



don't stop believing

AN AMERICAN CELEBRATION



Hamden Volunteer Firefighter's Fireworks Display



Friday July 1st, 2016

7:15 PM

Town Center Park At Meadowbrook



www.hamdensymphony.org

About Us

Hamden Symphony Orchestra is excited to perform at Hamden's Fireworks Celebration for the first-time! This Fall will mark the beginning of our fifty-fifth season. We are an all-volunteer orchestra of more than fifty musicians from the Greater New Haven area and beyond. Members include working professionals, grandparents, and students and faculty from our local universities.

Founded in 1962 by Ruth Brooks, the orchestra provides cultural enrichment to the community of Hamden, Connecticut through its series of concerts, its annual Young Musicians Concerto Competition, the Ruth T. Brooks Scholarship Award and by the orchestral experience it offers area musicians and soloists.

Our commitment to the musical development of our local youth is a source of great pride. For the last forty-seven years the Hamden Symphony Orchestra's Young Musicians Concerto Competition (YMCC) has provided an invaluable educational opportunity to gifted high school musicians in the area: the chance to perform as a soloist with a symphony orchestra. The competition is held each year in January, and the winners are featured in our spring concert.

In addition, for roughly thirty years we have honored a graduating Hamden High School student with the Ruth T. Brooks Scholarship Award. Presented annually, the award goes to a qualified senior from Hamden High School who has demonstrated excellence in the field of music. The 2016 winner of this award was Isabella Baldoni, violin & composition.

The orchestra was under the baton of Paul Gacek for thirty-eight years, and in 2008 Vesna Mehinovic became the Music Director. Ms. Mehinovic was the first female conductor in Bosnia and Herzegovina and is also the first female conductor of the Hamden Symphony Orchestra.

Hamden Symphony Orchestra

Vesna Mehinovic, Music Director

Featuring:

Natasha Dudzinski, Mezzo-Soprano

Paul Mathey, Tenor

Kayla Salvati, Soprano

Concert Program

Colonel Bogey March Kenneth J. Alford

Journey's Greatest Hits Jonathan Cain, Steve Perry & Neal Schon
Arr. Victor Lopez

Seventy-Six Trombones (*From The Music Man*) Meredith Wilson
Arr. Leroy Anderson

Oklahoma! Richard Rodgers & Oscar Hammerstein II
Arr. Robert Russell Bennett

America The Beautiful Samuel A. Ward & Katharine L. Bates
Arr. Carmen Dragon

Star Wars Episode V: *The Empire Strikes Back* John Williams
Arr. John C. Whitney

Disney Magic Various Artists
Arr. Bob Lowden

The Stars & Stripes Forever John Phillips Sousa

Battle Hymn Of The Republic William Steffe & Julia Ward Howe
Natasha Dudzinski - Mezzo-Soprano & Vesna Mehinovic - Keyboard

A Tribute to Henry Mancini Henry Mancini
Arr. Calvin Custer

Armed Forces Salute Various Artists
Arr. Bob Lowden

Irving Berlin - A Symphonic Portrait Irving Berlin
Arr. Hawley Ades

Summer 2016 Orchestra Musicians

Violin I

Susan Paisley '04
Concertmaster,
The Ruth T. Brooks Chair

Chelsea Donovan '11
Leo Kasle '08
Fred Leng '12
Anna Schmeer '91
Frank Schmeer '91
Stacy Shafer '09

Violin II

Natalie Jimenez '06
Christa Lehr '15
Raymond Mazan '78
John Scalici '08
Anat Shiloach '15

Viola

Amanda Griffith '13
Colleen Hugo '16

Cello

Eileen Benoit '90
Christopher Devoe '10
Jill Pollison '84
Maggie Slap '16
Kento Yasuhara '16

Bass

Amy Baker '15
Andrew Muench '15

Flute & Piccolo

Judith Beers '15
Judith Kramer Koret '08
Nicole Siley '16
Alexandra Tucker Slap '03

Oboe

Eduardo Pagliaro-Haque '16
Liana Tilton '15

Clarinet

Anne Cory '14
Reesa Gringorten '12
Nancy Horowitz '16
Aaron Marshall '14
Kathy Muench '15

Bass Clarinet

Joe Lampo '16

Saxophone

Joel Silverman '16

Bassoon

Stephanie Buggie '14
Tim Smith '16

French Horn

Evan Gambardella '16
Andy Maust '09

Trumpet

Michael Cristina '16
Martin Hebel '15
Larry Spector '16

Trombone

Leslie Amatrudo '16
Anna Franz '14
Bill Gambardella '92
Molly Gambardella '11
Erik Salvati '16

Tuba

James Neely '14

Keyboard

Betsy Goldberg '15

Drums & Percussion

Jake Fucci '16
Rachel Gomes '16
Paul Kamenitsky '15
David Liskov '10

About The Performers

Natasha Dudzinski, Mezzo-Soprano, is very excited to be performing with the Hamden Symphony Orchestra. She has been performing for more than 8 years, and most recently appeared with the Rutgers University opera program as Meg Page in Giuseppe Verdi's Falstaff. Natasha is the president of the Graduate Musicians Collective at Yale University, where she is currently pursuing a PhD in neuroscience.

Paul Mathey, Tenor, is pleased to make a return engagement with Hamden Symphony Orchestra having previously sung several selections at the orchestra's Holiday-Season Concert a few years ago. Paul has 4 adult daughters and three grandsons and lives in Naugatuck with his wife. He enjoys singing with his church choir.

Kayla Salvati, Soprano, is a graduate from Southern Connecticut State University where she received her bachelor's degree in psychology and her master's degree in school counseling. Currently, she is employed as a school counselor in an elementary school. Kayla developed a passion for singing at a young age and continues to enjoy performing. Kayla has sung at church masses, wedding ceremonies, festivals in her hometown, and sporting events for the Quinnipiac University Bobcats.

Vesna Mehinovic has been the Music Director and Conductor of Hamden Symphony Orchestra since 2008. She began her formal education in music by receiving a diploma in Music Theory and Piano Teaching and Performing from the High School for Music in Sarajevo. She continued her Bachelor of Arts degree in Conducting and Music Theory at the Sarajevo Music Academy, and a Master of Arts in Conducting and Music Theory at Wesleyan University in Middletown.

Vesna has been the recipient of many honors in her native country, and is the first professional woman to conduct an

orchestra in Bosnia and Herzegovina. She specialized in Conducting at the Academy for Music and Stage Arts in Graz, Austria in the class of Milan Horvat. Ms. Mehinovic has also served as guest conductor for orchestras in Austria, Serbia, and Croatia.

While in the United States, she has worked with several church and non-religious choirs both in Connecticut and Arizona. As a music teacher Vesna has taught in many elementary, middle, and high schools, as well as having worked with college students at Yale and Wesleyan Universities. Currently, she is Conductor of the Quinnipiac University Orchestra. She also teaches music at a number of elementary schools in the greater New Haven area and continues to teach privately.

**2016-2017 Season
Information Coming Soon!**

We look forward to another great year of music-making! For up-to-date news about next season's schedule, visit our website.

Enjoy The Summer!

Hamden Symphony Orchestra
Board of Directors
(2016-2017)

David Liskov, President
Karen Kriner, Vice President
Stephanie Buggie, Elective Director
Judith Kramer Koret, Elective Director & YMCC
Chairperson
Geraldine Rollins, Elective Director
Nicholas Souris, Elective Director & Library Assistant
Mary Tokarski, Elective Director

Additional Support

Bill Gambardella, Legal Counsel
Charlie Shafer, Concert Announcer
Tracy Turner, Logo Design

Play An Instrument?

Hamden Symphony Orchestra seeks musicians interested in joining us for our 2016-2017 season. Rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings from 7 pm to 9 pm at Hamden Memorial Town Hall. If you are interested in joining us, please email info@hamdensymphony.org or visit our website for more information and a current list of openings.

www.hamdensymphony.org

Special thanks go to the following for their help in making tonight's performance possible:

- ♪ Mimsie Coleman & Town of Hamden - Department of Arts, Recreation & Culture
- ♪ Karl Olson & Hamden Volunteer Firefighter's Fireworks Committee
- ♪ Ron Esposito & Town of Hamden - Facilities Services
- ♪ Kim Renta: Town of Hamden - Office of the Legislative Council
- ♪ Mayor Curt Leng
- ♪ Dante Galuppo: Waterbury Symphony Orchestra Music Library
- ♪ Nadya Potemkina: Wesleyan University Orchestra
- ♪ Student Musicians, Parents & Music-Teachers From: Hamden Hall Country Day School, Hopkins School, Jonathan Law High School, Sedgwick Middle School, Wilbur Cross High School Quinnipiac University & University of Connecticut.



**John Williams & Orchestra recording Star Wars Episode VII:
*The Force Awakens***