This email was sent to Manuel Valera, piano
May 13, 2020, at 12:10 pm, Downtown Music at Grace Church, White Plains

CHAMBER SERIES
Ran Dank, piano
February 9, 2020, at 3:00 pm, Purchase College Performing Arts Center

MAINSTAGE SERIES
Barbara Podgurski, piano
Liuh-Wen Ting, viola
January 15, 2020, at 12:10 pm, Downtown Music at Grace, White Plains

The Westchester Philharmonic has a rich history of supporting artists of diverse backgrounds and is committed to bringing programming that celebrates this diversity to the stage. Over the past ten seasons the Phil has engaged 30 conductors or guest soloists of African-American, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American backgrounds. Women conductors and composers have appeared in eight of the last ten seasons. The Westchester Philharmonic has also premiered works by composers of diverse backgrounds and/or are women. Over the past ten seasons the Phil has premiered works by composers like Adolphus Hailstork, Akira Terao, and Melinda Wagner's Concerto for Flute, Strings and Percussion, which won the Pulitzer Prize in 1999. The orchestra was founded in 1983 under the leadership of late Music Director Paul Lustig Dunkel and the organization has developed strong, ongoing immersive relationships with composers from across the country including, Andy Akiho, Lewis Burnside, Gregg August, and other award-winning American composers. Newly commissioned works by award-winning composers Christopher Theofanidis, David Ludwig, and Melinda Wagner have been premiered with the Philharmonic. Renowned artists who have performed with the Phil include Joshua Bell, Julia Bullock, Kate Lindsey, Joshua Hopkins, Richard Crothers, and Ashley Faatoalia. The orchestra has performed sold-out audiences at both Dodger Stadium and The Staples Center as well as command performances in Porgy and Bess with Seattle Opera, Candide with The Los Angeles Philharmonic, and The Festival Play of Daniel with Los Angeles Opera. In addition, Rachael Worby has performed with the Philharmonic, The Festival Play of Daniel with Los Angeles Opera, his debut with San Francisco Opera, and has performed in Catch Me If You Can and a journey to Motown for classics by Bernstein's West Side Story.

The Tonight Show with Jay Leno. Since his solo orchestral debut at age ten with the Young Artist's Concerto, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Modesto Symphony Orchestra, Pasadena Pops, and the Westchester Philharmonic, Ashley has become a sought-after vocalist for new works and experimental projects. Exemplary of Ashley’s unique artistry and infinite range, “Outstanding”, Opera News credits Ashley for having “a voice of winning purity and variety of expression”, and The San Francisco Chronicle labeled him “Sweet-toned” In these first few years of his professional career Ashley has become a sought-after vocalist for new works and experimental projects. Ashley Faatoalia was named the 2014 Grand Prize Winner of the prestigious Davidson Fellow Laureate Award in 2014, Ushikubo won the 2017 Hilton Head Festival Competition, and Ashley Faatoalia is a current member of the University of Southern California Master’s Program.

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