DISTINGUISHED CONCERTS
INTERNATIONAL NEW YORK (DCINY)
IRIS DERKE, Co-Founder and General Director
JONATHAN GRIFFITH, Co-Founder and Artistic Director

Presents

“EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION” SERIES
WALNUT VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (CA)

SOUTH POINTE MIDDLE SCHOOL WIND ENSEMBLE

SUSAN WILLMERING, Director
MATT ALTMIRE, Guest Conductor

GARY GILROY
ROBERT W. SMITH
TIMOTHY BROEGE
STEVEN SCHMIDT

“Creepy Little Wiggly Things”
“The Iliad”
“The Four Winds, Sinfonia XVII”
“Shape Shifter”

Intermission

SUZANNE MIDDLE SCHOOL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

AMI CUSTODIA, Director
JEFFREY BLACKSTONE, Co-Director
CARLOS RIVERA, Bass Soloist

RALPH FORD ASHFORD
BRAHMS
VAUGHAN WILLIAMS
BERLIOZ

“Celebration”
Bass solo performance
“Scherzo” from Serenade No. 1
arr. Meyer
“Rhosymedre”
“March to the Scaffold” from Symphonie Fantastique
arr. Meyer

Pause

(Program continued on following page)

PLEASE SWITCH OFF YOUR CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.
CHAPARRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL 8TH GRADE ORCHESTRA
GREGORY P. ROCHFORD, Director

JEFFREY S. BISHOP
SIBIL LOS
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER
MUSSORGSKY

“Declarations”
“Andante Festa”
“Phantom of the Opera”
at Pat Jennings
“Pictures at an Exhibition”
at Gregory P. Rochford

MEET THE Artists

SOUTH POINTE MIDDLE SCHOOL WIND ENSEMBLE

South Pointe Middle School is located in the Walnut Valley School District in Diamond Bar, California. The instrumental music program consists of four large wind bands and a variety of different chamber groups. Over 40 percent of the student population of South Pointe are in the instrumental music program. In recent years, the Wind Ensemble has taken tours annually, visiting places such as London, Florida, New York and Boston. This will be their sixth time at Carnegie Hall. The instrumental program at South Pointe focuses on connecting young musicians with professional players. Students work with over 15 different professional players weekly at the school. Students are encouraged to play in outside youth groups and honor bands. This year South Pointe set another record with having 32 students make California All State Band and 35 students make California All State Honor Band.

SUSAN WILLMERING, Director

Susan Willmering is the instrumental music director for South Pointe Middle School. She holds a B.A. in Music Education with an emphasis in Music Performance from California State University Fullerton. She has studied conducting under Dr. Mitch Fennell and percussion under Todd Miller, Steven Schmidt, Nancy Zeltsman, and Momoko Kamiya. In addition to teaching 500 students at South Pointe, she is a freelance artist and teacher of percussion techniques. In 2007, she was inducted into Kappa Lambda, a National Music Honor Society, dedicated to recognizing music educators. Ms. Willmering has received numerous awards and scholarships, including the Omicron Pi Sigma Montan Scholarship in 2005, Orange County Performing Arts Society Scholarship in 2001, and the CSUF Instrumental Area Award in 2003, 2004, and 2005. She is a lifetime member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

MATT ALTMIRE, Guest Conductor

Matt Altmire received his B.A. and M.M. degrees from the University of California at Los Angeles, where he studied with Mitchell Peters. A freelance percussionist in the Los Angeles area, he has performed with such groups as the Los Angeles Concert Orchestra, Swing Inc., and GLANK.
He is an active member of the Percussive Arts Society. Currently, he teaches percussion at Mt. San Antonio College, where in Fall 2007 he also guest conducted their Wind Ensemble; Diamond Bar High School, William S. Hart High School, and Santa Monica College.

**SUZANNE MIDDLE SCHOOL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

Suzanne Middle School is a California Distinguished School serving the communities of Walnut and Diamond Bar in Los Angeles County. The school strives to create lifelong learners and to foster positive relationships between students, teachers, parents, and the community as a whole. The mission of the Instrumental Music program is to foster an intrinsic desire in young students for good quality music performance and education in conjunction with the state and national standards for visual and performing arts, and to create for the students at Suzanne Middle School a positive atmosphere that promotes both creativity and musical excellence. Suzanne’s ultimate goal is to have students exit their middle school experience with a greater appreciation of music and art, a desire to continue participation in music, and the ability to respond to and interact with a changing world. The Suzanne Middle School Chamber Orchestra is celebrating its third appearance at Carnegie Hall.

**AMI CUSTODIA, Director**

A native Californian, Ami Custodia earned her B.M. degree from Chapman University. She began teaching instrumental music at Bonita Vista Middle School in 1998 while completing her credential and CLAD certificate. After relocating to the Los Angeles area in 2002, she was hired by Suzanne Middle School where she manages a program of over 500 band and orchestra students. Her Chamber Orchestra has performed twice at Carnegie Hall, having appeared in 2004 and 2006. Ms. Custodia was selected by her peers as Teacher of the Year in 2005. She is also an active clinician and has been the manager of the All-Southern Middle School Honor Orchestra for five years. Ms. Custodia traveled to Europe twice with the California Ambassadors of Music on a 17-day concert tour. She is in her sixth year at Suzanne Middle School.

**JEFFREY BLACKSTONE, Co-Director**

Jeffrey Blackstone is in his first year of directing instrumental ensembles at Suzanne Middle School. His responsibilities include directing the 7th grade Blue and White Concert Band, 6th grade Cadet Band and Orchestra, and the Jazz/Rock Ensemble. He has also been the principal brass instructor for the Los Angeles Youth Orchestra for the past seven years. An accomplished trumpet player, he has performed with many of the leading orchestral ensembles on the West Coast. An advocate of new music, he has been involved in over 75 premieres of new compositions. As a freelance musician, he has also recorded for motion pictures and television. Mr. Blackstone holds an undergraduate degree from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and graduate degrees from the University of Southern California.
Chaparral Middle School’s String Orchestra program began 17 years ago with six students meeting twice a week after school. The following year these students were enrolled in 7th Grade Band class and met in the hallway outside the band room. At that time, Gregory Rochford moved between the hallway and the classroom to work with both the band and the string students. The following year a separate 7th/8th Grade Orchestra class was added to the schedule with 17 students, 12 of whom were beginners. Two years later, the class topped 40 students. The 6th Grade Orchestra class was added during the Spring of 1994. In 2001, with another increase in enrollment, the 7th/8th Grade Orchestra was divided into two classes, one for 7th grade and one for 8th grade. There are currently over 300 students enrolled in five orchestra classes. Over two-thirds of the students have no orchestra experience prior to coming to Chaparral.

GREGORY P. ROCHFORD, Director

Gregory Rochford received his B.A. in Music Education from California State University Fullerton and completed the requirements for a California Teaching Credential at Azusa Pacific University. He began his career as the Director of Bands at Sierra Vista High School in Baldwin Park, CA, and is now in his 20th year at Chaparral Middle School, where he serves as Director of Orchestras. Named the 1995 Chaparral Middle School Teacher of the Year, he was also selected for Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers. He studied clarinet with Jules Karner (National Symphony) and Kalman Bloch (Los Angeles Philharmonic) and conducting with Tom Cole, Benton Minor, and Gordon Paine. He is active in the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association, having served several times as the Manager of the All-Southern California Middle School Honor Orchestra, Honor String Orchestra, and Honor Band. He is currently a Festival Adjudicator, a Parade Adjudicator, and a Field Adjudicator. Additionally, he is serving his second term as the Vice President of Elementary/Middle School Education.

DISTINGUISHED CONCERTS INTERNATIONAL NEW YORK (DCINY)

Distinguished Concerts International New York was founded in early 2007 by Iris Derke, General Director; and Jonathan Griffith, Artistic Director. DCINY provides opportunities for choral, instrumental, jazz, and chamber ensembles, as well as conductors and soloists, to perform at such venues as Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall, Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center, and Town Hall in New York City. A strong component of DCINY’s mission is to enhance the concert experience through educational programs and incentives. These include support in meeting performance standards and optional master classes and seminars.
DISTINGUISHED CONCERTS INTERNATIONAL NEW YORK

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For information about performing on DCINY's series or about purchasing tickets to scheduled concerts, e-mail Concerts@DCINY.org, call 212.707.8566 or 877.MYDCINY (TOLL FREE), or visit our website at www.DCINY.org.

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