

Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra

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Brahms' Symphonic Farewell begins Harrisburg Symphony's 2007 Masterworks Series

Violinist extraordinaire Tai Murray performs Samuel Barber's "Violin Concerto"
Ellen Taaffe Zwilich's "Prologue and Variations for String Orchestra" also featured

Don't miss a beat as the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra, Stuart Malina conducting, continues its Masterworks series in January, featuring Brahms' final symphony and violinist extraordinaire Tai Murray performs Samuel Barber's "Violin Concerto."

Stuart Malina will conduct the feature piece, Johannes Brahms' "4th Symphony." Brahms' farewell symphony is a thoughtful and deep musical musing of a classical icon. German musical scholar August Kretzschmar described the work as leading "into realms where joy and sorrow are hushed, and humanity bows before that which is eternal."

The Harrisburg Symphony Masterworks concert begins with Ellen Taaffe Zwilich's "Prologue and Variations for String Orchestra." This work is known for its emotive and complex, yet accessible style. Zwilich is known as a groundbreaker in classical music as she was the first woman to receive a Pulitzer Prize for music.

The Brahms and Zwilich works are tied together by Barber's "Violin Concerto." The success of the Barber piece is dependent on the skill of the soloist, who must weave together the differing lyrical themes and melodic flavors that comprise the concerto.

This concert is sponsored by the Josiah W. and Bessie H. Kline Foundation.

Performances will be held Saturday, Jan. 13 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 14 at 3 p.m. at the Forum located at 5th and Walnut streets in downtown Harrisburg.

Masterworks tickets are available from just \$10 to \$49 depending on seating area. Season subscription packages for the remainder of Harrisburg Symphony concert season are still available. Tickets and program notes are available online at HarrisburgSymphony.org, or by calling (717) 545-5527.

Coming later in January, the Harrisburg Symphony performs Gilbert and Sullivan's "HMS Pinafore" (concert version) on Jan. 27 and 28, featuring film and television actor Josh Malina, known by many for his costarring role as Will Bailey on NBC's "The West Wing."

In February, the Masterworks series features works of Mozart and Beethoven. Mozart's familiar string serenade "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik" and his "Linz" Symphony complement nicely Beethoven's "Emperor" Concerto played by German pianist Markus Groh.

TAI MURRAY

Since making her debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at the age of nine, violinist Tai Murray has performed extensively as soloist with orchestras and in recitals across the United States and Europe. Born in Chicago in 1982, she has been heard on such concert stages as Los Angeles' Hollywood Bowl, Salt Lake City's Abravanel Hall and Chicago's Orchestra Hall.

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Brahms' Symphonic Farewell—2

Concerto performances include performances with the symphonies of Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Dallas, Baltimore, Los Angeles, Utah, Charlotte, Oakland, Sacramento, Washington, D.C., and many others.

She made her New York concerto debut with the Juilliard Orchestra at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall in May 2002 and her New York recital debut at Merkin Hall in April 2003. Murray was invited to perform the Dvořák violin concerto with the Juilliard Orchestra in August 2005 in Berlin. She opened the Sacramento Philharmonic's 2002-2003 season with a performance of the Korngold Violin Concerto.

An accomplished chamber musician, Murray made her third national tour with Musicians from Marlboro in February 2005. She completed two seasons as a member of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center II, performs regularly with the Ritz Chamber Players and toured with Peter Serkin, Jaime Laredo and the Brandenburg Ensemble on several occasions. Since 2005 her recital appearances include New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Louisville, Washington, St. Paul, and La Jolla.

Tai Murray received top prizes in the Indiana University Concerto Competition, the inaugural Sphinx Competition, and the Juilliard School Concerto Competition. She was also awarded a Certificate of Honor for outstanding musicianship by the Accademia Chigiana in Siena, Italy. In 2000, Murray earned an Artist Diploma in music performance from Indiana University and an Artists Diploma from the Juilliard School in 2006.

STUART MALINA

Maestro Stuart Malina is one of America's most versatile and accomplished conductors. In a wide variety of concerts, from masterworks and grand opera to pops, Malina's ease on the podium, engaging personality, and insightful interpretations have thrilled audiences and helped to break down the barriers between performer and listener wherever he has worked. Malina has been music director and conductor of the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra since June 2000.

Malina will be making his Carnegie Hall debut in February 2007 by conducting the New York Pops in an all-Gershwin tribute including "Rhapsody in Blue," which he will conduct from the keyboard.

Malina won a Tony Award® for orchestration with Billy Joel for the musical "Movin' Out," which Malina helped create with director and choreographer Twyla Tharp. He is currently music supervisor for both the National Tour and the London/European Tour of the show.

An accomplished concert pianist, Maestro Malina has impressive credits as a soloist having performed in numerous concerts in the United States, the Netherlands, and with the acclaimed Piccolo Spoleto Contemporary Music Festival.

Additional information about Malina is available on his Web site at StuartMalina.com.

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Editor's Note: High-resolution images of Tai Murray and Stuart Malina are available via e-mail by contacting Kent Wissinger at (717) 545-5527 or kent@harrisburgsymphony.org.