15

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About The Performers

Sophie Baum, a sophomore at Amity Regional High School, has been playing violin for over 11 years. For the past seven years, she has studied with Salley Koo. She has been a member of the Greater Bridgeport Youth Orchestras for four years. In addition to violin, Sophie has studied voice for the past seven years, most recently with Jamilyn Manning-White.

Aside from music, Sophie is an editor for her school's newspaper, and an active member of Amity's robotics team.

Kayla Bryan is currently a sophomore at Guilford High School. She is the Concertmaster of the Connecticut Youth Symphony in Hartford and performs regularly with the Bryan-Gedicks-Mirabello Trio. In 2014, she was the concerto competition winner of the David Einfeldt Chamber Music Seminar, and was a finalist in the American Chamber Orchestra Concerto Competition. In 2015, she placed second in the Musical Club of Hartford Solo Competition and won the Connecticut Youth Symphony Concerto Competition. This year, Kayla performed as the guest artist at the Fairfield County Strings Festival. Kayla is a student of Donna Ngai.

Gilbert Tsui, 16, a junior at Weston High School, has been studying with Steinway artist Yoshie Akimoto. Gilbert was the winner of the 2015 American Chamber Orchestra Concerto Competition and performed Mozart Concerto K.488 A Major with the orchestra in June. Gilbert has won numerous solo prizes including the 2015 CSMTA Hartford Chapter Audrey Thayer Piano Competition, The Schubert Club French Impressionist, Bach, and Chopin Awards programs. He was the winner in the 2014 American Protégé Piano and Strings Competition and the 2013 Golden Era of Romantic Music Competition and performed at Weill Recital Hall. Gilbert also won the 2013 Renée Fisher Competition's best performance of commission work. Gilbert participated in the 2012 and 2013 Foulger International Music Festival where he performed solo and chamber music at the Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse at Lincoln Center and at Enlow Hall at Kean University, New Jersey

Gilbert also plays the violin and has been a member of the Greater Bridgeport Youth Orchestra since 2009. He studies violin with Jennifer Trahan.

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 is Conductor of the Quinnipiac University Orchestra. She also teaches music at a number of elementary schools in the greater New Haven area and continues to teach privately.

Science Corner

The opening melody of the 4th movement of Tchaikovsky's Sixth Symphony demonstrates the Deutsch Scale Illusion, a principle discovered in 1973 by psychologist Diana Deutsch. Ascending and descending scale-patterns played simultaneously and heard in opposite ears (e.g. with headphones) produce an entirely new pattern that is perceived.

For more information and a video demonstrating this effect in the Symphony:

<http://deutsch.ucsd.edu/psychology/pages.php?i=203>



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Play An Instrument?

Hamden Symphony Orchestra seeks musicians interested in joining us for our upcoming summer concert, and our 2016-2017 season. High School and College students are welcome. Rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings from 7 pm to 9 pm at Hamden Memorial Town Hall. If you are interested in joining us, please email info@hamdensymphony.org or visit our website for more information and a current list of openings.

www.hamdensymphony.org

Program Notes

Henryk Wieniawski (1835-1880) became a prodigy of the Violin at an early-age in his native Poland before locating to Paris to study at its Conservatory and graduating at the age of 11. After a few years of performing throughout Europe, and even as far as California, he returned to Paris to study composition, which he later began teaching at the newly-founded St. Petersburg Conservatory in 1860. The *Violin Concerto No. 2* in D minor was premiered in St. Petersburg in 1862 with the composer as the soloist. Maintaining a grueling career as a traveling concert-artist, he famously collapsed from a spasm during a later performance of this work in Berlin. He subsequently ended up in Moscow where he was cared for by Nadezhda von Meck a wealthy patroness. Published in his last year, Wieniawski dedicated this concerto to "His Dear Friend", Pablo de Sarasate, another renowned violinist and composer of the time. This work endures as a staple of the Romantic Violin repertoire, with a variety of highly demanding technical passages woven together with beautifully lyrical melodies.

Polish-born, **Fryderyk Franciszek Chopin** (1810-1849) began instruction at the Piano at the age of 6 in Warsaw and quickly attained mastery of the instrument, while writing his first two polonaises at the age of 7. His later education at the Warsaw Conservatory and early travels to Berlin and Vienna led to encounters with many composers and performers of the day including violinist Niccolò Paganini, who helped encourage Chopin to further explore his own instrument in his composition. *The Concerto in F minor* was actually the first he would write from late 1829 to early 1830, around his 20th birthday soon after completing his Conservatory training, but due to its later publishing is now referred to as his *Piano Concerto No. 2*. While the simple and often limited orchestration acts very much in support of the soloist, the writing and performance of the piano lines epitomize *style brilliant*, a genre refined by Chopin and his contemporaries, known for "great bravura, brilliance and technical display, as well as a fondness for tuneful, sentimental themes". In 1831, around his completion of his later Concerto in E minor, Chopin left Poland to permanently settle in Paris, where he took on the French version of his name Frédéric François Chopin.

Max Bruch (1838-1920) was born in Cologne, Germany and was taught Piano at an early-age by composer and pianist Ferdinand Hiller, a friend and mentor of Robert Schumann. Through his long life Bruch ardently adhered to the basic conventions of mainstream German Romanticism, despite the powerful transformations occurring throughout western-music beginning with the "New Music" of Liszt and Wagner, the Russian-romanticism of Tchaikovsky, and continuing with the Impressionist movements of Debussy & Ravel and the incredibly complex late-Romantic & modernist music of Mahler, Strauss & Stravinsky. The *Violin Concerto No. 1*, premiered in 1868 with virtuoso violinist



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Joseph Joachim at the helm, remains arguably Bruch's most famous composition, and one of the most frequently performed of all Violin Concertos. Yet with many of his later compositions not attaining the same level of recognition, an increasingly frustrated Bruch lamented to his son, "The G-Minor Concerto again! I couldn't bear to hear it even once more! My friends, play the Second Concerto, or the Scottish Fantasia for once!"

Pyotr Ilyitch Tchaikovsky (1840-1893) was born in Votinsk Russia to a military family. Though he began piano lessons at the age of 5 and received some encouragement from his parents, they ultimately sent him to a boarding school, the School of Jurisprudence in St. Petersburg, to be trained for a career in civil-service. This already traumatic separation from his family, was intensified by the death of his mother from Cholera at the age of 14. After graduation and a short career in civil-service, Tchaikovsky received the opportunity to begin training at the newly-founded St. Petersburg Conservatory during a period that public support for native Russian musicians and composers was beginning to flourish. It was here that his exposure to the foundations of Western Music began to influence his compositional style, which seamlessly interwove the musical idioms of Western-Europe with the styles of Russian Folk music.

Despite multiple failed marriages attributed to his secret homosexuality, his 13-year epistolical relationship with benefactress Nadezhda von Meck provided the composer the income to focus exclusively on composition. Tchaikovsky began work on his Symphony # 6 in 1891, ultimately throwing away a first-draft of Symphony in E-flat before completion of a completely new Symphony in August 1893. It premiered 2 months later in St. Petersburg, without the title (*Pateticheskaya*), meaning "passionate" or "emotional" in Russian, that would appear in a later performance after Tchaikovsky's death, which has stuck since.

While most attribute his death a mere 9 days after the first performance of this Symphony to Cholera, some believe it was suicide caused by his long battles with depression, which stem from the early death of his mother, the death of his close friend Nikolai Rubinstein, a sudden falling out with von Meck, and his marital woes. Musicologist Alexandra Orlova theorizes a recommendation of suicide from a "Court of Honour" a meeting the composer attended. It is said to have been convened among fellow Boarding School alumni many with close connections to Tsar Alexander II, in order to protect the school's reputation from allegations of his homosexual behavior, which were beginning to surface.

Whether the Symphony is to be taken as his suicide note has been debated extensively. Program-notes of his earlier draft reveal: "The ultimate essence ...of the symphony is Life. First part – all impulse, passion, confidence, thirst for activity. Must be short (the finale death – result of collapse). Second part love: third disappointments; fourth ends dying away (also short)."



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

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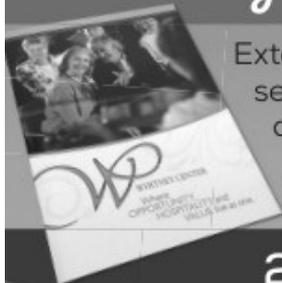
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