

**MEET THE ORCHESTRA!**

The GSO sponsors area students in grades 3-8 an opportunity to see GSO musicians “up close and personal” at a Meet the Orchestra event every Fall.

Area music educators and private teachers have been asked to invite their students to attend and sit among the orchestra during dress rehearsal at St. James Episcopal Church on Friday evening Oct. 14. For the Sunday Oct. 16 concert, students are asked to come at 3pm to meet with musicians and conductor, who will talk about the music, their instrument and parts in the concert. They look at the orchestral score and hear about the many jobs of the conductor in “keeping it together.”

If you have a student, a child or grandchild who’s interested in this, contact Melzie Case, melziesmusic@gmail.com.



2016-2017 TICKET INFORMATION

**Single Ticket Prices**

- Adult ..... \$15
- Senior Citizen (62 & older) \$10
- Student (18 & under) ..... \$7
- Family Ticket ..... \$35  
(parents and children 12 and under)

Concert tickets may be purchased at the door the day of the concert or at the following GSO “place of business” supporters: Vinyl Record Revival, YNGODESS, GoArt!, and Bank of Castile, LeRoy Branch

Tickets also available online: [www.dailynewstickets.com](http://www.dailynewstickets.com) and [www.geneseesymphony.com](http://www.geneseesymphony.com)

 The GSO is pleased to be affiliated with Genesee Community College as Orchestra in Residence, since February 2005. The Stuart Steiner Theatre is the GSO home for most regular season concerts, and qualified GCC students may enroll for college credit through performance with the GSO. Both the Orchestra and College are pleased with this mutually beneficial affiliation.

 Concerts are made possible, in part, by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

**UPCOMING CONCERT**

**Holiday Festival**

Sunday, December 11, 2016 4:00 p.m.  
St. Mary’s Church, Batavia

Guests: Emily Helenbrook, Soprano and  
Young Artist Competition winner  
Amelia Snyder, Alto Saxophone

- Ukrainian Bell Chorale* | Traditional/arr. Nancy Strelau
- Fanfare from La Perri* | Dukas
- Concerto for Saxophone and Strings* | Glazunov
- Christmas at the Movies* | Arr. Krogstag
- Emily Helenbrook, Soprano | Selections TBA
- Canadian Brass* | Arr. Custer
- Sleigh Ride* | Leroy Anderson
- Christmas Festival* | Anderson

**GSO 70<sup>TH</sup> CONCERT SEASON - 2016-17**

**Regular concerts – Sundays 4:00pm**

- Dec. 11 – “Holiday Concert” St. Mary’s Church, Batavia
- March 12 – “Brahms & Marquez” GCC
- May 7 – “Escaping Gravity” Elba School Auditorium

**Other concerts:**

- Sun. Aug 6 – “Summer Serenade” Mercy Grove, LeRoy
- Sat. Sept. 23 – GCC 50th Anniversary  
& Grand Opening of Call Event Center
- Concerts in Orleans and/or Wyoming Counties - TBA

**2016-2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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S. Shade Zajac, Music Director / Conductor

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Genesee Symphony, Inc. is a dynamic, regional orchestra that presents innovative programming for the enrichment of the community through high quality performance, educational opportunities, guest artists, and partnerships that bring a diverse public and the arts together.



**PROGRAM**

*New Beginnings*

**Sunday, October 16, 2016**  
**Meet the Orchestra - 3:00 pm**  
**Concert - 4:00 pm**  
**St. James Episcopal Church, Batavia**

*Guest Artists*  
Jackie Hager, Cello & Jarod Yap, Piano

- Shortcut Home* | Dana Wilson
- Concerto in D Minor* | Lalo
- I. Prelude : Lento - Allegro maestoso
- Concerto in A Minor* | Schumann
- III. Allegro vivace
- Scheherazade* | Rimsky-Korsakov

**MESSAGE FROM THE CONDUCTOR**

I am beyond honored to be your new GSO conductor and music director, and am looking forward to an exciting and vibrant inaugural season. We have some wonderful music in store for the October 16 concert at St. James, including some “old favorites” and some pieces you’ve never heard before. Dana Wilson’s fiery and jazzy “Shortcut Home” precedes Rimsky-Korsakov’s lush and expansive “Scheherazade”, an audience and musician favorite. This inaugural concert will also feature two of last year’s three Young Artist winners in the Lalo cello concerto and a Richard Strauss piano concerto.

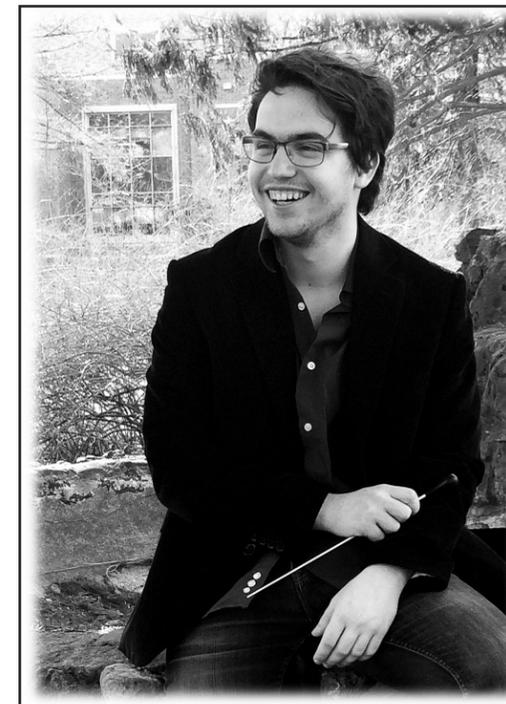
In December, the GSO Holiday Concert (St. Mary’s, Batavia) will provide a fresh take on holiday favorites, feature our third Young Artist winner, plus renowned soprano from Alexander, NY, Emily Helenbrook.

In March 2017, at GCC, a GSO concert of epic proportions will feature world famous pianist Brian Preston in Brahms’ First piano concerto. The May 2017, concert in Elba will venture into the “vast beyond: space” with Holst’s beloved “The Planets.” And of course, lots of other great surprises!

The orchestra and I are excited to bring you this 70th GSO season, and we hope to see you at all the concerts!

S. Shade Zajac  
Music Director/Conductor

**WELCOME S. SHADE ZAJAC**



S. Shade Zajac is a freelance conductor, composer and cellist. After serving as a guest conductor in September, 2015, in the Spring of 2016 he was appointed Principal Conductor and Music Director of the Genesee Symphony Orchestra. He begins his inaugural season begins October, 2016.

Mr. Zajac has conducted the Nazareth College Chamber Orchestra, Nazareth College Symphony Orchestra and OpusWerkes No.2, on numerous occasions. A student of Professor Nancy Strelau, he was guest conductor of the Greater Rochester Women’s Philharmonic. Mr Zajac was recently awarded a Paul Vermet 2015-16 Apprenticeship with the Northwest Symphony Orchestra in Chicago, working with Maestro Kim Diehnelt. He was also accepted as a Fellow in the BCO December, 2015 Workshop under the direction of Maestro Markand Thakar, where he conducted the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra in selections including Samuel Barber’s *Adagio for Strings*. In Spring 2016, Mr. Zajac participated in the 8th Ithaca College International Conducting Master Class with maestros Donald Schleicher and Jeffery Meyer. He led the Ithaca College Chamber and Symphony Orchestras in performances of Berio’s *Folk Songs for Mezzo Soprano and Orchestra* and Mahler’s *Third Symphony*.

Mr. Zajac is founder of the Finger Lakes Summer Festival, providing chamber music and orchestral performances in and around his native Ovid, NY. Emphasis is placed on raising funds for charities and offering classical music to surrounding rural communities.

Please join your GSO musicians and Board in welcoming S. Shade Zajac as our new leader, as we begin our 70th season as one of America’s longest-performing regional orchestras!

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

## NEW BEGINNINGS WITH SHADE ZAJAC!

Our GSO's 70th season concert opener features the exciting "Scheherazade" by Rimsky-Korsakov. In the audience will be composer Dana Wilson, who wrote a rhythmic and jazzy opening number "Shortcut Home." Two GSO Young Artist Competition winners (Jackie Hager, cellist and Jarod Yap, pianist) playing their concerti with the GSO. These young artists will dazzle you with their musical expertise.

The GSO thanks St. James Episcopal staff and congregation for opening their doors to their beautiful sanctuary, and letting the GSO's music resound within those sacred walls. Get there early!

The GSO is especially proud to have Shade Zajac as our new Musical Director/Conductor. Watch how Shade energizes musicians and brings out their musicality. Shade has fabulous ideas for the future of our orchestra. We are in store for many exciting seasons ahead with our young conductor.

We continue the celebration with a Buffet/Dinner Reception at Terry Hills immediately following the Oct. 16th Concert; \$20 per person all inclusive. Reservations are due by Oct. 11. An invitation note from Shade is in this newsletter.

Shade's family is donating to the GSO a new conductor's podium, which Shade will be using for the Oct. 16th concert. Shade's grandfather designed and created it, and it will be used at many concerts in the GSO's future. We sincerely thank the Zajac family for their very thoughtful and useful gift.

There is such excitement in the air for the GSO's Sunday Oct. 16 4:00pm concert at St. James. We hope you will join us for a very uplifting afternoon of music!

Musically yours,  
Roxie Choate, GSO Board President



Shade and his grandfather Bob Fairclough

## FROM GSO HISTORIAN

It began in 1947. A small group of dedicated individuals had the idea of starting a small community-oriented orchestra. They named it The Batavia Civic Orchestra. It was a success, growing and changing over the years, all the while maintaining its core mission: to bring excellent music and entertainment to the Genesee Region. In 1958, it became the Genesee Symphony Orchestra and as the old saying goes, "the rest is history."

Now in our 70th season, the Genesee Symphony Orchestra takes another step forward and is proud to welcome to the podium our newest conductor, S. Shade Zajac. The tradition of playing beautiful music with talented musicians and guest artists continues. And who knows, maybe something new thrown in as well to delight and entertain and maybe even educate audiences in the upcoming season.

So come one, come all! It's a new season and a new era. Let the music begin.

Want to learn more about the Genesee Symphony Orchestra and its history? Visit the memory books in the reference section of the Richmond Memorial Library or the permanent display at the Holland Land Office Museum.

Joanne Tumminello, GSO Historian

## LETTER FROM CHARTER MEMBER

Dear Roxie and GSO Board:

It doesn't seem possible it has been 70 years since we started the orchestra! I received the GSO pamphlet yesterday and read every word. The season concerts sound wonderful! I do so wish I could be there to hear them. When you are at a rehearsal please say HI for me to the orchestra, especially members who still remember me.

I remember playing *Scheherazade* many, many years ago in the 1st violin section, long before taking up the viola. Carl Frank played the solo violin part at the time. It is such a great number and the audience will love it.

I just wanted to let you know how pleased I am with the GSO's leadership and devotion. After having 48 wonderful years of joy playing in the orchestra, I feel blessed, as there is no other experience like it.

Sincerely,  
Helen Grapka, GSO Charter Member



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<https://m.facebook.com/geneseesyphonyorchestra/>

## GSO SUMMER SERENADE

On August 21 the GSO and United Way connected by cosponsoring a relaxing summer day with food, a beautiful setting, a little wine, some Mozart and Beethoven conducted by Shade. Mercy Grove Event Center in LeRoy was the perfect backdrop for the hundred or so lucky folks who were enchanted with the whole experience. Reviews were universally positive from musicians and audience alike.

A repeat of this first-time event is already booked for Summer 2017. Watch for announcements, and we hope you can join the unique Summer Serenade experience with your GSO again next year!

## MAESTRO AND MOZART CONCERT

## "Maestro and Mozart" featured String Quartet, Wine &amp; Cheese, Shade Zajac &amp; Friends

About 20 lucky listeners were treated to string quartet offerings by Mozart, Shostakovich and the GSO's new conductor with the Asteria Quartet – three of whom are now playing with the GSO! The Saturday Sept. 10 event was hosted by Richard Mistretta at his Vinyl Record Revival store (220 East Main St., Batavia). Wine tastings were provided by Christine Crocker of YNGoddess, and light snacks by GSO Board members.

Before and between numbers, the appreciative audience got to ask questions about the music, about the quartet, and got an "insiders' glimpse" of how a string quartet actually works. All four musicians had no trouble enlightening and amusing us, as well as showcasing great talent and some very interesting music! Shade's composition "Willard" represents a nocturnal visit to an abandoned mental hospital, and sounded like you might imagine! OK, so maybe we'll have to stage a future performance at Rolling Hills Asylum....



photo: Howard Owens

Kiram Rajamani, Leah McCarthy, Shade Zajac and Evie Boughton make up the Asteria Quartet

## RECEPTION AND BUFFET DINNER

As our 70th Concert Season approaches, I wanted to take a moment and invite you to a very special event. After our season opener on October 16th (which will be an amazing afternoon of exciting and vibrant music) and my inaugural concert, we will be having a dinner at Terry Hills Restaurant to celebrate these two special occasions. I look forward to the opportunity to meet and chat with you and for you to meet some of the orchestra members and Board of Directors; not to mention enjoying some delicious food! I hope that you can join us for this unique opportunity to be a part of something new!

I look forward to meeting you!

S. Shade Zajac, Conductor & Music Director

**Terry Hills | October 16 | 6:00 P.M.**

Reception and Buffet Dinner honoring Shade Zajac  
\$20.00 per person

Reservations must be in by October 11, 2016

**For reservations, call: Anne Funston - 585-343-0350  
or Nora Sands - 585-880-4321**

## ADOPT-A-CHAIR



Adopt-a-Chair is an exciting program which affords the participant a first-hand experience with the orchestra.

For \$35.00, "adopt" a musician of the orchestra. Choose your favorite instrument and sit in that section during the dress rehearsal, for a "behind the scenes" experience in which you will see and hear an orchestra at work. Contact GSO Board Member Helen Parkins at [hparkins3373@gmail.com](mailto:hparkins3373@gmail.com) to arrange your Adopt-a-Chair experience.

## PURCHASE TOPS GIFT CARDS TO SUPPORT YOUR GSO!



You can support your GSO by purchasing TOPS gift cards! Look for our TOPS Cards representative at the ticket table on concert dates. Cash or check (made payable to GSO) can be accepted for your purchase. For more information, contact Joanne Tumminello at [jtmreg4@hotmail.com](mailto:jtmreg4@hotmail.com).

## GSO WEBSITE

The GSO Website is up and running! Visit us at [www.geneseesyphony.com](http://www.geneseesyphony.com) and find the most up to date information for concert events and symphony news. Purchase your concert tickets online, and sign up for the email version of the GSO newsletter!

