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NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENTS *THE WIZARD OF OZ* WITH LIVE ORCHESTRAL ACCOMPANIMENT



**NJSO PERFORMS FULL FILM SCORE AT SCREENING OF THE CLASSIC 1939 FILM
PRE-CONCERT FESTIVITIES INCLUDE COSTUME CONTEST,
DANCING AND SING-ALONG OF OZ TUNES**

STATE THEATRE CO-PRESENTS NEW BRUNSWICK PERFORMANCE

**Sat, Apr 26, at NJPAC in Newark
Sun, Apr 27, at State Theatre in New Brunswick**

NEWARK, NJ (March 17, 2014)—The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra presents *The Wizard of Oz* with live orchestral accompaniment on April 26 and 27 in Newark and New Brunswick. Conductor Constantine Kitsopoulos returns to lead the NJSO in Harold Arlen's full film score as the movie screens above the stage in the Orchestra's third NJSO POPS program of the season.

The American Film Institute named the classic 1939 musical film, which celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, the sixth greatest American movie of all time. Critic Roger Ebert writes: "The *Wizard of Oz* fills such a large space in our imagination. It somehow seems real and important in a way most movies don't ... 'The *Wizard of Oz*' has a wonderful surface of comedy and music, special effects and excitement, but we still watch it [decades] later because its underlying story penetrates straight to the deepest insecurities of childhood, stirs them and then reassures them."

Of the experience of seeing *The Wizard of Oz* with an orchestra performing the film score live, *The Washington Post* writes: "having the music in the foreground of the film brought out elements and moments that usually go unnoticed."

From the frightening tarantella of the Wicked Witch to the melodies of ‘there’s no place like home,’ the threads of the film are woven together by the music.”

Performances take place on Saturday, April 26, (8 pm) at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) in Newark and Sunday, April 27, (3 pm) at the State Theatre in New Brunswick. The April 27 performance is presented in collaboration with the State Theatre.

Attendees can dress up as favorite *Wizard of Oz* characters to participate in a pre-concert costume contest—with prize categories for adults and children—in the concert-hall lobby. Other special festivities also precede each concert. Patrons can dance to the swinging sounds of the Michael Arenella Sextet in the NJPAC lobby on April 26 and can join in on a sing-along of songs from both *The Wizard of Oz* and the Harold Arlen songbook at the State Theatre on April 27. In February, nearly 300 attendees of the Orchestra’s Beatles-themed pops concerts with Classical Mystery Tour enjoyed the [pre-concert dancing and sing-along events](#).

TICKETS

Tickets start at \$20 and are available for purchase online at www.njsymphony.org, by phone at 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476) or in person. The NJSO ticket office is located at 60 Park Place, 9th floor, in Newark; tickets are available by phone or in person Monday–Friday, 9 am to 5 pm. Tickets are also available, by phone only, on concert-weekend Saturdays, 11 am to 5 pm. Tickets for the April 27 performance are also available from the State Theatre ticket office online at www.StateTheatreNJ.org, by phone at 732.246.SHOW (7469) or in person. The State Theatre ticket office is located at 15 Livingston Ave in New Brunswick—hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 10 am to 6 pm; Wednesday, 11 am to 7 pm; Saturday, 1 to 5 pm, and at least three hours prior to curtain on performance dates unless otherwise specified.

Additional information is available at www.njsymphony.org/events/detail/the-wizard-oz-with-orchestra.

SPRING INTO MUSIC GALA

The NJSO hosts its 2014 Spring into Music Gala on Saturday, April 26, at NJPAC in Newark. The event includes cocktails, dinner and a silent auction, followed by the *Wizard of Oz* NJSO POPS concert. The gala’s honorees are former Governor Brendan Byrne and his wife, Ruthi, in honor of the Governor’s 90th birthday. Governor Chris Christie and former Governors Richard J. Codey, Donald T. DiFrancesco, James J. Florio, Thomas H. Kean, James E. McGreevey and Christine Todd Whitman are honorary gala chairs. All proceeds from the gala event will support the NJSO as it enriches lives through its artistic, music education and community engagement programs.

More information about the gala is available at www.njsymphony.org/spring.

THE PROGRAM

The Wizard of Oz with Orchestra

Saturday, April 26, at 8 pm | NJPAC in Newark

Sunday, April 27, at 3 pm | State Theatre in New Brunswick

Constantine Kitsopoulos, conductor
New Jersey Symphony Orchestra

United Airlines—the official airline of the NJSO—is concert sponsor of the April 26 performance. The April 27 performance is presented in collaboration with the State Theatre. The pre-concert activities are generously sponsored by The Prudential Foundation.

THE ARTISTS

Constantine Kitsopoulos, conductor

Constantine Kitsopoulos has made a name for himself as a conductor whose musical experiences comfortably span the worlds of opera and symphony, conducting in such venues as Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall and Royal Albert Hall as well as leading orchestras in musical theater productions on Broadway.

Kitsopoulos is in his seventh year as music director of the Queens Symphony Orchestra and continues as 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 most recently appointed artistic director of the OK Mozart Festival in Oklahoma.

Kitsopoulos' 2013–14 season includes a highly anticipated New York Philharmonic debut and appearances with the San Francisco Symphony, Louisiana Philharmonic and Greater Bridgeport (CT) Symphony. A frequent guest conductor at Indiana University, he returns to IU for a production of Gilbert & Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore*.

Other recent highlights include appearances with the North Carolina Symphony, Boca Raton Symphonia for Beethoven's Eighth Symphony, Indiana University Symphony Orchestra for Schumann's Fourth Symphony, China's Macao Orchestra with Cuban band Tiempo Libre and summer concerts with the Houston Symphony and at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center with the Philadelphia Orchestra.

In addition to his symphonic work, Kitsopoulos maintains a busy opera schedule which has included Verdi's *Falstaff*, Bolcom's *A View from the Bridge*, Strauss' *Die Fledermaus* and Loesser's *The Most Happy Fella*. In the theater world, he served as music director and conductor of the Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*—the Tony Award-winning Broadway musical revival featuring Audra McDonald and Norm Lewis—as well as the Tony-nominated musicals *A Catered Affair* and *Coram Boy*.

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.

STATE THEATRE

The State Theatre is a premier nonprofit venue for the performing arts and entertainment. The theater exists to enrich people's lives, contribute to a vital urban environment and build future audiences by presenting the finest performing artists and entertainers and fostering lifetime appreciation for the performing arts through education. The State Theatre's programs are made possible in part by funding from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and contributions from numerous corporations, foundations and individuals.

PRESS CONTACT

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