

Renowned Tango Masters To Join Westfield Symphony

WESTFIELD – On Saturday, February 20, at 8 p.m., at Union County Performing Arts Center in Rahway, Westfield Symphony Orchestra (WSO) presents *Variations on a Latin Beat*, a display of partnerships presenting virtuoso performances, seductive melodies and dance rhythms from the Spanish Diaspora and beyond.

Audiences will discover the passion of the authentic Tango, as WSO is joined by the precision of Argentinean tango masters Carolina Jaurena and Diego Blanco.

Ms Jaurena's career includes multiple performances at Lincoln Center, on Broadway and at music festivals throughout the United States, as well as with renowned orchestras such as the Nashville Chamber Orchestra in Tennessee and the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra.

A first-prize winner on the popular program "Sábado Gigante" on Univision, Ms. Jaurena is also a sought-after performer in television and film, having featured on such shows as Fox 5 "Good Day New York" with Penny Crone and "Today in NY" on NBC. In 2006, she was the primary dancer in the feature film, *Random Hearts*, directed by Sidney Pollack and starring Harrison Ford.

Ms. Jaurena's partner, award-winning Argentine Tango dancer, Mr. Blanco, is one of the top performing tango dancers in the world today. His tango style is energetic, rhythmic and innovative, and through fluid movement, he works seamlessly with Ms. Jaurena to fuse nuevo tango with the close embrace of traditional tango.

An original cast member of both the company Argentine Tango and The New York Tango Dance Company, he re-

cently performed in the Off-Broadway show *Gardel The Musical*, and at Repertorio Espanol where he choreographed, danced and acted. He also toured Asia in 2008 with The Four Seasons tango show.

Their team of professional Tango dance masters, including Colombian stage Tango world championship finalists Adriana Neira and Orlando Ibarra and Argentinian bandoneon star Hector del Curto, will partner with Maestro David Wroe and WSO in a visual and musical collaboration.

Continuing the Latin beat, WSO will also perform De Falla's *The Three-Cornered Hat*, a lighthearted tale of attempted seduction that contains some of the most colorful music coming out of Spain. WSO will also be joined by soloist Elena Baksht to present more flowing melodies and dance rhythms with a lively performance of Gershwin's *Concerto in F*.

This concert will also feature a presentation of *These Worlds in Us* by Missy Mazzoli, the Music Alive: New Partnerships Composer in Residence with Westfield Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Mazzoli was recently deemed "one of the more consistently inventive, surprising composers now working in New York" by *The New York Times*.

A grant awarded to WSO by the League of American Orchestras and Meet the Composer has allowed Ms Mazzoli to establish a residency with WSO.

Tickets may be purchased directly from the WSO office (224 E. Broad Street) or by calling the box office at (908) 232-9400. Tickets (purchased with cash or check) are also available at the Town Book Store in Westfield and Martin Jewelers in Cranford. For further information, call (908) 232-9400, e-mail wso@westfieldsymphony.org or go to westfieldsymphony.org or teatrosi.com.

All ticket holders are invited to attend an informative pre-concert lecture and discussion led by Barbara Thomson, which will take place prior to the concert at 7 p.m. in the main hall.

Dr. Thomson has taught in the Music Departments of a number of colleges and universities, including the Peabody Conservatory, Johns Hopkins University, Goucher College and Rutgers University.

She has taught adult music-appreciation courses in a number of venues and is noted for her ability to communicate, both as a performer and a lecturer. She also appeared this season as the organ soloist in the St.-Saens Organ Symphony with the WSO.



Tango masters Carolina Jaurena and Diego Blanco will present Tango at its fiery best in late February.



INVISIBLE NO LONGER...11-year-old Morasha Winokur writes in her book about how the demands of caring for a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum child can be overwhelming. To help her deal with all the extra attention her brother was receiving, she wrote "My Invisible World" at age 8. Sitting obediently beside her is the family's service dog, a 90-pound golden retriever named Chancer, who was trained specifically to work with Iyal, Morasha's brother.

11-Year-Old Lets Readers Peek into 'Invisible World'

By MARYLOU MORANO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

BERKELEY HEIGHTS – Eleven-year-old Morasha Winokur has come to terms with having a brother with special needs by writing a book for other young people who are experiencing similar family dynamics.

"My Invisible World: Life With My Brother, His Disability and His Service Dog" is being hailed by professionals and lay persons alike as a first of its kind.

"Until 'My Invisible World' was released, there was no book written specifically for siblings of a child with disabilities," said Morasha's mother, Donnie Kanter Winokur, a former resident of Berkeley Heights.

Morasha's brother, Iyal, suffers from Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), a host of nonreversible conditions, including brain damage, which occur when a fetus is exposed to maternal alcohol consumption.

Born in Astrakhan, Russia just two days apart, the siblings were adopted when they were babies by Donnie and Rabbi Harvey Winokur. Iyal was diagnosed with FASD shortly thereafter. The condition affects his intelligence, memory and ability to express his emotions.

The demands of caring for an FASD child can be overwhelming, and to help her deal with all the extra attention her brother was receiving, Morasha began journaling when she was 8.

"My Invisible World" was created from Morasha's journals.

In a sensitive – yet heartfelt – way, "My Invisible World" addresses the needs of the non-disabled sibling, and how those needs of the disabled sibling often overshadow those of the other child.

"People don't see what I live with," Morasha writes. "[Iyal] gets so much attention that there are times I feel like no one even realizes I am there. This is when my invisible world gets really big, and I feel really small."

In the book, Morasha compares her life, which she calls "very creative

and fun," with that of her brother, who suffers from nervousness, tantrums and rage.

Morasha, who will spend her ninth year at Camp Riverbend in Warren this summer, writes how keeping everyday life predictable is good for Iyal, but boring for her. It also saddens her to realize that although they are the same chronological age, emotionally and intelligence-wise, she and Iyal grow further apart every day.

In addition to describing day-to-day life with Iyal, Morasha also talks about the family's service dog, a 90-pound golden retriever named Chancer, who was trained specifically for Iyal.

Chancer's joining the family has had a positive impact on Iyal.

The dog has learned to obey commands like "nuzzle" (when Iyal needs extra attention) or "over" (when Iyal needs to calm down).

The Winokur family currently lives in Roswell, Ga., although their local ties extend to Berkeley Heights, Warren and Gillette.

Speaking with *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* by phone, Morasha was clear about the message she would like her book to convey.

"I want people to know it's okay to be different and work with what you have," she said.

Morasha, who was just honored as the 2010 Gold recipient for Outstanding Young Contributor for the Mom's Choice Award, received help writing "My Invisible World" from Jodee Kulp, a child advocate and award-winning author.

"Morasha's bold new work...shouts clearly the voice of many sisters and brothers of children with invisible disabilities," said Ms. Kulp.

"Her honest expression provides opportunity for discussion families have needed for generations," she continued.

"My Invisible World" is published by Better Endings New Beginnings, and is available at the chancerchronicles.com.

North Plainfield's Milan Begins 'Battling' Soon

By ERIC NIERSTEDT
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD – Many bands work for years touring, recording and generally working hard before they can come within even a glimpse of their idols. For North Plainfield's reggae-rock band Milan (pronounced My-Lin), however, they got a chance to not only meet an idol, but open for them.

"We were playing at the Surf Club, opening for [Bob Marley's] Wailers," recalled bassist David Sloyan. "It was a huge crowd, and not only did we open, we got to hang out backstage with them afterwards. I got to meet [bassist] Ashton Barrett on my birthday!"

Such a momentous occasion is just one of the accomplishments that Milan has achieved. In addition to the Wailers, the band has opened for punk legends the Offspring at a sold-out Starland Ballroom show.

"That really was a huge thing for us," said singer/guitarist Milan Lazistan III. "The Offspring didn't even want an opener until the last minute, so we were lucky we had connections with the Starland owner. Plus, everybody loved our set, and we sold a ton of CDs, and signed about 90 percent of them."

While opening for such bands is tremendous, Milan, which also includes drummer Edwin Estevez Jr., did get a chance to shine on its own when it won a spot on the Warped Tour, a summer tradition that blends various types of music. But it wasn't easy to play on.

"We had to get to Oceanside at 8

[a.m.] in the morning, so we got up at like 5 a.m.," Mr. Sloyan said. "But our set wasn't until 2 p.m., so we basically conked out until we had to start setting up. But it was a great experience," he said.

More recently, Milan took on a slightly different project – recording a theme song for Mav (Maverick) TV's "Body Shots," a show which examines several bars across the country.

This was another "legend-meeting event," as the band was able to work with Marshall Goodman and Michael Happoldt, the former DJ and producer, respectively, for Sublime, another huge influence on the band. The song has been released as an official single.

Currently, Milan is working on its new EP, "I'll Be Your Huckleberry," and promoting the current album "Cheesesteak in a Glass."

A coup for the group, it won a spot on the Bamboozle tour, a festival so large it has east and west coast editions. Weezer and Paramore are expected to headline this year.

"We start 'battling' other bands soon," Milan said.

If their current streak is any indication, there will be plenty of Milan fans at Bamboozle, ready for the "roots-rock-reggae with that east coast sound."

Further information on the band and upcoming shows can be found at <http://milannj.com/index.html>. Albums are available at itunes.com and amazon.com, as well as the Westfield Sound Station.



North Plainfield's Milan (pronounced My-Lin)

Local Student to Perform 'Side-By-Side' with NJSO

SCOTCH PLAINS – Local student William Shore of Scotch Plains will perform in the Greater Newark Youth Orchestra's (GNYO) annual side-by-side concert with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (NJSO) at the NJSO's Family concert, *Peter and the Wolf*.

The event – to be held on Saturday, February 13, at New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) in Newark – features the GNYO performing alongside the NJSO for Grieg's *In the Hall of the Mountain King* and Humperdink's *Evening Prayer* and *Witch's Ride*. Education and Community Engagement Conductor Jeffrey Grogan conducts.

William performs violin in GNYO, the celebrated student orchestra of the NJSO.

"It's always a thrill for members of GNYO to perform with musicians of

the caliber of the NJSO," Mr. Grogan said. "Each student gets to sit next to a member of the NJSO, and that is an experience that elevates us all above where we – as a student orchestra – would normally go on our own."

On the same program, NJSO presents Prokofiev's rendering of the classic tale *Peter and the Wolf*. The concert – the second annual Gretchen Lochner Gonzales Memorial Concert – is the second in the NJSO's three-concert 2009-10 Family series. A fitting pre-concert adventure brings Atka, a male wolf from New York's Wolf Conservation Center, to NJPAC for concertgoers to see.

The performance takes place at 2 p.m. in Prudential Hall at NJPAC. The pre-concert begins in the lobby at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$12 and are available for purchase by phone at (800) ALLEGRO (255-3476) or njsymphony.org.

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