



NEWS RELEASE

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January 15, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENTS

PETER AND THE WOLF: FAMILY CONCERT EXPLORES CLASSIC TALE

PROGRAM FEATURES PERFORMANCE BY GREATER NEWARK YOUTH ORCHESTRA

GRETCHEN LOCHNER GONZALES MEMORIAL CONCERT HONORS FORMER NJSO CELLIST

SAT., FEB. 13 AT NJPAC IN NEWARK

NEWARK, NJ—The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra presents Prokofiev's beautiful rendering of the classic tale *Peter and the Wolf* in a Family concert on Saturday, February 13, at NJPAC in Newark. The concert—the second annual **Gretchen Lochner Gonzales Memorial Concert**—is the second in the NJSO's three-concert 2009–10 Family series. The concert is also the annual “side-by-side” concert for the NJSO's celebrated **Greater Newark Youth Orchestra** (GNYO); the training orchestra will perform alongside the NJSO for a selection of works. A fitting **Pre-Concert Adventure** brings Atka, a male wolf from New York's Wolf Conservation Center, to NJPAC for concertgoers to see.

In 1936, commissioned to write a symphony for children, Prokofiev adapted the story of Peter, a self-described young pioneer, and his encounters with a hapless wolf. The composer assigned each character its own instrument and melody—children and adults alike will love following the story as the NJSO tells it with music, aided by colorful narrator **Ben Steinfeld**.

The NJSO program features other selections full of musical storytelling, like “Dance of the Tumblers” from Rimsky-Korsakov’s *The Snow Maiden*. GNYO joins the NJSO on stage to perform Grieg’s *In the Hall of the Mountain King* and Humperdink’s *Evening Prayer* and *Witch’s Ride*. Education and Community Engagement Conductor **Jeffrey Grogan** conducts.

In Family-concert tradition, the NJSO offers an exciting Pre-Concert Adventure in the Prudential Hall lobby. In addition to the live wolf, internationally recognized early-childhood program Music Together will conduct a music workshop for children and parents. The Little Gym, an innovative organization with gyms in 21 countries, will host dancing and other physical activities for children.

The performance takes place at 2 p.m. in Prudential Hall at NJPAC. The Pre-Concert Adventure will begin in the lobby at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$12 and are available for purchase by phone at 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476) or online at www.njsymphony.org.

The Gretchen Lochner Gonzales Memorial Concert

Gretchen Lochner Gonzales was a cellist in the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra for five years. She believed in the power of music to transform lives, especially through education initiatives. To that end, the NJSO and the Gonzales family established the Gretchen Lochner Gonzales Memorial Fund after Gretchen lost her battle with breast cancer in 2006.

The fund recognizes Gonzales’s passion for music education. Fittingly, the second annual Gretchen Lochner Gonzales Memorial Concert features a performance by the NJSO’s Greater Newark Youth Orchestra, a hallmark of the Orchestra’s education programs.

About the Artists

American conductor **Jeffrey Grogan** is Education and Community Engagement Conductor for the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. In addition to leading the NJSO in a variety of concerts each season, he is also a frequent host of the NJSO’s “Classical Conversations” and “Post-concert Chats” series. His humanistic leadership style, coupled with a strong command of skills as a musical communicator, has earned him an impressive reputation with audiences throughout the country. Considering his work with young musicians as one of the cornerstones of his career, Grogan currently continues this commitment with the Greater Newark Youth Orchestra.

Prior to his appointment with the NJSO, Grogan was Director of Orchestras and Associate Professor at the Ithaca College School of Music and was previously on faculty at the University of Michigan and at Baylor University. He has served as conductor and music director of the Waco Symphony Youth Orchestra, as well as assistant conductor and lecturer for the Waco Symphony Orchestra. He taught public school in the Desoto (Texas) Independent School District. Grogan is a graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University and the University of Michigan.

Established in 1990, the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra's **Greater Newark Youth Orchestra** (GNYO) creates an environment where students, and specifically minority youth, have the opportunity to participate in a program that provides motivation and encouragement in a nurturing atmosphere while receiving weekly musical instruction from members of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. In 1999, the initial program was expanded to include a training orchestra—the **Greater Newark Chamber Orchestra** (GNCO). Both orchestras provide opportunities to meet regularly with other students in productive and positive activities, and to develop valuable skills such as discipline, interdependence, and goal setting—skills that will serve them throughout their lives. The significance and achievements of this program and its impact on the lives of these young musicians have received national recognition by the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities.

Students who play orchestral instruments are invited to apply for membership in the NJSO's Youth Orchestras program. For more information, please contact at 973.624.3713, ext. 255 or visit www.njsymphony.org/education/youthchamber.

Narrator **Ben Steinfeld** makes his return to the NJSO stage. He has performed at leading theaters around the country including Center Theatre Group, Portland Center Stage, SpeakEasy Stage Company and Stamford Center for the Arts, among others. Steinfeld acted in the original workshops of Tony Kushner's *Homebody/Kabul* and Paula Vogel's *The Long Christmas Ride Home*. He has performed readings and made appearances at The Public Theater, Playwrights Horizons, the Cherry Lane and New York Theatre Workshop. Steinfeld is an adjunct professor at New York University's Gallatin School and Middlebury College's Bread Loaf School of English. He is a teaching artist for the McCarter Theater and Acting Manitou.

Steinfeld is co-founder/artistic director of Fiasco Theater, a theater company and professional training program in New York City. A national winner of the American College Theatre Festival's

Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship at the Kennedy Center, he is a graduate of Brown University and the Brown/Trinity Rep Consortium MFA Acting Program.

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra is comprised of some of the country's finest musicians. The Orchestra is proud to have Jacques Lacombe as its Music Director Designate and Neeme Järvi as its Conductor Laureate. Artistic excellence, innovative programming and community engagement are hallmarks of its mission. To best serve the people of New Jersey, the orchestra brings its programs to seven different venues throughout the state, in addition to nearly 100 community venues including schools, libraries and other community centers.

The NJSO's Education & Community Engagement programs enrich the listening experience for children and adults alike. In addition to GNYO, these programs include:

REACH

Resources for Education And Community Harmony (REACH) is a community engagement program of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra designed to bring the excitement of live music to all of New Jersey's diverse communities. With the orchestra's overall mission in mind, this program was created in 1998 to engage New Jersey communities by offering original programs created by and featuring members of the NJSO. Ensembles have performed throughout all 21 New Jersey counties in a wide variety of settings that include senior living communities, youth centers, local performing arts centers, restaurants, libraries, hospitals, schools, social and cultural clubs, private homes and more.

Concerts for Young People

This series is designed specifically for young audiences and performed during regular school hours.

Master Teachers Collaborative

Dedicated teachers of all disciplines work closely with leading New Jersey educators and administrators to develop lesson plans that accompany the NJSO's Concerts for Young People. Participants earn 15 hours toward the state-mandated Professional Development requirement for teachers. The NJSO is accepting applications for this program through December 14, 2009.

Class Pass

Students can enjoy NJSO concerts at an affordable price. Tickets are \$10 each with a valid ID (One ticket per ID). Students can also purchase The Star-Ledger/nj.com Class Pass for \$25, entitling them to an unlimited number of NJSO performances during the 2009–10 season.

For more information about the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, visit www.njsymphony.org or e-mail information@njsymphony.org. Tickets to performances are available for purchase online or by phone at 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476).

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra Broadcast Series, presented in part by the Merck Company Foundation, is a syndicated program carried regionally and throughout North America. Continental Airlines is the official airline of the NJSO.

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra's programs are made possible in part by The New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, along with many other foundations, corporations and individual donors.

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