

# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

## Press Release

Waukegan Symphony Orchestra

Presents

### **RUSSIAN ROMANCES**

Sunday, October 27

4PM

Trapp Auditorium, Waukegan High School, Brookside Campus

**Waukegan, IL (October 16, 2019)** Join the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra for its first concert of the season, *Russian Romance*, with music from Sergie Rachmaninoff and Alexandre Borodine on Sunday, October 27 at 4pm at Waukegan High School's Trapp Auditorium, Brookside Campus.

This Waukegan Symphony Orchestra concert is the first under the leadership of the new Music Director, Alexander Platt. The concert will open with orchestral pieces of Borodine's beloved opera PRINCE IGOR. Following intermission, the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra welcomes back guest performer, Andrew Russo, on piano for Rachmaninoff's Russian epic, Piano Concerto No. 2, Op. 18.

Andrew C. Russo is known for the diversity of his interests and experiences, whether it be Business, Music or Politics. A native of Syracuse, NY, Russo is a graduate of The Juilliard School, and pursued post-graduate studies in Leipzig and Paris with pianist/alternative pedagogue Frederic Chiu. Andrew's early career was spent as an advocate of American composers and American music. He has performed in many of the world's cultural capitals – Paris, London, Moscow, Rome, Brussels, Tokyo, New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Buenos Aires, etc.

Alexander Platt commented on why he chose to program Russian music for his first concert with the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra saying "Well, Russia is a complicated place -- but that doesn't mean we can't love their art, their books, and especially their music, which (even though I'm not Russian) I've been in love with since I was a teenager, and it's a love that never dies. Great passion, great melodies, sumptuous orchestrations...there's nothing better at a symphony concert than this glorious repertoire."

Platt on guest pianist Andrew Russo, "A real musical tour of Russia in the late-Romantic age, the late 19th and early 20th centuries, a time of amazing creativity in Russia, just before everything came crashing down in the First World War. We'll be playing all of the orchestra music from alexander Borodin's opera PRINCE IGOR, including the raucous and ravishing "Polovtsian Dances", long one of the great technicolor showpieces for orchestra, and will wrap things up

with Serge Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No.2, also one of the most beloved classics of Russian music, with its stirring melodies and lush scoring. This is a perfect concert to attend, whether you're just getting your feet wet with classical music or are a seasoned connoisseur!"

Platt is honored to be the new Music Director of the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra. Platt on why people should attend the season opening concert said, "One of the big reasons to attend is to once again experience the artistry of my good friend, the amazing American pianist Andrew Russo. It was at my audition concert last winter that Andrew played a rendition of Gershwin's RHAPSODY IN BLUE that people are still talking about -- you honestly couldn't hear a better soloist if you attended a concert of the Chicago Symphony, and I'm so thrilled that we'll have him back for this timeless Rachmaninov classic. Andrew is half Russian by heritage, and his affinity for this music clearly shows -- it's all going to be a really wonderful time, Waukegan at its best!"

Tickets may be purchased three ways:

- Stop by the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, 39 Jack Benny Drive, Waukegan, IL
- Online at <https://www.Eventbrite.com>
- Register online at the District's website: [www.waukeganparks.org/register](http://www.waukeganparks.org/register)

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 senior 62+/Military, \$7 students age 19+, and free for students 18 years and under. Children 12 and under need to be accompanied with an adult. There is a service fee with Eventbrite Tickets. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the 2019-20 Waukegan Symphony Orchestra, please call 847-360-4744 or email [dcarl@waukeganparks.org](mailto:dcarl@waukeganparks.org).

The Waukegan Symphony Orchestra was established in 1974. The Waukegan Symphony Orchestra is proud to be sponsored by the Waukegan Park District Cultural Arts; and the Illinois Arts Council, a State of Illinois agency, provides a grant.

### **About the Waukegan Park District**

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 50 properties and more than 737 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, Fitness and Aquatics Center, the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, the Waukegan's Greg Petry SportsPark, the Waukegan Skate Park, the Waukegan BMX Track, recreational centers, 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 62 full-time and over 230 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), Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) Distinguished Agency accreditation and Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) accreditation and maintains a Level A Loss Control Program. The district was a NRPA Gold Medal Finalist in 2012 and 2013, awarded the NRPA National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management in 2013 and recently named a 2019 Gold Medal Finalist.

TJA/5/21/19

**Contact Information:**

Additional information and photographs of past concerts may be obtained from:

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