



Pegasus at Mana Orchestra Series: *Americana*



Pegasus: the Orchestra. Photo: Ohad Ashkenazi.

JERSEY CITY, NJ, March 28, 2018—Pegasus: the Orchestra, a New York based professional orchestra, is proud to announce a brand new music program that will bring classical music to communities across the U.S. The program, entitled *Americana*, was developed by Pegasus: the Orchestra during their tenure as musicians-in-residence at Mana Contemporary in Jersey City. *Americana* will launch on April 12, 2018 at the Mana Theater with a reception hosted by the musicians followed by their performance of three lauded American masterpieces. This performance is the initial introduction to *Americana*, which is designed as a traveling program of similar performances and educational initiatives.

For the premiere of *Americana*, Pegasus: the Orchestra will present three of America's most recognized and revered pieces of classical music: Copland's *Appalachian Spring*, Barber's incredibly moving and poignant *Adagio for Strings*, and the premiere of Karén Hakobyan's arrangement of Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*. At its largest in this concert, this ensemble is eighteen members strong and includes accomplished musicians who have performed in several of the world's most prestigious venues.

Since September 2017, Pegasus: the Orchestra has carried out their mission to bring "symphony hall"—the same feeling of grandiosity one feels inside large orchestra halls such as Lincoln Center or Carnegie Hall—to smaller venues and communities that reside both inside and around New York City. During their residency, Pegasus: the Orchestra fostered this atmosphere of "symphony hall" with intimate performances at the modest theater located at Mana Contemporary. Here, they've presented a mixed program of concerts spanning orchestra, piano, solos, duos, symphonies, and both original and fresh arrangements of historic pieces of classical music from all over the globe.

Pegasus: the Orchestra presents the opening concert as part of the *Americana* program, which aims to reach smaller U.S. communities located in the Chicago, Philadelphia, Connecticut, and Miami areas through performances of historically American classical music and engaging educational initiatives. Through this initiative, Pegasus: the Orchestra offers grandiosity through intimacy and upholds the capacity for classical music and music education to positively impact individuals and communities.

As a not-for-profit* organization, Pegasus: the Orchestra is currently fundraising for *Americana* as a means to accomplish their goals of reaching as many cities and communities as possible with classical music. As an initiative to support living American composers, Pegasus has also launched a call for submissions, which would allow successful applicants the opportunity to have their music premiered in the Fall 2018 program—alongside music by Bernstein and other leading composers.

To learn more about Pegasus at Mana, visit manacontemporary.com/pegasus.

**Pegasus: the Orchestra is not yet a nonprofit, but they are in the final stages of the application process with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and they may acquire 501(c)(3) status very soon. If approved during the current fiscal year, a substantial portion of your donation may qualify as tax-deductible, and you will receive a letter from Pegasus: the Orchestra with that information.*

ABOUT PEGASUS: THE ORCHESTRA

Pegasus at Mana is committed to presenting world-class performances, building a unique platform for collaborations, fostering a creative environment for musicians, and providing educational opportunities to local communities. Pegasus: the Orchestra presents programming that includes an adventurous mix of

familiar and novel works, and select rehearsals will be open to the public as a means to offer audiences an exclusive glimpse into the creative process of the artists at work.

ABOUT MANA CONTEMPORARY

Founded in 2011, Mana Contemporary is dedicated to providing a platform for contemporary art and artists through exhibitions, studio programs, and public programs. Mana's community network began in New Jersey and has since expanded to include Mana Chicago (2013) and Mana Miami (2017). Mana Contemporary continues to create new partnership opportunities that explore the intersection of contemporary art, design, new technologies, and music. For more information, visit manacontemporary.com.

MEDIA CONTACT

Shai Baitel
sbaitel@manacontemporary.com

Mana Contemporary
888 Newark Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07306