WESTCHESTER PHILHARMONIC TO PRESENT
NY PREMIERE OF NEW WORK

Orchestra partnering with 48 regional organizations for
Christopher Theofanidis’ Dreamtime Ancestors

Concert led by Principal Conductor Jaime Laredo and featuring famed
cellist Sharon Robinson for Shostakovich

(Purchase, New York) — The Westchester Philharmonic proudly announce d its 2015-16 season, with
musical luminaries Dawn Upshaw, Sharon Robinson, Ashley Brown, Alon Goldstein, and rising star Kazem
Abdullah. Led by Principal Conductors Jaime Laredo and Ted Sperling, Westchester County's oldest and
most prestigious symphony orchestra will present its 33rd season at its home, the 1300 seat Concert Hall
at the Purchase Performing Arts Center.

Along with masterworks of Beethoven, Brahms, Mendelssohn, and Mozart, the orchestra will perform 20th
century milestones of Bartok, Gershwin, Shostakovich, and Stravinsky, and 21st century masterpieces of
the future by Oswaldo Golijov and Christopher Theofanidis, the latter in a New York area premiere
commissioned by the Westchester Philharmonic.

The season opens on Sunday, October 18, 2015 at 3 pm with Christopher Theofanidis’ Dreamtime
Ancestors, a work co-commissioned by 48 regional orchestras throughout the country participating in the
New Music for America consortium which supports sequential performances of the work that will last
through 2017. After its world premiere by the Plymouth (MA) Symphony on October 3, the Phil will present
the work, with Principal Conductor Jaime Laredo on the podium, in an exclusive Tri-state area
performance. Dreamtime Ancestors is based on the Australian aboriginal creation myths connected to
‘dreamtime’; focusing on the belief that each of us is connected through our ‘dreamtime ancestors’ in the
past, present, and future. Theofanidis’ work has been described as “unabashedly joyful” (Boston Globe),
“rapturous” (Houston Chronical), and “lyrical, exotic soul-searching” (The New York Times).

The Phil then warmly welcomes cellist Sharon Robinson who, with husband Laredo, comprise two-thirds
of the renowned Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio, for Shostakovich’s emotion-charged Cello Concerto No.
1. Completing the season-opening concert will be Beethoven's exhilarating Fourth Symphony. Hector
Berlioz once described the second movement Adagio as composed not by any human, but an angel.

A subscriber-only Kick-Off Party follows the concert. Pre-concert discussion with the artists begins at 2 pm
in The Concert Hall.
Listing Information
Westchester Philharmonic Season Opener
Jaime Laredo, conducting & Sharon Robinson, cello
NY Premiere by Christopher Theofanidis
Sunday, October 18, 2014 at 3 pm
The Performing Arts Center, Purchase College
5 and 4-concert subscriptions available: $394-$89
Single tickets: $98-$30  Student/child/group discounts are available.
Call (914) 682-3707 ext. 10 or visit westchesterphil.org for tickets.

Free open rehearsal scheduled for 11am on October 18 in The Concert Hall.

Program Information
Theofanidis: *Dreamtime Ancestors* (NY Premiere)
Shostakovich: Cello Concerto No. 1
Beethoven: Symphony No. 4

About Christopher Theofanidis

Christopher Theofanidis has had performances by many leading orchestras from around the world, including the London Symphony, the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Moscow Soloists, the National, Atlanta, Baltimore, St. Louis, Detroit Symphonies, and many others. He also served as Composer of the Year for the Pittsburgh Symphony during their 2006-2007 Season, for which he wrote a violin concerto for Sarah Chang.

Mr. Theofanidis holds degrees from Yale, the Eastman School of Music, and the University of Houston, and has been the recipient of the International Masterprize (hosted at the Barbican Centre in London), the Rome Prize, a Guggenheim Fellowship, six ASCAP Gould Prizes, a Fulbright Fellowship to France, a Tanglewood Fellowship, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters’ Charles Ives Fellowship. In 2007 he was nominated for a Grammy for best composition for his chorus and orchestra work, *The Here and Now*, based on the poetry of Rumi. His orchestral concert work, *Rainbow Body*, has been one of the most performed new orchestral works of the last ten years, having been performed by over 100 orchestras internationally.

Mr. Theofanidis’ has recently written a ballet for the American Ballet Theatre, a work for the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra as part of their ‘New Brandenburg’ series, and he currently has two opera commissions for the San Francisco and Houston Grand Opera companies. He has a long-standing relationship with the Atlanta Symphony, and has just had his first symphony premiered and recorded with that orchestra. He has served as a delegate to the US-Japan Foundation’s Leadership Program and is a former faculty member of the Peabody Conservatory and the Juilliard School. He currently teaches at Yale University.

www.theofanidismusic.com

New Music for America Consortium

The October 18 performance of *Dreamtime Ancestors* by Christopher Theofanidis represents a local realization of an exciting national collaboration that has allowed the Westchester Philharmonic, and many other small-budget orchestras, to contribute to the cannon of American music of our time. The Philharmonic’s participation in the New Music for America consortium, (aptly named after Ford Made in America which became the largest commissioning project in American history) which is responsible for the realization of *Dreamtime Ancestors*, is supported, in part, by the Andrew Mellon Foundation and the NEA. The Phil is one of 48 participating orchestra’s which range from youth orchestras and community orchestras with budgets of under $100,000 to professional orchestras with budgets of up to $3,000,000. The goal of New Music for America is to have the composition performed by at least one orchestra in all 50 states. Mr. Theofanidis’ reputation as a significant contributor to symphonic music will undoubtedly foster anticipation for his latest composition not only across the country, but especially in his home state among New York-area audiences. The work will have its world premiere with the Plymouth (MA) Symphony in September; the Westchester Philharmonic exclusive NY-area premiere will follow on October 18.

*Dreamtime Ancestors* is a 3-movement, 17 minute tone poem for orchestra based on the Australian aboriginal creation myths connected to ‘dreamtime’; focusing on the belief that each of us is connected through our ‘dreamtime ancestors’ in the past, present, and future. A pre-concert discussion with the composer is planned to shed light on this important piece of Australian culture and how it has informed and shaped the music.
About the Westchester Philharmonic

Now in its 33rd season, the Westchester Philharmonic is the oldest, continuously running professional symphony orchestra and largest performing arts organization of any kind in Westchester County. The Philharmonic’s main stage concert series makes its home at the 1,300 seat Concert Hall at the Purchase Performing Arts Center, with outdoor concerts, chamber concerts, children’s programs, and special events throughout the area, attracting savvy music-lovers from Rockland, Bergen, Fairfield, and Putnam counties, New York City, and beyond.

In November 2013 the Philharmonic proudly announced the concurrent appointments of Jaime Laredo and Ted Sperling as the orchestra’s Principal Conductors, commencing with the 2014-15 season.

Founded in 1983 as the New Orchestra of Westchester under the leadership of Music Director Paul Lustig Dunkel (who became Music Director Emeritus in 2008), the orchestra was later re-named the Westchester Philharmonic. Renowned artists who have performed with the Phil include Joshua Bell, Jeremy Denk, Branford Marsalis, Midori, Garrick Ohlsson, Itzhak Perlman, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, Gil Shaham, Isaac Stern, and André Watts.

Among the many new works commissioned and premiered by the Westchester Philharmonic is Melinda Wagner’s Concerto for Flute, Strings and Percussion, which won the Pulitzer Prize in 1999. A new commission by Christopher Theofanidis is scheduled for debut during the 2015 – 2016 season.

The orchestra’s award-winning education program reaches thousands of elementary school students each year and culminates in a full orchestra concert. The Phil also partners with local organizations to present free and low-cost chamber concerts, as well as to provide subsidized seating at main stage concerts, welcoming hundreds of area residents each year who might not otherwise have an opportunity to attend.

The orchestra is comprised of the finest professional free-lance musicians from around the greater metropolitan area, who also perform regularly with the New York City Ballet, Orchestra St. Luke’s, Orpheus, Mostly Mozart, and for many Broadway shows. Members of the Phil hold faculty positions at Juilliard, Mannes, Manhattan School of Music, Purchase Conservatory, Vassar and Bard Colleges, and at local public schools.

This season is made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. This season is also made possible, in part, by ArtsWestchester with funds from Westchester County Government.

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All events at 3 pm.

October 18, 2015  **Jaime Laredo, conducting**  Sharon Robinson, cello  

**The Eugene and Emily Grant Opening Concert**  
Theofanidis: *Dreamtime Ancestors* (NY Premiere)  
Shostakovich: Cello Concerto No. 1  
Beethoven: Symphony No. 4

December 20, 2015  **Ted Sperling, conducting**  Ashley Brown, vocals  Joe Mohan, piano  

**Winter Pops!**  
Gershwin *Rhapsody in Blue*  
Works by Porter, Bernstein, Rodgers, and Sondheim.

February 7, 2016  **Ted Sperling, conducting**  Dawn Upshaw, soprano  

**The Phil's Friends & Family Concert**  
Mozart: Overture to *The Marriage of Figaro*  
Golijov: Three Songs  
Mendelssohn: Octet for orchestra

April 17, 2016  **Jaime Laredo, conductor and violin**  

**Eternal Spring**  
Vivaldi: Concerto Grosso in D Minor (Op. 3, No. 11, RV 565)  
Mozart: Violin Concerto No. 3  
Bartok: Romanian Folk Dances  
Stravinsky: Pulcinella Suite

June 19, 2016  **Kazem Abdullah, conducting**  Alon Goldstein, piano  

**Burgers, Beers, and Brahms**  
Falla: *El amor brujo*: Ritual Fire Dance  
Mozart: Symphony No. 41 (“Jupiter”)  
Brahms: Piano Concerto No. 1

4 and 5-Concert subscriptions: $394-$98  
Single tickets: $97-$30  
Tickets: (914) 682-3707 or westchesterphil.org  
Concerts are presented at:  
The Concert Hall  
The Performing Arts Center Purchase College  
735 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase, NY