



NEWS RELEASE

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Hochstein Alumni Orchestra Performs Music of Nielsen, Dvořák, and Darvishi

*Free concert by former Hochstein students on January 6 features flutist
Katrina King Nicholson and the US premiere of a new work*

ROCHESTER, N.Y.— Alumni of The Hochstein School return to Rochester to present a free orchestral concert on **Friday, January 6, 2023 at 8:00 pm** in the Hochstein Performance Hall. Directed by **Evan Meccarello**, the **Hochstein Alumni Orchestra** (HAO) performs Nielsen’s delightful Flute Concerto, with soloist **Katrina King Nicholson**; Dvořák’s lively Symphony No. 8; and the US premiere of composer Aftab Darvishi’s piece *Toranj*, which means both “bergamot” and an intricate pattern of Persian weaving, as used in carpets.

The concert is free, with donations accepted to benefit Hochstein’s Tuition Assistance Program. **See below for performer bios and a calendar listing.** The concert will also be livestreamed on Hochstein’s YouTube channel at https://youtu.be/l6oK_jSaCFM.

Created in 2010 as a reunion of musicians with connections to Hochstein, the Hochstein Alumni Orchestra has reunited each year to present free, high-quality concerts. “The Hochstein School has a deep history of giving to the community,” said conductor Evan Meccarello, a Hochstein alumnus and Master of Music graduate of Bowling Green State University. “We see these free concerts as a way of giving back. With them, we honor Hochstein and we further its mission of bringing music to the Greater Rochester community.”

Members of the HAO have gone on to win international competitions, have received mention by music critic Alex Ross in *The New Yorker* magazine, and are members of professional orchestras including the Detroit Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic, Buffalo Philharmonic, and Fort Worth Symphony. Multiple live recordings of HAO have been featured on the radio through WXXI-FM’s *Performance Rochester* broadcast series.

Flutist **Katrina King Nicholson** is a native of Marion, NY, with bachelor's and master's degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music and a doctorate from the Shenandoah Conservatory. She is the winner of numerous competitions in the Rochester and Cleveland areas and has performed as soloist with groups including the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, Finger Lakes Symphony Orchestra, Case Baroque Orchestra, and Cleveland Institute of Music Symphony Orchestra. She has a special interest in music theory and historical performance, holding a music theory minor from CIM and Early Music Performers' Certificates from Case Western Reserve University. Dr. Nicholson is an active flute teacher and freelancer in the greater Washington, DC area and currently serves on the faculties of the International School of Music and the Sharyn Byer Institute of Fine Arts. Nicholson took private flute and piano lessons and music theory and history classes at Hochstein, and as a student also participated in ensembles including the Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra, Youth Wind Symphony, and flute choir.

Conductor **Evan Meccarello** is founder and director of the Hochstein Alumni Orchestra. Since 2010, he has led the group in world-premiere performances of Rochester composers and showcased talented musicians in a concert tour of the region. He was a member of the Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra in high school, serving as Co-Concertmaster and Apprentice Conductor. Meccarello is currently Music Director of the Binghamton Community Orchestra and Artistic Director of Cordancia Chamber Orchestra. When many musicians could not play together during the pandemic, he developed and led Music Outside the Box, an all-online festival for high school musicians that featured live virtual ensemble rehearsal and performance. The program was a National Finalist for The American Prize in virtual performance. Meccarello's conducting experience spans professional, collegiate, youth, and community ensembles. This season includes work as cover conductor for the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra (Wheeling, WV) and teaching conducting at Nazareth College. Uptown Tango is his ongoing project playing violin in an Argentine tango duo for dancers and listeners.

Photographs of the ensemble, director, and soloist are available in the Hochstein press photo folder on Google Drive:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B4qOTOGVRYOhRHZGRzJ2eDVUTkE?resourcekey=0-fqqftceHiuNfAXp1Ly0PFQ&usp=share_link

Hochstein programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature.

About Hochstein: The Hochstein School is a vibrant organization in Rochester, NY, offering high-quality instruction in music, dance, and expressive arts (music, art, and dance therapy). Established in 1920 to commemorate the artistry, life, and service of David Hochstein – a

prodigious violinist who died serving in World War I – the School welcomes students of all ages, abilities, proficiency levels, ethnicities, and socio-economic backgrounds in an inclusive and accessible environment that provides artistic opportunities for all. More than 100 years after its founding, Hochstein annually serves more than 3,000 students from a 12-county region surrounding Rochester. The School is active throughout the community and provides tuition assistance to more than 50% of its students. The acclaimed Hochstein Performance Hall, located within the school's historic downtown building, hosts concerts and events throughout the year. For more information, visit www.hochstein.org.

CALENDAR LISTING

Hochstein Alumni Orchestra Winter Concert

Friday, January 6, 2023; 8:00 pm; Hochstein Performance Hall; free, donations accepted to benefit Hochstein's Tuition Assistance Program

Former Hochstein students return to Rochester to present a free concert. Directed by Evan Meccarello, the Hochstein Alumni Orchestra performs Nielsen's delightful Flute Concerto, with Katrina King Nicholson as soloist; Dvořák's lively Symphony No. 8; and the US premiere of composer Aftab Darvishi's piece *Toranj*, which means both "bergamot" and an intricate pattern of Persian weaving, as used in carpets.

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