
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

Press Release

Waukegan Symphony Orchestra Closes its 2015/16 Season with Russian Soloist

Waukegan IL (May 12, 2016) . . . The Waukegan Symphony Orchestra led by Maestro Stephen Blackwelder will present its spring concert “Greetings From Vienna” on Sunday May 22, 2016 at 4 pm at the Waukegan High School Trapp Auditorium, 2325 Brookside Avenue, Waukegan. The program will include: Schubert’s *Overture to Rosamunde*, Op. 26, *Tragic Overture*, Op. 81 by Brahms, Goldmark’s *Overture to The Queen of Sheba*, Op. 27 and Strauss’ *Tales from the Vienna Woods*, Op. 325. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for Seniors/Military, or \$7 for students. Students 18 and under are free and children under 12 should be accompanied by an adult. Tickets are available for purchase at the door, at the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, 39 Jack Benny Drive in Bowen Park or you may call Brown Paper Tickets at 1-800-838-3006. Online ticketing may be found at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2512297> Online and phone tickets do have a service charge.

During the first half of the concert our soloist Karina Kontorovitch will be performing Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 23 in A Major, K. 488. Ms. Kontorovitch was born in St. Petersburg, Russia. At the age of five, she began her music studies by attending the Music School for Gifted Children, where she studied piano with Olga Manukyan until the family immigrated to the United States in 1991. Karina Kontorovitch earned both Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in Piano Performance from Northwestern University, taking a special interest in chamber music and accompanying. Her teachers there included Sylvia Wang, Alan Chow, Laurence Davis, and Elizabeth Buccheri.



Karina Kontorovitch

Ms. Kontorovitch has taught at the Music Arts School in Highland Park and has been on the faculty of the Merit School of Music in Chicago since 2001, teaching all ages and levels. She was on the Voice Faculty as a Coach/Accompanist for the National High School Music Institute from 2005 until its discontinuation in 2010. She also serves as an accompanist and vocal coach at Northwestern University, and during the summer months with Opera Training Institute of Chicago. At Northwestern, she works primarily in the vocal studios of Kurt R. Hansen and Theresa Brancaccio. Ms. Kontorovitch is a member of the Chicago Piano Vocal Score Ensemble and is active as a collaborative pianist in the Chicago area. In the summer of 2014, she was a member of the coaching staff of the Castleton Music Festival in Virginia where she worked with the festival's founder Maestro Lorin Maazel.

The Waukegan Symphony Orchestra is completing its 42nd season of providing classical music to our community. The Waukegan Symphony Orchestra is sponsored by the Waukegan Park District's Cultural Arts Department. The website for the Cultural Arts Department may be found at jackbennycenter.org or for further information, please call the Jack Benny Center for the Arts at 847-360-4740.

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Photos of Blackwelder and Kontorovitch
B/W Ad

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 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, and the Waukegan History Museum. There is something for everyone! The award-winning District employs 61 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.