

NJFO NEW JERSEY FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA

MUSIC DIRECTOR DAVID WROE

presents

SWING TIME



Funding has been made possible in part through a grant by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.



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NJFO NEW JERSEY FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA

DAVID WROE, Music Director and Conductor

Saturday, October 17, 2020 at 2pm

Hertel Gardens 241 E. Dudley Avenue, Westfield

SWING TIME

Little Brown Jug Bill Finegan/trad arr. Jeff Hest

Pennsylvania 6-5000 Jerry Gray arr. Jeff Hest

Cheek to Cheek Irving Berlin arr. Billy May
with Ms. Hill Jackson

Our Love is Here to Stay George Gershwin arr. Nelson Riddle
with Ms. Hill Jackson

It's Only a Paper Moon Harold Arlen arr. Billy May
with Ms. Hill Jackson

Moonlight Serenade Glen Miller arr. Jeff Hest

Chattanooga Choo Choo Harry Warren arr. Jeff Hest

On the Sunny Side of the Street Jimmy McHugh arr. Mark Taylor
with Ms. Hill Jackson

Fly Me to the Moon Bart Howard arr. Quincy Jones
with Ms. Hill Jackson

How Long Has This Been Going On? George Gershwin arr. Tommy Newsom

Sing, Sing, Sing Louis Prima arr. Jeff Hest



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DAVID WROE

Music Director & Conductor

Mr. Wroe is Music Director of the **New Jersey Festival Orchestra**, Principal Conductor at **Phoenicia International Festival of the Voice in New York**, and a regular conductor of **L'Orchestre Régional de Normandie** in France. From 2000-2014 he was a regular conductor with **New York City Opera**, leading and assisting in numerous productions. Orchestras conducted include the **Boston Symphony Orchestra**, **Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra**, **Royal Scottish National Orchestra**, **L'Orchestre National de Lille**, **New Jersey Symphony L'Ensemble de Paris**, **Symphony Nova Scotia**, **Kansas City Symphony**, **Santa Fe Symphony**, **New York City Ballet**, **Neue Brandenburg Symphony**, **L'Orchestra Lamoureux** with cellist **Mstislav Rostropovitch**, **Opera de Toulon**, **Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra**, **Das Loh-Orchester Sondershausen**, **Philharmonische Orchester der Stadt Heidelberg**, **Delaware**, **Harrisburg**, **Huntsville**, **De Moines Symphony**, and numerous tours of Western Austria with **Vorarlberg Symphony** and at the **Bregenz Frühlings Festival**. Maestro Wroe is a preferred conductor in Asia, having directed the **Taiwan National Symphony**, **Pusan Philharmonic**, **Macau**, **Shenzhen**, **Nanjing**, **Wuhan**, **Guiyang**, and **Taipei Symphony Orchestras**. He was Music Director of **Music on the Mountain: Garrett Lakes Arts Summer Festival** in Maryland from 2000 - 2006, and Music Director and Founder of the **Kansas City Camerata** from 1990-1996.

Maestro Wroe was **Seiji Ozawa's** Assistant Conductor at the **Boston Symphony Orchestra**, leading the Orchestra in **Tanglewood (with Joshua Bell)** and in **Boston's Symphony Hall (with Horacio Gutierrez)**, and touring Europe with the **Boston Symphony Orchestra Chamber Players**. 2007 marked Maestro Wroe's recording debuts with **L'Orchestre National de Lille** on the TransArt label with pianist **Bruno Fontaine**, and broadcast recordings, through **Austrian Broadcasting Authority (ORF)**, with the **Vorarlberg Symphony**.

In addition to his residency at **New York City Opera**, Maestro Wroe was **Resident Conductor at Oper der Stadt Heidelberg** (1998-2002), Principal Conductor at

Opera Delaware (2000 - 2005), and directed the summer '**Opera Under the Stars**' series at the 7000 seater **Garden State Arts Center in NJ**. From 2005-10 he was Music Director of **Opera Teatro Gratticielo** in NY, opened for the newly formed **Fresno International Grand Opera**, and served as Judge with **Anna Moffo** for the **Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions**.



Maestro Wroe, through the NJ Festival Orchestra, has diverse experience in cross-over genres, having collaborated with **Kristin Chenoweth**, **Mannheim Steamrollers**, **The 3 Irish Tenors**, **Natalie Merchant**, **Joan Rivers**, **Don Rickles**, **Bob Newhart**, **Jackie Evancho** and **Celtic Thunder**, and a return guest at **Ocean City Pops Orchestra**, to name but a few.

Maestro Wroe devotes considerable time to aspiring musicians. In 2014 he held a residency at **Brown University Symphony Orchestra (Rhode Island)** as its Interim Music Director, was Principal Conductor at **N.Y. University Symphony Orchestra** (2008-2011), and Director of Orchestras at **Montclair State University, NJ** (2000-2005). He led the **Boston Symphony Orchestra Youth Concerts**, the **Taipei Symphony Orchestra Summer Youth Festival**, and has taught and given master-classes at **New England Conservatory**, **Harvard University**, **Rutgers University** and **University of Alabama**. He has served as Judge for the **Music Assistance Fund** administered by the **League of American Orchestras**, and was the Chairman of the Jury of the New Jersey **MTA State Concerto Competition**.

Awards are numerous, including the **Seiji Ozawa Fellowship** at **Tanglewood**, a citation in **United States Congress** for community commitment, and finalist in the **1st Bernstein International Conducting Competition**. He attended Lancing College, has a BMus from Manchester University (England), a MM from Northwestern (Chicago), and studied with **Gustav Meier** and **Victor Yamposky**.

SPECIAL GUEST

ROSENA HILL JACKSON

Rosena Hill Jackson has performed at Carnegie Hall with The New York Pops; Teatro di Massimo Symphony Orchestra in Palermo, Sicily; Teatro di Lirico Symphony Orchestra and chorus in, Sardegna; Memphis Symphony Orchestra, Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra, Florida Sunshine Pops, Long Island Philharmonic, Sarasota Symphony, Cape Cod Symphony Orchestra, Hartford Symphony, Wheeling Symphony and in the cast of *Carousel* with the New York Philharmonic for PBS “Live at Lincoln Center.”

On Broadway, Rosena stepped into the role of Nettie Fowler in *Carousel*, after the departure of Renée Fleming. Mrs. Jackson was chosen by Harold Prince to be a part of the principle cast of *Prince Of Broadway*, produced by the Manhattan Theater Club. She has performed with Patti LaBelle, Tony Braxton, Baby Face, K.D. Lang, Vanessa Williams, Gladys Night and Fantasia in *After Midnight*, *Come Fly Away* (Featured Vocalist); *The Color Purple* (Church Lady) with Fantasia; Monty Python’s *Spamalot* (Lady of the Lake) with Tim Curry, David Hyde Pierce, Hank Azaria, Christopher Sieber; *Imaginary Friends* (Mrs. Stillman) with Swoosie Kurtz and Cherry Jones; *Oklahoma* (Ellen) 2002 revival with Patrick Wilson, Andrea Martin and Shuler Hensley; *Riverdance* on Broadway (Amanzi soloist); Marie Christine (Ophelia) with Audra McDonald and Vivian Reed and *Ragtime* (Sarah’s Friend) with LaChanze. On the 1st national tour of *Ragtime* (Sarah). Off-Broadway in *Cotton Club Parade* (Trio) at City Center with Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, *Lost in the Stars*

(Mrs. Mckezie) at City Center; *Tin Pan Alley Rag* (Monisha, Miss Lee, the Librarian and Nedda) at the *Roundabout*; and the *In Gathering*. Regional credits include in *And the World Goes Round* (Woman 1) at Pittsburgh Public Theater, *Man Of La Mancha* (Aldonza) at White Plains Performing Arts Center, *Baby* (Pam) at Papermill Playhouse, *Dreamgirls* (Michelle) at San Jose Repertory Theatre, Sacramento’s California Musical Theatre, Seattle’s 5th Avenue Theatre and North Carolina Theater, *Lucky Stiff* (Dominique du Monaco) at the York Theatre, *Imaginary Friends* (Soloist) at the Globe Theatre; *Cinderella*, *Chess*, *Gypsy*, *Kiss Me*, *Kate*, and *La Cage aux Folles* with the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, *Ballad of Baby Doe* (Meg) with the Opera Theatre of Pittsburgh, *Aint’ Misbehavin* (Armelia) at Playhouse on the Green, *Brief History of White Music* at Hanna Theater Cabaret , *1001 Nights* (Sophie) at George Street Playhouse, *Mandela* (Winnie Mandela) at Crossroads, *Carmen* and *La Boheme* with the Sarasota Opera. Rosena has performed internationally for three seasons with Queen Esther Marrow and the Harlem Gospel Singers & Band touring in Austria, Switzerland, Germany, France, Italy, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Portugal, Hungary and the Netherlands as a featured soloist. Rosena Hill Jackson is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University holding a BFA in Music.



A native of Sarasota, Florida, Rosena’s CD *If You Believe*, combines jazz, gospel, and show tunes in honor of her late father.

MUSICIANS

ALTO SAX 1

Steve Kenyon

ALTO SAX 2

Jeff Nichols

TENOR SAX 1

David Noland

TENOR SAX 2

John Disanto

BARI SAXOPHONE

Arlen Banta

TRUMPET 1

Chris Jaudes

TRUMPET 2

Tim Wendt

TRUMPET 3

Don Batchelder

TRUMPET 4

Andrew Kemp

TROMBONE 1

Jason Jackson

TROMBONE 2

Nicole Abissi

TROMBONE 3

Mike Lormand

TROMBONE 4

James Rogers

TRAP

Tom Mulvaney

KEYBOARD

Michael Tornick

BASS

Richard Sosinsky

MEET NJFO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR **ZACHARY S. BLUTNER**

Following an extensive search, Zachary S. Blutner has been named as NJFO's new Executive Director.

Mr. Blutner has nearly 20 years of experience in both non-profit and for-profit institutions in the tourism and hospitality industries. He comes to NJFO from Artechouse, New York, where, as General Manager, he directed all aspects of Budgeting, Sales, Marketing and Events.

Mr. Blutner is a native of New York City born and raised in Queens. After graduating from Forest Hills High School, he pursued a Bachelor's degree in Professional Studies at Purdue Global University and a Master's in Travel and Tourism Management from Temple University.

Zach started his career at the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum, overseeing their tour program upon re-opening in 2008. He prides himself on finding innovative ways to tell stories and bring people together through curated experiences.

In 2015, Mr. Blutner was hired as part of

the opening management team for One World Observatory, initially leading the City Pulse project and overseeing the VIP experience. In 2018 Zach was promoted to Director of Operations and Guest Experience. Under his leadership OWO earned its place atop the most visited tourist attractions in New York City.

Zach has a passion for live experiences and a love for music. Previously working in radio, he often can be found recommending a variety of artists over multiple genres. His wife Amanda is a music teacher in Elizabeth, NJ and an accomplished musician and choral conductor in her own right. Music plays a major role in their family life.

Zach and Amanda reside in Roselle Park, NJ with their children Eleanor and Alexander and dog Ringo.



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NEW JERSEY FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA

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