

Symphony Soirée

NORWALK
SYMPHONY

ORCHESTRA



May 4, 2023

NORWALK
SYMPHONY

ORCHESTRA

2023—24 CONCERT SEASON

September 23, 2023
American Masterpieces

November 4, 2023
An Evening in Vienna

December 3, 2023
Holiday Pops

February 10, 2024
The Music Man

March 17, 2024
Shakespeare Comes to the Symphony

May 18, 2024
Mahler Symphony No. 3



www.norwalksymphony.org

THIS EVENING'S PROGRAM

6:30pm KEYS Jazz Band welcomes you to the Symphony Soirée

7:15pm Welcome from the Gala Co-Chairs
Mary Petro Noonan and Nicole von Dohlen

Greeting from the Symphony Board of Governors
Christopher D. Bell, Board President

Thank you to Sponsors and Advertisers

Presentation of Forte Awards for Distinguished Contributions to Music
David and Eunice Bigelow
Louis L. Broudy, Esq.
Sandra Miklave, Executive Director

Composing Our Future

7:45 pm String Musicians Performance

Greeting from Maestro Jonathan Yates

8:15 pm Live Auction

8:35 pm Silent Auction closes

9:00 pm Thank you for coming!

Thank you to Philip Callen (aka Mr. Beethoven)
for his talents as tonight's Auctioneer.

WELCOME TO THE SOIRÉE!



Good evening and welcome to our Symphony Soirée at The Norwalk Art Space! It is exciting for us to be in this venue and share art in many forms for your enjoyment.

Sharing this celebratory gathering of music and merriment with all of you is truly an honor. Entertainment from the KEYS Music students Jazz Band exemplifies our partnership with other organizations in supporting music education programs, and several of our musicians who work with the students will join them in welcoming you this evening. Showcasing the Symphony, we are also thrilled to provide a performance of our String Musicians for your enjoyment as the evening progresses.

Your attendance tonight will ensure the Symphony's mission of sharing the beauty and power of orchestral music through live performances and music education programs. Music and the arts enhance the quality of life in our community, and the Norwalk Symphony plans to continue leading the charge for years to come.

Tonight, we are excited to present our Forte Awards to **David and Eunice Bigelow** for their 47 years of generous and steadfast support, and to **Louis Broudy, Esq.** who has served tirelessly on our Board of Governors for 50 years. They exemplify the spirit behind the award, going above and beyond in their support and expression of music, and have been integral to the growth and success of the Norwalk Symphony.

Your support this evening will strengthen the Merle Baum Forte Society—our Permanent Fund—as well as our education and community engagement programs. It is precisely because of generous and engaged friends like you, that we are able to offer our music performances as well as music education programs to our youth.

Enjoy this special evening. We deeply appreciate your support of the Symphony and want to sincerely thank you for your participation in making this a joyous evening.

Cheers,

Nicole von Dohlen & Mary Petro Noonan
Symphony Soirée Committee Co-Chairs

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FORTE AWARD HONOREES



Since 1975, first through R.C. Bigelow and Company and then directly, **David and Eunice** have supported the mission of the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra. Their consistent commitment to our organization for the past 47 years has enabled the Symphony to continue to grow and thrive. We have been honored through the years as they joined us at the Concert Hall for performances and were able to enjoy the music they help to sustain.

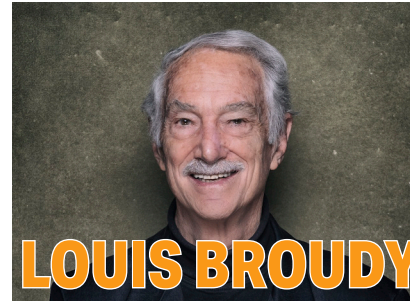
Bigelow Tea can attribute its beginnings to David Bigelow's mother and the advent of "Constant Comment" in 1945. Yet it was David and Eunice who pioneered the explosion in specialty teas that Americans enjoy today. David, with the unwavering support of his wife Eunice, lead the company with integrity, passion, intelligence, kindness, and a spirit of determination to its current prominence as the country's #1 tea company.

In 1974, building on the success of "Constant Comment," the company introduced several new flavors creating a whole line of teas to help achieve greater

prominence on the supermarket shelf. Another notable milestone in their luminous careers was the development of the foil pouch that has become the accepted industry standard for protecting tea's freshness and flavor from ambient influences.

The Bigelow family made a considerable investment in the preservation of the Charleston Tea Garden in South Carolina, saving it from the developer's wrecking ball and restoring it to its former grandeur as America's largest commercial farm. The farm's visitor center documents the tea growing, harvesting and withering processes, giving over 80,000 people who visit annually a new-found appreciation for this remarkable beverage.

The Norwalk Symphony is honored to continue its longstanding connection with **David and Eunice Bigelow** and the entire Bigelow family, and we congratulate them with our Forte Award.



Lou Broudy literally has the Norwalk Symphony in his genes. His father Bernard ("Steve") and mother Miriam both served on the board at different times while Lou was in Norwalk High School. Along with his younger brother Eric, he grew up in our audience, learning how great symphonic music can change lives. It has certainly changed his, and he has been a valued member of the Symphony's Board of Governors for 50 years!

Lou discovered the trumpet at Marvin Elementary School and joined the marching band when he entered Roger Ludlow Jr. High School, with his brother Eric later joining him on the clarinet. In high school (our current City Hall building) Lou played in the band and orchestra, played first trumpet for the all-city and all-state bands, and in his spare time formed his own dance band, the Four Beats. In his junior and senior years, Lou played with the Symphony under maestro Quinto Maganini. He then attended Cornell University where he played trumpet with the Big Red Marching Band during his four years.

Lou's performing career ended in 1960 when he entered the University of Virginia Law School, but his love of music has endured through his successful law career with several New York law firms, including

his own. In the late 1960's, Lou and his family moved to Weston, CT where he once again began attending Symphony concerts. His daughter Kate lives nearby in Weston and her older sister Berne lives near Burlington, VT with her husband Mike and three rescue dogs. Lou specializes in corporation and real estate law, and he continues his practice with Offit/Kurman in New York.

Lou joined our Symphony family in 1973 while sitting in the dentist chair of Manny Knishkowsky, then a violinist with the Symphony. Manny asked him to join the board and Lou recalled, "I was in no position to refuse!" Thus began his tenure as our longest-serving board member. Lou has served the Symphony in many capacities during his 50 years—including on the Bylaws Committee, the Nominating Committee, as Vice President, as well as faithfully supporting the Symphony financially during his entire tenure.

Finally, lest you think that all Lou does is practice law and support the Symphony; he also loves scuba and sailing trips with his lovely wife Sylvia, taking long bicycle rides on Weston's back roads, and cruising on his Harley. We are so pleased to honor Lou for his lifetime love of music and the Norwalk Symphony!



CANAPÉS, COCKTAILS, AND A CONCERT!

Thursday, May 4, 2023
Jonathan Yates, Music Director

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart **Eine kleine Nachtmusik, K.525**
(1756—1791) I. Allegro

Béla Bartók **Romanian Dances, Sz. 56, BB 68**
(1881—1945)

Benjamin Britten **Simple Symphony, Op. 4**
(1913—1976) II. Playful Pizzicato

Florence Price **Adoration (1951)**
(1887—1953)

Astor Piazzola **Libertango (1974)**
(1921—1992)

Leroy Anderson **Fiddle Faddle (1947)**
(1908—1975)

John Lennon & Paul McCartney **Hey Jude (1968)**
(1940—1980) (b. 1942)

Gustav Holst **St. Paul's Suite, Op. 29, No. 2**
(1874—1934) I. Jig: Vivace

VIOLIN 1

Emanouil Manolov, Concertmaster
Stephanie Liu
Marika Basagoitia
Jennifer Trahan

VIOLIN 2

Leo Ficks, Principal
Ludmila Gufeld
Suzanne Wagor

VIOLA

Suzanne Corey-Sahlin, Principal
Andrew Knebel
Joseph Dermody

CELLO

Gunnar Sahlin, Principal
Justin Elkins
Jane Lawson

BASS

Jordan Calixto, Principal

PERCUSSION

Peter Hohmeister

KEYS JAZZ GROUP

Richard Epstein
Robert Patrick

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*as of April 28, 2023

AUCTION GUIDELINES

Each guest will receive a bidder number as part of their Symphony Soirée Program. Please use this number for the Silent and Live Auctions as well as the Composing our Future Paddle Raise.

The Silent Auction will be open from 6:30—8:35pm. A five-minute warning prior to close will be made. Bid sheets need the assigned bid number and name. Bids must start at the noted minimum and rise by multiples of the specified increments.

The Live Auction winner will be the highest bidder as determined by the Auctioneer. Certain items may be sold twice as the Auctioneer describes.

Composing our Future donations may be made by raising the assigned bid number until recognized and recorded by the Auctioneer and recording volunteers. Bids can be made at bidder's choice of funding level and each number raised will be counted as a separate donation.

All item values are donor estimates and have been donated to the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra for use in this fundraising event. Descriptions and restrictions of each item have been made by the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra based upon representations of the donor.

Conditions of Sale: Cash, check payable to Norwalk Symphony Orchestra, or credit card at the end of the Gala evening must be presented for payment in full of any/all silent or live auction items, and Composing our Future donations at checkout.

All signed bids are binding and all sales are final. There are no exchanges or refunds.

Some restrictions may apply. Please read all specifications and restrictions carefully. All details to be arranged with donors are provided in the check-out packages. The Norwalk Symphony Orchestra makes no representations on items donated and all items are being sold "as is." Under no circumstances shall any board member, staff, or musician of the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra be liable for any injury or damage of any kind, or other adverse effects that result from the use of the items or services.

This evening's proceeds will support the Merle Baum Forte Society—our Permanent Fund—as well as education and community engagement programs.

ITEM 1: BACKYARD PARTY FOR 25 FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

Do you have a graduation, birthday, or other event that you would like to celebrate with your family and friends? Or simply just for FUN? This is the item for you! A backyard barbecue for 25 people (each additional person \$75) catered by Clyde Ripka's Catering with a mouth-watering menu of appetizers and main course food.

You will have a \$50 gift certificate to Rebel Daughter Cookies to choose delicious dessert cookies for your party. Top it off with two cases of Stony Creek Beer – infused with Bigelow Tea! *Not available for Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Norwalk Fireworks night, or Labor Day weekend. 3 weeks' minimum notice required.*

Donated by Clyde Ripka's Catering, Christopher & Terri Bell, and Bigelow Tea
Estimated Value: \$2,100
Minimum Bid: \$1,500



ITEM 3: SIGNED BRUBECK BROTHERS QUARTET PROGRAM AND VINTAGE DAVE BRUBECK PHOTO BY BILL WHITBECK

Dave Brubeck was a familiar face with many performances at the Norwalk Concert Hall with the Symphony. This photo, from our March 19, 1972 concert with the Dave Brubeck Trio, is a classic at the keyboard. Sons Chris and Dan, with Mike Demicco and Chuck Lamb, joined us on April 23, 2022 to bring Jazz to the hall once again! Enjoy this framed photo of Dave and an autographed program from our most recent concert.



**Donated by the
Norwalk Symphony Orchestra**
Estimated Value: \$500
Minimum Bid: \$350

ITEM 2: UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN, MANCIANO, ITALY: A TUSCAN VILLA!

Seven nights **accommodations only** for four people. Stay in your choice of 12 properties all located in or close to Manciano, Italy. Each property features at least two bedrooms and two baths with showers, a kitchen, and a lovely living area. The properties are situated in the ancient hill town of Manciano, approximately 1 1/2 hours north of Rome in the southern edge of Tuscany, which rises on the top of a hill open to the four winds: from the Amiata to the Fiora Valley, from Talamone to the beaches of Montalto di Castro, from the Argentario to the islands of Giglio and Montecristo. Manciano extends for 37,203 square kilometers in a hilly zone situated between the valleys of Albegna and Fiora.

- Travel is from Sat—Sat, Fri—Fri, or Thurs—Thurs depending on the unit chosen.
- If children are traveling, a \$500.00 damage deposit is required and will be refunded two weeks after departure date.
- Additional charges apply for more than four guests. Children count as well.
- Trip cannot be sold, bartered, or traded without written consent of owner. Offer is indefinite; subject to availability.
- No expiration on redemption. Trips are scheduled based on availability. Scheduling 2024 or beyond.

Donated by Leone Hinzman
Estimated Value: \$4,550
Minimum Bid: \$2,500



ITEM 4: YOU ARE THE CONDUCTOR!

Here is your chance to fulfill your dream! Conduct a musical piece at the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra during its 2023-2024 season!

Maestro Jonathan Yates has been our Music Director and Conductor these past 11 seasons and will provide a conducting lesson before you take the stage as the maestro yourself! Invite your friends to witness and celebrate your grand debut.



**Donated by Jonathan Yates and the
Norwalk Symphony Orchestra**
Estimated Value: Priceless
Minimum Bid: \$750

PHILIP CALLEN, AUCTIONEER



Philip Callen is a performer, host, emcee, and auctioneer based in Norwalk, and is thrilled to bring Beethoven to life for the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra in the (Not) Just For Kids program, at the Music For All Ages concert, and as host and auctioneer for the Norwalk Symphony Soiree.

He originally created this character for the Osmo Vänskä, in a series of events and appearances that culminated with a performance of Beethoven's Fifth for the Orchestra's Family Concert Series. His Beethoven was a regular sight around the Orchestra, and even ended up sneaking his way into the blog of Alex Ross, classical music writer for New Yorker Magazine!

Philip has appeared on many stages around the country, including New York, CT, and Minneapolis. He recently appeared in *Rocky Horror Picture Show* and *Sunset Boulevard* at Music Theatre of CT in Norwalk. For 16 straight years, he starred as George Bailey in *It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* at the historic Saint Paul Hotel in St. Paul, MN. He has played Ben Franklin in *1776*, Bill Wilson in *Bill W. and Dr. Bob*, and more than 23 roles in an original play about the life of the beloved late Minnesota Senator Paul Wellstone. In NY, he was last seen off-Broadway in the NY Times Critic's Pick "Honky" at Urban Stages.

Philip also has a long career as a host, emcee, and auctioneer for nonprofit organizations, and has headlined gala events for social service agencies, schools, theatres, and many more. He has a long background in fundraising and special events in the nonprofit world, and a strong commitment to connect the mission of critical non-profits to their audiences and supporters, helping them achieve fundraising success. Philip lives in Norwalk with his wife Laurie, and their two children, Alice and Abraham.

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KEYS' mission is to provide free music lessons and performance opportunities to under-resourced students of Bridgeport, CT. KEYS envisions a world where every child has access to the transformative experience of studying and playing music regardless of circumstances.

Our "Music for Life" lessons program provides one-to-one instrument lessons taught by trained and experienced instructors to children whose families do not have the means to pay for music instruction. KEYS also provides instruments for students to use while enrolled in the KEYS MUSIC program. All our programs are free for Bridgeport students.

We have a unique in-school teaching model at 21 Bridgeport schools, and also a robust Saturday program with individual lessons plus non-audition ensembles for KEYS Orchestra, KEYS Concert Band, KEYS Chorus, and KEYS Jazz Band. We are pleased to partner with musicians from the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra who visit the KEYS Saturday program several times a year to provide individual and small group coaching for our ensembles.

The KEYS Jazz Band is comprised of students in grades 7-12 and is directed by KEYS Founder and Artistic Director Rob Silvan. The KEYS Jazz Band plays a variety of jazz standards with a focus on mastering jazz foundations, with opportunities to develop improvisation skills and gain performance experience.

For more information about KEYS, please visit our website at www.keysmusic.org, reach out via email to admin@keysmusic.org, or call **(203) 350-0255**.

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EDUCATION & YOUTH PROGRAMS



(Not) Just for Kids is a core music education program which uses themes from upcoming performances incorporated with STEAM concepts to teach students of all ages about the various instrument families of the orchestra, as well as conducting and other related topics. Presented at after-school programs and local libraries, each ends with a "Petting Zoo" enabling attendees to try their hand at playing the instruments presented.

The annual **Concerto Competition** is an opportunity for students to test their musicianship with peers from the Fairfield County region. The environment is encouraging, with judges providing constructive feedback with an emphasis that aims to assist young musicians in improving their skills. Learning to perform and compete are important elements of the performing arts, and this event helps to develop skills for young students to become great performers. The winner of the competition plays their solo piece with the full orchestra at our annual Music for All Ages concert each March.



The **Master Class Program** focuses on middle and high school students, and this marks our second year of developing this new grant-funded program. Working with our local high schools and two other nonprofit music

education programs, Symphony musicians and the conductor have presented specialized workshops to assist these young musicians in their playing and performing skills. Development of the format and expanse of this program is ongoing and we look forward to growing this new opportunity to work with young musicians.

Information on these presentations can be found on our website at norwalksymphony.org.



MISSION

The Mission of the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra is to share the beauty and power of orchestral music with audiences of all ages through live performances and music education programs.

VISION

The Vision of the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra is to be a leading artistic institution in Southwest Connecticut. We strive to:

- Inspire, enlighten, educate and uplift the human spirit
- Perform artistically excellent symphonic and POPS concerts, whether they be full orchestra or chamber music compositions
- Value the cultural and educational importance of music
- Provide music educational opportunities for students and adults
- Connect and collaborate with community organizations
- Foster impactful appreciation of the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra, and
- Embrace diversity and promote inclusion for our staff, board, musicians and audiences.

We will sustain this vision by building financial relationships to ensure long term stability.



