

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
PRESENTS ANNUAL SPRING INTO MUSIC GALA:  
'AN EVENING OF GERSHWIN'  
GOVERNOR CHRIS CHRISTIE & FIRST LADY MARY PAT CHRISTIE  
ARE HONORARY GALA CHAIRS  
PNC—REPRESENTED BY DARIA PLACITELLA & LINDA BOWDEN—  
AND ROBERT C. & MARY ELLEN WAGGONER ARE GALA HONOREES**

**SAT, APR 20, AT 5 PM  
NJPAC IN NEWARK**

NEWARK, NJ (March 8, 2013)—The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra hosts **Spring into Music**, its annual spring fundraising event, on **Saturday, April 20, at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) in Newark**. The event—"An Evening of Gershwin"—includes cocktails, dinner and a silent auction, followed by an NJSO POPS concert featuring the music of George Gershwin, conducted by Gerald Steichen. **New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and First Lady Mary Pat Christie** are honorary gala chairs.

NJSO Board of Trustees Co-Chairs Ruth Lipper and Stephen Sichak Jr. said: "We are honored by Governor Chris Christie and First Lady Mary Pat Christie's support of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. This annual gala raises funds necessary for the Orchestra to continue to bring artistic, education and community engagement programs to audiences, students and communities across the state—activities that are valued by the Governor and First Lady."

The evening's honorees are **PNC—represented by NJSO trustees Daria Placitella and Linda Bowden—and NJSO life trustee Robert C. Waggoner and his wife, Mary Ellen**. The Orchestra recognizes the honorees for their extraordinary support of and dedication to the NJSO and the arts, education and community development in New Jersey.

Lipper and Sichak said: "The NJSO is proud to honor PNC for its many years of exceptional support of the NJSO—especially our music education and community outreach initiatives in the Greater Newark area—and for its commitment to early childhood education and community and economic development, including arts and culture. As Trustees representing PNC on the NJSO Board, Linda Bowden and Daria Placitella have each given the Orchestra more than 10 years of service.

"We are also proud to honor Bob and Mary Ellen Waggoner for their many years of exceptional support of and service to the NJSO. After 33 years serving on the NJSO Board of Trustees—including three as President—Bob was elevated to the new status of Life Trustee in September 2012."

The Orchestra's third NJSO POPS concert of the season caps the evening. Steichen returns to the NJSO stage to lead the Orchestra in Gershwin favorites including *An American in Paris*, selections from *Porgy and Bess* and *Girl Crazy* and songs

such as “Embraceable You,” “Someone to Watch Over Me,” “S Wonderful” and more. Soprano Katrina Thurman and baritone Jim Weitzer join Steichen and the Orchestra on stage.

All proceeds from the gala event will support the NJSO as it enriches lives through outstanding artistic, music education and community engagement programs.

### **EVENT TICKETS AND PACKAGES**

#### **Event Ticket – \$1,250 per person**

Admission for one person to the cocktail reception, silent auction, dinner and performance.

*Each event ticket includes a \$950 donation.*

#### **“Embraceable You” Event Sponsor – \$10,000**

An invitation for four guests; prime seating for the concert; special recognition as an Event Sponsor on event materials; a full-page color ad prominently placed in the event journal.

*Package includes an \$8,800 donation.*

#### **“Strike up the Band” Event Sponsor – \$15,000**

An invitation for six guests; prime seating for the concert; special recognition as an Event Sponsor on event materials; a full-page color ad prominently placed in the event journal.

*Package includes a \$13,200 donation.*

#### **“Fascinating Rhythm” Table Sponsor – \$25,000**

An invitation for 10 guests (one table); prime seating for the concert; prominent recognition as a Table Sponsor on event materials; premier placement of a full-page color ad in the event journal.

*Package includes a \$22,000 donation.*

For further event information or to purchase tickets, packages or journal ads, contact Alice Golembo, Senior Manager of Special Events, at 973.735.1729 or [agolembo@njsymphony.org](mailto:agolembo@njsymphony.org).

#### **Concert Tickets – starting at \$20**

Concert tickets start at \$20 and are available for purchase online at [www.njsymphony.org](http://www.njsymphony.org) or by phone at 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476).

### **CONCERT PROGRAM**

#### **NJSO POPS: ‘S WONDERFUL! ‘S MARVELOUS! GERSHWIN!**

Saturday, April 20 at 8 pm | NJPAC in Newark

Gerald Steichen, conductor

Katrina Thurman, soprano

Jim Weitzer, baritone

New Jersey Symphony Orchestra

George Gershwin’s incredible melodies filled the concert halls and Broadway stages. This NJSO POPS program features favorites including *An American in Paris*, selections from *Porgy and Bess* and *Girl Crazy* and songs such as “Embraceable You,” “Someone to Watch Over Me,” “S Wonderful” and more.

### **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.

For more information about the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, visit [www.njsymphony.org](http://www.njsymphony.org) or email [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. United is the official airline of the NJSO.

**PRESS CONTACT**

*National & NYC Press Representative:*

Dan Dutcher, Dan Dutcher Public Relations | 917.566.8413 | [dan@dandutcherpr.com](mailto:dan@dandutcherpr.com)

*Regional Press Representative:*

Victoria McCabe, NJSO Communications and External Affairs | 973.735.1715 | [vmccabe@njsymphony.org](mailto:vmccabe@njsymphony.org)

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