

# SONATA

Sinfonia Orchestra News  
Fall 2015

PHILADELPHIA  
SINFONIA  
*Educating Musicians. Creating Artists.*

## A Wealth of Opportunities



Philadelphia Sinfonia Chamber Orchestra Rehearsal: November 2015

Perhaps always, but certainly in the contemporary world, successful musicians bring versatility, a breadth of musical experiences, openness to new ideas, creativity, initiative, and finely tuned collaborative instincts to their careers.

Therefore, at Philadelphia Sinfonia, we believe that a youth orchestra program has some responsibility to provide students with not only the very best, in-depth, classical orchestral training, coaching and mentoring, but also with exposure to a very broad range of classical repertoire;

to works and genres *outside* the classical cannon; to multiple collaborations with other performance groups — musical and otherwise; to multiple occasions when students assume responsibility and occasions when they can learn to mentor others.

In other words, we believe that students at the intellectual and

musical level of ours need opportunities that nurture the virtues, characteristics, and experiences that lead to successful musicians — whether or not they choose a career in music — and our program has grown to include a wealth of such opportunities. This is good for everyone, as the personal characteristics that make for successful musicians also make for successful human beings in *any* field.

So what is on tap for this year?

*Continued on page 3.*

## December 12, 2015 Master Class: Presenting the Renowned Parker Quartet and Sinfonia Musicians in Dvorak's Piano Quintet

Each year for several years, the Philadelphia Sinfonia Association has had a reason to form a small chamber group coached by Maestro Gary White. Frequently triggered by an educational collaboration with Network for New Music, sometimes by another group collaboration, the formation of this year's small chamber group was initiated by five of our members who asked (begged?) to work together with Maestro White on

Dvorak's Piano Quintet. White accepted the challenge, and then — after they began to rehearse — a very special opportunity arrived....

The Philadelphia Chamber Music Society and one of its distinguished visiting performance groups — the Parker Quartet — will partner with our Dvorak Piano Quintet in a master class presentation on

*Continued on page 5.*

## 2015-16 Concert Season

### PHILADELPHIA SINFONIA

**Sunday, January 24, 2016, 3:00 PM**  
Temple Performing Arts Center  
1837 N. Broad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19122

**Sunday, February 21, 2016, 3:00 PM**  
First Presbyterian Church in  
Germantown  
35 West Cheltenham Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19144

**Wednesday, May 25, 2016, 8:00 PM**  
Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center  
300 S. Broad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

### PHILADELPHIA SINFONIA PLAYERS

**Sunday, December 6, 2015, 5:00 PM**  
Temple Performing Arts Center  
1837 N. Broad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19122

**Sunday, February 14, 2016, 4:00 PM**  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
19 South Tenth Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

**Sunday, May 15, 2016, 3:00 PM**  
First Presbyterian Church in  
Germantown  
35 West Cheltenham Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19144

**Wednesday, May 25, 2016, 8:00 PM**  
Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center  
300 S. Broad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

### PHILADELPHIA SINFONIA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

**Tuesday, March 15, 2016, 7:00 PM**  
Foulkeways at Gwynedd  
1120 Meetinghouse Road  
Gwynedd, PA 19436

**Wednesday, May 4, 2016, 7:00 PM**  
Meadowood Retirement Community  
3205 W. Skippack Pike  
Worcester, PA 19490

## From the Podium: Opportunities: Artistic Value for *All* our Students

**A**s featured in our front page article this fall, we here at the Philadelphia Sinfonia Association work hard to create opportunities for *all* our students, making our program the prized destination spot for so many of the Philadelphia area's talented and serious music students. This year all three orchestras, PSP, PSCO and PS will be playing exciting and advanced repertoire in addition to collaborating with some of the finest professional and student groups in the city.

In conjunction with that front-page feature, I would like to focus with more depth on a few of this season's opportunities in order to demonstrate their artistic (and community) value and to make a point that is of particular importance to me: opportunities should be distributed across *all* our groups to nurture the talents of each and every one of our musicians.

Philadelphia Sinfonia Players' first concert will feature a joint performance with our ongoing partners at Play On, Philly!'s new Academy Orchestra. This will be a wonderful opportunity for our students to meet and work with other talented and interested musicians in Philadelphia. This side-by-side concert will bring together 100 students from a variety of musical backgrounds to play challenging music guided by three different conductors! We feel this event is a special one because we are reaching out to other like-minded

groups about the importance of playing in a high level orchestra which helps develop musical, as well as critical social and community skills.

Philadelphia Sinfonia Chamber Orchestra will be participating in a side-by-side with one of the city's top professional Baroque Orchestras, Tempesta di Mare. The two groups will come together, giving our students the opportunity to study how the music of Bach and Vivaldi was interpreted during the lives of these great composers (which is quite different than the way it is played today on our modern instruments). This exchange promises to be both fascinating and highly educational for our members, giving them more musical "tools" to work with as they continue their studies.

Our original full orchestra, Philadelphia Sinfonia, continues its rich and long history by tackling some of the finest and most difficult repertoire by Stravinsky, Dukas, Tchaikovsky and many others. Having already had successful sectionals with members of the Philadelphia Orchestra and sought after coaches in the city, our most advanced students are preparing for our first concert, which will feature Stravinsky's *Firebird Suite* and Elgar's *Cello Concerto* with Philadelphia Orchestra member, Derek Barnes, as soloist. We will once again partner with Enchantment Theatre in a beautifully staged performance of Dukas' *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*. This theatrical performance in Verizon Hall at the Kimmel



Gary D. White, Music Director & Conductor

Center, promises to be a thrill for both our musicians and the audience alike.

There are many other exciting season highlights for all our talented students (many discussed elsewhere in this issue.) Each promises to enrich the lives of our students as they continue their musical education in one of the city's leading orchestral programs.

Gary D. White  
Music Director and Conductor

### ORCHESTRA NEWS

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## Alumni: New Year's Weekend Rehearsal & Reception

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 2016; 12:30 TO 5:30 PM**

Sinfonia alumni are welcome to attend rehearsals *any* Saturday, but we especially welcome any and all alumni to our afternoon rehearsals on Saturday, January 2, 2016. If you are in town celebrating the holidays, on vacation, or visiting family, we invite you to stop in to St. Stephen's Church during rehearsals between 12:30 and 5:30 PM. We would love to see you!

Coffee & refreshments will be available for alumni all afternoon in the first floor conference room.

## A Wealth of Opportunities

*Continued from page 1.*

We have already held this year's concerto competition (see p. 4 for details, the winner, and her performance date) and fall sectionals for PS (our advanced group), coached mostly by Philadelphia Orchestra members. In early December, Philadelphia Sinfonia Players (PSP) meets the inaugural high school orchestra from Play On, Philly! in a concert at the Temple Performing Arts Center that includes both solo and side-by-side numbers, and a week later we host the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society and the Grammy Award-winning Parker Quartet at St. Stephen's in a master class with five of our students playing Dvorak's *Piano Quintet in A Major*.

Launching the new year, Philadelphia Orchestra cellist, Derek Barnes, performs the Elgar cello concerto with PS on January 24 (see below for details); our concerto competition winner's performance follows a month later; and in March we partner with "Orchestras Feeding America" and the Methacton School District in our annual student-run food drive for Philabundance. Also in March, we will hold our annual PS/PSP side-by-side rehearsal. The richness of this experience for our two full orchestras coupled with the richness of the sound in our

beautiful St. Stephen's Church is something to behold!

Come spring, PSP sectionals will be coached by a group of Curtis students; professional Baroque Orchestra, Tempesta Di Mare, will come to us for a side-by-side rehearsal with our chamber orchestra; another round of sectionals will be held for PS, and we have just been invited to perform on a concert presented by Network for New Music, with whom we have collaborated many times. We finish a dynamic, exciting program year in Verizon Hall in May, with the PS Festival Concert that features a collaborative performance between Philadelphia Sinfonia and the actor/dancers of Enchantment Theatre Company in Dukas' *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*.

But... That's not all! We have been invited by the Commonwealth Youth Choirs to accompany them in a large and challenging contemporary "Concert Mass" by Joseph P. Fitzmartin in Verizon Hall in June. This June concert offers our musicians not only another performance on the stage of Verizon Hall and a chance to accompany 300 (yes, 300!) choral musicians, but it also gives them an experience working on a contemporary piece with a living composer

in their midst.

This is yet *another* kind of opportunity this year, for our repertoire includes *three* contemporary works by living Philadelphia area composers, and we are fortunate that the composers of two of them will be present in rehearsal to collaborate on our performances of their work.

It is striking just how *many* collaborations this program year includes and how broadly they range across an artistic spectrum. To recap: they include Philadelphia Orchestra musicians; Play On, Philly!; the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society; an area school district; Curtis Institute of Music students; Tempesta di Mare; Enchantment Theatre Company; the Commonwealth Youth Choirs; Network for New Music; and three contemporary composers.

What is also striking is how many of these wonderful collaborators sought *us* out. We are pleased and honored to work with all of them, and their interest says something wonderful about the strength and talent of our student musicians and something wonderful about the strength and flexibility of our program.

Welcome to the 19th year of the Philadelphia Sinfonia Association!

## Philadelphia Orchestra Cellist, Derek Barnes: Guest Soloist in PS January Concert

**P**hiladelphia Orchestra cellist, Derek Barnes, will join Philadelphia Sinfonia on Sunday, January 24, 2016, when he brings Elgar's famous and virtuosic *Concerto for Cello in E Minor* to the stage, accompanied by our advanced orchestra. Mr. Barnes' appearance is one of the highlights of our concert season, with the Elgar concerto — one of the most-loved works in the cello concerto literature.

Be sure to join us for this concert at the Temple Performing Arts Center, 1837 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122 on Sunday, January 24, 2016 at 3 PM.

Parking is available directly across Broad Street from the performance. Also on the program: Stravinsky's *Firebird Suite!*

*Tickets for this concert will be available on the Philadelphia Sinfonia website by mid-December: [www.philadelphiasinfonia.com](http://www.philadelphiasinfonia.com).*



Derek Barnes: Intermission at the Kimmel Center

## On the Sinfonia Board

**M**atthew Gurin was appointed to the Philadelphia Sinfonia Board of Directors in September 2015. A Management Consulting Executive and Vice President of Hay Group, Matt's job takes him across the country and around the world at times. He works with business leaders, both for-profit and not-for-profit, to implement strategic and transformational change.

Matt joins ten other board members who bring a diverse set of skills and backgrounds to the Philadelphia Sinfonia Association — in business, finance, non-profit administration, development, legal compliance, education, music, psychology, social work, and medicine. Our board became well acquainted with Matt (and he with us) a couple of years ago, when he served as a valued advisor to us during our most recent strategic planning cycle.

Besides his Sinfonia appointment and his job, Matt is a member of the Advisory Council for the Virginia Tech Center for Leadership in Global Sustainability. He was a musician through college - and somewhat beyond (saxophone, solo voice and choral groups).

Matt is the father of two college-age children, Tom (Sinfonia clarinet, 2012–2014), who is a sophomore at Yale University, and Elizabeth, a senior at Brown.

**Carol Steinberg** was re-appointed to the Philadelphia Sinfonia Board of Directors in November 2015. A valued board member from 2004 to 2009, Carol resigned from the board in 2009 upon making a career change that required weekly commuting to the Midwest. Now based full-time again in the Philadelphia area, Carol resumes her relationship to the Philadelphia Sinfonia board, where her business background, skills and experience are a valuable asset.

For over twenty years, Carol has held a variety of leadership roles in technology, ecommerce, marketing, HR, and executive management. Capitalizing on her passion for “leading business units and leaders,” Carol has most recently partnered with Vistage, a global company that provides leadership training and business coaching to CEOs and executives.

In addition to her partnership with Vistage and her Sinfonia board appointment, Carol is on the advisory board of the Global Retail Marketing Association and

on the governing board of PAWS (the Philadelphia Animal Welfare Society). She has three children, Mitch, Leslie and Philip, all college graduates; Mitch was a Sinfonia cellist from 2003 to 2007, and Mitch and Leslie are now both generous volunteers in the Sinfonia program.

We warmly welcome Matthew Gurin and his wife, Audra, and Carol Steinberg and her husband, Rob, back into the Sinfonia community.

### Sinfonia Soiree

**SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2016**

Plan to come to our seventh annual fund-raising house concert featuring Sinfonia recitalists and a magnificent reception on Sunday, March 13, 2016, 3:00 PM. This year's benefit will be held on the Pennsylvania side of the river in a truly spectacular home in Northwest Philadelphia. Invitations will be mailed in January.

To request an invitation, please email [info@philadelphiasinfonia.com](mailto:info@philadelphiasinfonia.com)

## Concerto Competition 2015

**C**ongratulations to the 2015 – 2016 winner of the Philadelphia Sinfonia Concerto Competition! Stephanie van Duijn, PS Assistant Concertmaster, and winner of the competition, will perform the St. Saens *Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso* with the Philadelphia Sinfonia Orchestra on Sunday, February 21, 2016.

Sixteen members of Philadelphia Sinfonia competed for the opportunity to perform a movement from a concerto with their orchestra. The judges felt that the level of the competition was extremely high this year and wanted to acknowledge the exceptional playing of our 2nd place winner, violinist Isabella Egawa, and the three additional students who received Honorable Mentions: Hiroto Saito, violin; Max Reese, clarinet; and Nolan Wenik, bassoon. Kudos to everyone!



PSP rehearsal November 2015

## December 12, 2015 Master Class

*Continued from page 1.*

December 12, 2015 at 2 PM. PCMS has tried for a year to team one of their top-notch visiting chamber ensembles in a master class with Philadelphia Sinfonia. Dates and times have proved hard to synchronize, but finally we have a beautiful work from the chamber repertoire, fabulous visiting artists, and a date – and it's just around the corner!

Formed in 2002 and based in Boston, the Grammy Award-winning Parker Quartet has rapidly become one of the pre-eminent

ensembles of its generation. In addition to their full-time residency at Harvard University, the Parker Quartet also holds a visiting residency at the University of South Carolina and from 2008 to 2013 served simultaneously as Quartet-in-Residence with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra and Artists-in-Residence with Minnesota Public Radio. The members of the Parker Quartet hold graduate degrees in performance and chamber music from the New England Conservatory of Music.

Again, this master class will be held at St. Stephen's Church on Saturday, December 12, 2015 from 2 to 2:45 PM. All PSA musicians and their parents are welcome and encouraged to join the Dvorak Quintet members: Stephanie Bonk, Faustina Housner, Jessica Wang, Simon Housner and Matt Eng; their coach, Maestro Gary White and the Parker Quartet for an exceptional afternoon.

## Philadelphia Sinfonia Players in rehearsal:

NOVEMBER 2015



## Congratulations to our Primavera Fund Artists!

**W**hat do Raven Burckhalter, Akili Farrow and Samir Robinson have in common? Actually, they have several things in common.... All three have an infectious love of music, are violinists, are musicians in our program, and all three have been named Primavera Fund Artists this year.

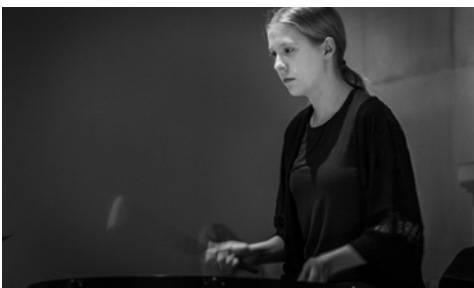
The Primavera Fund is a newly established foundation that “identifies, mentors, nurtures and underwrites the artistic endeavors of young musicians [in the Philadelphia area] whose talent surpasses their economic means.” Primavera artists receive support for first class instruction, quality instruments, and scholarships

for youth orchestra, chamber music, and summer festival activities.

We are pleased and proud that three of the first ten Primavera Fund Artists are members of our Philadelphia Sinfonia Association program. Congratulations Raven, Akili, and Samir!

## Philadelphia Sinfonia in rehearsal:

NOVEMBER 2015



# Alumni Profile: Jarred Cianciulli

PIANO. VOICE. VIOLIN. VIOLA. WOW.

The “wow” is especially significant when we learn about Jarred Cianciulli, a professional violist and Sinfonia alum.

Growing up “surrounded by the arts,” Jarred was stimulated and inspired by his mother, Catherine Cianciulli, who founded and is the Executive Director of the Conservatory of Music and Dance in nearby Eagleville. It is not surprising, then, that Jarred and his three siblings all pursued study in music and dance. Jarred’s earliest experience was with piano and voice; he later took up the violin and viola. Along the way, he was influenced by such teachers as Ms. Kyungwoon Leah Kim at Temple Prep, with whom he studied viola starting in seventh grade. Inspired by his teacher, Jarred became determined to perform professionally. When Ms. Leah advised that he would have to practice eight hours a day to do so — he did. And that intense practice surely helped him to shine ever since.

Jarred spent the 2008-09 academic year with Sinfonia and remembers fondly the orchestra’s performance of Rimsky-Korsakov’s *Scheherazade*, and especially Maestro Gary White’s interest in educating the musicians about the repertoire. Maestro White would print articles for the group and spend the first few minutes of rehearsals talking about the different musical motifs, as well as the

history of Sinfonia’s current repertoire. This, experiencing sectional practice alongside members of the Philadelphia Orchestra, and performing in the Kimmel Center at season’s end particularly stand out for Jarred as sources of “motivation, responsibility, and excitement.”

Like many Sinfonia alumni, Jarred has had a wide range of training and performance experience since his Sinfonia days. He earned a Bachelor of Music in Viola Performance at Johns Hopkins’s Peabody Institute, where he found that his Sinfonia experience helped him to transition smoothly into conservatory life. To Jarred, the level of repertoire at Peabody was very similar to that of Sinfonia, but the university orchestra had significantly more rehearsal time and many more concerts to prepare for. Not surprisingly, Jarred found that his experience with Sinfonia and with Ms. Leah prepared him well for this new level of education and performance.

As a conservatory student, Jarred not only excelled in his studies on Peabody’s Baltimore campus, but he had a fantastic semester abroad at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory at the prestigious National University of Singapore. There, he had the “insurmountable” opportunity to study with great instructors and collaborate with fellow students. Jarred found that Maestro Jason Lai in Singapore was as demanding as Maestro White — and Jarred’s experience there was as rewarding as his time in Sinfonia.

During and since his university years, Jarred has performed in numerous festivals and with orchestras and smaller ensembles around the world, from Aspen to Italy, from Philadelphia and environs to Avery Fischer Hall. His goal? To continue to perform on stages throughout the world, especially with opera orchestras. High on Jarred’s list is to perform with his older brother, a tenor currently performing with the Kentucky Opera Company and Louisville Ballet, as well as with his brother’s fiancée, Olivia Hagen. For now, Jarred is excited to be



Jarred Cianciulli

performing as viola apprentice in the new La Croix Quartet, to teach viola and violin as an adjunct faculty member at Villa Maria Academy and Archbishop Carroll High School, and to teach private students as well.

What has Jarred learned from his music career so far? Among the most important lessons that he has to pass along: “A career in music is not solely about winning an orchestra job, performing a concerto with the Vienna Philharmonic, or attending the Verbier Festival. It’s about giving back to the classical music world — supporting your peers, teachers, and students, because that’s what makes it genuine.”

His advice? “Take advantage of every opportunity, no matter how big or small ... Music is a universal language, and it might be difficult to get started, but the possibilities are infinite.”

We will certainly be watching — and listening — as Jarred explores these possibilities in what is sure to be an exciting and successful musical career.

*Please feel free to contact Jarred at [jcianci1@gmail.com](mailto:jcianci1@gmail.com), and visit his website at [www.jarredtcianciulli.com](http://www.jarredtcianciulli.com).*

— Diane Penneys Edelman

## Trivia Quiz

Many composers were considered musical prodigies and began their studies at a surprisingly young age. PSP’s first concert will include works by Felix Mendelssohn, Giuseppe Verdi, and Johann Strauss, Jr. Which of these three composers started studying music at the earliest age?

*The first musician to email Carol Brown ([info@philadelphiasinfonia.com](mailto:info@philadelphiasinfonia.com)) with the correct answer will receive a small prize.*

# PHILADELPHIA SINFONIA

Gary D. White  
*Music Director and Conductor*  
Judith Mendelsohn  
*Executive Director*  
Danielle Garrett  
*Orchestra Manager*  
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## Mission Statement

Philadelphia Sinfonia supports the artistic growth of young musicians in the Delaware Valley by providing high-level ensemble experience in a supportive educational environment.

We believe that the pursuit of excellence requires performers with integrity, working together toward a common goal. Thus our mission is three-fold: to provide ensemble opportunities for young musicians, to achieve the highest level of artistic advancement, and to educate young people broadly to be strong citizens and leaders as well as responsible musicians.

We recruit from a demographically diverse student population to provide an opportunity to anyone who musically qualifies and to enrich the experience of all members of the organization.



2015 - 2016 Season: Concerts, Highlights, News!