

HOCHSTEIN

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2018

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Hochstein Alumni Orchestra Performs Music of Debussy and Korngold, Plus Two Argentine Tangos

*Free concert by former Hochstein students on January 5
features violinist Gabrielle Monachino*

ROCHESTER, N.Y.—Former students of The Hochstein School return to Rochester to present a free orchestral concert on **Saturday, January 5, 2019, at 8:00 pm** in the Hochstein Performance Hall. Directed by Evan Meccarello, the nearly 50-member **Hochstein Alumni Orchestra** (HAO) performs two styles of Argentine tango, by Villoldo and Piazzolla; the first movement of Korngold's sweeping, dramatic violin concerto, with guest soloist Gabrielle Monachino; and Debussy's Petite Suite, with his piano music made even more colorful by a full orchestra.

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 lead sponsor for the event is **Barclay Damon LLP**, with support from Wegmans Food Markets. Tony Piazza of Barclay Damon says, "We are honored to sponsor this 'homecoming' event. Barclay Damon is committed to giving back to the communities we proudly serve, and it is wonderful to see these former students doing the same by donating their time and effort to put on a great local concert for everyone to enjoy."

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 contests, have received mention by music critic Alex Ross in *The New Yorker* magazine, and earned opportunities to play in 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 radio through WXXI-FM's *Performance Rochester* broadcast series.

Violinist **Gabrielle Monachino** began her studies at The Hochstein School and the Eastman Community School in Rochester. She has given solo performances at Carnegie Hall, the White House, Dicapo Opera Theatre, and Kilbourn Hall. Internationally, she has performed in the Dominican Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, and the Czech Republic. In past performances, Monachino has shared the stage with soloist Itzhak Perlman and Walter Seyfarth of the Berlin Philharmonic. In addition, she has held principal orchestral positions at the Prague Summer Nights Festival, Miami Summer Music Festival, and the Wintergreen Performing Arts Festival. In May 2015, she completed her Bachelor's degree at the Eastman School of Music, where she studied with Charles Castleman. Currently, she is pursuing an Artist Diploma at Carnegie Mellon University under the tutelage of William van der Sloot, after completing her Master's degree with Andrés Cárdenes. In spring 2018, she was appointed Associate Principal Second Violin of the Erie Philharmonic under conductor Daniel Meyer.

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 currently conducts the Thames Valley Youth Symphony in New London, CT; Nazareth College Chamber Orchestra; and Nazareth College Symphony Orchestra. He 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. In past seasons, he has conducted *The Nutcracker* with the Ithaca Ballet, been guest conductor with the Finger Lakes Symphony Orchestra, and worked with the Brandenburg Symphony Orchestra in Germany, University at Buffalo Symphony Orchestra, Northern Ohio Youth Orchestra, University of Toledo Symphony Orchestra, and the Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra. He is also Vice President of the Keuka Lake Music Festival and a radio host for *Soundspace* on WAYO-LP in Rochester.

About Hochstein: The Hochstein School was founded in commemoration of genius and is dedicated to providing access to opportunity regardless of age, level of skill, ethnicity, or ability to pay. Hochstein's vibrant community of musicians, dancers, and supporters choose to come together to develop the ability to speak and communicate through music, dance, and expressive arts (music, art, and dance therapy). Established in 1920 as The David Hochstein Memorial Music School, today Hochstein serves approximately 3,500 students annually from a 12-county region surrounding Rochester, N.Y. and continues its commitment to the Rochester community by offering a variety of free and low-cost concerts and performances in the Hochstein Performance Hall—and locations around our city—throughout the year. For more information, visit www.hochstein.org.

CALENDAR LISTINGS

Hochstein Alumni Orchestra Ninth Annual Winter Concert

Saturday, January 5, 2019; 8:00 pm; Hochstein Performance Hall; free

Former Hochstein students return to Rochester to present a free concert. Directed by Evan Meccarello, the nearly 50-member Hochstein Alumni Orchestra performs two styles of Argentine tango, by Villoldo and Piazzolla; the first movement of Korngold's sweeping, dramatic violin concerto, with guest soloist Gabrielle Monachino; and Debussy's *Petite Suite*, with his piano music made even more colorful by a full orchestra. The concert is open to the public, with donations accepted to benefit Hochstein. A reception follows the concert. *The lead sponsor for the event is Barclay Damon LLP, with support from Wegmans Food Markets.*

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