



For Immediate Release

**Contact: Martha Whiteley
973-435-7057**

**The August Symphony Presents “Symphonic Dances”
A celebration of rhythm, motion, and orchestral color**

Westfield, NJ (June 2026) The August Symphony invites the community to a vibrant midsummer performance, “Symphonic Dances,” on Sunday, July 26, 2026 at 2:00 PM at First United Methodist Church, One East Broad Street, Westfield, NJ. The concert will be conducted by Dr. Michael Avagliano, with a program that explores how composers across eras have transformed dance into powerful orchestral storytelling.

The afternoon features four iconic works that illuminate dance as a universal musical language—elegant, dramatic, hypnotic, and electrifying:

- Ottorino Respighi — Ancient Airs and Dances, Suite No. 1 Renaissance lute dances reimaged with shimmering 20th-century orchestral color.
- Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky — Swan Lake Suite A sweeping, emotionally charged distillation of one of ballet’s most beloved scores.
- Leonard Bernstein — Symphonic Dances from West Side Story A kinetic fusion of jazz, Latin rhythms, and Broadway drama.
- Maurice Ravel — Boléro A hypnotic crescendo built on a single, unforgettable rhythm.

“This program shows how dance can be both a window into history and a force of modern expression,” said conductor Michael Avagliano. “From Respighi’s Renaissance elegance to Bernstein’s explosive urban energy, each work reveals a different facet of how movement inspires musical imagination.”

This concert is free and open to the public, and the venue is fully ADA accessible. Donations are gratefully accepted to support future performances.

Event Details

Concert: Symphonic Dances

Date: Sunday, July 26, 2026

Time: 2:00 PM

Location: First United Methodist Church

Address: One East Broad Street, Westfield, NJ

Conductor: Michael Avagliano

Admission: Free • Donations Accepted

Accessibility: ADA Accessible

Website: www.tasonj.org

About The August Symphony Orchestra

The August Symphony Orchestra (TASO) is a non-profit organization whose objective is to enrich the Garden State community by offering an accessible way for classical orchestral music to be performed, listened to, and appreciated by all. TASO's mission is to maintain a high standard of quality and performance while bringing people together and upholding a spirit of accessibility, community, and mutual love for classical music. The orchestra welcomes and appreciates the financial support from the public as well as from local companies, financial institutions, and New Jersey state grant foundations. For further information please visit www.tasonj.org. Follow us on Facebook.

#