

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **CIVIC SYMPHONY OPENS SEASON WITH A JOURNEY FROM CLASSICAL TO CONTEMPORARY**

GREEN BAY, Wis. – The Civic Symphony of Green Bay will present its season opening concert at the Walter Theatre at St. Norbert College on Saturday, October 8, 2022 at 7:00 pm. The concert will include Chabrier's "Habanera," Bizet's "L'Arlésienne Suite No. 1," Haydn's "Quinten String Quartet in D Minor, Op. 76, No. 2," and Utar Artun's "Nemeth String Quartet Concerto." The evening's program will take listeners on a journey from classical orchestral works to contemporary music from a living composer.

The Civic Symphony of Green Bay (CSGB) continues its tradition of starting the season by playing our national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner." Members from American Legion Sullivan-Wallen Post #11 will present the colors. Since its charter in 1919, the Green Bay post has been welcoming veterans from all branches of the Armed Forces. Their color guard regularly appears at Lambeau Field home games.

French composer Emmanuel Chabrier is best known for "España," the rhapsody for orchestra he composed after returning from a tour of Spain with his wife. His lesser known "Habanera" is based on the seductive Cuban dance style that became popular in Europe in the mid-19th century. The tango-like work was originally composed for piano in 1885 and later transcribed for orchestra by the composer. CSGB welcomes special guests from the Green Bay Ballroom performing arts team who will dance along to the piece which accentuates alternating groupings of three and two notes.

Georges Bizet composed "L'Arlésienne" (The Girl from Arles) in 1872 as incidental music for Alphonse Daudet's drama of the same name. While the play was considered a failure, the music endured after Bizet assembled the best parts into two suites for orchestra. "L'Arlésienne Suite No. 1" opens with the strong "March of the Kings" tune, followed by a soothing alto saxophone melody played by St. Norbert College instructor Nicklas Waroff. The second movement is a minuet with a rhythmic melody passed from section to section. The emotional and heartfelt Adagietto third movement showcases the sound of muted (dampened or quiet) strings. The piece ends with a Carillon fourth movement consisting of a repeated bell-tone pattern in the horns, reminiscent of church bells. Bizet is the well known composer of the opera "Carmen," selections of which CSGB will perform at its concert at Lambeau Field in November.

After a brief intermission, the second half of the program focuses on the talents of the Griffon String Quartet. The resident string quartet of Midsummer's Music in Door County enriches the lives of children and adults throughout northeast Wisconsin through concerts, workshops, and music education. Quartet members include Roy Meyer, Clayton Tillotson, Nick Jeffery, and Jake Hanegan. They will perform the two pieces by Haydn and Utar Artun.

Written in 1797, the "Quinten String Quartet" by Franz Joseph Haydn demonstrates the contrast between major and minor modes. The piece's nickname comes from the German for "The Fifths," a musical interval which Haydn uses throughout the work. The joyous finale movement suggests a syncopated Hungarian folk dance. Haydn is considered to be the father of the modern string quartet, composing nearly 70 quartets over a period of 40 years.

The concert concludes with a performance of Utar Artun's "Nemeth String Quartet Concerto," which spotlights the Griffon String Quartet as soloists with orchestral accompaniment. This newer work, composed in 2018, features complex rhythms, Latin-jazz and neo-classical music elements, and traditional Turkish folk songs.

The evening will be hosted by Josh Hernday, the new executive director of CSGB. Following the concert, please join the performers in the lobby for a reception with cake sponsored by Festival Foods.

CSGB is committed to its mission of providing accessible symphonic music through interactive and innovative experiences. Choose between in-person or virtual tickets for the October, February, and April performances at St. Norbert College. For more information and to buy tickets, please visit <https://gbcivic.org/events/>.

The logo features a stylized 'CS' in a square frame with decorative flourishes on either side.

CIVIC SYMPHONY *of* GREEN BAY

Founded in 1995, the Civic Symphony of Green Bay is a community of musicians committed to sustaining the wonder and beauty of symphonic music through live performances and artistic collaborations. Volunteer musicians of all ages play in the Civic Symphony of Green Bay. They are professional musicians and amateurs from all walks of life, drawn together by the love of great symphonic music and the desire to share it with others. Seong-Kyung Graham has been the conductor and artistic director of the orchestra since 2005.

Generous support for the 2022-2023 CSGB season is provided by The George Kress Foundation, The Schneider Foundation, The New Dermatology Group, and The Kimberly-Clark Foundation.

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