

# HOCHSTEIN

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023**

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## **Hochstein Alumni Orchestra Performs Music of Haydn, Mendelssohn, Wolf, and Dave Kluge**

*Free concert by former Hochstein students on January 5 features cellist Jackie Hager, a bagpipe ensemble, and the world 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 5, 2024 at 8:00 pm** in the Hochstein Performance Hall. Directed by **Evan Meccarello**, the **Hochstein Alumni Orchestra** (HAO) performs Haydn's Cello Concerto in C Major, with alumni soloist **Jackie Hager** on one of the most performed concertos in the repertoire; Mendelssohn's *The Hebrides* concert overture, inspired by a trip to Scotland; the stately bagpipe tune *Highland Cathedral*, featuring bagpiper **Jake Kwiatkowski** and the 10-member **Hochstein Alumni Pipes & Drums**; and the Prelude to Hugo Wolf's comic opera *Der Corregidor*.

The concert also features the World Premiere of *In bocca al lupo*, written for the orchestra by Hochstein alumnus and Rochester composer and educator **Dave Kluge**. The title is an Italian idiom used to wish someone good luck, similar to "break a leg" in English. It literally means "in the mouth of the wolf." His piece works to capture the contrast of fortune and misfortune through the use of minor and major tonalities.

The concert is free, with cash 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://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UgZWNYZ-Hek>.

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.

**Jackie Hager**, a Rochester born cellist, attends the Juilliard School under the tutelage of Natasha Brofsky. As a soloist, she made her orchestral debut at age 12 with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, and has since returned as a featured soloist with them and several other orchestras. She has performed in masterclasses for Wolfgang Schmidt, David Ying, Jeremy Denk, the Takacs Quartet, Patrick Owens, and others. In addition to performing as a soloist, Jackie collaborates and competes in prize-winning chamber groups. Jackie also enjoys teaching and was happy to return to Hochstein as a part of their 2023 summer faculty. Previously, Jackie was a student of Richard Aaron at the University of Michigan and Kathy Kemp at The Hochstein School. She received her Bachelor of Science in neuroscience and psychology from the University of Michigan.

Solo bagpiper **Jake Kwiatkowski** has traveled the United States, Canada, and Scotland to compete, perform, and educate. A grade-one solo competitor, he was a founding member of the Feadan Or Pipe Band in Rochester before competing with the world championship-winning 78th Fraser Highlanders in Toronto, Ontario. He has studied under some of the greatest living pipers. This year, he began teaching bagpipes at The Hochstein School. He holds a BA in History and Philosophy and an MS in Global Business and Leadership from Nazareth University.

**Dave Kluge** is a multifaceted bassist, composer, and educator based in Rochester, N.Y. As an active freelance bassist, he performs with several ensembles in the Rochester area. He has received commissions from The Penfield Music Commission Project, had his compositions and arrangements performed at The Xerox Rochester International Jazz Festival, and has composed music for All-County orchestras as well as professional and student ensembles. Dave earned a Bachelor's degree in Music Education with a concentration in Jazz Studies from SUNY Fredonia and a Master's in Music Education from Nazareth College. Since 2013, he has taught in the Rush-Henrietta Central School District, where he serves as Senior High School Orchestra Director.

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 he appeared as guest

conductor with the Penfield Symphony Orchestra, and created *If*, an experience that combines professional chamber music performance and immersive theatre. Uptown Tango is his ongoing project playing violin in an Argentine tango duo for dancers and listeners.

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

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B4qOTOGVRYOhRHZGRzJ2eDVUTkE?resourcekey=0-fqgftceHiuNfAXp1Ly0PFQ&usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B4qOTOGVRYOhRHZGRzJ2eDVUTkE?resourcekey=0-fqgftceHiuNfAXp1Ly0PFQ&usp=share_link)



ADAM J. BELLO  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

*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. Hochstein programs are also made possible by the Monroe County Legislature; Adam Bello, Monroe County Executive.*

**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 3,500 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](http://www.hochstein.org).

## CALENDAR LISTINGS

Please visit the Hochstein website at <https://hochstein.org/Calendar> for more information.

### **Hochstein Alumni Orchestra Winter Concert**

Friday, January 5, 2024; 8:00 pm; Hochstein Performance Hall; free, cash 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 Haydn’s Cello Concerto in C Major, with alumni soloist Jackie Hager; Mendelssohn’s *The Hebrides* concert overture, inspired by a trip to Scotland; the stately bagpipe tune *Highland Cathedral*, featuring bagpiper Jake Kwiatkowski and the 10-member Hochstein Alumni Pipes & Drums; the Prelude to Hugo Wolf’s comic opera *Der Corregidor*, and the World Premiere of *In bocca al lupo*, written for the orchestra by Hochstein Alumnus Dave Kluge.

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