



NEWS RELEASE

HOCHSTEIN SCHOOL OF MUSIC & DANCE | 50 N. PLYMOUTH AVE., ROCHESTER, NY 14614
(585) 454-4596 | WWW.HOCHSTEIN.ORG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2016

Media Contacts:

Janice Hanson, Marketing and Communications Associate, janice.hanson@hochstein.org
Debbie Tretter, Marketing and Communications Manager, debbie.tretter@hochstein.org

Award-winning Soloists Return to Rochester Area for Three Free Concerts on Hochstein Alumni Orchestra Summer Tour

Ensemble Performs Beethoven's Triple Concerto at Victor High School (June 22), Keuka College (June 25), and Hochstein Performance Hall (June 26)

ROCHESTER, N.Y.— Three award-winning soloists return to their hometowns for three one-hour concerts of Beethoven's orchestral music by the **Hochstein Alumni Orchestra**. Soloists **Dylan Kennedy** (violin, Victor and Penn Yan), **Annie Jacobs-Perkins** (cello, Pittsford), and **Benjamin Hopkins** (piano, Rochester) join the 38-member ensemble for performances of Beethoven's Triple Concerto for Violin, Cello, and Piano. All three soloists, having begun their musical studies at the Hochstein School of Music and Dance, have gone on to study at some of the most prestigious music schools in the country. **The concerts are free and open to the public.**

"The Hochstein School has a deep history of giving to the community," said conductor **Evan Meccarello** (Canandaigua), a Hochstein alumnus and Masters 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."

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. Their 2016 tour, funded through grassroots donations from local business and individuals, includes performances at Victor High School on June 22, Keuka College on June 25, and Hochstein Performance Hall on June 26. The program also includes Beethoven's Overture to *The Creatures of Prometheus*. **See below for concert details and performer bios.**

Cellist **Annie Jacobs-Perkins**, lauded for her intense musicality and "hypnotic lyricism" (Alex Ross, *The New Yorker*), is a junior Trustee Scholar studying cello performance with Ralph Kirshbaum at the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music. Jacobs-Perkins is the winner of many awards and competitions

in her hometown of Pittsford, NY. Most recently as a part of the Callisto Piano Trio, she was a medalist in the senior division of the 2016 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition. They were the youngest ensemble in the 43-year history of the competition to take a top prize. Jacobs-Perkins has soloed with the Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes, Burbank Philharmonic, Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, and the Penfield Symphony Orchestra. In 2014, she had two appearances on NPR, once as a soloist on "From the Top" with host Christopher O'Riley, and the other on "Air Play." After sitting as principal of the Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra for four consecutive years, at age 17, she was selected to be the associate principal for the New York String Orchestra's 2014 concerts in Carnegie Hall.

Since winning first prize in the Thousand Islands International Piano Competition, pianist and Rochester native **Benjamin Hopkins** has won acclaim for performances across North America and Europe. In 2008, after winning the Rochester Philharmonic League's Young Artist Auditions, he made his debut as a soloist with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. He has been honored as winner of the David Hochstein Recital Competition, a recipient of the prestigious Howard Hanson Award, and as a finalist in the inaugural Pittsburgh Symphony Concerto Competition. 2013 brought his New York City debut at Liederkrantz Hall and performances of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3 with orchestras in Spain and California. Most recently, he was nominated for the American Pianists Association Classical Fellowship, won first prize in the Rio Hondo Symphony Young Artist Competition, and was a winner of the Fresno Musical Society's Susan Torres Award. This year he graduated as the Outstanding Master of Music student from the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music, where he served as a teaching assistant and studied with Lucinda Carver. He is continuing his studies as a doctoral candidate at the University of British Columbia in the fall.

Violinist **Dylan Kennedy** has been praised for his "exceptionally well crafted dynamics and phrasing" (*Sarasota Harold Tribune*). Kennedy completed his Bachelor's Degree with Academic Honors at the Cleveland Institute of Music under Professor Ivan Zenaty with a minor in Music Theory, and minors in Economics and Business Management from Case Western Reserve University. A native of Victor and Penn Yan, NY, he previously studied with the late Distinguished Kilbourn Professor, Zvi Zeitlin, at the Eastman School of Music. In the fall, he will begin his Master's Degree at the New England Conservatory under Professor Ayano Ninomiya. Kennedy has appeared as soloist with the Cleveland Institute of Music Orchestra, Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes, Penfield Symphony Orchestra, Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra, Finger Lakes Symphony Orchestra, and at Bowling Green State University. Kennedy has won the Albright Award at the Rochester Philharmonic League Young Artist Competition, the David Hochstein Recital Competition, and gave live performances on the radio show "Live from Hochstein" on WXXI in three consecutive years.

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 from around western New York. Meccarello completed his Master's Degree in Orchestral Conducting at Bowling Green State University, where he led performances with the university's Philharmonia, Choral Society, and was music director for a one-act opera. He also conducted at the long-running festival of the MidAmerican Center for Contemporary Music at Bowling Green. Meccarello has worked as a conductor for the Finger Lakes Symphony Orchestra, Berlin-Brandenburg Symphony Orchestra (Berlin, Germany), Nazareth College Symphony Orchestra, University of Toledo Symphony Orchestra, and the Greater Buffalo Youth Symphony

Orchestra. He has participated in summer festivals held around the western New York region, as well as in Tanglewood and Spoleto, Italy.

About Hochstein: The Hochstein School of Music & Dance celebrates 95 years of nurturing the creative spirit by providing excellent music and dance instruction to anyone who is interested—regardless of age, level of skill, background, or ability to pay. Established in 1920 as The David Hochstein Memorial Music School, today Hochstein serves approximately 4,000 students annually from a 12-county region surrounding Rochester, N.Y., with offerings in music, dance, and Expressive Arts (music, art, and dance therapy). In addition, the Hochstein School continues its commitment to the Rochester community by offering a variety of free and low cost concerts and performances in the Hochstein Performance Hall throughout the year. For more information, visit www.hochstein.org.

A partial list of the members of the Hochstein Alumni Orchestra (with hometowns):

Alexandra Barbato – Pittsford
Lauren Bayles – Victor
Emily Brown – Victor
Julianne Burch – Rochester,
northeast
Anna Clement – Rochester
Carly Dettman – Penfield
Lindsey Doyle – Albion
Paige Griffin – Fairport
David Hauck – Greece

Kevin Hoenig – Pittsford
Claudia Huang – Pittsford
Felix Huang – Webster
Chelsea Hill – Livonia
Becca Kittleson – Ontario
Katherine Lee – Gates
Abby Lindsey – Pittsford
Giovanni Magagnoli – Webster
Jackie Mager – Brighton
Talor Marren – East Rochester

Stephanie Marsh – Rochester
Matt Miller – Spencerport
Kennedy Moore – Victor
Rachel Nalecz – Penfield
Kiran Rajamani – Penfield
Judith Ricker – Egypt (NY)
Margaret Thurston – Pittsford
Brianna Volkmann – Fairport
Matthew Wolfe – Brighton
Helen Wong – Webster

CALENDAR LISTINGS

Hochstein Alumni Orchestra Summer Tour

- Wednesday, June 22, 8:00 pm; Victor High School Auditorium, 953 High St., Victor, NY
- Saturday, June 25, 7:00 pm; Norton Chapel at Keuka College, 411 Lake Ave., Keuka Park, NY
- Sunday, June 26, 7:00 pm; Hochstein Performance Hall, 50 N. Plymouth Ave., Rochester NY

This one-hour concert of Beethoven's orchestral music will delight your ears. Award-winning soloists Dylan Kennedy, violin; Annie Jacobs-Perkins, cello; and Benjamin Hopkins, piano, return to their hometowns in a tour featuring Beethoven's Triple Concerto for Violin, Cello, and Piano. The program also includes Beethoven's Overture to *The Creatures of Prometheus*. Since 2010, the Hochstein Alumni Orchestra has reunited each year to present free, high-quality concerts to the community. Evan Meccarello conducts the 38-member ensemble made up of musicians who have connections to the Hochstein School of Music in Rochester. The concerts are free; donations to Hochstein accepted.

For more information, call the Hochstein School of Music and Dance at 585-454-4596 or visit www.hochstein.org.

###