

News *from*

The Philharmonic of Southern New Jersey

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Second Finalist for Philharmonic Podium to Lead Winter Concert

The second of three talented conductors vying for the position of Conductor and Music Director of the Philharmonic of Southern New Jersey will take the podium at the orchestra's upcoming Winter Concert, to be held on Sunday, February 12, at 3 p.m. at the Eastern Regional Performing Arts Center in Voorhees.

Franklin and Marshall professor and Moorestown native Dr. Brian Norcross has been rehearsing for the concert, themed "The Spirit of Music," for the past several weeks. The 80-member orchestra, its board of directors and the patrons themselves will be asked to evaluate Norcross' performance. The evaluations will be compared to those of the two other conductor candidates competing for the position when the orchestra's season closes in late May. The candidate chosen will succeed retiring music director Philip F. Travaline, who has led the all-volunteer regional orchestra for two decades.

"Following recommended procedures of the League of American Orchestras, the search committee and board of directors of the Philharmonic have given each of these three finalists the opportunity to show the players—and the audience—what they've got to offer," said search committee chair Michelle Grygo.

Norcross is artistic director and conductor of the Allegro Chamber Orchestra and the Allegro Youth Chamber Orchestra in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, as well as conductor of instrumental ensembles for Franklin & Marshall College. He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts from the Catholic University of America, a Master of Music Education from the New England Conservatory of Music, and a Bachelor of Music from the University of Massachusetts.

"The Spirit of Music" will feature moving works by Sebelius and three noted modern composers, Rossano Galante, Arlen Clarke and Christopher Theofanidis. Clarke's work, "Nocturne for Julia," was commissioned in memory of Julia Oliver, killed

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Three Candidates for PSNJ Podium

in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. “Each musical selection embodies a different aspect of the powerful and uplifting ‘spirit of music,’ ” Norcross said.

Norcross is joined in the competition by Matthew Oberstein, who conducted the orchestra’s Fall Concert, and Reuben Blundell, who will conduct the Spring Concert on May 20. “Choosing just one of them is going to be quite a tough decision,” said Tricia M. McCunney-Thomas, president of the Philharmonic’s board of directors.

The Philharmonic of Southern New Jersey is an 80-piece, all volunteer classical orchestra that performs three subscription concerts per season, in fall, winter and spring. The orchestra, celebrating its twenty-first season, also performs a beloved annual children’s concert, to be held this year on March 25, 2012.

Tickets for the February 12 concert are \$25, \$20 for seniors and students, and are available by calling 856-779-2600, or by visiting the Philharmonic’s website at www.psnj.org.

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