



For Immediate Release

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

The August Symphony Orchestra Presents Free Concert in Westfield Performing The Planets and The Sorcerer's Apprentice

Westfield, NJ (July 2022) – The August Symphony Orchestra (TASO) will perform its annual free concert on Sunday, July 24 at 3:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church in Westfield, presenting an exhilarating performance of pure ethereal delight. Under the baton of conductor, Michael Avagliano, the program features the seven-movement orchestral suite of the ever-popular celestial music of Gustav Holst's "The Planets" and Paul Dukas' magical concert piece, "The Sorcerer's Apprentice," the most famous segment in Disney's feature film, Fantasia.

"The Planets" is a sonic collection of planetary portraits portraying each planet's astrological and mythic persona, from menacing Mars to jolly Jupiter and beyond. In order of their appearance in the composition, the movements are Mars, the Bringer of War; Venus, the Bringer of Peace; Mercury, the Winged Messenger; Jupiter, the Bringer of Jollity; Saturn, the Bringer of Old Age; Uranus, the Magician, and Neptune, the Mystic.

"The Sorcerer's Apprentice" is a symphonic poem about an apprentice who can turn a broomstick into a real servant. The music opens mysteriously, then continues with a flurry of instrumental color and rhythmic nuance. Although Holst and Dukas were contemporaries, this concert piece was composed in 1897, almost 20 years earlier than "The Planets."

Michael Avagliano enjoys a multifaceted career as conductor, performer, and educator. He currently serves as music director for The August Symphony Orchestra, the Summit Symphony, the Central Jersey Symphony Orchestra and is on the faculty at Drew University.

“The August Symphony Orchestra has been providing music enjoyment to the community for the past 18 years,” states Robert Whiteley, President of TASO. “We are proud to have Maestro Avagliano lead the orchestra and maintain our high standard of quality performance and musical works.”

This year the TASO concert will be performed at the First Methodist Church, located at One East Broad Street in Westfield, N.J. It is an accessible facility with ample parking.

The program is made possible in part by funds from the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and supported by donations from lovers of music and the arts.

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.

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Calendar Event Listing:

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