



BEETHOVEN $\frac{4}{4}$
A Four Year Celebration 2016-2020

ERIE *est. 1913*
PHILHARMONIC
Daniel Meyer Music Director
23 W 10th St., Ste. 3, Erie, PA 16501 | 455-1375 | eriephil.org

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Erie Philharmonic welcomes Emanuel Ax to the Flagship city

Erie, PA | March 2, 2017

Emanuel Ax, one of the greatest pianists of our time, will make his debut with the Erie Philharmonic on Saturday, March 11 at the historic Warner Theatre. He is considered one of the most important interpreters of Beethoven of this generation and one of the most revered pianists. He will perform Beethoven's Emperor Concerto (No. 5), and the concert will end with Mahler's Symphony No. 4.

One of the most notable aspects of this visit is that Emanuel Ax has waived his artist fee, giving the Philharmonic the opportunity to present community programs that wouldn't normally be possible. He will perform with the orchestra Saturday night for a one-night-only concert at the Warner Theatre and will present activities in the community for 3 days prior including free lectures, recitals, and educational outreach visits. He is committed to reaching each community member as well as inspiring the next generation of music lovers.

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to invite Emanuel Ax for a four-day residency with the Erie Philharmonic next week. He is without question one of the most supremely gifted artists of our generation," Music Director Daniel Meyer says. "As a pianist, his technical virtuosity coupled with his extraordinarily deep musical sensibility makes him unique. As a human being, his warmth, humor, and generosity of spirit imbues his music making with a special quality that you simply must hear live to fully appreciate."

The Erie Philharmonic is appreciative of Ax's generous donation of time and has raised nearly \$300,000 in his honor. Gifts of this magnitude will have an immediate and long-term impact on the orchestra.

"Emanuel Ax has provided the community with something very special, the donation of his time and talents to benefit not only the Erie Philharmonic, but the arts and culture of our community," says Michael Edwards, CEO of Marquette Savings Bank. "Marquette felt his contribution, and the opportunity to generate funds on behalf of the Philharmonic was an important initiative, one that we are proud to support." Marquette Savings Bank is one of the sponsors of the concert on Saturday.

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For a full list of events & programs, please see the next page. Press welcome at all events. Private press interviews TBA.

Lisa Herring
Director of Community Impact, Erie Philharmonic
lisa@eriephil.org | (cell) (724) 747-5652

Steve Weiser
Executive Director, Erie Philharmonic
sweiser@eriephil.org | (w) (814) 455-1375

Schedule for March 8-11 | Emanuel Ax with the Erie Philharmonic

Wednesday, March 8

1:00-1:45pm: Outreach Visit to Emerson Gridley Elementary

Emanuel Ax will present an assembly for 150 2nd and 3rd graders in the school gym.

7:00-8:30pm: Lecture & Recital at Jefferson Educational Society

Free and open to the public. For reservations: (814) 459-8000

Join Mr. Ax in an intimate recital, lecture and Q&A.

Thursday, March 9

10:45-11:15am: Outreach Visit to Walnut Creek Middle School

Emanuel Ax will present an assembly students in their Town Hall auditorium.

12:00-1:30pm: Masterclass at Walker Recital Hall, Mercyhurst University

Free and open to the public.

Be an audience to an education experience for Mercyhurst students and alumni. Each student will perform for Emanuel Ax and receive one-on-one coaching.

6:00-9:30pm: Private fundraiser event not for publication or announcement in advance.

Nick and Kim Scott will host guests at their home for a private recital. Press welcome to cover during event but must notify Lisa Herring for details in advance.

Friday, March 10

12:00-1:00pm: Studio Q: Live Broadcast & Interview at Walker Recital Hall, Mercyhurst University

Free and open to the public.

Join Mr. Ax for an insightful hour of music, interviews, stories and more with WQLN's Radio Host, Brian Hannah.

6:30-8:00pm: Fridays with the Phil, Open Rehearsal, Warner Theatre Lobby

Free and open to the public.

A special preview of Saturday's concert. Enjoy snacks by Cali's West Catering, a visit from Mr. Ax, cash bar, and a sneak peek into rehearsal before the upcoming concert.

Saturday, March 11

8:00-10:00pm: Emanuel Ax with the Erie Philharmonic at the Warner Theatre

Concert tickets range from \$20-52 and are available at 455-1375, eriephil.org, or Erie Phil Office.

A one-night-only celebratory concert featuring Emanuel Ax on Beethoven's Piano No. 5, "Emperor" concerto and Mahler's Symphony No. 4 with Sari Gruber, soprano. This near sell-out concert will be one of the Erie Philharmonic's most exciting events of the season.