

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



JACQUES LACOMBE MUSIC DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENTS *PETER AND THE WOLF* FAMILY CONCERT



**BOB MCGRATH OF 'SESAME STREET' NARRATES
PROKOFIEV'S CLASSIC TALE**

**GREATER NEWARK YOUTH ORCHESTRA JOINS NJSO FOR
SELECTIONS FROM STRAVINSKY'S *FIREBIRD***

**INTERACTIVE PRE-CONCERT ADVENTURES BRING
YOUNG CONCERTGOERS CLOSER TO THE MUSIC**

SAT, FEB 9 | NJPAC IN NEWARK

NEWARK, NJ (January 18, 2013)—The **New Jersey Symphony Orchestra** presents *Peter and the Wolf*—the second program of the 2012–13 Family concert series—on **Saturday, February 9, at 2 pm** at the **New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC)** in Newark. **Bob McGrath** of “Sesame Street” fame narrates Prokofiev’s classic tale.

The concert is the annual “side-by-side” concert for the NJSO’s celebrated **Greater Newark Youth Orchestra (GNYO)**; the student orchestra will perform alongside the NJSO for “Infernal Dance” and “Berceuse and Finale” from Stravinsky’s *The Firebird*. The program, which also features the *Allegro molto* from Rimsky-Korsakov’s *Scheherazade*, is the NJSO’s fifth annual Gretchen Lochner Gonzales Memorial Family Concert, which honors the late NJSO cellist. **Constantine Kitsopoulos** conducts.

Interactive Pre-Concert Adventures begin at 1 pm in the Prudential Hall lobby. The activities, which are free to all ticketholders, include ready-to-play child-sized orchestral instruments provided by Touch the Music with Claudia Baumgaertner Lemmerz, allowing young concertgoers to play the instruments.

Pre-concert activities also include a craft station, photo booth and a station at which children can practice tying knots like the ones Peter used to capture the wolf in the classic story.

TICKETS

All tickets for *Peter and the Wolf* are \$15 and are available for purchase online at www.njsymphony.org or by phone at 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476).

THE PROGRAM

PETER AND THE WOLF

Saturday, February 9 at 2 pm | NJPAC in Newark

Constantine Kitsopoulos, conductor
Bob McGrath, narrator
Greater Newark Youth Orchestra
New Jersey Symphony Orchestra

RIMSKY-KORSAKOV *Allegro molto* from *Scheherazade*, Op. 35
PROKOFIEV *Peter and the Wolf*, Op. 67
STRAVINSKY “Infernal Dance” and “Berceuse and Finale” from *The Firebird*

Pre-Concert Adventures begin at 1 pm in the lobby and are free to ticketholders.

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 fifth annual Gretchen Lochner Gonzales Memorial Concert features the NJSO’s Greater Newark Youth Orchestra, a hallmark of the Orchestra’s education programs, performing selected works side-by-side with the NJSO.

THE ARTISTS

Constantine Kitsopoulos, conductor

Conductor Constantine Kitsopoulos’ career spans the worlds of opera, symphony and musical theater. He is music director of the Queens Symphony Orchestra and general director of Chatham Opera, which he founded in 2005. He serves as music director of the Festival of the Arts BOCA, an extraordinary multi-day cultural arts event for South Florida, and was recently appointed artistic director of the OK Mozart Festival, Oklahoma’s premier music festival.

2012–13 season highlights include engagements with the North Carolina Symphony and Boca Raton Symphonia. A frequent guest conductor at Indiana University, he leads its orchestra in a performance of Schumann’s Fourth Symphony and the Opera Theater in a production of Verdi’s *Falstaff* this season.

He has led the Calgary and Tokyo Philharmonics; Baltimore, Colorado, Detroit, Houston, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and San Francisco Symphony Orchestras; New York Pops Orchestra and Russian National Orchestra, among others.

Operatic highlights include productions of *The Merry Widow*, *Faust* and *Madame Butterfly* with Dicapo Opera Theatre; *Amahl and the Night Visitors* with Chatham Opera; *Carmen* with Hong Kong Municipal Opera and *Orfeo ed Euridice* at Alice Tully Hall. He served as music director and created the orchestrations for the world-premiere production of Ed Dixon’s *Fanny Hill* at the Goodspeed Opera House.

Kitsopoulos was conductor and musical director of the Tony-nominated musical *A Catered Affair*. He conducted the Tony-nominated musical *Coram Boy* and the American Conservatory Theatre’s production of Kurt Weill’s *Happy End*. He was music director and principal conductor of Baz Luhrmann’s acclaimed production of *La bohème*, recording the production for Dreamworks.

Bob McGrath, narrator

Bob McGrath is in his 43rd season as the music teacher on “Sesame Street.” He has recorded seven children’s albums on his Bob’s Kids Music label; “The Baby Record” and “Sing Me a Story” have won Parents Choice Awards and The Children’s Music Web Award. He has appeared with more than 100 symphony orchestras in the United States and

Canada. To help keep music alive in early childhood classrooms, McGrath has presented keynotes and workshops for thousands of teachers at national conventions for the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

McGrath narrates the “Sesame Street” mobile app “Elmo’s Big Birthday Bash,” and he recently recorded six e-books for Random House. He has authored eight books including “Uh-Oh Gotta Go” on potty training and “Oops, Excuse Me Please” on manners. His “Rhythm Band Set” is a Parent’s Choice Award winner. McGrath co-authored a professional-development DVD and CD about how pre-K and first-grade teachers can use music to develop students’ literacy skills.

McGrath was the featured male soloist for NBC’s “Sing Along With Mitch;” he was a Japanese teen sensation known as “Bobu Magulas” for three years and nine tours. He hosted the World Children’s Day at the United Nations. McGrath received a bachelor’s degree in music from the University of Michigan and a master’s degree from the Manhattan School of Music.

Greater Newark Youth Orchestra

Established in 1990, the NJSO’s Greater Newark Youth Orchestras give qualified middle- and high-school students—especially minority youth—the opportunity to study for as many as 21 weeks with NJSO musicians and gain performance experience in an encouraging and motivating environment. The program is comprised of three separate ensembles (the Greater Newark Youth Orchestra, Greater Newark Chamber Orchestra and Greater Newark Violin Ensemble) that perform two full concerts each year. Additionally, the Youth Orchestra performs a side-by-side concert with the NJSO.

In addition to developing musical talent, the students gain critical life skills including teamwork, leadership, problem solving and multi-tasking. The significance and achievements of this program and its impact on the lives of these young musicians have received national recognition from the President’s Committee on the Arts and Humanities.

Combined, each season the three ensembles typically serve more than 130 students ages 10–18, representing 11 counties throughout northern and central New Jersey.

For high-resolution artist photos, full bios and program notes, visit www.njsymphony.org/pressroom.

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. 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 outstanding venues throughout the state. Education and community engagement programs enrich the listening experience for children and adults alike. Select performances of the NJSO are broadcast regionally and throughout North America.

The 2012–13 Family Concert Series is sponsored by Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey.

For more information about the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, visit www.njsymphony.org or email 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. United is the official airline of the NJSO.

PRESS CONTACT

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