

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA HOSTS
COLLEGE NIGHT AT VERDI *REQUIEM* PERFORMANCE
APRIL 5 AT THE STATE THEATRE IN NEW BRUNSWICK**



**\$10 STUDENT TICKETS INCLUDE EXCLUSIVE POST-CONCERT PARTY
WITH ENTERTAINMENT BY STUDENT PERFORMERS**

**NJSO TO PROVIDE FREE ROUND-TRIP BUS TRANSPORTATION FROM
SELECT NEW JERSEY COLLEGES**

TWEET SEATS OFFER OPPORTUNITY FOR SOCIAL-MEDIA COMMENTARY

Sat, Apr 5, at the State Theatre in New Brunswick

NEWARK, NJ (March 10, 2014)—The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra hosts its third and final College Night of the 2013–14 season on Saturday, April 5, at the State Theatre in New Brunswick—the Orchestra’s first College Night event at the New Brunswick concert hall. A special \$10 student ticket includes entrance to the NJSO’s 8 pm performance of Verdi’s *Requiem* and a post-concert all-student party with light refreshments and live entertainment provided by performing groups from various New Jersey colleges and universities.

The NJSO will provide free round-trip bus transportation to the concert from select New Jersey college campuses. Pick-up times and locations will be posted at www.njsymphony.org/college as buses become available.

The Orchestra has set aside a block of tickets as Tweet Seats, from which college students can post live concert commentary on social media. The NJSO ([@NJSymphony](https://twitter.com/NJSymphony)) will tweet live commentary during the performance.

The NJSO’s first two College Nights of the season brought more than 200 students to NJPAC in Newark across concerts on November 1 and March 2. Over the two performances, attendees included students from the College of Saint Elizabeth, Rutgers’ Mason Gross School of the Arts, William Paterson University, New Jersey Institute of Technology,

Rutgers–Newark, Kean University, Drew University, Caldwell College, Essex County College, Ramapo College, Rider University and Seton Hall University, as well as students from Mercy College in New York, Chipola College in Florida and the University of Wisconsin.

The April 5 concert program features Music Director Jacques Lacombe conducting Verdi’s mammoth *Requiem* with soprano Marianne Fiset, mezzo-soprano Janara Kellerman, tenor Russell Thomas, bass Peter Volpe and the Montclair State University Chorale. Thomas returns to NJSO stages after *The Star-Ledger* praised his “compelling performance” of Mahler’s *Das Lied von der Erde* with the Orchestra in January, noting his “bright, cutting and expressive” tenor.

Fittingly, the NJSO’s College Night program features the Montclair State University Chorale, a Garden State university ensemble with whom the Orchestra has had a long artistic relationship. “We’ve had many performing experiences with Montclair State’s choral ensembles and with Heather, who is one of the best chorus masters with whom I’ve ever worked,” Lacombe says. “The chorus has a real energy and spontaneity of youth—we are fortunate to have a chorus at such a high level as one of our partners.”

Verdi masterfully deals with a requiem’s subject matter, the music director says: “It has all the elements that come with dealing with the end of one’s life. There is a powerful sincerity in this piece.

“Verdi’s work is one of the most theatrical requiems of all time—Verdi was, first of all, a man of the theater, and special moments like the trumpet fanfare come from [that tradition]. You have to experience the *Requiem’s Dies Irae* at least once in your life—to be in a concert hall and hear its shocks, its big slams.”

Program notes and additional concert information are available at www.njsymphony.org/events/detail/verdis-requiem. For more information on College Night, visit www.njsymphony.org/college.

TICKETS

College Night student tickets are \$10 and include the concert and post-concert party. Regular concert tickets start at \$20. Student tickets are available for purchase online at www.njsymphony.org/college (using promo code COLLEGE14) or by phone at 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476); Tweet Seats are available by phone only.

College students interested in performing at the post-concert party can contact Rebecca Ludkiewicz, Marketing and Social Media Manager, at rludkiewicz@njsymphony.org or 973.735.1716.

Alumni groups interested in meeting and networking with current college students prior to the concert and at intermission can contact Terri Campbell, Sales Consultant, for group rates and sales at tcampbell@njsymphony.org or 973.735.1717.

THE PROGRAM

Verdi’s Requiem

Thursday, April 3 at 1:30 pm | NJPAC in Newark

Saturday, April 5 at 8 pm | State Theatre in New Brunswick

Sunday, April 6 at 3 pm | Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown

Jacques Lacombe, conductor

Marianne Fiset, soprano

Janara Kellerman, mezzo-soprano

Russell Thomas, tenor

Peter Volpe, bass

Montclair State University Chorale | Heather J. Buchanan director

New Jersey Symphony Orchestra

VERDI *Requiem*

This concert is performed without intermission.

The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey is concert sponsor of the April 3 performance.

Program notes and additional information is available at www.njsymphony.org/events/detail/verdis-requiem.

THE ARTISTS

Jacques Lacombe, conductor

A remarkable conductor whose artistic integrity and rapport with orchestras have propelled him to international stature, Jacques Lacombe has been Music Director of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra since 2010 and Orchestre Symphonique de Trois-Rivières since 2006. He was previously Principal Guest Conductor of the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal and Music Director of orchestra and opera with the Philharmonie de Lorraine.

Lacombe has garnered critical praise for his creative programming and leadership of the NJSO. The Orchestra's acclaimed "Man & Nature" Winter Festivals have featured innovative programs, including a realization of Scriabin's "color organ." He created the New Jersey Roots Project, presenting music by New Jersey composers. *The New York Times* wrote, "It was an honor to be in the hall" for Lacombe and the NJSO's performance at the 2012 Spring for Music Festival at Carnegie Hall.

This season, Lacombe's NJSO highlights include the world premieres of an NJSO commission by Geri Allen and a new work by Lowell Liebermann and the U.S. premiere of Tan Dun's Earth Concerto. He conducts the Montréal, Québec and Columbus Symphony Orchestras, returns to the Opéra de Monte-Carlo for *La Favorite* with tenor Juan Diego Florez and leads Chausson's *Le roi Arthur* in Strasbourg.

He has appeared with the Cincinnati, Toronto, Vancouver and New Zealand Symphony Orchestras and National Arts Centre Orchestra of Ottawa. He is a frequent guest conductor in France, Spain and Australia and has led tours and recordings with the National Youth Orchestra of Canada.

Opera highlights include all-star productions of *La bohème* and *Tosca* at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, numerous productions with the Deutsche Oper Berlin and engagements with the Metropolitan Opera and opera houses in Marseille and Turin. He has recorded for the CPO and Analekta labels; he has recorded Orff's *Carmina Burana* and Janáček's Suite from *The Cunning Little Vixen* with the NJSO. His performances have been broadcast on PBS, the CBC, Mezzo TV and Arte TV, among others.

Born in Cap-de-la-Madeleine, Québec, Lacombe attended the Conservatoire de Musique de Montréal and Hochschule für Musik in Vienna. He was named a Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Québec in 2012 and a Member of the Order of Canada in 2013—among the highest civilian honors in the country.

Marianne Fiset, soprano

Since soprano Marianne Fiset was awarded five top prizes from the Montreal International Music Competition, including the First Grand Prize and People's Choice Award, she has been hailed by critics and audiences alike.

She sang the role of Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni* for the operas of Tours and Reims and Verdi's *Requiem* with the Orchestre symphonique de Trois-Rivières in 2013. She reprises the role of Donna Elvira for her debut in Wuppertal, Germany, in the fall of 2014. She has had great success as Mimi in *La Bohème* for the Sankt Margarethen Opernfestspiele in Austria and the Calgary, Vancouver, Tampa and Montreal opera companies. She recently covered the role of Mimi at the Metropolitan Opera and will perform and record Honegger and Ibert's *L'Aiglon* for the Montreal Symphony. Concert engagements have taken her to Madrid, Toronto, Quebec City and Washington, DC, for such works as Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, Verdi's *Requiem* and Mahler's Symphony No. 4.

Janara Kellerman, mezzo-soprano

Mezzo-soprano Janara Kellerman is quickly making a name for herself among opera lovers and critics alike. Most recent performances include her role debut as Santuzza in *Cavalleria rusticana* with Music Viva Hong Kong, the Old Lady in *Candide* with Fresno Grand Opera, Little Buttercup in *H.M.S. Pinafore* with Opera Saratoga and Lyric Opera San Antonio, *Zemire und Azor* with the Liederkrantz Oper, a return to New York City Opera for its production of *Antony and Cleopatra* and a concert tour in Switzerland.

Concert performances have included Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 in her Avery Fisher Hall debut, Azucena in *Il Trovatore* in concert with the Westfield Symphony, Mahler's Second Symphony with Dubuque Symphony Orchestra and the soloist in a concert with the Continuo Arts Foundation.

Russell Thomas, tenor

A native of Miami, tenor Russell Thomas is quickly establishing himself as one of the most exciting vocal and dramatic talents on the international opera and concert scene. His current season includes concert performances of Adams' *Gospel According to the Other Mary* at the Ravinia Festival, Verdi's *I Masnadieri* with Washington Concert Opera, the title role of Verdi's *Don Carlos* in his Deutsche Oper Berlin debut, Andres in *Wozzeck* with the Metropolitan Opera, the title role in *The Tales of Hoffmann* with the Seattle Opera and the Prince in *Rusalka* with Opera North Carolina.

Thomas is an alumnus of the prestigious Lindemann Young Artist Development Program of the Metropolitan Opera. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree in performance from the New World School of the Arts.

Peter Volpe, bass

American bass Peter Volpe continually receives critical and popular acclaim on four continents. Possessing a vast and ever-expanding repertoire of more than 80 roles in six languages, he is noted for his captivating style and interpretive skill.

This season's engagements include Marquis of Calatrava and Guardiano (cover) in *La forza del destino* with Washington National Opera, Philip II in *Don Carlos* with Vancouver Opera and Austin Lyric Opera, Raimondo in *Lucia di Lammermoor* with Portland Opera and an all-Verdi concert with the Washington Chorus at the Kennedy Center. Volpe made his notable Metropolitan Opera debut in its new production of Prokofiev's *War and Peace* and has returned for Berlioz's *Les Troyens*, Strauss' *Salome*, Mussorgsky's *Boris Godunov*, *Falstaff*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *Romeo et Juliette*, *Aida*, *I Vespri Siciliani*, *Cyrano di Bergerac*, *Andrea Chenier* and *Carmen*.

Montclair State University Chorale | Heather J. Buchanan director

Montclair State University Chorale is the core choir in the John J. Cali School of Music. The Chorale comprises music students majoring in performance, music education, music therapy and composition, as well as non-music majors. Their accompanist is Steven W. Ryan. Previous NJSO highlights include Howard Shore's Academy Award-winning *The Lord of the Rings Symphony*, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and Verdi's epic *Requiem* under the baton of Neeme Järvi. The Chorale's highly acclaimed performances of Orff's *Carmina Burana* with Jacques Lacombe were celebrated with a limited-edition CD release in September 2011.

In May 2011, the women of the Chorale performed Mahler's Symphony No. 3 with the NJSO and the American Boy Choir. Other Chorale highlights include requiems by Fauré and Duruflé, Poulenc's *Gloria*, Britten's *Saint Nicholas*, Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem* and the regional premiere of *Parables* for the 2011 Crawford Concert in collaboration with the MSU Symphony Orchestra.

Australian-born conductor Heather J. Buchanan, PhD, is professor of music and director of choral activities at Montclair State University, where she conducts the Chorale, University Singers and Vocal Accord. Choirs under her direction have won critical acclaim and have collaborated with world-renowned artists including Meredith Monk, Richard Alston, Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin, Tarik O'Regan and Chen Yi. Buchanan is co-editor and compiler of the landmark GIA Publications choral series *Teaching Music through Performance in Choir* and has released a DVD, *Evoking Sound: Body Mapping & Gesture Fundamentals*.

A licensed Andover educator, Buchanan specializes in the teaching of body mapping for musicians and holds degrees from the University of New England in Australia, Westminster Choir College of Rider University and the Queensland Conservatorium at Griffith University in Australia. A vibrant teacher, dynamic performer and passionate advocate for musicians' health, she is in demand as a guest conductor, somatic educator and choral clinician in the United States and abroad.

THE NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Named “a vital, artistically significant musical organization” by *The Wall Street Journal*, the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra embodies that vitality through its statewide presence and critically acclaimed performances, education partnerships and unparalleled access to music and the Orchestra's superb musicians.

Under the bold leadership of Music Director Jacques Lacombe, the NJSO presents classical, pops and family programs, as well as outdoor summer concerts and special events. Embracing its legacy as a statewide orchestra, the NJSO is the resident orchestra of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark and regularly performs at the State Theatre in New Brunswick, Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank, Richardson Auditorium in Princeton, Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown and bergenPAC in Englewood. Partnerships with New Jersey arts organizations, universities and civic organizations remain a key element of the Orchestra's statewide identity.

In addition to its lauded artistic programming, the NJSO presents a suite of education and community engagement programs that promote meaningful, lifelong engagement with live music. Programs include the three-ensemble Greater Newark Youth Orchestras, school-time Concerts for Young People performances and multiple initiatives that provide and promote in-school instrumental instruction. The NJSO's Resources for Education and Community Harmony (REACH) chamber music program annually brings original programs—designed and performed by NJSO musicians—to a variety of settings, reaching as many as 17,000 people in nearly all of New Jersey's 21 counties.

For more information about the NJSO, 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, along with many other foundations, corporations and individual donors. United is the official airline of the NJSO.

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