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# Civic Orchestra of New Haven

5th May 2018

7:30pm

Battell Chapel

## Spring Concert

Celebrating Christopher Hisey,  
*Music Director*

Music by Bach, Copland,  
Dvorak, & Shostakovich

*featuring*  
Calvin Wiersma &  
Hafez Taghavi, violin



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## History of the Orchestra

In 1939, founding conductor Harry Berman conceived the idea of an adult orchestra whose members played not for compensation but for enjoyment. He was able to put together a group of 30 advanced amateur musicians for a first rehearsal in his studio. They began preparations for their first concert, given on April 7, 1941 at Sprague Memorial Hall on the Yale University campus under the name of *Business and Professional Men's Orchestra of New Haven, Connecticut*.

In its early years, the orchestra's repertoire consisted primarily of works by Gilbert and Sullivan, light classical pieces, and traditional compositions by Haydn, Mozart, Mendelssohn and Beethoven. In the 1960's, when Harry Berman stepped down and Gordon Emerson began conducting the orchestra, the group began to include soloists and local choruses as part of its programs.

Under Emerson's direction, the orchestra expanded its repertoire to include local, state and world premieres of works by composers such as Carlos Chavez, Charles Ives, Leonard Bernstein, Henry Cowell and others. In addition, the Civic Orchestra of New Haven began offering the opportunity for gifted local artists to perform solos in major works accompanied by the orchestra and the group's annual Holiday performance often includes local choruses.

Under current Music Director Christopher James Hisey's direction, the Civic Orchestra of New Haven continues its now 76-year tradition of offering two annual performances in the heart of downtown New Haven. The programming is primarily in the classical arena, and Maestro Hisey's creative direction with the group welcomes collaboration with local composers and soloists. We also welcome talented amateur musicians from the community to audition for a seat in the orchestra. Come join us and enjoy playing beautiful music together.

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May 20th, 2018 5:00 p.m.  
Church of the Holy Spirit  
28 Church St. West Haven, CT

[thomasheilman55@gmail.com](mailto:thomasheilman55@gmail.com)

*Suggested donation \$10.00*

It is in the shelter  
of each other  
that the people live.  
— Old Irish saying

## Program

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Festive Overture .....Dmitri Shostakovich

Concerto for 2 Violins in D minor .....Johann Sebastian Bach  
*Performed by Calvin Wiersma and Hafez Taghavi*

Vivace

Largo ma non Tanto

Allegro

Intermission

Fanfare for the Common Man .....Aaron Copland

Symphony #9 "From the New World" ..... Antonín Dvořák

Adagio

Largo

Scherzo

Allegro con Fuoco

## Upcoming Performance

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Join us for our Winter Concert!



Sunday, December 16, 2018

3:30 pm

Battell Chapel

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To Our Music Director  
Maestro Christopher James Hisey

For your dedicated leadership, and for your  
contagious enthusiasm for the music, we thank you!

It has been a privilege and a joy to have been under  
your direction for the last 14 years.

Wishing you all the best in the future!

- the CONH family

## Musicians Wanted!

The Civic Orchestra of New Haven is looking for talented  
musicians to join our long established group. If you or someone  
you know is interested in auditioning, please email us at  
[conhcivic@gmail.com](mailto:conhcivic@gmail.com).

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## Christopher James Hisey, Music Director



Conductor Christopher James Hisey is Music Director and Founder of the American Chamber Orchestra, Music Director of the Civic Orchestra of New Haven, and Music Director of the Greater Bridgeport Youth Orchestras. Mr. Hisey has also served as the Music Director of the Connecticut Valley Chamber Orchestra, the Troupers Light Opera Company, and Perrysburg Symphony Chorale as well as the Associate Conductor of both the Perrysburg Symphony and the Bowling Green Philharmonia and Opera Theater Orchestras.

Maestro Hisey has been a frequent guest conductor of the Greater Bridgeport Symphony and has made appearances with the Ruse Philharmonic and Pleven Philharmonic in Bulgaria, and the St. Petersburg "Klassika" Symphony, formerly the Leningrad State Philharmonic, in St. Petersburg, Russia. He has conducted concerts throughout the United States, Europe, Mexico and China. In addition, Maestro Hisey has conducted concerts with such notable musicians as Sir James Galway, Tim Janis, Jackie Evancho, James Dunham, Chris Finckel and Deborah Wong.

A champion of new music Maestro Hisey frequently premieres new works, premiering more than twenty new works. Emmy Award Winning composer Rex Cadwallader recently said of Mr. Hisey's work, "He is an advocate for new music, and a caring and careful medium through whom my music has been brought gracefully and powerfully to life."

A passionate and sought after music educator Maestro Hisey frequently appears as guest adjudicator and clinician at schools and festivals throughout the region. His student orchestras have won top prizes in competition and have been invited to appear at Carnegie Hall, NAFME Eastern Music Festival and other festivals and concerts in the United States and abroad. He has served as Professor of Conducting, Orchestration and Music Director of the Orchestra at Manhattanville College and Professor of Conducting and Music Director of the Orchestra at Fairfield University. For the last 17 years he has served as Director of Orchestras and Chamber Music at Greens Farms Academy, in Westport, CT.

Maestro Hisey holds a Bachelors degree in Viola Performance from the Eastman School of Music and Master's Degree in Conducting from Bowling Green State Univeristy. He has been fortunate to study conducting with Emily Freeman Brown, David Efron, Gustav Meier, Donald Portnoy, and Donald Hunsberger.

Mr. Hisey lives in Bridgeport with his wife, Heather and their 4 children, Lauren, Alex, Grace and James.

## Calvin Wiersma, Violinist



Calvin Wiersma, violinist, has appeared throughout the world as a soloist and chamber musician. He has performed numerous solo recitals, including appearances in Boston, New York, and Chicago, and has appeared with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, The Concerto Company of Boston, and the Lawrence Symphony, among others. In addition to his current membership with the Manhattan String Quartet, he was a founding member of the Meliora Quartet, winner of the Naumberg, Fischhoff, Coleman, and Cleveland Quartet competitions, and the Quartet-in-Residence of the

Spoleto Festivals of the U.S., Italy, and Australia, and was also a founding member of the Figaro Trio.

In addition to his worldwide touring with the MSQ, Mr. Wiersma has been heard at numerous summer Chamber Music Festivals including the Aspen Music Festival and the Vancouver, Rockport, Bard, Portland, Crested Butte, North Country, Central Vermont, New Hope, Interlochen, An Appalachian Summer, Cape May, and Music Mountain Festivals. Former member of New York Philomusica, and frequent performer with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, he has also performed with the Da Camera Society of Houston, the Brandenburg All Stars, the Sea Cliff Chamber Players, The Festival Chamber Music Society, The Chamber Music Society of New Hope, the Carnegie Chamber Players, and Close Encounters with Music.

A noted performer of contemporary music, Mr. Wiersma is a member of Cygnus and the Lochrian Chamber Ensemble, and has appeared with Speculum Musicae, Ensemble 21, Parnassus, Ensemble Sospeso, and the New York New Music Ensemble. He has toured extensively with Steve Reich and Ensemble 21, and has been featured in solo performances for the International League of Composers of Music. His recently completed recordings include Jacob Druckman's Third String Quartet for Philomusica, a recording of Elliott Carter's Syringa, Swan Song by Milton Babbitt, Harold Meltzer's *Briou* with the Cygnus Ensemble, a recording of chamber music of Nils Vigeland, and an album of Chamber Music of Stephen Foster with Ms. Robison for Telarc.

An active teacher as well as performer, Mr. Wiersma is Associate Professor of Violin and Chamber Music at Ithaca College. He was the creator of the Music program and initial Music Department chair at the Bard High School Early College, an innovative New York City Public School for gifted students, was chamber music coordinator for the Russian American Youth Orchestra, and has been on the faculties of Purchase Conservatory of Music, the Lawrence Conservatory of Music, Florida State University, Brandeis University, and the Longy School of Music. He has conducted clinics and master classes throughout the world, has been on the Faculties of several summer programs including Greenwood and Manchester Music, and has been an artist in residence at numerous institutions, including Middlebury College, Colgate University, the California Summer Arts Program, the Smolny Institute in Moscow, Russia, and the Institute for Chamber Music in Khiryat Shemona, Israel.



## Civic Orchestra of New Haven Christopher James Hisey, Music Director

### VIOLIN I

Dan Fecteau  
*Concertmaster*  
Kate Altman  
Amy S. Ferris  
Stephen Grodzinsky  
Bora Lewis  
Gregory Lewis  
Manada Matsumoto  
Samantha Sarli\*

### VIOLIN II

Jerry Anne Dickel  
*Principal*  
Alaina Fagan  
Caroline Henry\*  
Lore Higgins  
Yuqi Li  
Nuri Lim  
Catherine Miller  
Sarah Roman  
Matthew Woodard

### VIOLA

Margaret Liddell  
*Principal*  
Colleen Hugo  
Ron Moore  
Laurie Ongley  
Alexandra Simpson

### CELLO

Cheryl Martin  
*Principal*  
Anita Balazs  
Yiqiu Chen

### CELLO (cont.)

Valentina Crnjak  
Jane Farrell  
Meg Myers  
Gary Orlofsky\*  
Alayna Overly  
Jill Polisson  
Susan Solomon

### BASS

Andrew Martin  
*Principal*  
Sooo-z Mastropietro  
Erin O'Connor-Mancino\*

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Jake Street

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*Principal*  
Suzanne Herlihy\*  
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Lauren Williams

### CLARINET

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*Principal*  
Robert LaMotte

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*Principal*  
Thomas Heilman

### FRENCH HORN

Jessica Shaver  
*Principal*  
Dani Heller  
Jean Webb  
Cathy Zack

### TRUMPET

Rick Sanislo  
*Principal*  
Paul DeFrances

### TROMBONE

Rebecca Bernardo  
*Principal*  
Don Harvey  
Mike Nicholson

### TUBA

Art Hovey

### PERCUSSION

Robert Wilson  
*Principal*  
David Liskov  
Ulla Heede

\*on leave

## Contributing to the Orchestra

The Civic Orchestra of New Haven is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Your tax-deductible donation will help us to continue our 76-year tradition of providing quality musical programs to the New Haven area.

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## Hafez Taghavi, Violinist



Hafez Taghavi is a professional violinist and teacher in Connecticut and New York City. Originally from the greater Washington D.C. area, Hafez received his early violin training from Martha Shackford. Later, he studied in the prestigious studios of Ronda Cole and David Strom. Before entering college, Hafez started a widespread performing career

which included concerts at the Kennedy Center, Strathmore Hall, Constitution Hall, as well as a three city tour in Bolivia. He attended Western Connecticut State University and earned a Bachelor of Music degree in violin performance. While studying under Eric Lewis at WCSU, Hafez maintained the concertmaster position of both the Symphony Orchestra and Opera Ensemble for four years. As a featured soloist with the WCSU Symphony Orchestra, the Danbury News Times described him as a "...promising, talented soloist." Hafez then completed his Master of Music at the conservatory at Purchase College in the studio of Calvin Wiersma. While pursuing both of his music degrees, Hafez received extensive chamber music coaching from the Manhattan String Quartet. Through this relationship, he was invited to play at workshops in New York City, Colgate University, and internationally in Vienna, Budapest, Salzburg, and Leipzig. Outside of chamber music, Hafez has performed with the Ives Symphony orchestra, where he has sat as Principal 2nd and Associate Concertmaster. In addition to classical music, Hafez actively plays in a wide variety of other genres. This includes performances with the band *Lez Zeppelin*, country recording artist Ashton Shepherd, Moroccan folk singer Saida Fikri, as well as a live performance on Connecticut's i95 rock station. He can also be heard on the soundtrack to the documentary, *Enquiring Minds*, and a trailer for the critically acclaimed computer game, *World of Warcraft*.

Hafez currently holds teaching positions at the Wooster and Canterbury schools, the Southbury Music Studio, and also maintains a private studio based in Fairfield County. He is a member of the Lotus Chamber Music Collective and also participates in many non-profit functions, most notably as the musical director of the Families United in Newtown organization since 2015.

Hafez will be performing on a beautiful Evasio Emilio Guerra violin made in 1910, on generous loan to him from the Potter Violin Shop.

Outside of music, Hafez enjoys soccer and all food.

## Program Notes by Dan Zelterman

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**Aaron Copland** (1900-1990) was probably the leading voice of American music. He was born in Brooklyn NY but much of his music evokes the American west and wide-open prairies. He drew inspiration from the US and French musicians at the time but also from leading American authors, photographers, and poets. He briefly experimented with twelve-tone music but his commercial success was achieved through his film scores, ballet music, and appearances as conductor with major US and UK orchestras. You are probably familiar with his "Fanfare for the Common Man" played at an outdoor event or maybe in a movie soundtrack. Copland wrote this short, dramatic (and LOUD!) piece in 1942 following a dramatic speech by then US vice president. Despite his patriotic values, he was black-listed in the 1950's for his political beliefs.

Speaking about politics in the musical arts, gifted soviet composer **Dmitri Shostakovich** (1906—1975) had an early opera and ballet denounced by Joseph Stalin. As a result, some of his compositions from this period were not performed until decades later. His return to conservative composition styles brought him back into political favor. Denounced again in 1948, he lost his teaching position but was later restored in 1960 by joining the Communist Party. Despite this life of walking a political tight-rope, he managed to write 15 symphonies, three operas, several ballets, six concerti, and many film scores. His Festival Overture we hear today was written in 1954 and used as the theme music of the 1980 Summer Olympics, held in Moscow.

Along with Copland and Shostakovich, **Antonin Dvorak** (1841—1904) also used folk-songs of his own homeland in his music. His music includes many of the themes, rhythms, and songs of his native Moravia and Bohemia. He showed great musical talent on the violin at the age of six. Johannes Brahms championed his music, bringing his recognition to international stages. His symphony, "From the New World," we hear today, was written in 1893 while he was living in the US and was commissioned by the New York Philharmonic. The solo in the Largo movement was later used as the spiritual "Goin' Home," with words added years after the symphony was written. Longfellow's "Song of Hiawatha" provided inspiration to Dvorak in the Scherzo. The Civic Orchestra has also recently performed Dvorak's Cello Concerto.

**Johann Sebastian Bach** (1685—1750) is considered by many to be the greatest composer of all time. His intricate fugues, canons, and counterpoint compositions remain as gems of the baroque era. Born into a family of musicians, he had many children, most of whom also became famous musicians. He spent much of his working years as organist in German churches, writing primarily for keyboard. There were masses, oratorios, and cantatas for holidays and church events. There was secular music including suites for violin solo, cello solo, orchestral suites, and the Brandenburg Concerti. There were keyboard exercises to use as teaching tools. The "double" concerto for two violins we hear today is among his best and most often played works. One great feature of Bach's music is its ease of transcription into other forms. In 1968, Wendy Carlos popularized the Moog synthesizer with the album "Switched-On Bach."

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