

SONATA

Sinfonia Orchestra News
Summer 2016

PHILADELPHIA
SINFONIA
Educating Musicians. Creating Artists.

Pure Enchantment: Festival Concerts 2016



Philadelphia Sinfonia and Enchantment Theatre Company in *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*; Verizon Hall. May 2016

A disappearing magician; a most somber but ravishing symphony; the beloved "Overture" from *Nabucco* under the baton of a very special conductor; mature and confident playing – all impressive features of Philadelphia Sinfonia's Festival Concert 2016 in Verizon Hall.

Guests on this program, it was the Philadelphia Sinfonia Players, our intermediate orchestra, who opened the second half of the concert with the "Overture" from Verdi's *Nabucco*. Danielle Garrett, the newly appointed conductor for this intermediate ensemble, was inspired and radiant in her Verizon Hall debut. Evoking a precise and elegant performance

Fall Auditions for all ensembles will held on August 27 & 28, 2016 and on September 3.

See page 6 for more information.

from her musicians, she set quite a standard for next year's ensemble.

Yet the night truly belonged to the musicians of Philadelphia Sinfonia, our most advanced orchestra, and Maestro Gary White. Opening the concert with a single powerful, introspective work, Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 6 in B minor* ("*Pathétique*"), and concluding it with Paul Dukas' *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* in a delightful collaboration with our actor friends at Enchantment Theatre Company, the music director and PS musicians demonstrated the incredible flexibility, sensitivity, and artistic accomplishment of this orchestra.

And yes, the magician really did disappear before our eyes on stage.... The apprentice truly resembled his predecessor in Disney's *Fantasia*; the props, masks and costumed actors brought Dukas' story of *L'Apprenti Sorcier* to life.... Backed by a stunning performance from the orchestra, it was a charming end to our 19th season. Bravo!
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Celebrating 20 Years! 2016 – 2017 to Honor our Legacy of Excellence

From the first PS concert of next year, featuring Philadelphia Orchestra Concertmaster, David Kim, in Bruch's *Violin Concerto No. 1*, to our final concert finale — an extravagant performance of Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture*, complete with cannons and a 300 voice choir, Philadelphia Sinfonia's 2016 – 2017 anniversary season will be a vast celebration of the musical excellence,

program quality, collaborative spirit, and artistic benchmarks we have sought and achieved over our first 20 years.

Between these two concerts that bookend our season – the first at the Temple Performing Arts Center and the last featuring all our ensembles in the Kimmel Center's Verizon Hall - we have also planned multiple other special events.

Among them: a side-by-side rehearsal for PS with The Philadelphia Orchestra (February 25, 2017); a trumpet soloist in a special 20th anniversary commission arrangement of selections from Rogers and Hart for performance with PSP; a master class featuring our chamber orchestra on April 22 in a coaching with

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Danielle Garrett to Join Maestro White on Sinfonia's Conductor Roster

Philadelphia Sinfonia's Music Director, Gary White, and I are very pleased to announce that our long-time orchestra manager and assistant conductor, Danielle Garrett, was recently appointed to be the principal conductor for our intermediate orchestra, Philadelphia Sinfonia Players. She assumes this position as of September 1, 2016, in conjunction with her role as Orchestra Manager.

Maestro Gary White is not leaving! Although he will no longer conduct our intermediate orchestra on a regular basis, he will continue as conductor for all other ensembles in our program, i.e. our most advanced orchestra, Philadelphia Sinfonia, and the Philadelphia Sinfonia Chamber Orchestra, and coach any small chamber groups we assemble – as we do from time to time. However, he is looking forward to staying deeply connected to the Philadelphia Sinfonia Players, involved in artistic planning, attending many rehearsals, and guest conducting throughout the year.

Ms. Garrett comes to her new position with strong credentials. She holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Chestnut Hill College and a Master of Music degree in String Pedagogy from Temple University's Esther Boyer College of Music, where she studied violin under Booker Rowe of The Philadelphia Orchestra and Helen Kwalwasser of Temple University. She has studied advanced orchestral conducting with Maestro Luis Biava, retired Conductor



As Assistant Conductor for PSP in 2013, Danielle Garrett conducted a piece on the ensemble's inaugural concert.

in Residence for The Philadelphia Orchestra, and has attended summer conducting workshops at the Julliard School in New York and the Oberlin Orchestral Conducting Institute at Oberlin Conservatory in Ohio. This summer she is attending the Bard Conductors Institute in New York.

From 2008 to 2014, Ms. Garrett was an instrumental music teacher at Germantown Friends School, director of the Middle and Upper School Orchestras, chamber ensemble coach, and coordinator of the private lesson program. In 2014 she became the Orchestra Director at The Haverford School and the String Orchestra Director for Play On, Philly! In April 2016, she guest conducted the PMEA 5/6 String Fest.

Danielle Garrett began her association with Philadelphia Sinfonia in 1997, when she was a student violinist, becoming Concertmaster in 1999. She returned as a college intern in 2000, was appointed Orchestra Manager in 2002 and Assistant Conductor of PSP in 2012.

It was always our intention to hire a second conductor for the intermediate orchestra once the group was well established. We are pleased to appoint someone with such a deep and intimate understanding of our program to fill that position and extend a very warm welcome to Ms. Garrett as she assumes her new responsibilities with the Philadelphia Sinfonia Association in the fall.

Carol Brown
President, Board of Directors

ORCHESTRA NEWS

Summer 2016 | Vol. 14, No. 5

Published by: Philadelphia Sinfonia

Edited by: Carol Brown

Photos by: Steven Goldblatt, Jie Chen,
Tom Galish and Paul Wang

Design by: Hanna Manninen

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Tempesta Di Mare and PSCO Meet Side-by-Side in Rehearsal

One of the city's top professional Baroque orchestras, Tempesta di Mare, joined the Philadelphia Sinfonia Chamber Orchestra for rehearsal on Saturday, April 23rd. Working more-or-less side-by-side, the two groups tackled two contrasting movements from the PSCO repertoire: Movement I of Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto No. 3* and the opening Andante of the *Concerto for Four Violins in F* by Antonio Vivaldi.

For much of the rehearsal, Maestro White stepped back from the podium, allowing the musicians from Tempesta di Mare to coach as the two groups delved more and more deeply into each piece. Well-timed to strengthen PSCO's performance level of these pieces before their final concert in May, this event was eye-opening for our students, giving them an opportunity to study how the music of Bach and Vivaldi was interpreted during the lives of these two great and historically representative composers.

Pure Enchantment: Festival Concerts 2016

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Ten days earlier, and spanning a similarly broad artistic range, the Philadelphia Sinfonia Players' 2016 Festival Concert featured the prominent Philadelphia clarinetist, Allison Herz, in Carl Maria von Weber's *Concerto No. 1 in F minor for Clarinet and Orchestra*. Accompanying a soloist is a complicated business for an orchestra that is at the PSP level of training, but Ms. Herz was both a lovely

performer in her own right and a generous soloist with this ensemble; PSP rose to the occasion beautifully.

Opening their concert with Offenbach's well-known *Orpheus in the Underworld Overture* and ending with the less well-known but equally crowd-pleasing and dancelike *Libertango* by Astor Piazzolla, PSP delivered a highly

accomplished program and left its audience thrilled and happy.

So ends the 19th season of the Philadelphia Sinfonia Association. We move into our 20th season with a celebratory spirit. Here's to 20 remarkable years — cheers!



PSP in concert in Verizon Hall. May 2016



PS in concert in Verizon Hall. May 2016



Allison Herz (center), PSP Concert Soloist, with PSP Assistant Conductor, Danielle Garrett (left) and Maestro Gary White, Music Director and Conductor (right). A Philadelphia based clarinetist, Ms. Herz performed a movement from Carl Maria von Weber's *Concerto No. 1 in F minor for Clarinet and Orchestra* with the Philadelphia Sinfonia Players, May 15, 2016.
Photo by: Jie Chen

Food Drive 2016 a Stunning Success!

840 lbs! After a year's hiatus, the Philadelphia Sinfonia Association food drive was revived in April 2016, promoted intensely by an effective crew of student leaders, and the collection — all 840 lbs of it — was sent off to Philabundance to distribute to local food banks and emergency kitchens for hungry residents in Philadelphia and surrounding communities. Here in the Delaware Valley, a staggering one in four people face hunger, according to Glenn Bergman, executive director of Philabundance. One third of them are children.

This year's committee: Andrew Chen, Gillian Diebold, Emma Parker, William Wang, Josue Villegas, and Abbi Simmons, were a dedicated, intrepid crew. They ran collection contests each week between the different sections of the orchestra, promoted the drive at rehearsals and on social media, generated collections in their neighborhoods and other places beyond the orchestras, and had a lot of fun in the process. Congratulations and many thanks to the Food Drive Committee, and to all our students, parents, board members, and staff for supporting a good cause and making evident Philadelphia Sinfonia's commitment to community and civic engagement and responsibility.

Repertoire

Repertoire Highlights for our 20th Anniversary Season 2016 – 2017
(A partial listing for all three orchestras; repertoire subject to change)

PHILADELPHIA SINFONIA:

La Mer by Claude Debussy
(1862 – 1918)

Symphony No. 8 in F Major, Op. 93 by Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 – 1827)

An American in Paris by George Gershwin (1898 – 1937)

Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 in C minor by Franz Liszt (1811 – 1886)

1812 Overture, Op. 49 by P.I. Tchaikovsky (1840 – 1893)

March Héroïque, Op. 34 by Camille Saint-Saëns (1835 – 1921)

Concerto Grosso for 3 String Orchestras by Ralph Vaughn Williams (1872 – 1958)

Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor, Op. 26 by Max Bruch (1838 – 1920)
(featuring Philadelphia Orchestra Concertmaster, David Kim)

PHILADELPHIA SINFONIA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA:

(Repertoire to be announced shortly)

PHILADELPHIA SINFONIA PLAYERS:

Symphony No. 1 in C Major, Op. 21 by Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 - 1827)

L'Arlésienne Suite No. 2 by Georges Bizet (1838 – 1875)

Finlandia by Jean Sibelius (1865 – 1957)

1812 Overture, Op. 49 by P.I. Tchaikovsky (1840 – 1893)

Poet and Peasant Overture by Franz von Suppe (1819 – 1895)

Sicilienne from "Pelléas et Mélisande Suite". Op. 80 by Gabriel Fauré (1845 – 1924)

Capriol Suite by Peter Warlock (1894 – 1930)

Selections from Rogers and Hart for Solo Trumpet and Orchestra by Richard Rogers (1902 – 1979)
arr. By Jim Levendis

Joseph Fitzmartin's *Concert Mass*

Philadelphia Sinfonia's 2015 – 2016 season was incredibly packed with collaborations of one kind or another. Beginning with a joint performance in December 2015 between our own group, Philadelphia Sinfonia Players, and Play On, Philly!'s top ("Academy") orchestra, over the season we collaborated with several soloists, two composers, a theater group, and multiple musical ensembles – both student and professional — at a great rate. Amazingly, we topped it off post-season with one of the most ambitious musical collaborations of the entire year.

By invitation, Maestro Gary White and our advanced orchestra, PS, joined forces with at least 250 young voices from the Commonwealth Youth Choirs to perform a very successful contemporary *Concert Mass* in Verizon Hall on June 18, 2016.

This piece, composed by Keystone State Boychoir founder, Joseph Fitzmartin, was a 50-minute *tour de force*, requiring multiple post-season rehearsals: of our own PS orchestra, of Maestro White with the choirs, and of choir and orchestra together. Mr. Fitzmartin attended many of these rehearsals, giving voice to his musical intentions as the work on his composition progressed. He seemed very pleased by the final rendition in the Kimmel Center's Verizon Hall.

This performance marked the 15th anniversary of the Commonwealth Youth Choir organization and honored the Keystone State Boychoir founder whose piece we played.

We thank the many musicians of Philadelphia Sinfonia who worked around their summer plans to immerse themselves in this piece between June 11 and the performance on June 18. We also thank multiple other participants in this venture: every member of our staff, both administrative and artistic, who were deeply involved that week as well, and a variety of professional instrumentalists who filled in for a few of our students who had unalterable post-season conflicts. Thank you all!

To the Commonwealth Youth Choirs' professional staff, especially Steven Fisher, Artistic Director, and Martha Platt, Managing Director, thank you for your invitation to perform this important piece and for your trust that we could do it justice. And finally, to Joe Fitzmartin, thank you for writing this inspiring work and for your guidance as rehearsals and the performance unfolded. We were honored by your presence, by the trust you also placed in us, and ultimately by the opportunity your work gave to us and to our students.

PSA Conductor and Members Participate in a Special Benefit Concert

Philadelphia Sinfonia violist, Jacob Heil, helped to coordinate a special benefit concert in April 2016 for beloved Washington Township High School teacher, Travis Martin, who is fighting cancer. The proceeds went toward the many medical costs Mr. Travis and his family have incurred. Students from New Jersey's Washington Township High School Orchestra were joined in this concert by area musicians and six members of the Philadelphia Sinfonia orchestras, who gladly donated their time to this worthy cause. Sinfonia's Maestro Gary White was invited to conduct. Bravo to all involved and a special thanks to Jacob Heil and WTHS Orchestra teacher, Judy Pagon, who ensured the success of this inspirational concert.



PSA participants together with WTHS Orchestra Director at the benefit concert (left to right): Corinne DiStephano (PSP and WTHS), Laurel DiStephano (PSP and WTHS), Judy Pagon (WTHS Orchestra Director), Gary White (PSA and Guest Conductor), Jacob Heil (PS and WTHS), Sean Valdez (PSP), Matthew Torrance (PS), and Emma Parker (PS).

Celebrating 20 Years! 2016 – 2017 to Honor our Legacy of Excellence

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ECCO, a top-notch chamber orchestra of “super-musicians” brought to town by the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society.

We hope many people will join us for the season’s festivities. We *especially* welcome and encourage Philadelphia Sinfonia alumni from the last 20 years to come to the Kimmel Center for our final performance on May 14, 2017, when we let loose with Tchaikovsky and his spectacular *1812*

Overture. We would really love to see you there. The successes of our first 20 years are a result of some hard work of our own, but that would not have gone very far without the talent, the participation and commitment, and the loyalty of all of you who joined our program and worked with us throughout those 20 years. It’s been one fabulous collaborative adventure from the beginning, and we thank each of you for your valuable part in it.

Spring 2016 Master Class & Performance: Network for New Music, Laura Karpman, and *Different Lanes*



Laura Karpman with the Philadelphia Sinfonia string quartet, left to right: Stephanie Bonk, violin; Faustina Housner, violin, composer Laura Karpman; Jessica Wang, viola; Simon Housner, cello.
Photo by: Paul Wang

Network for New Music, one of the premiere new music ensembles in Philadelphia, brought a fabulous project and master class to Philadelphia Sinfonia on April 16, 2016. In conjunction with its weekend-long celebration of the late composer Milton Babbitt, NNM invited four-time Emmy Award winning composer Laura Karpman to town, and gave our season’s string quartet a chance to perform a piece of her music. Our quartet initially tackled

North by Northwest, from Ms. Karpman’s string quartet *Different Lanes*, with some trepidation, but warmed to the piece, and loved it in the end, as the humor and fun of it became apparent. “Different Lanes” refers to traffic lanes, and of course, Karpman’s home, Los Angeles, is an evocative setting for a piece with this title.

Karpman, a film composer and former student of Milton Babbitt’s, came to St. Stephen’s on Saturday, April 16, to present the master class, in which she worked with our students on *Different Lanes*. This was nicely juxtaposed to give our string quartet a little coaching from the composer before their performance of it for the Network for New Music audience the next day. How did Ms. Karpman enjoy the experience with our students? She confided on Sunday afternoon that it was one of her favorite parts of the entire weekend celebration!

Two New Critical Orchestral Editions Edited by Music Director Gary White

In Philadelphia Sinfonia’s recent history, several great 20th century composers’ works have been featured. Two of these works have led to in-depth scholarship beyond the performances themselves. Initially, in 2010 Ferde Grofé’s *Café Society* was carefully reconstructed by Maestro Gary White, and in a multi-media performance nearly 70 years after its last performance, re-premiered by Philadelphia Sinfonia in the Kimmel Center’s Perelman Theater. And, in 2014, the PS orchestra played Philadelphia area composer, Romeo Cascarino’s *Meditation and Elegy* in Verizon Hall.

The successful performances of both composers’ works proved to be merely the beginning of Gary White’s interest in them. He and Kile Smith, former Curator of the Edwin A. Fleisher Collection of Orchestral Music at the Free Library of Philadelphia, decided to re-issue a critical edition of Grofé’s *Café Society*, and Maestro White and Dolores Cascarino, the late composer’s wife, agreed to re-issue Cascarino’s tone poem *The Arcadian Land*. Gary Galvan, the current Curator at the Fleisher Collection, has been closely involved in both projects.

Each of these two editions has been carefully researched and edited by White to produce the best possible renditions of these works. Resources were used from the Fleisher Collection, The Library of Congress, Ferde Grofé, Jr., and Dolores Cascarino. These new editions will soon be published by the Fleisher Collection and available for all orchestras to perform. Maestro White, a long time supporter of music research and faithful-to-the-composer music editions, is thrilled to have worked on the fascinating project of restoring these two scores and parts.

Where are they Now? Alumni Updates and News

Most of our newsletters since 2008 have featured one or two Philadelphia Sinfonia alums who have been involved in music in one way or another since leaving or graduating from our program. Reflecting only a moment in the life of an aspiring musician, these alumni profiles leave us wondering years later how each is doing.

As we embark upon a 20th Anniversary season, this summer seemed a perfect time to catch up with some of those featured alumni to see where they are now and what they are doing.

About half of those profiled in earlier issues of this newsletter responded to our request for updates; their news, organized by their last year in Sinfonia, is printed below.

Also included are updates from a few other alumni with whom we have recently been in touch. We are intrigued by the range and diversity of adventures and opportunities our graduates have pursued and are proud of their accomplishments. Read on....

2003:

Eliza Brown, cello: featured in *Sonata*, Winter 2014, Eliza sent these updates –

- Starting as Assistant Professor of Theory and Composition at DePauw University School of Music in Fall 2016
- Graduated with DMA in Composition from Northwestern University, Spring 2015
- Faculty and Assistant Academic Dean at Walden School Young Musicians Program
- Married to cellist/conductor Chris Wild
- Composer; recent/upcoming commissions from Ensemble 20+ of DePaul University and Philadelphia's Network for New Music

2004:

Karinne Hovnanian Andonian, viola: featured in *Sonata*, Fall 2008 –

"I still live in South Jersey with my husband and our two children, ages 3.5 and 1.5. I am still doing music therapy, but in a private sessions capacity (I received my masters in music therapy from Hannemahn in 2010). And as of last fall, I am working as a music teacher at a private school, the Armenian Sisters Academy in Radnor, PA. I work there twice a week, and the rest of the days I am a mom who plays and sings a lot of music for her kids. I continue to be the choir director at my church and am also part of a Jewish folk band as one of the vocalists, in West Philly. I am building a network of Middle Eastern musicians to work with me on a project I've been compiling for a few years, which is to create an acoustic Armenian folk experience that goes back to the traditions of "parlor" music in our culture.

"We have taken the kids to a Sinfonia concert, last season, and it was such a wonderful experience showing them the beauty and dynamics of an orchestra!"

Adam Greenstein, trumpet: featured in *Sonata*, Fall 2013 –

"I am still playing with the Columbia Concert Band in Columbia, MD. We perform 5 free concerts throughout the year in addition to participating in Maryland Community Band Day every June. I also am

still playing with the Columbia Brass Quintet... [that performs] one concert per year in conjunction with other small local ensembles and typically provides music for some small local college graduation ceremonies, local county library education program graduation ceremonies and at BWI airport during the holiday season for travelers passing through.

"I have been married since March 2014. No kids yet, but hopefully at some point...."

2005:

Stephanie Benedict, oboe: featured in *Sonata*, Spring 2010 –

"Things have been great since the last time we saw each other (Sinfonia concert at the Mann a few years back).... Since then, I've earned my Masters degree in Music education from West Chester University with a certification in the Orff-Schulwerk teaching approach (while teaching full-time! It was tough at times, but I did it somehow!) I'm living in Wayne, PA, and teaching elementary general music and choir in the Philly suburbs. This coming year will be my 8th year of teaching but my first in Council Rock School District. Outside of school, I'm on the local board to bring the American Orff-Schulwerk National Conference to Atlantic City this November, serving as the Monitors Chair. I play oboe with the Philadelphia Wind Symphony and work as a freelance organist/pianist/oboist at various churches in the area. "

Mary Beth Alexander, violin –

"I teach at the Nightingale-Bamford School which is a K – 12 all-girls school in Manhattan. We're [an] independent school with a nice robust arts program. This past year I served as Head of the Music Department (encompassing general music, instrumental music, choral music, etc.). After a year of experiencing administration with all of its bumps as well as rewards, I decided to return to teaching full-time and was able to lead the search for a new music department head to take my place.

"In the meantime, I am in St. Paul, MN for the summer working on my Masters of Music Ed at the University of St. Thomas. I'll be focusing on elementary music ed., specifically the Orff-Schulwerk approach to music and movement education.

"I teach K-4th grade music, an 8th grade drumming ensemble, and I conduct the high school Gospel choir."

2006:

Andrew Foley, flute: featured in *Sonata*, Summer 2015 –

"This year has been a very fulfilling one, consisting of a multitude of both musical performances and professional milestones. I have been finding my musical outlet this year with the Marigny Opera and Ballet. I've had the opportunity to perform with them on a few very interesting programs, including a re-envisioning/re-scoring of *Orfeo* as a ballet and a setting of Haydn symphonies to a clown ballet (yes, you're reading that correctly). The latter was a surprisingly well-received performance, drawing its inspiration from the format of concerts thrown by the Esterhazys.

"Outside of music, I have just graduated from Venture for America and will be leaving my position as a consultant with EMH Strategy to pursue my MBA as an inaugural fellow at the Asia School of Business, a new business school in Kuala Lumpur resulting from a partnership between MIT's Sloan School of Management and the National Bank of Malaysia. I'll be crossing my fingers to join the sub list for the Malaysia Philharmonic, so we'll see how that goes over the next few months...."

2008:

Ted Blohm, trombone: featured in *Sonata*, Winter 2010 –

"I am still a freelance trombonist living in the Philadelphia area, and I am currently playing in six different groups:

- Spinning Wheel Tribute to Blood, Sweat and Tears: www.spinningwheeltribute.com
- The Summer Club: www.summerclubshows.com
- WhoaPhat Brassband: Mummies Parade, etc., see Facebook and YouTube
- Monday Blues Jazz Orchestra: www.mondaybluesjazz.com
- BLT Band: www.bltband.net
- Jersey Shore Pops: www.jerseyshorepops.org

"I have also been the Jazz Band Director at Archbishop High School since 2008 and had the opportunity to be the guest conductor of the Elementary All Catholic Jazz Band for the 2012/13 school year.

"As for my "day job", I am currently an Educational Representative for Music & Arts, servicing local school districts in PA and NJ."

Sarah Boxmeyer, horn, featured in *Sonata*, Fall 2010 –

"I graduated from Curtis in 2014 [in horn performance] and went on to pursue my Masters degree at Yale University. After graduating this past May, I moved to New York City, where I am a freelance musician. To begin my 2016 summer I attended Spoleto Festival USA in Charleston, SC. It was a valuable and rewarding experience in the company of fantastic musicians and friends. Since my years in Sinfonia, music and horn have taken me around the world for festivals, masterclasses and

tours. I feel very fortunate to be involved in the arts community that can have such a profound impact on the world.”

2010:

Baldwin Giang, viola, featured in *Sonata*, Winter 2011, sent a summary of recent news from his website, from which the following is drawn:

Baldwin is now a composer, interested in acoustic and electro-acoustic mediums. A recent graduate of Yale University with a B.A. in both music and political science, Baldwin is currently a Regent's Fellow, at the University of Michigan, pursuing a Master's degree in composition.

This summer, Baldwin is traveling internationally to present performances of his work at June in Buffalo, New York, the Valencia International Performance Academy in Spain, and highSCORE in Italy.

Other recent projects include a saxophone solo premiered at the North American Saxophone Conference in March 2016 and a song cycle for two singers and chamber orchestra to be premiered by AEPEX Contemporary Ensemble in Fall 2016.

Michael Chaffin, bass –

“I'm living in Wilmington, Delaware (tax free)! In 2015 I graduated from Temple with my Masters in Music Performance after completing my Bachelors degree, also in performance. White at Temple, I studied with Joe Conyers and Rob Kesselmann of the Philadelphia Orchestra.

“While in school, I participated in the Miami Summer Music Festival (Miami, FL), Siena Music Festival (Siena, Italy), and the Endless Mountain Music Festival (Mansfield, PA). This summer I will be performing with the AIMS Festival Orchestra in Graz, Austria. I am actively performing in the Wilmington and Philadelphia areas. In 2011, I went on tour in China for three weeks over Christmas performing with the Philadelphia Camerata. I regularly play with ensembles such as the Delaware Symphony, Lancaster Symphony, and record music for NFL Films occasionally.

“As my freelancing career grows, I am continuing to take every audition I can drive to, to improve and get to the next level of playing for me.”

2012:

Jim Rose, flute –

Jim graduated from Temple University with a degree in flute performance this past spring and has been accepted to Indiana University for the Music Performance graduate program, beginning August 2016.

Alumni updates would not be complete without noting that the following Sinfonia alumni volunteered during auditions in May/June 2016. We thank them all for their stellar support during a record round of auditions:

Nellie Smith; Jenny A'Harrah; Willie Swei; Dylan James; Emma Flickinger; Mitch Steinberg; Tom Gurin; Matt Chow; Lucy Silbaugh.

We encourage other alumni to be in touch with us: not only those who are musicians, but everyone else as well! What is your news?

Sinfonia Hosts Masterclass with a New York Middle School

As our nation's first capital, Philadelphia is a top destination for tour groups of all kinds; as a leader in arts and culture, this city particularly draws groups interested in performing arts and music. Philadelphia Sinfonia proudly enhanced the experience of one such tour group this summer. Hailing from Ithaca, N.Y., the DeWitt Middle School Orchestra visited Philadelphia on a June weekend to participate in several performances as well as explore the cultural and historical landscape of our city. As part of their experience, they asked Sinfonia to arrange a masterclass for their students with our conductor and music director, Gary White.

It was Maestro Luis Biava, former Conductor in Residence at The Philadelphia Orchestra, who forged the connection between the DeWitt Middle School Orchestra and Philadelphia Sinfonia. Maestro White and Aaron Buck, the conductor of the DeWitt orchestra, are

both former students of Luis Biava, and it was the recommendation of Maestro Biava that prompted Mr. Buck to seek out a special, intimate experience for his students with our conductor, Gary White.

Despite having just disembarked from a 6 hour bus ride from Ithaca, the DeWitt orchestra students were bustling with energy and excitement as Maestro White picked up his baton. It became clear, as they worked on familiar music, that the students felt inspired by experiencing a different conductor's interpretations and suggestions. At one point, Maestro White asked the orchestra to change seating, intermixing violins with celli and violas. Initial confusion eventually led to a deeper understanding of how to listen between the sections.

This special event took place on Friday afternoon, June 10, at the Curtis Institute of Music — a special place for the DeWitt students to be introduced to Philadelphia's music scene!

Fall Auditions 2016 – 2017 to Follow Strong Spring Auditions

To fill the remaining seats in both of our full orchestras, musicians are invited to audition in late August/early September 2016.

Students who audition successfully and are offered seats will be joining a very strong set of musicians in each of our orchestras. Spring auditions brought record-breaking, long audition days with talented students, ensuring that the extraordinary levels of our advanced orchestra, Philadelphia Sinfonia (PS, for ages 14 through college), and of our intermediate orchestra, the Philadelphia Sinfonia Players (PSP for ages 11 – 18), will continue to be very high. We extend a warm welcome and congratulations to all those who have enrolled to date and encourage others to join them.

We have limited instrumental openings for 2016 – 2017; all instruments are invited to audition. To register for an audition or for further information, please go to our website: www.philadelphiasinfonia.com.

Audition dates this fall are:

- Saturday, August 27, 2016
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- Sunday, August 28, 2016
12:30 – 6:00 PM
- Saturday, September 3, 2016
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

PHILADELPHIA SINFONIA

Gary D. White
Music Director and Conductor
Judith Mendelsohn
Executive Director
Danielle Garrett
Orchestra Manager
Hannah Albrecht
Administrative Assistant

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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.



2016 - 2017: Preview of 20th Anniversary Events!

2016-17
YEARS PHILADELPHIA
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