

Thirty-Sixth Season 2023-2024

... a unique performing arts leader, presenting frequent, exciting & varied concerts of extraordinary music.



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Fall 2023

We begin our 36th season of concerts filled with immense gratitude for your support. In large part because of your generosity, we have been able to bring extraordinary performances to our community for more than three decades. It's a tremendous achievement. Thank you!

As we celebrate our return to live programs, we ask that you continue your commitment to great music, helping to ensure that this valuable part of our community life remains accessible to all. Downtown Music has continued to thrive because of our enthusiastic audience and friends.

On behalf of our Trustees, and our family of Downtown Music at Grace artists, I send heartfelt thanks and warm wishes for a year of renewal.

Best regards,

Prus. D.

Timothy Lewis

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(All artists and programs listed in this brochure are subject to change without notice.)

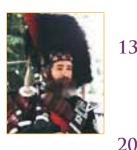


Noonday Getaway Concerts

Free 45-minute programs at 12:10 pm every Wednesday from September through May. Please consult our website *DTMusic.org* for updates regarding weekend events.

SEPTEMBER







Helen Sung - A White Plains Jazz Festival Event 6 Pianist and composer, Helen Sung presents PUSH, a solo piano program that celebrates the music and artistry of landmark women in jazz. Sung, a native of Houston, Texas, set aside her classical piano upbringing after a jazz epiphany during her under graduate studies at UT Austin. She went on to become part of the inaugural class of the Thelonious Monk Institute at the New England Conservatory of Music. Her newest album Quartet+ (Sunnyside Records) was included on DownBeat's "Best of 2021 Albums" list. In addition to her own band, Sung has performed with such luminaries as the late Clark Terry, Wayne Shorter, Ron Carter, Wynton Marsalis, Regina Carter, Terri Lyne Carrington, Cécile McLorin Salvant, and the Mingus Big Band. Sung was named a Guggenheim Fellow in 2021. A Downtown Music Debut

A partnersbip between ArtsWestchester, the City of White Plains and the White Plains BID, JazzFest has become a signature White Plains event presenting free and affordable jazz experiences to jazz entbusiasts from Westchester and beyond. JazzFest White Plains is made possible by Presenting Sponsor Montefiore Einstein, and additional sponsors detailed bere: https://artswestchester.org/programs/jazzfest-2

- 13 Sounds of the Scottish Highlands Celebrated piper Jonathan Henken returns to Downtown Music with a program of ancient airs and dances of Scotland. This outdoor concert will take place on the church lawn. In the event of rain, the concert will be held in Grace Church.
 - Jeffrey Charles Palmer, countertenor and Irena Portenko, piano invite you join them on a musical voyage beginning in 19th century France with the song cycle *Les nuits d'été* by Hector Berlioz before sailing across the Celtic Sea to discover a beautifully curated selection of traditional Irish songs, including classic arrangements by Benjamin Britten

and Hamilton Harty. This concert is made possible, in part, with the generous support of

Ibis concert is made possible, in part, with the generous support of Victor Goldsmith, PHD.



SEPTEMBER

27

Chamber Music with the Phil – The musicians of the Westchester Philharmonic return for one of their exciting chamber music concerts. Please consult our website *DTMusic.org* for program details, and learn more about the Westchester Philharmonic's season at *Westchesterphil.org*

This concert is made possible, in part, with the generous support of the Brian Wallach Agency, White Plains, New York. Personal and Commercial Insurance since 1949.



OCTOBER

4 With 26 recordings and hundreds of songs in his repertoire, **Tom Chapin** serves up a tasty mix of story songs, ballads, comedic and political songs, family music, sing-alongs, old-time folk classics, and a favorite song or two of his late brother Harry's. Tom accompanies himself on guitar, banjo and autoharp and is joined by longtime collaborator, **Michael Mark**, who plays concertina and bass.

This concert is made possible, in part, with a generous gift from Hannah and John Nelson.

1 Violinist **Ariana Cappon** has distinguished herself as a performer, collaborator, scholar and teacher. Since her solo debut at age 14, she has performed frequently in the United States, Canada, and Europe. She studied with some of the world's leading artists at Indiana University, where she earned graduate degrees in both music and mathematics. She is joined by **Andrei Romanov**, a New York based pianist and composer, who has given concerts and solo recitals in Russia, Finland, Kazakhstan, the United States, Israel, and Italy. Recent appearances include recitals at Symphony Space in New York, and the Tel Aviv Museum of Art Concert Hall. *Tbis concert ismade possible, in part, wib generous support from the law office of Stephen Holden, Esq.White Plains, NY*



3 The Balint/Jolles Duo Joyce Balint, mandolin, and Susan Jolles, harp, both of whom frequently appear with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, return to Downtown Music with a delightful program of Italian music for this unusual combination of instruments. Works of Lully, Paganini, and Calace will be featured. *This concert is made possible, in part, with a generous gift from Barbara Schwarz celebrating the contributions of Westchester County*

Legislator Ben Boykin to our community.

OCTOBER



Cultural icon Alma Mahler-Werfel's life intersected with some of the greatest artists of the late-19th and 20th centuries. A fascinating character, her intelligence, taste, and power (not to mention her romantic appeal) make her the subject of continuing intrigue. While her own composition career was reportedly stifled by her first husband, Gustav, Alma was entrenched in multiple artistic communities as life took her from Vienna to New York and Los Angeles. Soprano Jardena Gertler-Jaffe and pianist Erika Switzer explore her life and impact in this recital featuring works by Gustav Mahler, Berg. Schoenberg, Eisler, Britten, and Alma Mahler, herself. Jardena Gertler-Jaffe has been praised for her genuine and intelligent performances, as well as her creativity on and off the stage. She is a Britten-Pears Young Artist, and has been awarded fellowships/apprenticeships from the Association of Opera in Canada, Sarasota Opera, and Bard Summerscape. Pianist Erika Switzer performs regularly in major concert settings around the world. including at New York's Weill Hall (Carnegie), Geffen Hall, Frick Collection, Bargemusic, and at the Kennedy Center, the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, the Spoleto Festival in Charleston. Renaud Machart of Le Monde described her as "one of the best collaborative pianists I have ever heard; her sound is deep, her interpretation intelligent, refined, and captivating." This concert is made possible, in part, with a gift in memory of Adrianne Reilly

NOVEMBER





- A Laureate of the New York International Piano Competition - Downtown Music continues its collaboration with the virtuosic young pianists who are prize winners of this venerable contest. Please consult our website *DTMusic.org* for program details. *This concert is made possible, in part, with the generous support of Beverley and Sabin Streeter.*
- Named to a "select circle" of pianists by *The New York Times*, **Irena Portenko** is a sought-after concert pianist, music educator, and mentor. Born in Kyiv, Ukraine, Dr. Portenko made her debut performing Haydn's Keyboard Concerto in D Major with the Ukrainian National Orchestra at the age of eight. Her career as a soloist has included a distinguished array of performances, including two concerti by R. Schumann and J. Brahms in one evening, accompanied by the National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine. She return to Downtown Music with a program featuring virtuosic works of Franz Liszt.

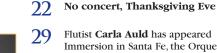
This concert is made possible, in part, with a generous gift from Nicolas Wolff, realtor and community supporter.





NOVEMBER

Chamber Music with the Phil – The musicians of the Westchester Philharmonic return for one of their exciting chamber music concerts. Please consult our website *DTMusic.org* for program details, and learn more about the Westchester Philharmonic's season at *Westchesterphil.org Tbis concert is made possible, in part, with the generous support of the Brian Wallach Agency; White Plains, New York. Personal and Commercial Insurance since 1949.*



Flutist **Carla Auld** has appeared with Flute Immersion in Santa Fe, the Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de Mexico, and the Saint Paul Festival of the Arts. Guitarist **David Galvez**, a native of Lima, Peru has performed as soloist with the Manhattan Philharmonic Orchestra, Capital Philharmonic Orchestra, The National Symphony Orchestra, Trujillo Orchestra of Peru and Grand Rapids Opera in Michigan. He has performed and recorded duets with the renowned tenor Juan Diego Florez. Together, they offer a program music from Spain and South America including works of Piazzolla and

Giuliani. A Downtown Music Debut

DECEMBER



DECEMBER



20

13 Holiday Cabaret - It's been said that Kimberley Hawkey, "conjures vistas of the heart for an age in need of vintage, time-tested soul sustenance". We couldn't agree more, and always look forward to her concerts with Downtown Music as special events. Ms. Hawkey has won the Johnny Mercer award and is a veteran of Caramoor and Birdland. Join us for the program of holiday favorites and some new creations as well.

This concert is made possible, in part, with the generous support of 165 Café Corporation, Hudson Grille and Lilly's, White Plains.



Angelica – A visit from this wonderful chamber choir, directed by Marie Caruso, has become a seasonal tradition for our Downtown Music audience. This year, the program features medieval carols and chants of the season; rarely heard pieces by Renaissance composers Leonora d'Este and Agostino Agazzari; two strikingly different settings of Angelus ad Pastores Ait—one by Sulpitia Cesis (1619), the other by David Burks (2010), as well as appealing compositions by other contemporary composers—Oliver Tarney's The Waiting Sky, Eriks Ešenvalds's Panis Angelicus, and Mark Sirett's Christmas in Carrick.

This concert is made possible, in part, with the generous support of Elias Dagber and Dagber Engineering., PLLC.

A Laureate of the New York International Piano

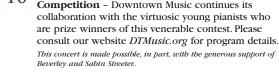
27 NO CONCERT

NO CONCERT

JANUARY

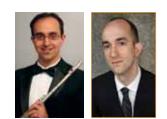
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7 Guitarist **John Lehmann-Haupt** is known equally for his arrangements of popular and traditional songs and for his classical interpretations. He has performed throughout the Northeast and in the homes of such prominent New Yorkers as Tom Brokaw and Madeleine Albright. His 12-year engagement at Windows on the World was cited for musical excellence by *The New York Times*. It's a pleasure to welcome John back to Downtown Music. *This program is made possible, in part, with the support of Apple Bank.*





JANUARY

At age 20, flutist Maron Khoury became the youngest 24 musician to join the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. Much in demand as a soloist, he has made music with many notable conductors including James Levine, Riccardo Muti, Simon Rattle, Christoph Eschenbach, and Daniel Barenboim. He is joined at the piano by Dmitri Dover who joined the music staff of The Metropolitan Opera in 2016. A longtime New York resident, he has performed a broad spectrum of repertoire as soloist and collaborator, most recently in venues including Alice Tully Hall, Merkin Hall, Zankel Hall, Weill Recital Hall, Koch Theater, Symphony Space, and the Park Avenue Armory. Together, they offer an exciting program of virtuosic showpieces for flute and piano.

This concert is made possible, in part, with the generous support of support of Ridgeway Garden Center, White Plains, and Lago Ristorante, West Harrison.

Tenor **Maximillian Jansen** was a 2023 Opera Saratoga Festival Artist where he performed the role of Monty in *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*. In 2022, he premiered a new work by David Ludwig at New York's YIVO Institute for Jewish research. Recent performances include the role of the Fourth Jew in Strauss's *Salome*, Ferrando in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, and the titular role in Benjamin Britten's *Albert Herring*. He has appeared as a soloist with the Albany Symphony, the Lancaster Philharmonic, and the Victoria Civic Orchestra. *Tbis concert is made possible, in part, witb a gift in memory of Robert Sberman.*



FEBRUARY

7 Chamber Music with the Phil – The musicians of the Westchester Philharmonic return for one of their exciting chamber music concerts. Please consult our website *DTMusic.org* for program details, and learn more about the Westchester Philharmonic's season at *Westchesterphil.org*

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14 NO CONCERT



FEBRUARY



Jonathan Lawlor, baritone, has extensive experience 21 with early music and has appeared with Boston Baroque, Emmanuel Music, and Marsh Chapel, and participated in the young artist programs at Opera Maine and Music Academy of the West. Born into a family of musicians, pianist Nomin Samdan has performed as a recitalist and chamber musician in Russia, Italy, Slovenia, China, France, US, Austria, Lithuania, and Mexico. She has won top prizes from piano competitions in Mongolia, Russia, France and Spain. Ms. Samdan is currently a Fellow of the Collaborative Piano Program at Bard College. The program includes music of Richard Strauss, John Ireland, Benjamin Britten and Samuel Barber. This concert is made possible, in part, with the generous support of Dr. Richard Thompson.



Jörg-Michael Schwarz, violin and Dongsok Shin, harpsichord continue their exploration of works formerly attributed to I.S. Bach, Jörg-Michael Schwarz, a prize winner in several international violin competitions, is one of North America's leading Baroque violinists. He has performed as soloist and chamber musician throughout the Americas, Asia, Australia, and Europe. Much in demand as a soloist and continuo player, Donsgsok Shin has appeared with the American Classical Orchestra, ARTEK, Concert Royal, Early Music New York, Carmel Bach Festival, Mark Morris Dance Group, the New York Philharmonic, the Orchestra of St. Luke's and the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. The program includes works of Bach and Fischer. This concert is made possible, in part, with the generous gift from D'Errico Jewelry of Scarsdale.

MARCH

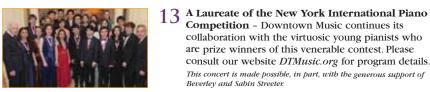
28



Laura Hamilton was Principal Associate Concertmaster 6 for the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, where she led hundreds of performances over 33 years. She was concertmaster for many of the MET's popular "Live in HD" videocasts, including Carmen, Parsifal, Turandot, Faust, Salome, and Madama Butterfly. She is currently Artistic Director and Concertmaster for the summer festival Classical Tahoe in Nevada, and Concertmaster for CityMusic Cleveland. Laura returns to Downtown Music with pianist Elizabeth Martyn and assisting artists to offer two iconic violin works from the Baroque era-with a twist. She will present Bach's Chaconne from Partita #2 in a rich and inventive arrangement for string trio, followed by Antonio Vivaldi's Four Seasons as recomposed and interpreted by London-based composer Max Richter.

This concert is made possible, in part, with the generous support from the law office of Paul Bergins, Esq. White Plains, NY.

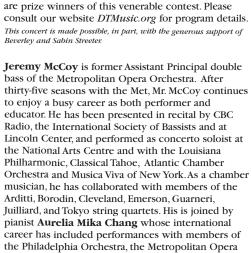
MARCH











Competition - Downtown Music continues its

collaboration with the virtuosic young pianists who

the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, the Vienna Philharmonic, and Orchestre de la Suisse Romande. She is member of the Arioso Piano Trio based in Tokyo, and co-founder of the newly formed di Chirico Quartet. It's a pleasure to welcome them to Downtown Music.

This concert is made possible, in part, with the generous support of Catherine Toolin.

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APRIL

3 Cellist David Heiss is a former member of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and is principal cellist of The New York Pops at Carnegie Hall. Featured as a concerto soloist and recitalist in a wide range of repertoire, he plays a John Betts cello, dated 1789. He is joined by pianist **Warren Jones**, a former faculty member at Manhattan School of Music, Rutgers University, and the Music Academy of the West, who has served as Principal Pianist for the exciting California chamber music group Camerata Pacifica. This program is made possible, in part, with generous support from the Law Office of Stephen Holden, Esq. White Plains.

APRIL



10 Scottish baritone Ivor Klayman has sung most of the major baritone roles in the 19th and 20th Century operatic repertoire, and the title roles in Nabucco, Macbeth, William Tell, The Pilgrim's Progress and Prince Igor. He has appeared as soloist in oratorio and concert works ranging from Bach to Walton and presented song recitals of Mahler, Schubert, Schumann, Vaughan Williams, and Wolf. He's joined by pianist Svetlana Gorokhovich for program which features the beautifully crafted songs of Charles Villiers Stanford, Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Songs of Travel* and an engaging group of Scots songs. *This concert is made possible, in part, with the generous support of Nancy Goodman and Linda and Robert Heatb.*



Mezzo Soprano Hailey McAvoy teams up with flutist Maron Khoury and pianist Bethany **Pietroniro** for a program which features the music of J.S. Bach and Maurice Ravel. Hailey McAvoy is sought after for her performances of repertoire both classic and contemporary. Recent appearances include Ravel's Shéhérezade with The Orchestra Now at the Fisher Center for the Performing Arts and with the Baton Rouge Symphony; and an offering of Brahms's Zwei Gesänge for mezzosoprano and viola with Byron Schenkman & Friends in Seattle. Maron Khoury, a member of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, is much in demand as a soloist and has made music with many notable conductors including James Levine, Riccardo Muti, Simon Rattle, Christoph Eschenbach and Daniel Barenboim. Bethany Pietroniro has appeared in concert at Alice Tully Hall, the Morgan Library. She spent the summer of 2022 as a collaborative pianist a Tanglewood.

This concert is made possible, in part, with the generous support of with the generous support of Elias Dagher and Dagher Engineering., PLLC.



7 Chamber Music with the Phil – The musicians of the Westchester Philharmonic return for one of their exciting chamber music concerts. Please consult our website *DTMusic.org* for program details, and learn more about the Westchester Philharmonic's season at *Westchesterphil.org*

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MAY

Nevertheless, She Persisted: The first in a three-part series of music created and performed by German women at different times and in different places.

Program I: The Life Religious - Choral Music of the German Renaissance and Baroque. Works of Hildegard of Bingen, Countess Amalia Katharina of Waldeck, Anna Amalia the Abbess of Quedlinburg, and Duchess Maria Antonia of Bavaria. The music will be performed by alumni of the Graduate Vocal Arts Program at Bard College. Timothy Lewis, Conductor.

8 Nevertheless, She Persisted: The second in a threepart series of music created and performed by German women at different times and in different places.

Program II: Family Ties; German Music of the Classical and Romantic Eras. Works of Clara Schumann, Fanny Mendelssohn and Josephine Lang. The program is curated by Pianist Erika Switzer, and features violinist Chris Nelson, and soprano Katherine Lerner Lee.

5 Nevertheless, She Persisted: The last in a three-part series of music created and performed by German women at different times and in different places.

Program III: Refuge in Music: German Women Composers in the 20th Century. With the advent of the 20th century came growing acceptance of women in musical life, yet many had their lives significantly interrupted by the Nazi regime and World War II. Together with **Bethany Pietroniro**, soprano and ethnomusicologist **Jardena Gertler-Jaffe** leads a program of music by Luise Sumpf Greger (1862-1944), Gertrude Rittmann (1908-2005) and Westchester County resident, Ruth Schonthal (1924 -2006).

22 Angelica, the women's chamber choir directed by Marie Caruso. In addition to its holiday concert, this wonderful group offers an annual spring concert as well which, this year, features settings of medieval Celtic texts by composer Michael McGlynn; arrangements of traditional Irish, Scottish, English, and Welsh melodies; as well as American and Canadian compositions inspired by Celtic immigrants.

This concert is made possible, in part, with the generous support of Elias Dagber and Dagber Engineering, PLLC

29 **First Annual Dorothy Jackson Memorial Concert:** Our 36th anniversary season concludes with *The Legacy of the Spiritual: Music of the African Diaspora.* The professional voices of the Downtown Music Chorale. And formed by a journey from the African Continent, through the Caribbean, to the United States. Timothy Lewis, Artistic Director of Downtown Music, leads this program which includes a pre-concert talk placing the music in historical context.

In Appreciation

Downtown Music thanks the people of Grace Church for the use of their historic, acoustically superb building as a venue for our programs. It is one of our most appreciated gifts.

We acknowledge the following donors for their exceptional recent support.

ArtsWestchester Allen B. Bartlett Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bergins Nanette H Bourne and John R. Delfs Renee Cohen Elias F. Dagher Renate and Cormac Daly D'Errico Jewelry Mr. and Mrs. William G. Foulke Graphiks with a'K' Linda and Robert Heath Michael and Hvun Heffner Hudson Grill-165 Cafe Corp. The IBM International Foundation The Family of Dorothy Jackson Mr. and Mrs. William H. P. Kaung Nancy Kissinger Lago Ristorante

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ite Plains Hospital



DAGHER ENGINEERING







A Brief History of **Downtown Music**

Thirty-six years ago, Downtown Music began with a plan for a series of concerts which would delight and inspire all who live, work, or visit in downtown White Plains. The programs were to be top flight musical offerings, presented on a regular schedule, in a way that was welcoming to all.

Today, the dream is a reality. We expect more than 4,000 people will join us for concerts in this year alone. Downtown Music has twice been voted a Best of Westchester Winner by the Editors of Westchester Magazine, and has been selected as an Arts Award Winner by ArtsWestchester. We have made a substantial investment in the cultural life of our community and, with your help, have created something truly unique and successful.

We thank you for your generosity and support.



Downtown

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