



NEWS RELEASE

Wichita Symphony Orchestra

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact: Don Reinhold, CEO

Phone: (316) 267-5259, ext. 106

Email: dreinhold@wso.org

THE WICHITA SYMPHONY BEGINS 2023 WITH A PARISIAN ADVENTURE
Weekend Offers a Gala Fundraising Dinner
and
A Concert Featuring Three Works by French Composers

(Wichita, KS) The winter doldrums may still be with us, but the Wichita Symphony sets sights on springtime in Paris with works by three French composers at the first Masterworks concert of 2023, ***Afternoon in Paris***. The performance takes place on Sunday, January 22, at 3 p.m. in the Century II Concert Hall. Tickets start at \$25, and student tickets are \$10.

Tickets are available at WichitaSymphony.org, by phone at (316) 267-7658, or at the Symphony office on the second floor of the Century II Concert Hall between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Music Director and Conductor Daniel Hege leads the Wichita Symphony in music by Louise Farrenc, Maurice Ravel, and Camille Saint-Saëns. **Pianist Orion Weiss** joins the orchestra as the soloist for Saint-Saëns' Piano Concerto No. 2 in G minor.

Louise Farrenc (1804 – 1875), one of the first female professors to teach at the Paris Conservatoire in the 19th century, has been rediscovered by musicians and audiences in recent years. Her **Third Symphony** (1847), composed in a style reflective of Mendelssohn and Schumann and charged with turbulent romanticism, is considered her symphonic masterpiece.

Ravel's ***Tombeau de Couperin*** consists of four brilliantly orchestrated movements from a suite of piano pieces that Ravel composed in 1917. Ravel (1875 – 1937) pays homage to the music of his 18th-century French predecessors, François Couperin and Jean-Philippe Rameau, while casting each movement as a memorial to a friend lost in the Great War.

Saint-Saëns (1835 – 1921) composed five piano concertos, and the **Second Piano Concerto** (1868), heard at this concert, is probably his best known. Award-winning pianist Orion Weiss brings this scintillating Concerto to life with his powerful technique and exceptional insight.

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Symphony patrons can extend their “weekend get-away” with a ticket to the Symphony’s gala fundraiser, **Savor the Symphony: An Evening in Paris**, held onstage in the Century II Concert Hall on

Saturday evening, beginning at 6:30 p.m., January 21. Event staff and Culinary Caterers will transform the stage following the afternoon orchestra rehearsal into an elegant culinary experience that includes a French-inspired four-course meal, a live auction, and piano performances.

A live auction featuring trips to Europe and California wine country and unique experiences curated by the Wichita Symphony, the Wichita Art Museum, Botanica, Sedgwick County Zoo, Scotch and Sirloin Restaurant, and others await the highest bidders. The fundraiser supports the Symphony's mission in the community.

The evening culminates with a solo piano performance by the Symphony's guest artist Orion Weiss.

Exclusive seating that includes VIP valet parking is limited to 120 people, and tickets are \$250.

For information and to reserve a seat, contact the Wichita Symphony at (316) 267-5259.

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