

# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

### Theatre, Music, and Cultural Arts

**Waukegan, IL (September 14, 2015)** –The Waukegan Park District Cultural Arts Division is proud to announce the 2015/16 Performing Arts season. Bowen Park Theatre Company features three productions and the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus (WSOCC) will offer a total of six concerts. Options for tickets include season tickets and single tickets. Single tickets may be purchased online through Brown Paper Tickets. Find our events at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) or call 1-800-838-3006.

### **Bowen Park Theatre Company (BPTC)**

Bowen Park Theatre Company opens its 28<sup>th</sup> season on Friday, September 25 with two short plays under the artistic direction of Jason Clark: Anne Nelson's THE GUYS and Neil LaBute's THE MERCY SEAT. There is an 8 pm curtain and the show will run until Sunday, October 11 with a 3 pm matinee performance. The professional theatre company will present two additional plays: John Peilmeier's AGNES OF GOD and William Shakespeare's A COMEDY OF ERRORS. Season tickets for the plays may be purchased at the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, 39 Jack Benny Drive, Waukegan IL. The season ticket package for adults is \$40, seniors and military is \$30 and student tickets with ID are \$20. Single tickets may be purchased online through Brown Paper Tickets or by phone at 1-800-838-3006.

## **Waukegan Symphony Orchestra**

The Waukegan Symphony Orchestra will open its music season with “In Nature’s Realm” on October 25, at 4pm, at the Waukegan High School’s Brookside Campus-Trapp Auditorium, 2325 Brookside Avenue, Waukegan IL. The season opener, with Stephen Blackwelder at the baton, will include: Dvořák’s *In Nature’s Realm*, Weber’s *Concertino for Clarinet*, *Fingal’s Cave* by Mendelssohn, Delius’ *Summer Evening* and *Symphony in C Major* by Bizet. The Orchestra ends its season with “Greetings from Prague” on May 22, 2016 featuring Schubert’s *Rosamunde Overture*, Mozart’s *Piano Concerto No. 23 in A Major*, Brahms’ *Tragic Overture*, *Prelude to The Queen of Sheba* by Goldmark and Strauss’ *Tales of the Vienna Woods*.

## **Waukegan Concert Chorus**

The Waukegan Concert Chorus performances under the musical leadership of Randy Casey are held at the First Presbyterian Church of Waukegan, 122 N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue in downtown Waukegan on Sunday afternoons at 4pm. The Concert Chorus will begin their season with “A Holiday Celebration” on November 15. The featured piece is Vivaldi’s *Gloria* along with *Christmas Flourish* arranged by Randol Alan Bass and selected Christmas anthems that will include an audience sing along. The Chorus will end its performance season on Sunday, March 2, 2016 with a concert titled, “British Music-Sacred and Secular.” and will feature Bob Chilcott’s *Requiem* and Old English selections and a Celtic choral suite.

Special concerts round out the remainder of the WSOCC season. The 10th Annual Joseph A. Favero Memorial “Do It Yourself” *Messiah* and Carol Sing-along takes place on Saturday, December 19, 7 pm

at the First United Methodist Church of Waukegan, 128 N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue. On Saturday, February 27, 2016 at 11 am the Waukegan Symphony will present a Young People's Concert at the Trapp Auditorium with all children and youth 18 and under free and a \$5 reduced price ticket for adults. The concert will feature Stookey's THE COMPOSER IS DEAD. This annual event has become a family favorite by giving audience members an opportunity to meet the musicians on stage and learn more about their instruments.

The WSOCC season ticket package for adults is \$65, seniors and military is \$50 and student tickets with ID are \$36. Students 18 years and younger are free and children 12 and under should be accompanied by an adult. Season tickets may be purchased at the door with cash or check and credit card purchases may take place at the Jack Benny Center for the Arts located in Bowen Park, 39 Jack Benny Drive. Single tickets may be purchased at the Benny Center, at the door, online with a credit card through Brown Paper Tickets or by phone by calling 1-800-838-3006. We can only accept cash and checks at the door.

The Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus, Bowen Park Theatre Company and the multi-disciplinary programming of the Jack Benny Center for the Arts are partially funded through a grant provided by the Illinois Arts Council, a State of Illinois agency. To learn more about the performing arts season, cultural arts programming, questions on auditions and to order season tickets for the Bowen Park Theatre or the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus, please call the Jack Benny Center for the Arts 847-360-4740 or stop by the Center in Bowen Park at 39 Jack Benny Drive in Waukegan, IL.

## **About the Waukegan Park District**

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 48 sites and more than 725 acres of land, including the 18-hole Bonnie Brook and 9-hole Greenshire Golf Courses. Properties are managed to the highest environmental and conservation standards. Facilities operated by the district include the Field House Sports and Fitness Center, the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, the Waukegan SportsPark, the Waukegan Skate Park, the Waukegan BMX Track, recreational centers, an outdoor swimming pool, disc golf course, dog exercise area and agility course, outdoor sports fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, and sports courts including basketball, tennis and pickleball. A full range of programs and services are offered year round for all ages, from infants to seniors as well as special needs populations. Healthy lifestyles, wellness initiatives, and a connection with the outdoors and nature are integrated throughout programs, services, and special events. Cultural events are provided by the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus, the Bowen Park Theatre Company, and the Waukegan History Museum. There is something for everyone! The award-winning District employs 59 full-time and over 250 part-time, year round, seasonal, and temporary employees. The District is a member of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD), and Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA). The district maintains national accreditation from the NRPA Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), the Illinois Association of Park District (IAPD) Distinguished Agency accreditation and the Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) accreditation and sustains a Level A Loss Control Program. The district was a NRPA Gold Medal Finalist in 2012 and 2013, and awarded the NRPA National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management in 2013.

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