Program

**Holiday Celebration!**

Sunday, December 10, 2017  4:00pm
St. Mary’s RC Church
Resurrection Parish, Batavia

Rimsky-Korsakov | *Dance of the Tumblers*
Calvin Custer, arr | *Canadian Brass Christmas*
Blake | *The Snowman*
Anderson | *Sleigh Ride*
Anderson | *Christmas Festival*

And favorite holiday selections featuring a special guest vocalist

Message from the Conductor

Dear Friends,

On behalf the GSO, thank you to all who came out to our last concerts! It was such a pleasure as always to share wonderful music with such supportive audiences.

Hard to believe, but the holidays are here again. As I write this letter, it’s even snowing a little outside! Our next performance is the annual Holiday Concert, Sunday December 10, 4:00pm. at St. Mary’s Church. We have a festive and fun program planned as usual.

We begin with *Dance of the Tumblers* from *Snow Maiden* by Rimsky-Korsakov. This is orchestral fireworks at its best and will be an exciting start to the program. Next comes a charming arrangement of *Canadian Brass Christmas* which includes carols such as *Here We Come A-Wassailing, Ding Dong Merrily on High* and more. Next we have something truly special; Howard Blake’s *The Snowman*. This piece was based on the picture book by Raymond Briggs and was also turned into a silent movie with the same music. The piece will be narrated by Laurence Tallman, who plays bassoon and contrabassoon in the GSO. It is a magical piece that I am sure will capture your heart.

Following *The Snowman*, we’ll be joined by a special guest singer performing favorite holiday selections I’m sure you will recognize and love. Who is it? If you want to know you have to come to the performance, but I promise you will not be disappointed!

We will end with the GSO’s traditional *Sleigh Ride* and *Christmas Festival* by Leroy Anderson. As always this concert will be filled with cheer, great music, and fun surprises. We hope to see you there!

S. Shade Zajac

GSO Website

The GSO Website is up and running! Visit us at [www.geneseesymphony.com](http://www.geneseesymphony.com) and find the most up to date information for concert events and symphony news.

In addition to articles about our musicians and history, you’ll be able to purchase your concert tickets online—and of course, prices are the same as at our usual outlets. Just print your receipt and bring it with you to the concert!

GSO is also on your favorite social media

Check us out on Facebook, Twitter @SymphonyGenesee, and Instagram @geneseesymphonyorchestra

Asteria String Quartet: Chamber Concert Feb. 3

The Asteria String quartet, mostly GSO musicians, will perform a Chamber Concert on Saturday Feb. 3, at the Dibble Family Event Center, West Main St. in Batavia. Cash Bar opens at 6pm, concert at 7. Tickets are $20/person or $35/couple, and will be available on the GSO Website, or at the December 10 concert.
Notes from the Co-President

Holiday 2017

Coming into the holiday season, we reflect on where we have been – and launch ideas about where we’re going. As for our GSO, the enthusiasm of gifted Music Director / Conductor Shade Zajac has spawned some welcome spinoffs with benefits for both orchestra and audiences.

So far this season, our GSO’s 71st, we’ve done a Summer Serenade in partnership with United Way, the opening concert for the Richard C Call Arena, in partnership with Genesee Community College, and Fall concerts at GCC and Perry, the latter in partnership with the Arts Council for Wyoming County. These concerts welcomed new audiences, with many compliments received. The last concert treated us to a magical rendition of Beethoven’s 5th Symphony, a Brahms favorite, a new electronics + orchestra work, and young oboe soloist Mia Fasanello.

The holiday concert tradition continues with both familiar and not-so-familiar-but-fun works which will delight both listeners and GSO musicians. Join us December 10, at 4:00 p.m. at St. Mary’s RC Church in Batavia – a wonderful venue for holiday music, and much appreciated!

On March 11, we welcome internationally known violinist David Kim, concertmaster of the Philadelphia Orchestra, to perform a Tchaikovsky violin concerto - a test of skills for even the most experienced soloist. The GSO’s March 11 and May 6 concerts will be held at Elba Central School Auditorium.

Best holiday wishes to GSO audiences, supporters, board members, and musicians. We hope to see you at St. Mary’s on December 10. Get there early – we usually fill that wonderful sanctuary! As always, our goal is to help you get into the holiday spirit, and to feel the inspiration our GSO generates.

Peace to All,
Paul Saskowski, GSO Co-President 2017-18

Note from the Historian

Holidays With The GSO

GSO Holiday Concerts have always been a special time for the musicians and the audiences alike. Who doesn’t enjoy a rousing rendition of Sleigh Ride or Christmas Festival. Do you have a favorite GSO holiday tune or concert? Could it be the GSO’s performance of Tchaikovsky’s The Nutcracker Ballet when graceful ballerinas danced across the stage to the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy? Or maybe it’s the concert when the local children’s choir sang the entire score to the Polar Express? For many it’s the GSO performance of Handel’s Messiah. An audience favorite performed many times through the GSO concert history.

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

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 Helen Parkins at hparkins3373@gmail.com to arrange your Adopt-a-Chair experience.

GSO Raffle 2018 Features Gift Certificate from First Choice Travel

The annual GSO raffle is a major fundraiser for the orchestra, popular with concertgoers and supporters as well. The 2017 raffle featured a weekend at Geneva-on-the-Lake in Geneva, NY.

This year we are working with First Choice Travel, well known for putting together some wonderful tour packages. Rather than offer a specific package, we offer a $1000 First Choice Travel Gift Certificate as a raffle prize, good for any tour or other service First Choice provides. Tickets are $10 each or 2 for $15, available at any GSO concert or from any Board member. The $1000 gift certificate will be raffled at our May 6th 2018 concert. The more you buy, the better your chances of winning the vacation of a lifetime, and the more you support your GSO!

Adopt Me!

GSO in Perry, NY

The GSO returned to Wyoming County this Fall, for an October 28 concert at Perry Central School Auditorium. The program was the same as at GCC the next day, minus the oboe concerto (scheduling and licensing challenges). About 150 happy concertgoers braved a stormy evening and gave our GSO yet another standing ovation, particularly after the Beethoven 5!

GSO Board and officers extend a hearty thanks to the Arts Council for Wyoming County, particularly Jackie Hoyt and Pilar McKay (who also plays cello in the GSO). We also thank the Perry staff, in particular Linda Hume and Peter Grierson, who was our on-site tech, setup and go-to guy. We can’t wait to get back!
**Upcoming Concerts**

**An Evening with David Kim**

Sunday, March 11, 2018  
4:00pm

Elba Central School Auditorium

Featuring David Kim  
Concertmaster, Philadelphia Orchestra

Tchaikovsky | *Sleeping Beauty*: Polonaise  
Tchaikovsky | *Concerto for Violin & Orchestra in D*  
David Kim, Violin  
Tchaikovsky | *Symphony No. 4 in F-minor*

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**Romantic Masterpieces**

Sunday, May 6, 2018  
4:00pm

Elba Central School Auditorium

Featuring Mimi Hwang, cello

GSO String Workshop

Wagner | *Siegfried’s Death & Funeral March*

Elgar | *Concerto for Cello & Orchestra in E-minor*  
Mimi Hwang, Cello

Howard Hanson | *Symphony No. 2 “Romantic”*

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**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.

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**GSO String Workshop**

This year’s String Workshop is scheduled for April 14, 2018. String players – both students and adults – are invited to sit with GSO musicians for a day of ensemble enjoyment, culminating in performing WITH the GSO at the May 6 concert. Area music educators and string teachers are sent word of the Workshop in plenty of time to apply, so ask your student or string playing friend (violin, viola, cello or string bass) to watch for more info – or check the GSO website!

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**Ask the Maestro - December 2017**

Q: If you could meet any composer who ever lived, who would it be and why?

A: This is such a tough question to answer as I love so many composers’ work and because of that, I have no favorite composer. However, I think that I would love to meet Gustav Mahler. Mahler was the bridge between the Romantic and 20th Century eras of music and wrote incredible symphonies. His symphonies in my mind are cosmic as they contain everything from death and resurrection, to cows in the countryside. Mahler was also a well-known conductor and even conducted the New York Philharmonic for some time. His symphonies are incredibly detailed, with notes to the conductor about tempo, balance and many other things. My favorite comes from the Fifth Symphony. The translation from German to English is “Don’t even think about rushing!” As a conductor and composer myself, I think it would be so fascinating and enlightening to sit down with him for a cup of coffee.

~SZ

If you have any questions about how an orchestra works, we would be happy to answer them in our future newsletters. Please contact Bob Knipe, bobknipe@hotmail.com with your questions!

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**Thanks to GCC for great support!**

The GSO’s Oct. 29 concert at Genesee Community College required the assistance of not only our GSO officers, but many fine GCC staff as well! Special thanks to Jeanie Thompson, Brodie McPherson, Mary Jo Whitman, and student Savannah Bacher, who opened the Roz Steiner Gallery for our “Meet the Orchestra” students before the concert, and during the intermission. The GSO thanks our GCC friends, as always!

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**Young Artist Competition 2018**

This year’s Young Artist Competition will be held April 28, 2018, at the First Presbyterian Church in Batavia. Young musicians from Western New York schools are invited to apply, as are students of private music teachers. Our 2017 winner, Mia Fasanello, performed an oboe solo with the GSO at the October 29 concert at GCC, and is indicative of the talent we have in this area! Other past winners have gone on to be featured in NPR’s popular “From the Top” radio program, and to become star performers in college and beyond. The Young Artist Competition is adjudicated by GSO Conductor Shade Zajac and a panel of music educators and GSO musicians. Encourage a talented young musician you know, to apply!

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**Save a Tree... Get the GSO Newsletter in your Email!**

For those of us who now get most of our news and other content electronically, the GSO offers the option of getting this Newsletter from now on... in your email. NOT your snail-mail!  
How? Simple.  
Send an email to genesesymphonyorchestra@gmail.com and it’ll happen.
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.

2017-2018 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:
GoArt!• Roxy’s Music Store • YNGODESS
Vinyl Record Revival • Bank of Castile, LeRoy
www.geneseesymphony.com
www.dailynewstickets.com

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.