



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**HOCHSTEIN SCHOOL OF MUSIC & DANCE | 50 N. PLYMOUTH AVE., ROCHESTER, NY 14614**  
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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2017**

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### **Hochstein Alumni Orchestra Performs Strauss & Borodin**

*Free concert on January 6 features Oboist Nora Prener*

ROCHESTER, N.Y.—Former Hochstein students return to Rochester to present a free orchestral concert on **Saturday, January 6, 2018, at 8:00 pm** in Hochstein Performance Hall. Directed by Evan Meccarello, the 40-member **Hochstein Alumni Orchestra** performs Richard Strauss's lushly beautiful Oboe Concerto – featuring Hochstein alumna and Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra Assistant Principal Oboe **Nora Prener** as soloist – and romantic, dance-inspired selections from Alexander Borodin's Petite Suite, orchestrated by Glazunov. The concert is free and open to the public, with donations accepted to benefit Hochstein. A reception follows the concert. ***See below for performer bios and a calendar listing.*** *This event is supported by Wegmans Food Markets.*

Inspired by an American soldier's request after World War II, Strauss penned his only oboe concerto in 1945. John de Lancie, who had served as principal oboist of the Pittsburgh Symphony before joining the Army, asked Strauss, "if, in view of the numerous beautiful, lyric solos for oboe in almost all his works, he had ever considered writing a concerto." Strauss initially said no, but later was inspired to write the concerto, which is notoriously difficult for the oboe soloist. The world premiere in 1946 featured Rochesterian Mitch Miller (also a Hochstein alum!), later known for the TV series "Sing Along with Mitch."

Created in 2010 as a reunion of musicians with connections to Hochstein, the Hochstein Alumni Orchestra has reunited each year to present free, high-quality concerts. "The Hochstein School has a deep history of giving to the community," said conductor **Evan Meccarello** (Canandaigua), a Hochstein alumnus and Master of Music graduate of Bowling Green State University. "We see these free concerts as a way of giving back. With them, we honor Hochstein and we further its mission of bringing music to the Greater Rochester community."

Oboist **Nora Prener** is currently Assistant Principal Oboe with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra. Prener has a Performer's Diploma and Master of Music degree from Southern Methodist University where she studied with Erin Hannigan, a former member of the Hochstein faculty. Prener also attended the Eastman School of Music where she studied with Richard Killmer and earned a Bachelor of Music degree. Invitations to attend summer festivals have included the National Repertory Orchestra, Sarasota Music Festival, Music in the Mountains, Round Top Institute, and Aspen Music Festival. She has also performed with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. A native of Fairport, NY, she was in the Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra from 2004-08, which included a tour to Germany and the Czech Republic in 2006.

Conductor **Evan Meccarello** is founder and director of the Hochstein Alumni Orchestra. Since 2010, he has led the group in world-premiere performances of Rochester composers and showcased talented musicians from around western New York. He was a member of the Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra in high school, serving as Co-Concertmaster and Apprentice Conductor. Meccarello currently conducts the Thames Valley Youth Symphony in New London, CT, and this season appeared as guest conductor with the Rhode Island Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. He completed his master's degree in orchestral conducting at Bowling Green State University, where he led performances with their Philharmonia, Choral Society, and was music director for a one-act opera. He also conducted at the long-running festival of the MidAmerican Center for Contemporary Music at Bowling Green. In past seasons, he has conducted *The Nutcracker* with the Ithaca Ballet, been guest conductor with the Finger Lakes Symphony Orchestra, and worked with the Brandenburg Symphony Orchestra in Germany, Nazareth College Symphony Orchestra, and University of Toledo Symphony Orchestra.

**About Hochstein:** The Hochstein School of Music & Dance celebrates 97 years of nurturing the creative spirit by providing excellent music and dance instruction to anyone who is interested—regardless of age, level of skill, background, or ability to pay. Established in 1920 as The David Hochstein Memorial Music School, today Hochstein serves approximately 4,000 students annually from a 12-county region surrounding Rochester, N.Y., with offerings in music, dance, and Expressive Arts (music, art, and dance therapy). In addition, the Hochstein School continues its commitment to the Rochester community by offering a variety of free and low cost concerts and performances in the Hochstein Performance Hall throughout the year. For more information, visit [www.hochstein.org](http://www.hochstein.org).

## CALENDAR LISTINGS

### **Hochstein Alumni Orchestra Eighth Annual Winter Concert**

Saturday, January 6, 2018; 8:00 pm; Hochstein Performance Hall; free

Former Hochstein students return to Rochester to present a free concert. Directed by Evan Meccarello, the 40-member Hochstein Alumni Orchestra performs Richard Strauss's lushly beautiful Oboe Concerto – featuring soloist and Hochstein alumna Nora Prener – and romantic, dance-inspired selections from Alexander Borodin's Petite Suite. The concert is open to the public, with donations accepted to benefit Hochstein. A reception follows the concert. *This event is supported by Wegmans Food Markets.*