

# The Plainfield Symphony

Charles Prince, *Music Director*

*Celebrating*

*98* years  
*of excellence!*



## *Continuing a Legacy...*

In 1919, a small group of amateur musicians met in a parlor at Grace Church and determined to organize a community orchestra.

Starting with 15-20 members, the group offered a private performance later that year. The Plainfield Symphony continued concerts throughout World War II, and introduced the first Pops concert in 1947, which has become a perennial favorite.

From 1967 to 1973, the young Uruguayan composer Jose Serebrier ascended to the podium, composing “Nueve” for the 50th Anniversary of the PSO.

The baton was passed among several conductors until 1988, when Sabin Pautza, a Romanian-born composer and conductor, began what would be a twenty-year partnership with the PSO.

In 2009, a new era began with Charles Prince appointed as musical director and conductor.

In the 1919 program for the debut concert, the audience was entreated to “Help us put Plainfield permanently on the musical map of the United States.” For ninety-seven years, music lovers of Plainfield have heeded that call.



Please continue to support the Plainfield Symphony Orchestra so we can continue to “*Keep the Music Playing!*”

All concerts will be performed at the historic Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, 716 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, NJ.



American conductor Charles Prince is part of the new generation of acclaimed American conductors. Music director of the Tony Award-winning production of James Joyce's "*The Dead*," Prince was the Associate Conductor of the New York Pops from 1996 to 2003. In 2004, Prince made his debut with the Seattle Symphony and has garnered accolades for

his conducting in orchestras throughout the US. Equally at home in Europe, Maestro Prince has conducted the Moscow Symphony Orchestra and formally, the music director of the Wiener Operettensommer in Vienna. In May 2009, Mr. Prince was named Music Director of the Plainfield Symphony Orchestra, making this his ninth full season as our conductor.



*Like the Plainfield Symphony on Facebook*



*Follow us on Twitter*





## Best Friends *Brahms & Schumann*

*A young Brahms was hailed by Robert Schumann as “the coming saviour of German music” (Jan Swafford). When Schumann later succumbed to mental illness and death, Brahms supported the family, especially Clara, Schumann’s widow, who was a gifted pianist. Brahms’s Piano Concerto No. 1 will be performed by the world renowned concert artist Robert Taub. Schumann’s Symphony No. 2, written while battling his illness, is somber, yet ultimately uplifting.*

**Brahms:** D minor Piano Concerto No. 1  
**Schumann:** Symphony No. 2

**OCTOBER 7, 2017 at 7pm Best Friends**  
Special Guest Soloist: Robert Taub

## The World’s Leading Bassist Returns to Plainfield **An Encore with Gary Karr**

*Gary Karr, long considered the world’s leading solo bassist (Time Magazine), was the first double bassist in history to pursue a full-time solo career. Coming out of retirement for this occasion, he will once again perform Serebrier’s lyrical Nueve, which was commissioned by the Plainfield Symphony Orchestra for their 50th anniversary, written for and in homage to Gary Karr, who was living in Plainfield, New Jersey at the time.*

**Serebrier:** Nueve  
**Program TBA**



**NOVEMBER 18, 2017 at 7pm Encore with Gary Karr**  
Special Guest: Gary Karr, Doublebass



# Shostakovich

## A Light from the Darkness

Shostakovich:  
**Violin Concerto No. 1**

Shostakovich:  
**Symphony No. 9**

Violin Concerto No. 1 was composed during the post-war years in Soviet Russia at a time of severe censorship. Because of this hostile environment, Shostakovich kept the concerto unpublished until Stalin's death. It is a complex piece: alternately luminous, demonic and burlesque. Shostakovich himself described his Symphony No. 9 as different from his tragic preceding works: "...in the Ninth a transparent, pellucid, and bright mood predominates." (NPR Notes)

**MARCH 10, 2018 at 7pm** A Light from the Darkness

Soloist: Evelyn Estava, Violin



## MAHLER'S *Resurrection* SYMPHONY

Symphony No. 2 is the work with which Mahler answered the philosophical challenge of Beethoven's Ninth. They are similar — the turbulent beginning, the vast exploration of musical territory in the middle of the work and the triumphant conclusion. In the final movement, ramparts are being climbed and the noise and confusion of battle surround you; jubilant trumpets sound from different sides of the stage.

The Resurrection Symphony is an all-embracing work, the first of the Mahler's symphonies to make use of voices and words.

Mahler: SYMPHONY NO. 2  
WITH THE CRESCENT CHORAL SOCIETY AND 2 SOLOISTS TBA



**APRIL 28, 2018 at 7pm** *Resurrection* SYMPHONY

The Crescent Choral Society and 2 Soloists TBA

# **A Family Affair**

TCHAIKOVSKY: PIANO CONCERTO NO. 1  
SOUSA: TBA  
ANNUAL FREE FAMILY CONCERT

*The thunderously triumphant opening chords of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 are among the most famous in all classical music. All three movements of this deeply expressive concerto are sublimely romantic. The expansive, sweeping opening movement is showy; the middle movement, contains soulful melodies with some beautiful interplay between the soloist and orchestra; and the edge-of-your-seat finale is an electrifying thrill from start to finish. (Classic fm.com)*

*A march by John Philip Sousa will round out the program.*



## **SUPPORT TIERS**

**Conductor's Circle** \$2500+  
**Concertmaster** \$1000 - \$2499  
**Principal** \$500 - \$999  
**Musician** \$200 - \$499  
**Prodigy** \$50 - \$199

*Season tickets and Forever tickets go on sale June 1st. Single concert tickets go on sale August 1st. For more information, visit us at [www.plainfieldsymphony.org](http://www.plainfieldsymphony.org) or call us at 908-561-5140.*

**Individual Ticket Prices:**  
Reserved \$65 Each  
General Admission \$45 Each  
Seniors/Students \$30 Each

JANUARY 27, 2018 at 3pm **A Family Affair**

*Soloist: Young Pianist Competition Gold Prize Winner, TBA*

Detach at perforation and mail the order form in today

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Tickets can also be purchased online with a credit card at  
[www.plainfieldsymphony.org/tickets.html](http://www.plainfieldsymphony.org/tickets.html)



Please make payment to the Plainfield Symphony  
Mail to: Plainfield Symphony ■ Post Office Box 5093 ■ Plainfield NJ 07061

DESCRIPTION	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
<b>Reserved Season Ticket</b> (Front Orchestra Seating)	\$215/Season		
<b>General Admission</b>	\$130/Season		
<b>Senior (65 and older)</b> <b>Student (13-22)</b> (Children 12 and under are free)	\$90/Season		
<b>Forever Ticket</b> (Good for ONE General Admission to ONE concert now or forever into the future)	\$50/Ticket		
The Plainfield Symphony is a 501(c)3 organization		<b>Tax-Deductible Donation</b>	
		<b>TOTAL</b>	

*Save up to 30% OFF Individual Prices By Purchasing Season Tickets!*





*Order Your  
Season Tickets  
Today!*

Plainfield Symphony ■ Post Office Box 5093 ■ Plainfield NJ 07061



Funding has been made possible by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, the Department of State, a partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, through a grant administered by the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.