

TASO

THE AUGUST SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Michael Avagliano, Conductor
15th Season

The Loop Pavilion
Mountainside, NJ
Sunday, July 25, 2021
1:30 PM



Made possible by funds from the Union County
Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, a partner
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The August Symphony Orchestra

Michael Avagliano, Conductor

Sunday, July 25, 2021
Celebrating our Fifteenth Season

Program:

Pomp and Circumstance Marches, op. 39 no.4
Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

Invitation to the Dance, op. 65
Carl Maria von Weber (1786-1826)

Petite Suite
1.En Bateau
4.Ballet
Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

Bacchanale from Samson et Delilah
Camille Saint-Saens (1835-1921)

Variations on an Original Theme,
"Enigma", op. 36 Variation IX. Nimrod
Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

Symphony #5 Finale
Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)



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Join us here for next years concert on July 24, 2022

Michael Avagliano Conductor/Music Director The August Symphony



Michael Avagliano has served as conductor/music director of The August Symphony since 2016. He also has conducted the Central Jersey Symphony since 2008, and was recently appointed music director of the Summit Symphony. He is on the faculty of Drew University as conductor of the Drew Chamber Orchestra and violin professor. Mr. Avagliano is increasingly in demand as a guest conductor, making his European debut with the Pleven Philharmonic in Bulgaria. Recent appearances include the Plainfield Symphony, Opera Forza, the University of Oregon Symphony, the Northern Dutchess Symphony in New York, and the Metropolitan Orchestra of New Jersey. In September, he made his New York debut at Carnegie Hall with the YPHIL International Youth Philharmonic, bringing together young musicians from 80 countries around the world in celebration of United Nations week.

Under his leadership, the Central Jersey Symphony has drawn acclaim for a transformation in artistic achievement from audiences and critics alike. In the 2014 season, Mr. Avagliano conducted the orchestra's first opera performances, collaborating with Light Opera of New Jersey for a fully staged production of *Die Zauberflöte*, and this season the two organizations will present Donizetti's *Don Pasquale*.

Also an active violinist and violist, Mr. Avagliano is a member of the critically acclaimed Madison String Quartet, performing on chamber series throughout the United States. Highlights of recent seasons include appearances at the Kenai Peninsula Festival in Alaska, the Ulster and Rhinebeck Chamber Series in New York, the Gabriel Chamber Ensemble series, and the Pennsylvania Consort. Mr. Avagliano has appeared with the New Jersey Symphony, the Singapore Symphony, the Strauss Symphony of America, and the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, and is an active performer in the New York area. Mr. Avagliano frequently works with several orchestras in the region, including the Harrisburg and Allentown symphonies, and currently serves as concertmaster of the Garden State Philharmonic.

Mr. Avagliano resides in New Jersey with his wife, violinist Evelyn Estava.

The Orchestra

Michael Avagliano, Conductor

Violin 1

Evelyn Estava, ° *Bound Brook*
Barbara Bivin, *Rutherford*
Claire Caponegro, *Scotch Plains*
Valerie Ciancosi, *Verona*
Neelesh Kantheti, *Morristown*
Noriko Kubo, *Ridgewood*
Lucia Hassen, *Berkeley Heights*
Nadine Kuhl, *Garwood*
Linda McNamara, *Scotch Plains*
Naomi Shapiro, *Piscataway*
Herb Steiner, *Mahwah*

Violin 2

Betsy Maliszewski, * *Chatham*
Joan Gillman, *Teaneck*
James Jordan, *Waldwick*
Lillian Kessler, *Chatham*
Mengwei Shen, *Jersey City*
Damini Varghese, *Jersey City*
Ilona Wanner, *South Orange*
Sean Williams, *East Orange*
Christine Yin, *East Hanover*

Viola

Roland Hutchinson, * *Montclair*
Debbie Burns, *Washington*
Marty Gelfond, *Manalapan*
Kevin Kostiw, *Morristown*
Janet Poland, *Springfield*

Cello

James Celestino, * *Basking Ridge*
Arnie Feldman, *Monroe*
Colleen Helmacy, *Hop Bottom, PA*
Harrison Hsu, *Jersey City*
Helen Kong, *Ocean*

Bass

Adam Ludwig, * *Nyack, NY*
Bill Beecher, *Morristown*
Margaret Blewett, *Lincoln Park*
Vince Maiolo, *Hillsborough*
Robert Whiteley, *Upper Montclair*

Flute

Emily Thomsen, * *Montville*
Helene Resky, *Bedminster*
Alissa, Gellido, *North Plainfield*

Oboe

Megan Jadro, * *Leonardo*
Lynn Grice, *Maplewood*
Christian Carrillo, *Somerville*
Leonardo Aponte, *Bound Brook*

Clarinet

Donna Dixon, * *Ramsey*
Theresa Hartman, *Lincoln Park*
Martha Boughner (bass clarinet)

Bassoon

Jeff La Marca, * *Basking Ridge*
Abby Bennett, *Garfield*
Samhita Tataavarty, *Basking Ridge*

French Horn

Dana Bassett, *Hackettstown*
Connie Beneroff, *Morristown*
Rick Ober, *Morris Plains*
Wayne Plumer, *Glen Rock*

Trumpet

Darrell Frydlewicz, *Rahway*
Stas Zakharenka, *Westfield*

Trombone

Eric Ruddick-Ferrat, *Newark*
William Newrock, *West Orange*

Tuba

Adam Dziemian, *Perth Amboy*

Timpani

Evan Chertok, *Kinnelon*

Percussion

Josh Conklin, *Basking Ridge*
Gustam Naitoshi, *Basking Ridge*

Harp

Patricia Turse, *Bridgewater*

° Concertmaster

*Denotes principal



Program Notes By Dr. Joseph Orchard TASSO Principal Cello

Edward Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance Marches* has largely been linked to graduation ceremonies, but they first symbolized a healthy English nationalism. Elgar composed the fourth of these in 1907. The phrase, "pomp and circumstance", by the way, comes from Shakespeare's *Othello*. In the Renaissance, the phrase, having possibly militaristic applications, also referred to the positive duties of the upper classes.

Invitation to the Dance by Carl Maria von Weber, originally for solo piano, was published in 1819. While dominated by a waltz, the piece narrates a program provided by the composer: from the first invitation to the slight refusal of the dancer, then acceptance, dance, and finally a gracious farewell.

Petite Suite (1886-1889) is a very early work by the masterful Claude Debussy and was originally written for piano four hands, orchestrated in 1907 by Henri Busser. The composer himself participated in the premiere. The work does not betray the composer's forward-looking ideas that will radically alter Western classical music. We are hearing the first and last movements, musical minutiae that give a quick impression of boats and ballet and counterthemes (suggesting humor and plotting), grand themes (suggesting royalty and glory).

Saint-Saens Bacchanale - In 1877, French composer Camille Saint-Saens completed his opera based on the biblical story of the Hebrew hero Samson, and Dalila's betrayal of him to his enemies, the Philistines. The *Bacchanale* is a frenzied dance executed by the priests of Dagon in the final act of the opera. Shortly after the dance, Samson, though completely overcome by the Philistines, ends the festivities by pulling the temple down on them.

Elgar Enigma Variations—Biblical references continue into the next piece. The ninth variation of Elgar's "*Enigma*" *Variations*, is entitled "Nimrod", the name of a "mighty hunter" and king identified in *Genesis*. In this profoundly moving movement, the composer expresses the depths of friendship. It is a musical portrait of his editor and publisher Augustus J. Jaeger, whose name is the German word for "hunter".

Beethoven - 5th Symphony—4th Movement - If you have not been saturated in media, you might have missed that one of the victims of the pandemic was an appropriate 250th birthday celebration of the most dominant figure of Western music, Ludwig van Beethoven. The orchestra will conclude with the last movement of the most famous symphony ever written, by him or anyone else. The triumphant optimism that dominates this score embodies the image of the struggling composer overcoming great personal challenges to achieve victory. Enjoy the ride.