

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENTS 'DANCING AROUND THE WORLD' FAMILY CONCERT



**CONCERT FEATURES WORLD PREMIERES OF
NJSO YOUNG COMPOSERS PROJECT STUDENT WORKS
INTERACTIVE PRE-CONCERT ADVENTURE BRINGS
YOUNG CONCERTGOERS CLOSER TO THE MUSIC
NJSO EARLY STRINGS FOURTH GRADERS TO PERFORM
IN ANNUAL PRE-CONCERT FIDDLEFEST**

Sat, June 1 at NJPAC in Newark

NEWARK, NJ (April 24, 2013)—The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra presents **"Dancing Around the World"**—the finale of its 2012–13 Family concert series—on Saturday, June 1, at 2 pm at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) in Newark. NJSO Education & Community Engagement Conductor Jeffrey Grogan leads a program of dance music from cultures across the globe; performers from **DanceVision** add visual excitement. The program also features the **world-premiere concert performances of works by the student composers of the NJSO's Young Composers Project**—part of the Orchestra's New Jersey Roots Project.

Illustrating dances of different cultures worldwide, DanceVision performers join the NJSO for selections from Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*, Piazzolla's *Oblivion*, Gould's *Tap Dance Concerto*, Falla's *Spanish Dance No. 1* and Borodin's *Polovtsian Dances* from *Prince Igor*. The Orchestra also performs selections from Bernstein's *West Side Story*, Smetana's *Three Dances* from *The Bartered Bride*, Gounod's *Faust Ballet Music* and Arnold's *Four Scottish Dances*.

The winning **Young Composers Project** students—ninth grader Graham Cohen of South Orange, 12th grader Sahil Jindal of Dover and 11th grader Michael Parsons of Stirling—have met with acclaimed composer Behzad Ranjbaran for a series of workshops and one-on-one composition sessions to develop their original orchestral works. In addition to the premiere performances of the student works on the June 1 program, the NJSO will perform the compositions during the Orchestra's school-time Concerts for Young People series in May. The winning composers were selected from elementary-, middle- and high-school composers from all over the state.

“To offer these young composers access to a well-established composer and the opportunity to have this sort of experimentation [has been] an incredible fast-forward learning experience for them,” says Music Director Jacques Lacombe. “To give students opportunities to think and to dream, [and to help them] see this fascinating machine that is a symphony orchestra, is something they will never forget.”

An interactive **Pre-Concert Adventure** begins 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. Young concertgoers can also enjoy a craft station and photo booth.

In an annual showcase, fourth graders **from the NJSO Early Strings Program will perform for FiddleFest**; each fourth grader who has completed the NJSO's lauded educational program will receive a certificate of completion following their performance. Participating schools include Newark's 14th Avenue School, Franklin School, Harriet Tubman School, Maple Avenue School and Rafael Hernandez School. FiddleFest begins at 1 pm in the Prudential Hall lobby.

TICKETS

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

THE PROGRAM

Dancing Around the World

Saturday, June 1 at 2 pm | NJPAC in Newark

Jeffrey Grogan, conductor

DanceVision

New Jersey Symphony Orchestra

Program features selections from:

GOUNOD	<i>Faust</i> Ballet Music
ARNOLD	Four Scottish Dances
FALLA	Spanish Dance No. 1
BORODIN	Polovtsian Dances
SMETANA	Three Dances from <i>The Bartered Bride</i>
TCHAIKOVSKY	<i>The Nutcracker</i>
PIAZZOLLA	<i>Oblivion</i>
GOULD	Tap Dance Concerto
BERNSTEIN	<i>West Side Story</i>
Young Composers Project Winners	

Pre-Concert Adventure begins at 1 pm in the lobby; all ticketholders are welcome.

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

THE ARTISTS

Jeffrey Grogan, conductor

Applauded for performances “high in energy, with close attention to ebb and flow,” American conductor Jeffrey Grogan, New Jersey Symphony Orchestra Education & Community Engagement Conductor, is hailed as an innovative musical leader. His humanistic leadership style, coupled with a strong command of skills as a musical communicator, has earned him an impressive reputation with audiences and music programs throughout the country. Known for “shrewd programming, skillful rehearsing and an energized performance,” Grogan participated in the prestigious Bruno Walter National Conductor Preview—a showcase appearance with the Nashville Symphony—sponsored by the League of American Orchestras.

Grogan considers his work with young musicians one of the cornerstones of his career. He serves as conductor and Artistic Director of the Greater Newark Youth Orchestras, the InterSchool Orchestras of New York and the New Jersey Youth Symphony. In addition, he spends a large portion of each season working with school music programs and festivals; he conducts All-State Orchestras throughout the country.

Prior to his appointment with the NJSO, Grogan was Director of Orchestras and Associate Professor at the Ithaca College School of Music in New York. In addition to leading Ithaca’s graduate orchestral conducting program, he led the orchestra in its Lincoln Center-Avery Fisher Hall debut and led the ensemble in its most recent concert programs in the United Kingdom. Grogan was previously on faculty at the University of Michigan and Baylor University. 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.

DanceVision

DanceVision returns to the NJSO stage for a program celebrating the links between music and dance—the latest in a series of successful artistic collaborations between the two groups. Founded in 2005 by Artistic Director and choreographer Risa Kaplowitz and choreographer Susan Jaffe, two accomplished dance artists, DanceVision Performance Company made its performance debut in December 2007. Since then, the company has enchanted audiences with two productions each year. Past performances have included *The Nutcracker*, choreographed by Jaffe, and *The Secret Garden*, an original ballet choreographed by Kaplowitz. Serving its mission of fostering the artistic development of young people, DanceVision has reached out to the New Jersey community with in-school and after-school programs, as well as outreach and professional development projects in schools. Jaffe is a world-renowned former principal dancer with American Ballet Theater, and Kaplowitz is a former principal dancer with the Dayton Ballet and Manhattan Ballet who has also danced with companies including the Metropolitan Opera Ballet.

High-resolution artist photos and bios are available at 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.

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.

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