
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS WITH THE WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT WITH A DYNAMIC THEATRE AND MUSIC SEASON LINE UP

(WAUKEGAN IL) SEPTEMBER 12, 2014 WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT CULTURAL

ARTS DIVISION- This September, the Jack Benny Center for the Arts is celebrating 30 years of being a part of the Waukegan Park District and is proud to announce the 2014/15 Performing Arts season. Bowen Park Theatre Company (BPTC) opens its season on Friday, September 26 with “The Gin Game.” The professional theatre company will open its 27th season by bringing our audience members into a “home for the aged” with *The Gin Game*, then on to the Great Depression through *Of Mice and Men* in the month of February, and in April *More Fun Than Bowling* will transport audiences to a burial ground on a hilltop. In addition to the two plays performed each year, the Jack Benny Center for the Arts’ artistic and technical theatre friends are providing *Of Mice and Men* as a bonus show for our audiences. The Bowen Park Theatre opens *The Gin Game* at the Dr. Lynn Schornick Theatre on Friday, September 26 with an 8 pm curtain and the show will run until Sunday, October 12 with a 3 pm matinee performance. Season tickets for the three 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.

The Waukegan Symphony Orchestra celebrated its 40th anniversary this past April and will open the music season on October 19 with “Greetings From Prague” at the Waukegan High School’s Brookside Campus-Trapp Auditorium, 2325 Brookside Avenue, Waukegan IL. The Waukegan Concert Chorus performances are at the First Presbyterian Church of Waukegan, 122 N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue in downtown Waukegan. The Concert Chorus will begin their season with “Renaissance Music” on November 2. All regular WSOCC concerts are held Sunday afternoons at 4 pm. The Chorus will end its performance season on Sunday, March 22, 2015 with a concert titled, “Spain, Bartok, and Brahms.” and will feature music by Spanish composers, Slavic and Gypsy Folk songs. The Orchestra ends its season with a “Beethoven Bash” on April 12, 2015 that will conclude with the 130-voice DePaul Community Chorus and Beethoven’s *Mass in C*.

Special concerts round out the remainder of the WSOCC season and include the Ninth Annual Joseph A. Favero Memorial “Do It Yourself” Messiah and Carol Sing-along on Saturday, December 13, 7 pm at the First United Methodist Church of Waukegan, 128 N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue. On Saturday, February 22, 2015 at 11 am 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. This concert has become a family favorite and gives the audience members an opportunity to meet the musicians on stage and learn more about their instruments.

Season tickets for WSOCC and the six concerts are \$65 for adults, \$49 for seniors and military, \$36 for students 19 and older, and free for students 18 and under. All performing arts programs ask that children 12 and under be accompanied by an adult.

The Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus, Bowen Park Theatre Company and the multi-disciplinary programming of the Jack Benny Center for the Arts is 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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About the Waukegan Park District

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 48 sites and more than 735 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, outdoor sports fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, and sports courts including basketball and tennis. 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.

9.5.14/Comm. Relations