

Highland Park Strings

The Future is Bright
The (Rising) Stars Are Aligned

43rd Season

Dr. Robert G. Hasty, Principal Conductor

Free Community Concerts

2021-2022



The Future is Bright

The (Rising) Stars Are Aligned

Our 43rd Season Four Community Concerts Sundays at 3:00 pm

After the loss of our 42nd Season and a portion of our 41st Season due to the pandemic, we are thrilled and delighted to be able to announce that our 43rd Season will begin on October 24. THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT and THE (RISING) STARS ARE ALIGNED! We recall with pride the array of outstanding soloists who have performed with us over these many years. Although over 50 members of the Chicago Symphony and a number of world-class artists such as Janos Starker, Misha Dichter, David Shifrin, Eugenia Zukerman, Ilya Kaler, and Jorge Federico Osorio have honored us with their appearances, we are especially grateful to have presented many young artists who have gone on to have splendid careers. These include Rachel Barton Pine, Jennifer Koh, Jonathan Biss, Wendy Warner, Shai Wosner, Nikki and Timothy Chooi, and many more who have performed with us at very young ages. This season, to mark the “new beginning,” we are presenting only “rising stars,” young artists of extraordinary abilities.

Our opening concert in October will feature the Wimbiscus Sisters, cellists Mia, age 17 and Ella, age 10 (!). Both began studies with their mother, also a cellist. Having won numerous prizes including in the Walgreens National Concerto Competition, Mia will perform the Haydn Concerto in C Major and Ella will tackle Tchaikovsky’s Variations on a Rococo Theme, last performed by the Strings with Janos Starker as soloist. The Strings will add Two Noveletten by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and Mozart’s Symphony No. 29.

For our “Holiday” concert in December, Lake Forest High School senior Eva Sharman will play the 2nd Piano Concerto of Beethoven. Appropriate for the Season, the Strings will perform the Overture to Judas Maccabaeus by Handel, the “Christmas” Concerto Grosso of Corelli and Schubert’s delightful symphony No. 5. We are pleased to dedicate this Concert to the Highland Park Community Foundation, which is celebrating its 30th Anniversary in 2022. Since its inception, the Foundation has financially supported and promoted creativity by investing in programs and institutions that promote the arts and cultural participation, including the Strings, Midwest Young Artists and the Music Institute of Chicago.

For our Gala Benefit Concert in the intimate and acoustically perfect Bennett-Gordon Hall at Ravinia on February 13, we are fortunate to have join us the Indian-American violinist, Maya Anjali Buchanan. Currently a student at the famed Curtis Institute of Music and named Yamaha’s 2020 Young Performing Artist for Classical Music/Violin, Maya will perform the Concerto by Glazunov and the Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso by Saint-Saens, and the Strings will add the Emperor Waltz by Strauss and the Symphony No. 8 of Dvorak.

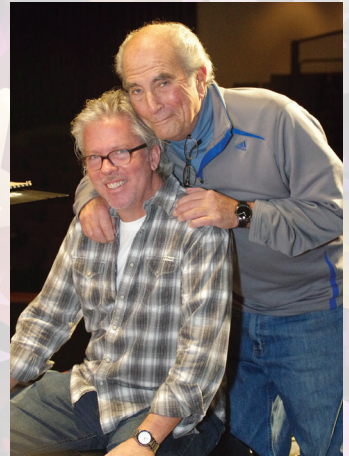
The final concert in May features the brilliant 18 year-old violinist, Isabella Brown, in the beloved Sibelius Concerto. Isabella was named the winner of the 2020 Crain-Maling Foundation Chicago Symphony Young Artist Competition and will make her debut with the CSO during the coming season. The Strings will perform the Symphony No. 4 of Schumann.

The mission of the Strings remains to provide community concerts free of charge where families, friends, and north shore neighbors can gather for an afternoon of musical enjoyment at the highest level.

We look forward to your continued support. On behalf of the Strings, I am deeply grateful.



Lawrence Block
Founder and General Manager



“Congratulations and thank you to Larry Block and the incredibly talented members of the Highland Park Strings! May they continue to provide a cultural focal point for our city and beyond.”

– Nancy Rotering
Mayor of Highland Park

Call 847.831.3622

Visit hpstrings.org



Dr. Robert G. Hasty, Principal Conductor

Dr. Hasty begins his fifth full year as Principal Conductor of the Strings, having quickly become beloved by the orchestra and the audience. Dr. Hasty is the conductor of the Chamber Orchestra and the Philharmonia of the Henry and Leigh Bienen School of Music at Northwestern University where he also serves as the Associate Director of Orchestras. He is also the Music Director of the Kenosha and the Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestras and Artistic Director of the International Schools Choral Music Society.

Dr. Hasty began his career teaching music in the public schools in Southern California. A noted researcher in music cognition, Dr. Hasty is the author of two publications delivered at the 7th International Conference on Music Perception and Cognition in Sydney, Australia. As a conductor, Dr. Hasty has appeared with the All-American College Orchestra at Walt Disney World, Beijing Youth Orchestra, and the Elmhurst and Grant Park Symphonies, among many others. He also continues to perform as a freelance violinist and violist. These days, you will find him fiddling in several Chicagoland clubs and venues with various local bands, most notably performing and recording with his wife, singer-songwriter Christina Trullio.



The Highland Park Strings, 1979-1980 Season

"The Highland Park Strings is loved as much as it was...when a group of musicians first played classical string music for the community."

- Hilary Anderson,
Highland Park Landmark

"Many many thanks to ...the Strings for all the years of truly wonderful concerts. The Strings are a real gem and true asset to the area. Every single concert has always been... of downtown caliber."

- Philip Bechen



Stephanie Ettelson presents
"The Art of Listening to Today's Concert"
prior to each concert at 2pm

October 24

Double Your Pleasure

3pm | Free Admission | Highland Park High School | 433 Vine Avenue

COLERIDGE-TAYLOR

Two Noveletten

HAYDN

Concerto for Cello in C Major

Mia Wimbiscus, Cello

TCHAIKOVSKY

Variations on a Rococo Theme. Op. 33

Ella Wimbiscus, Cello

MOZART

Symphony No. 29 in A major, K. 201



Ella Wimbiscus, 10 years old, eager to follow in her older sister Mia's footsteps, began learning the cello at 2 1/2 years. Both Ella and Mia, age 17 (who began at age 5), studied initially with their mother. They now study with Hans Jensen at Northwestern and are Merit Scholarship students at the Music Institute of Chicago. In March of 2020, Mia performed the Rococo Variations with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, as a finalist of the Crain-Maling Foundation Chicago Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition. In June of 2021, she played the Haydn concerto with the Oistrakh Symphony of Chicago. Mia has won first prizes in a number of competitions including the Walgreens National Concerto Competition. As a dedicated chamber musician, she has received honors in numerous competitions including the Fischhoff National

Chamber Music Competition. Mia will play the Haydn Concerto in C Major. At the age of 8, Ella made her orchestral debut with the Sinfonia da Camera performing the Hungarian Rhapsody by David Popper. A second solo appearance followed as a winner of the DePaul Concerto Festival in 2020. Ella was awarded a full scholarship to participate in the Orford Music Festival in Quebec, a program for college students! Inspired by her sister, Ella will play the Rococo Variations, last performed with the Strings by the legendary Janos Starker. The Strings will add Two Novelletten by Coleridge-Taylor and Mozart's thrilling 29th Symphony.



"It was a fabulous concert. Gorgeous music, beautifully played."

– Joanne Bernstein

December 12

Holiday Concert

3pm | Free Admission | Highland Park High School | 433 Vine Avenue

HANDEL

Overture to Judas Maccabaeus

CORELLI

Concerto Grosso in G minor ("Christmas"), Op. 68

BEETHOVEN

Concerto No. 2 for Piano in B-flat, Op. 19

Eva Sharman, Piano

SCHUBERT

Symphony No. 5 in B-flat Major (D. 485)

Eva Sharman, 17 year-old pianist from Lake Bluff, currently studies with Tatiana Stepanova and is a senior at Lake Forest High School. Praised for her mature style of playing, Eva approaches music in a way that values artistry and clarity and has worked to develop her distinctive musical voice. Some of Eva's notable awards include prizes in the MYA Walgreens National Concerto Competition, the Granquist Competition, and in theory and performance for the North Shore Music Teachers Association. Eva has appeared on WFMT's



Introductions and other programs, including WFMT's Trailblazing Women in Music Month. An avid chamber musician, her piano Trio has won awards in the Rembrandt Chamber Competition as well as in the Midwest National and Chicago Chamber Competitions. In addition to piano, Eva is an excellent violinist serving as concertmaster of the Lake Forest High School Symphony Orchestra and as a member of the Symphony Orchestra at the Midwest Young Artists Conservatory under the direction of Dr. Allan Dennis. Eva will perform the Piano Concerto No. 2 of Beethoven and the Strings will help celebrate the holiday season with Handel's Overture to Judas Maccabaeus, the Christmas Concerto of Corelli, and the delightful Symphony No. 5 of Schubert.

We are pleased to dedicate this Concert to the Highland Park Community Foundation which is celebrating its 30th Anniversary in 2022. Since its inception, the Foundation has financially supported and promoted creativity by investing in programs and institutions that promote the arts and cultural participation, including the Strings, Midwest Young Artists and the Music Institute of Chicago.



"What an unbelievably wonderful concert today. It was...a gift...to everyone there. I... cannot say enough to describe it. Thank you for the privilege to hear such incredible talent."

– Susan Olsen

February 13 Annual Benefit Gala Ravinia Concert

Sponsored by The Negaunee Foundation

3pm | \$40 General Admission | Bennett-Gordon Hall, Ravinia

Call 847.831.3622 for tickets

STRAUSS

Emperor Waltz

GLAZUNOV

Concerto for Violin in A minor, Op. 82

Maya Anjali Buchanan, Violin

SAINT-SAENS

Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso, Op. 28

Maya Anjali Buchanan, Violin

DVORAK

Symphony No. 8 in G Major, Op. 88



Recognized for her spirited performances and exceptional bel-canto like lyricism, Indian-American violinist, **Maya Anjali Buchanan** was named Yamaha's 2020 Young Performing Artist for Classical Music/ Violin. Since her solo debut at age ten, Maya has performed in recital and with numerous orchestras throughout the United States, China, and Europe. Maya has appeared as guest artist at the Peninsula Music Festival, and made her Aspen Music Festival debut as the recipient of the prestigious 2019 Dorothy DeLay Fellowship Award performing the Glazunov Violin Concerto. At sixteen, Maya captured First Prize in the Crain-Maling Foundation Chicago Symphony Young Artist Competition and subsequently, made her

debut with the CSO. She has been a top medalist in numerous competitions and was recently invited to participate in the 2021 Menuhin International Violin competition, the so-called "Olympics of the Violin." Born in the Black Hills of South Dakota, the daughter of Indian and Scottish-Italian physicians, Maya is an alumna of the Music Institute of Chicago Academy where she studied with Almita and Roland Vamos. Currently attending the famed Curtis Institute of Music in the studio of Ida Kavafian, Maya appeared with the Strings on broadcasts on WFMT in March and June of this year performing "Winter" from The Four Seasons by both Vivaldi and Piazzolla.

Bonus for Major Contributors

Show how important Strings concerts are to you and the community by making a contribution of \$100 or more. The Strings is exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code Section 501 (c) (3). You will receive a minimum of two tickets, preferred seating, listing in the Program Book, and free tickets to a Donor Appreciation Chamber Music Concert at 3pm on Sunday, April 10, at the Highland Park Community House. Featured performers will be the acclaimed Yang Liu, violin, and his wife, I-Hsuan Tsai, piano.

May 15

Sibelius Violin Concerto

3pm | Free Admission | Highland Park High School | 433 Vine Avenue

BEETHOVEN

Egmont Overture. Op. 84a

SIBELIUS

Concerto for Violin in A minor, Op. 82

Isabella Brown, violin

SCHUMANN

Symphony No. 4 in D minor, Op. 120

In 2019, eighteen year-old **Isabella Brown** was awarded a top prize in the Cooper International Violin Competition and consequently had the privilege of debuting with the Cleveland Orchestra performing the Dvorak Violin Concerto. More recently, Isabella was named the winner of the 2020 Crain-Maling Foundation Chicago Symphony Young Artist Competition and will make her debut with the CSO during the upcoming season. She was also awarded First Prize in the Young Artist II Division at the 2020 Chicago International Music Competition from a pool of over 400 musicians from 22 countries and has received First Place in numerous other competitions including the Open Junior String Division of the MYA Walgreens National Concerto Competition . Isabella made her solo debut with orchestra at age ten at the Kennedy Center's Terrace Theater and has gone on to play with nearly a dozen other orchestras. Isabella is also an ardent chamber musician. Her string quartet was awarded the Silver Medal in the 2020 Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition. Currently on full scholarship at the Colburn Conservatory of Music in Los Angeles where she studies with Martin Beaver, Isabella previously studied with Almita and Roland Vamos at the Music Institute of Chicago Academy . She will perform the very difficult Sibelius Concerto and the Strings will add Beethoven's Egmont Overture and Symphony No. 4 of Schumann.



Isabella exhibited “complete control...soared out nicely over the big orchestra...and delivered an intensely lyrical and scintillating performance of the Dvorak Violin Concerto”.

– David Hathaway, Cleveland Classical



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43rd Season | 2021-2022 | Dr. Robert G. Hasty, Principal Conductor

October 24 – Double Your Pleasure | Highland Park High School

December 12 – Holiday Concert | Highland Park High School

February 13 (Benefit) – Gala Ravinia Concert | Bennett-Gordon Hall, Ravinia

May 15– Sibelius Violin Concerto | Highland Park High School

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