



Press Release

Waukegan Symphony Orchestra Celebrates 40 Years of Music

WAUKEGAN, IL (April 9, 2014)...The Waukegan Symphony Orchestra celebrates its 40th Anniversary with a performance at 4pm on April 13, 2014. It will take place at Waukegan High School's Trapp Auditorium, located at 2325 Brookside Avenue, the same stage as the symphony's inaugural concert. The orchestra, currently under the direction of Stephen Blackwelder, is sponsored by the Waukegan Park District. Over the past four decades, the orchestra has delighted Waukegan audiences and this concert is sure to please. Violin soloist Ade' Williams returns to perform Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto and the Waukegan High School Symphonic String Orchestra also makes a guest appearance. Tickets may be purchased at the door or at Jack Benny Center for the Arts, 39 Jack Benny Drive at the north entrance to Bowen Park or by calling 847-360-4740. Adult tickets are \$15, seniors and military tickets are \$10 and students with ID \$6. Students who are 18 and under are FREE but we ask that children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

The Waukegan High School Symphonic String Orchestra is currently ranked fourth in the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) State rankings, and the Waukegan High School Music Department overall is currently ranked third in the IHSA State rankings. The Symphonic Strings are under the direction of Bart Medicott.

The Waukegan Symphony Orchestra's special guest soloist is 16 year-old violinist Adé Williams. Williams is a winner of: From the Top's Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award (2013), Delta Sigma Theta's "Emerging Artist" Award (2013), the Linda and Isaac Stern Charitable Foundation Award, in memory of Isaac Stern (2013), the first place laureate of the Junior Division of the Sphinx Competition (2012), the Vivaldi Seasons Competition (Cambridge, England, 2012), the DePaul Concerto Festival for Young Performers (2011), Sejong Cultural Society's Music Competition (2010, 2009), and many other competitions, beginning with the Walgreen's National Concerto Competition (2005) at age eight.

Recently Adé was accepted into the Curtis Institute of Music (2014), has performed internationally, has had solos in England, Switzerland, and Bermuda, three U.S. tours with Sphinx Virtuosi (2011–2014), and soloing at Carnegie Hall (2013). Adé's orchestral debut with the Chicago Sinfonietta (2004) at age six as that orchestra's youngest ever soloist launched a wonderful succession of solo performances: South Side Family Chamber Orchestra (2006); Highland Park Strings at Ravinia (2007); Lake Forest Symphony (2009); Illinois Symphony Orchestra with Rachel Barton Pine at Millennium Park (2010); Waukegan Symphony Orchestra (2011) where she is artist in residence; Sphinx Laureate extended solo series (2012–2014), including solos with Ann Arbor Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic, Butler County Symphony,

Cleveland Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Erie Chamber Orchestra, Florida Orchestra, Grand Rapids Symphony, Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra, KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestra, Modesto Symphony, New World Symphony, Northwest Indiana Symphony, and South Bend Symphony.

Partial sponsorship of the Cultural Arts programs is through a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, an agency of the State of Illinois.

The website for the Cultural Arts Division and Bowen Park Theatre may be found at www.jackbennycenter.org

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Photos attached

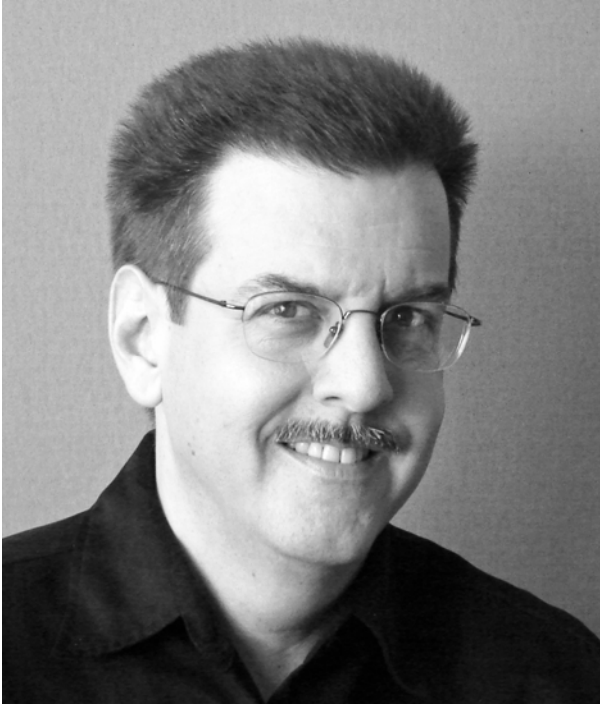
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About the Waukegan Park District

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 47 properties and 720 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 57 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 Districts' (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.



Adé Williams



Stephen Blackwelder

waukegan symphony orchestra

stephen blackwelder, music director

mendelssohn
on
the move



sunday, april 13, 2014 at 4pm

trapp auditorium

waukegan high school
2325 brookside ave waukegan il

featuring guest soloist Adé Williams, violin

also featuring the WHS Symphonic String Orchestra

featuring:
wedding march
scotch symphony
string sinfonia x
violin concerto

for tickets and reservations call 847-360-4740 or visit www.waukeganparks.org

tickets
\$15 adult
\$10 senior/military
\$6 student

free students 18 years and younger*
*under 12 must be accompanied by an adult



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