

# A Holiday Concert Radio Broadcast

## Hunterdon Symphony Strings

Patty Gonsky, Conductor

Christian Bench, Violin Rachel Puelle, Violin Richard Hotchkiss, Cello

Broadcast Tuesday, December 22, 2020 6:30 PM on WDVR 89.7 FM Sergeantsville, New Jersey

(Recorded Live at the ESC in Califon on Monday, December 14, 2020)



Made possible by funds from the Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

#### PROGRAM

Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G major I. Allegro II. Adagio III. Allegro

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)

#### Hunterdon Symphony Strings

#### Violin I

Christian Bench, Concertmaster Rachel Puelle Assistant Concertmaster Nancy Roth

Violin III Ana Constantin, Principal Aimee Jimenez Priyanka Chaturvedi

Viola Lisa Baugh, Principal Reed Perrino Jennifer Meckler

Cello

Patty Gonsky, Principal **Richard Hotchkiss** Josephine Reyes Evelyn Chuo

Bass John Volz, Principal Arturo Baguer

#### Violin II

Grace Davitt, Principal Leah Davitt Liam Doherty Jonathan Chin

Christmas Concerto, in G minor, I. Vivace II. Allegro III. Adagio - Allegro - Adagio IV. Vivace V. Allegro VI. Largo

Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713)

Patty Gonsky, Conductor Christian Bench and Rachel Puelle, Violins Richard Hotchkiss, Cello

#### Hunterdon Symphony Strings

Violin I Nancy Roth Liam Doherty Jonathan Chin

Ana Constantin

Viola Lisa Baugh Reed Perrino Jennifer Meckler

Cello Josephine Reyes Evelyn Chuo

Bass John Volz, Principal Arturo Baguer

#### Violin II

Grace Davitt Leah Davitt Aimee Jimenez Priyanka Chaturvedi

#### **ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

**CHRISTIAN BENCH** is an agricultural specialist with the USDA. Christian and his wife raise beef cattle, sheep and hay on 300 acres in Stockton NJ. He studied violin with Nancy Roth, Carmit Zori and Taki Horiuchi. A member of the Hunterdon Symphony for 16 years, he has also played with the Central Jersey and Bucks County Symphonies. Christian enjoys bass fishing and spending time with his family during his free time.

**RACHEL PUELLE** has been playing violin with Hunterdon Musical Arts for most of her life, beginning violin lessons with Nancy Roth at the age of six. She also participated in Saturday Strings and Hunterdon Youth Orchestra Camp while in elementary through high school. Although not a music major, while a student at the University of Connecticut she played in the university's symphony orchestra and several chamber groups, as well as playing mellophone in the UConn Pep band at basketball games. After college, she spent a year in West Virginia before returning to New Jersey. She loves being a part of the Hunterdon Symphony and is looking forward to the time when they can perform in front of a live audience once again.

**RICHARD HOTCHKISS** began studying music at age eight in Philadelphia, and his teachers have included cellists from Temple University, the Philadelphia Orchestra, New York Philharmonic and the Baltimore Symphony, as well as a jazz violinist.

Throughout his career in both the classical and pop music fields, he has performed in the showrooms of Atlantic City casinos, many East coast concert halls, including Carnegie Hall, and toured internationally with Smokey Robinson and on the US East coast with the Trans-Siberian Orchestra. Currently, Mr Hotchkiss performs with the Hunterdon Symphony and NJ Capital Philharmonic as well as teaching for the Saturday Strings program, The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, and private students.

**PATTY GONSKY** is a freelance cellist who is the principal cellist of several orchestras, including the Hunterdon Symphony. She also performs with several chamber groups. She has been a member of the Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea for over 30 years, and this experience has given her the opportunity to perform at Carnegie Hall, Paper Mill Playhouse, Trenton War Memorial, and State Theatre.

Mrs. Gonsky taught in the Piscataway School distract for 25 years and was selected to conduct the All-Region Orchestra in 2004, 2007, 2012 and the All State Orchestra in 2015 for the New Jersey Music Educators Association. She was a performance major at the University of North Texas, where she studied with Adolpho Odnoposoff and toured the United State and Mexico with his cello choir while there.

HUNTERDON MUSICAL ARTS is a non-profit organization that has developed from the desire to provide Hunterdon area residents with the opportunity to participate in musical activities locally. Hunterdon Musical Arts is the sponsoring organization of the Hunterdon Symphony, the Hunterdon Choral Union, Hunterdon Chamber Series, and the Saturday Strings program and Hunterdon Youth Orchestra Camp.

The **SATURDAY STRINGS** program, which in normal times has met on Saturday mornings for two 12-week semesters each year at the Flemington Baptist Church in Flemington, has been offered by Hunterdon Musical Arts for many years as part of their Music for Youth program.

The program is available to students in middle school through adult. Involvement in the program enhances performance in school orchestras and prepares students to participate in more advanced groups, such as the New Jersey Region orchestras and/or the Hunterdon Symphony. Class offerings have included Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced Orchestras, Beginning and Intermediate instruction in Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass, and Chamber Ensemble and Fiddling Coaching.

For more information about the program, and for a list of ensemble classes currently being offered, please check the website at hunterdonmusicalarts.org or email Barbara Volkov, Coordinator, at bkrvolkov@lakefamilies.com or call 908-995-7977 (landline) or 908-391-3001 (mobile). Look for **Hunterdon Musical Arts** on facebook.

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And as always, we would like to thank the many individuals, families and organizations who continue to show their interest and support, both financially and as volunteers.



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