

S. Shade Zajac, Conductor



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S. Shade Zajac is a freelance conductor, composer and cellist. He performs frequently in the Rochester and Finger Lakes area playing solo and chamber music concerts.

As a conductor, Shade has conducted both the Nazareth College Chamber and Symphony Orchestras, and is conductor of the OpusWerkes No. 2 Chamber Orchestra. Mr. Zajac is assistant/rehearsal conductor of the Finger Lakes Symphony Orchestra and has worked with other community orchestras and ensembles in the area.

Program

Fall Festival

Sunday, September 27, 2015 4:00 P.M.
Stuart Steiner Theatre, GCC
S. Shade Zajac, Conductor

Guest Artist: Raymond Feng, Piano
GSO 2015 Young Artist Competition Winner
Edvard Grieg | **Piano Concerto in A Minor**, Movement I
Raymond Feng, Piano
Eric Whitacre | **October**
Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakoff | **Procession of the Nobles**
Aaron Copland | **Quiet City**
Alexander Borodin | **Polovtsian Dances**
Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakoff | **Capriccio Espagnol**

Guest Artist Raymond Feng, Piano



Raymond Feng

A pupil of Elier Suárez since age five, 13 year-old Raymond Feng has been a prizewinner of international and national competitions since age 9. He was First Prize winner of Thousand Islands Chopin International, Cooper Piano Festival at Oberlin Conservatory, and Duquesne National Young Artist, among others. As a national finalist of 2015 Music Teachers National Association Competition in junior piano performance, Raymond performed at the national conference held in Las Vegas. Raymond was named the 2015 winner of several concerto competitions including Genesee Symphony Orchestra Young Artist, Greater Buffalo Youth Orchestra Piano Concerto and Cayuga Chamber Orchestra Concerto Competitions. Raymond was recently accepted to the prestigious Morningside Music Bridge Festival in Calgary, Canada with full scholarship for summer 2015.

As piano soloist, Raymond had his orchestral debut at age eleven with the Ashdod Symphony Orchestra in Perugia, Italy, and locally performed with the Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra at age 12. Raymond also plays violin under the guidance of Nancy Hunt. A mathlete as well, Raymond has been the NY State Champion of MathCounts for three successive years, 2012-2015. For community service, Raymond often performs solo recitals at senior living facilities around Greater Rochester. Raymond's other interests include computer programming and music improvisation. His favorite sports are tennis and competitive swimming.

Message from the Conductor

From Russia to America to Norway - hold onto your hats for this world showcase of sound! We have a very exciting program for this concert that will take you on a journey of familiar and maybe not so familiar pieces. Our program opens with Rimsky-Korsakov's *Procession of the Nobles* from the four act opera-ballet, *Mlada*. This is a very popular piece in the wind band repertoire, with its brilliant brass fanfares and colorful whirling passages from the winds.

Another star of our program is Aaron Copland's *Quiet City* for solo trumpet, English horn and strings. Our principal trumpet player and principal oboe player on English horn will be featured. To close out the first half of our program, we will be playing the first movement of the *Piano Concerto in A Minor* by Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg, featuring our Young Artist Competition Winner, Raymond Feng. The first half of our program also includes a string selection, *October* by Eric Whitacre.

The second half of our program consists of two pieces. The first, *Polovtsian Dances*, from Borodin's opera *Prince Igor*, has lush, beautiful melodies and expansive phrases. This piece features several members of the orchestra and is not played often in the concert repertoire, creating a new learning opportunity for many orchestra members. For the finale, we close with an audience favorite, *Capriccio Espagnol*. This piece is full of color and virtuosity playing that will be sure to get you on your feet. We cannot wait to see you for this exciting concert!

~ S. Shade Zajac, conductor

2015-2016 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:
Batavia Senior Center • Roxy's Music Store,
GoArt!, Batavia • Bank of Castile, LeRoy

2015-2016 Board of Directors


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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.

 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.

From GSO Historian**A Year of Transition for the GSO**

The 2015-2016 Season will be a transitional year for the Genesee Symphony Orchestra. Having had 13 wonderful conductors through the years since its inception in 1947, change is not new to this Orchestra. This season will see four candidates for the position of Music Director grace our stage in hopes of being the next GSO conductor.

We all know how difficult change can be. Will the new conductor be able to work with the musicians? Will s/he be able to make a connection with the audience? What kind of program will be presented? Will the program instill a deeper appreciation of all things musical in our area? Stay tuned as our four candidates demonstrate what they can bring to the stage and the orchestra this season!

A diversified group, the Genesee Symphony Orchestra continues to bring excellence in music, education, and entertainment to the Genesee Region. Would you like to learn more about the Genesee Symphony Orchestra and its conductors? Visit the Holland Land Office Museum where a complete list of the Symphony's conductors is part of a permanent display on the history of the orchestra. More information is available in the memory books reserved in the reference section of the Richmond Memorial Library.

Joanne Tumminello, GSO Historian

Endowment

To help ensure the future of the Genesee Symphony Orchestra, an endowment fund was created in the year of the orchestra's 50th anniversary. Show your support for the GSO by contributing to the GSO Endowment Fund today.

Friends of the Orchestra

Friends of the Orchestra is an informally organized group of patrons dedicated to assisting the GSO Board at concert performances. Friends serve the orchestra by ushering at concerts, and supplying cookies for the refreshment table. We invite you to become a Friend of the Orchestra by giving your name and contact information to any GSO Board member.

**Notes from the President**

We are off on an adventurous year this season!

After 17 years, Maestro Ponti has retired from the GSO. His will be difficult shoes to fill! Four candidates for the Music Director position have been selected. Each will present a program to inspire our audience, excite our musicians, and impress the community as a whole. The goal of the GSO Board is to select the candidate who will lead the orchestra into the future – actualizing the Genesee Symphony mission. On another note, the GSO website is being reconstructed. Once launched, it will provide easy access to in depth information about each of our four candidates, as well as details of the GSO 2015-16 Season and special events. We hope that you will visit it often!

In this year of transition, we especially appreciate the continued support of all our benefactors - individuals and businesses who have given their time, expertise, and financial backing to our mission. Without them, providing quality symphonic music to our community would not be possible! Please enjoy the ride with us, as we embark on this new path!

Paul Saskowski, GSO Co-President

Dedication of GSO Program for 2015-16

The Dedication of the GSO Program for the 2015-16 Season will be made to long time orchestra member, Dave Funston.

Dave began playing percussion with the orchestra in 1966. His commitment to the symphony through the years has been unflagging. Dave has served the GSO as a musician and a Board Member, holding the offices of Secretary and President. In the past, Dave has served as Orchestra Manager and Librarian on several occasions. Currently, Dave keeps the Board of Directors advised as to the progress of the GSO Endowment Fund, and continues to play tympani with the orchestra.

A complete biography of Dave and his service to the GSO can be found in the 2015-16 Program Book.

Next Concert

Holiday Concert
Sunday, December 6, 2015, 4:00 PM
St. Mary's RC Church, Batavia, NY

Conductor: Yunn-Shan Ma, Doctoral
Candidate in Choral and Orchestral Conducting at the
Eastman School of Music
Music Director of the Taiwanese Choral Society of
Rochester

Featuring: The Oakfield Alabama 5th and 6th Grade Chorus
This popular performance rings in the Holiday Season with great music with your GSO and Special Guests.

High Notes

Ed VanZandt

The GSO core group of musicians is exceptionally talented and dedicated! In a Q & A format, *High Notes* will feature a member of the GSO core group in each of our quarterly newsletters.

Musician: **Edward VanZandt** from Castile, New York

Occupation: Retired Instrumental Music Teacher - Letchworth Central School District (35 years)

Years with the GSO: 25 years

Q. Which instrument do you play? A. Trumpet

Q. What was your first instrument? When and why did you start playing? A. Trumpet was my first instrument. I attended a try-out with the band director when I was in 3rd grade. He said I was a natural trumpet player. The day before, I had attended the string meeting and the orchestra director told me I was a natural cellist! Ultimately, my dad made the decision, citing the fact that I might not break the trumpet as quickly!

Q. What are your fondest musical memories? A. There are so many! High school wind ensemble. Our band was one of the really good H.S. bands in NY State at the time. I was the first student to be featured with the Albany Symphony, and was very fortunate to play in the first

Albany Symphony Youth Orchestra. Receiving private lessons from Seymour Rosenfeld of the Philadelphia Orchestra is a memory I will always cherish.

Q. What advice would you give to beginning instrumental students? A. As a beginner, the best piece of advice I would give would be: "Listen. Be a very good listener. Listen to your teacher, listen to concerts, recordings, and TV shows. Especially listen to the music being played by your instrument, and imitate what you hear."

Q. People would be surprised to know that I... A. Have been making wine for the past 10 years, and that I run the Castile Emergency Food Pantry.

Q. List 3 adjectives that best describe you. A. Humorous, Organized, and Motivated

Q. What would you like to be doing in 5 years? A. I pray I can stay healthy enough to continue playing with the symphony; enjoy traveling with my wife, Marcy; and visit my grandchildren to take in their many concerts and sporting events.

Q. What famous musician/composer would you most like to meet? A. Musician - Innovative Jazz leader and trumpet player Louis Armstrong. Composer - Aaron Copeland.

Q. If you could play another instrument what would it be? A. Acoustic guitar. I enjoy singing and know if I could just learn a few chords, I'd be the life of a party!

Q. What do you enjoy most about being a musician? A. Music challenges me both mentally and physically. It gets into my soul..and the best thing about being a musician is I know it affects everyone around me the very same way!

**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 to arrange your Adopt-a-Chair experience.

Purchase TOPS gift cards to support your GSO!

One of the GSO Board's many fundraising efforts is a collaboration with TOPS Markets, where many of us shop. It's simple: we buy TOPS gift cards, in many denominations (\$10, 20, 25, 50, 100), and you buy them from the GSO... and the GSO earns 5%. The cost differential to you? ZERO. These gift cards are worth face value and have no expiration date.

Even if you don't do your grocery shopping at TOPS, do you ever buy gift certificates for others? The TOPS cards are redeemable for that purpose, too. Plus TOPS cards make great presents for those you love.

We ask GSO supporters to also financially support the GSO – at **no cost to you**. Bring cash or a check (made out to GSO) to the concerts.



These cards are convenient and easy to use. They may be used just like cash to purchase gas or groceries at TOPS. Another great feature of these cards is that they may be used to purchase other gift cards for businesses such as:

AMC Theaters	Circuit City	Giant Foods	Sports Authority	Sears	Bass Pro Shop
Barnes & Noble	Radio Shack	Marriot	Olive Garden	Home Depot	Chili's
Blockbuster	Foot Locker	Old Navy	Red Lobster	Toys "R" Us	Bed, Bath and Beyond