HOCHSTEIN SCHOOL OF MUSIC & DANCE | 50 N. PLYMOUTH AVE., ROCHESTER, NY 14614
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NEWS RELEASE

Hochstein Alumni Orchestra Performs Schubert & Strauss
Free concert on January 6 features Brooke Hettinga on French horn

ROCHESTER, N.Y.—Former Hochstein students return to Rochester to present a free concert on **Friday, January 6 at 8:00 pm** in Hochstein Performance Hall. Directed by Evan Meccarello, the 40-member **Hochstein Alumni Orchestra** performs Strauss's lyrical Horn Concerto No. 1 with soloist Brooke Hettinga and Schubert's romantic Symphony No. 8 in B minor, known as the "Unfinished" Symphony. The concert is free and open to the public, with donations accepted to benefit Hochstein. A reception follows the concert. ***See below for performer bios and a calendar listing.*** *This event is supported by Wegmans.*

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** (Canandaigua), 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."

Born into a musical family (her parents Wesley and Shannon Nance are musicians with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra), Hochstein alumna **Brooke Hettinga** (Webster) began playing French horn at age seven. She was a member of the Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra, Hochstein Philharmonia, and several chamber ensembles, as well as taking dance and French horn lessons at Hochstein in her early years. Currently, she is working on the Bachelor of Fine Arts as a senior at Carnegie Mellon University, under the instruction of William Caballero. She is Principal Horn of the Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra, and enjoys collaborating with other musicians in the greater Pittsburgh area.

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Hettinga has attended the Masterworks Festival, the National Orchestral Institute, and the National Repertory Orchestra.

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. He was a member of the Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra in high school, serving as Co-Concertmaster and Apprentice Conductor. Meccarello completed his master's degree in orchestral conducting at Bowling Green State University, where he led performances with their 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. This season, he conducts *The Nutcracker* with the Ithaca Ballet and Finger Lakes Symphony Orchestra. Meccarello also has conducted the Berlin-Brandenburg Symphony Orchestra in 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 western New York, as well as in Tanglewood and Spoleto, Italy.

About Hochstein: The Hochstein School of Music & Dance celebrates 96 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**.

CALENDAR LISTINGS

Hochstein Alumni Orchestra Performs Schubert & Strauss
Friday, January 6, 2017; 8:00 pm; Hochstein Performance Hall; free

Former Hochstein students return to Rochester to present a free concert. Directed by Evan Meccarello, the 40-member Hochstein Alumni Orchestra performs Strauss's lyrical Horn Concerto No. 1 with soloist Brooke Hettinga and Schubert's romantic "Unfinished" Symphony. The concert is free and open to the public, with donations accepted to benefit Hochstein. A reception follows the concert.

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