



**For Immediate Release**

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## **The August Symphony Orchestra Presents Free Concert in Westfield Starring Organist Trent Johnson**

**Westfield, NJ (July 2023)** – The August Symphony Orchestra (TASO) will perform its annual free concert on Sunday, July 23 at 2:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church in Westfield, featuring acclaimed organist/composer Trent Johnson. Under the baton of conductor, Michael Avagliano, the orchestra will perform four pieces showcasing the magnificent pipe organ, king of instruments. The program includes: “Le Chasseur Maudite” (The Accursed Huntsman) by César Franck; Symphony No. 3 in C Minor, Opus 78 “Organ,” by Camille Saint-Saëns; Handel’s Organ Concerto HMV 292 in F Major, Opus 4 #4, and Trent Johnson’s “Elegy for Chernobyl” for organ solo and string orchestra.

Trent Johnson is a celebrated organist, composer, pianist, and conductor. He is the Organist and Assistant Director of Music of the Unitarian Church of All Souls in New York City, the Music Director of the Oratorio Singers of Westfield, and an organist at Radio City Music Hall, where he plays the "Mighty Wurlitzer" organ for the Christmas Spectacular Show. Mr. Johnson is a graduate of the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University and The Juilliard School, NYC.

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 concert will be performed at 2:00 pm.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](http://www.tasonj.org). Follow us on Facebook.

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