



NEWS RELEASE

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The Hochstein School's 100th Anniversary Celebration Kicks Off with Hochstein Alumni Orchestra Concert on January 4

*Free concert by former Hochstein students features acclaimed cellist
Annie Jacobs-Perkins and a world premiere of a new piece by Cyrus Reynolds*

ROCHESTER, N.Y.—Former students of The Hochstein School – some traveling from as far away as Los Angeles, Stanford, and Berlin, Germany – return to Rochester to present a free orchestral concert on **Saturday, January 4, 2020 at 8:00 pm** in the Hochstein Performance Hall. This concert marks the 10th anniversary of the **Hochstein Alumni Orchestra** and kicks off Hochstein's yearlong centennial celebration. Founded in 1920 to commemorate the genius of the late David Hochstein – an acclaimed violinist who was killed in action in World War I – the School opened in the Hochstein family home on Joseph Avenue to 250 eager students on January 2, 1920. This is just the first in a series of events to **commemorate the School's 100th anniversary in 2020**.

Directed by Evan Meccarello, the 50-member **Hochstein Alumni Orchestra** (HAO) performs Brahms' *Tragic Overture*, the dramatic overture to Ferdinand Herold's opera *Zampa*, and Haydn's technically challenging Cello Concerto No. 2 in D Major with Hochstein alum Annie Jacobs-Perkins. A newly commissioned work, *Fifteen*, by Hochstein alum Cyrus Reynolds, will have its world premiere. It is a modern re-imagination of Edward Elgar's classic *Enigma Variations*, drawing its name from both an implied 15th variation (Elgar ended his masterwork at 14) and Cyrus's age when he first performed the Elgar variations as a member of the HYSO. In addition, a Cello Choir and a Flute Choir made up of Hochstein alumni will perform.

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 made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. Thank you to Wegmans Food Markets for their support of our community events.

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.

Cellist and Hochstein alumna **Annie Jacobs-Perkins** was named an Outstanding Graduate of University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music, where she was a Trustee Scholar and a student of Ralph Kirshbaum. She is now the recipient of the Laurence Lesser Presidential Scholarship at New England Conservatory, where she is pursuing her Master of Music under the tutelage of Laurence Lesser. She is the cellist in the Callisto Piano Trio, the youngest group ever to medal in the senior division of the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition. In January 2019, the Callisto Trio toured Europe, giving recitals in the Royal Concertgebouw and the Philharmonia Bratislava. Jacobs-Perkins has been principal cellist of the New England Conservatory Chamber Orchestra and the Thornton Symphony Orchestra. She is also the winner of many solo awards and competitions in her hometown of Rochester, NY. She earned a diploma from the Hochstein Honors Certificate Program, under the tutelage of Kathleen Murphy Kemp and Doleen Hood. Jacobs-Perkins plays a cello by Becker on loan from the Colburn Foundation.

A Los Angeles-based composer and Rochester native, **Cyrus Reynolds** is a classically trained composer turned sound designer who draws his sound from familiar classical textures and twists them into new sonic landscapes. His formal training includes time at The Hochstein School and in the HYSO as a trombonist, at Eastman School of Music, and masters' studies at London's Royal Academy of Music. His original music has been featured in a variety of media ranging from Greta Gerwig's *Little Women*, *The Americans*, and BBC's *The Planets* to campaigns for Sony Alpha. His sound design has been used in top 40 hits by Cold Play, Rihanna, Kanye West, and Chance the Rapper. In London, he contributed to a UK No. 1 album by Guy Chambers and Robbie Williams. His own music spans several albums. In 2019, he was awarded the honor of Associate of the Royal Academy of Music (ARAM) for his contributions to the field of composition.

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, and the Irondequoit Community Orchestra. He previously served as Conductor of the Nazareth College Chamber Orchestra and assists the 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 and Choral Society. 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. Uptown Tango is his ongoing project playing violin in an Argentine tango duo for dancers and listeners.

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 LISTING

Hochstein Alumni Orchestra Tenth Annual Winter Concert

Saturday, January 4, 2019; 8:00 pm; Hochstein Performance Hall; free

Former students return to Rochester to present a free concert, kicking off The Hochstein School's 100th anniversary celebration. Directed by Evan Meccarello, the 50-member Hochstein Alumni Orchestra performs Brahms' *Tragic Overture*, Herold's *Zampa Overture*, the world premiere of the new piece *Fifteen* by Hochstein alum Cyrus Reynolds, and Haydn's Cello Concerto No. 2 in D Major with Hochstein alum Annie Jacobs-Perkins. In addition, a Cello Choir and a Flute Choir made up of Hochstein alumni will perform. The concert is open to the public, with donations accepted to benefit Hochstein. A reception follows the concert.

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