

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



JACQUES LACOMBE MUSIC DIRECTOR DESIGNATE  
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[www.njsymphony.org](http://www.njsymphony.org)

# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **NJSO PRESENTS BEST OF ... FAIRY TALES**

**MAGICAL PROGRAM EXPLORES MUSICAL EXPRESSIONS  
OF TIMELESS FAIRY TALES**

**THU., FEB. 25 IN MORRISTOWN  
FRI., FEB. 26 IN TRENTON  
SAT., FEB. 27 IN RED BANK  
SUN., FEB. 28 IN ENGLEWOOD**

Newark, NJ—In classical music, fairy tales aren't just child's play. Some of the most important composers of all time have brought these stories to life. Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade* is one of the most mesmerizing works in all of classical music—a Russian composer telling the Arabian story of *One Thousand and One Nights*.

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra celebrates that fairy tale-inspired work and more in Best of ... Fairy Tales, the third in its 2009–10 Best of ... series. Elizabeth Schulze leads a program that captures the universal fascination with timeless fables and stories from Cinderella to Mother Goose. Actor Jonathan Hogan provides a voice for these classic tales.

Performances take place on Thursday, February 25, (7:30 p.m.) at the Community Theatre at Mayo Center for the Performing Arts in Morristown, Friday, February 26, (7:30 p.m.) at The War Memorial in Trenton, Saturday, February 27, (8 p.m.) at the Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank and Sunday, February 28, (3 p.m.) at bergenPAC in Englewood. Tickets range in price from \$17 to \$55 and are available for purchase by phone at 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476) or online at [www.njsymphony.org](http://www.njsymphony.org).

The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey is a presenting sponsor of the Englewood series.

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### **About the Music**

The NJSO performs the celebratory waltz from Tchaikovsky's romantic interpretation of *Sleeping Beauty*. The "Cinderella Goes to the Ball" waltz of Prokofiev's *Cinderella* suite captures the anticipatory mood of the journey to the ball that Cinderella's fairy godmother prompts her to attend.

French composer Ravel's dreamy *Mother Goose Suite* includes reactions to tales from *Little Tom Thumb* to *Beauty and the Beast*. On the Best of ... Fairy Tales program, the NJSO explores the fantasy of "Laideronnette, Empress of the Pagodas"—a Renaissance-meets-Oriental mix of magical sounds. "The Enchanted Garden" conjures images of the ideal fairy kingdom.

Dvořák's *The Noon Witch* is a darker piece inspired by a Czech tale designed to impart morality lessons to its young listeners. The music captures the diabolical plot of the Noon Witch's quest to capture a boy who has misbehaved.

The Orchestra explores two tales in Debussy's *Children's Corner Suite*—"Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum" and "Golliwog's Cakewalk." The former playfully teases the mechanical exercises assigned to young piano students; the latter is a bouncy impersonation of the doll Golliwog, the Barbie doll of its generation.

American composer Charles Tomlinson Griffes "The White Peacock" is inspired by a vision of a beautiful bird at the Zoological Garden in Berlin. The NJSO program closes with perhaps the most famous magical bird in the classical canon—Stravinsky's *The Firebird* tells the Russian fable about a handsome prince drawn to an enchanted garden by the exotic Firebird, who helps the prince free his beloved princess from the spell of an evil ogre. In the *Berceuse*, the Firebird sends the ogre into a deep sleep; in the celebratory Finale, the characters rejoice over their defeat of evil—a fitting ending to a magical program.

### **About the Artists**

Praised as "an ideal music director whose infectious energy is as contagious as her exuberant and thoroughly committed musicianship," **ELIZABETH SCHULZE** is music director of the Maryland Symphony Orchestra. She is artistic director of the Flagstaff Symphony and principal guest conductor of the Hudson Valley Philharmonic. Schulze has been associate conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra, music director of the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra in Iowa, assistant conductor of the Buffalo Philharmonic and assistant conductor of the Aspen Music Festival. She was music director of the Kenosha Symphony Orchestra in Wisconsin for seven seasons. She has recently been a conducting assistant and cover conductor for the New York Philharmonic.

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She has appeared with orchestras and opera companies including the Jerusalem, Detroit, San Francisco, Boston, Milwaukee, Colorado, Annapolis and Anchorage Symphony Orchestras; Buffalo and Tulsa Philharmonics; Chicago Sinfonietta, Baltimore Chamber Orchestra, Chicago Civic Orchestra, Tulsa Opera and Colorado Opera Troupe. She has been a guest assistant conductor at the Paris Opera.

The Tanglewood Fellow was the recipient of the first Aspen Music School Conducting Award in 1991. An honors graduate of Interlochen Arts Academy and Bryn Mawr College, she holds graduate degrees in Orchestral and Choral Conducting from SUNY at Stony Brook. The first doctoral fellow in Orchestral Conducting at Northwestern University, she has been a Conducting Fellow at Les Écoles d'Art Americaines in France, as well as at prestigious music festivals in America.

**JONATHAN HOGAN** has appeared on Broadway in *Comedians*, *Otherwise Engaged*, *Fifth of July*, *The Caine Mutiny* *Court Martial*, *As Is* (Tony and Drama Desk nominations), *Burn This*, *Taking Steps* and *The Homecoming*. As a member of Circle Rep, Hogan has also appeared in *The Hot I Baltimore*, *The Mound Builders* and *Balm in Gilead*. Other performances off Broadway include *Getting Out*, *The Red Address*, *Book of Days*, *In the Matter of J. Robert Oppenheimer*, *The Madras House* and *The Conscientious Objector*. Regionally, he has acted at the McCarter Theatre, George Street Playhouse, La Jolla Playhouse, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Hartford Stage and Berkshire Theatre Festival.

Films include *In Country*, *The House on Carroll Street*, *A Fish in the Bathtub* and *Revolution #9*. On television, he has been seen on “As the World Turns,” “One Life to Live,” “Law & Order,” “Law & Order: SVU,” “Law & Order: Criminal Intent,” “Law & Order: Trial by Jury,” “L.A. Law,” “Quantum Leap” and several “Movies of the Week.” Hogan is a graduate of The Goodman Theatre and School of Drama.

### **The Best of ... Series**

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra is unique among major American ensembles in bringing its programs to a diverse array of communities around the state. In keeping with this mission, last season, the NJSO added a new series titled **Best of ...**, creating fresh opportunities for New Jersey listeners to hear the orchestra’s core repertoire—along with unknown gems—in a new format. The series has been an immediate success, exceeding projected ticket sales.

Best of ... programs are thematically based, offering both connoisseurs and newcomers an opportunity to experience the joys of classical music. Narrative and theatrical elements provide

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context and entertainment. Each Best of ... program lasts approximately 75 minutes, offering complete works and movements—some familiar, some rare and unusual. Best of ... programs for the 2009–10 season include “Best of Tchaikovsky,” “Best of Italian Opera,” “Best of Fairy Tales” and “Best of Composers at the Keyboard.”

For more information about Best of ... programs, visit [www.njsymphony.org/bestof](http://www.njsymphony.org/bestof).

### **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. Education and outreach programs enrich the listening experience for children and adults alike. The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra Broadcast Series, presented in part by the Merck Company Foundation, is a syndicated radio program broadcast regionally and throughout North America. Continental Airlines is the official airline of the NJSO.

For more information about the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, visit [www.njsymphony.org](http://www.njsymphony.org) or e-mail [information@njsymphony.org](mailto:information@njsymphony.org). Tickets are available for purchase by phone 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476) or on the Orchestra’s website.

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, along with many other foundations, corporations and individual donors.

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