

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes | March 6, 2022 | 4:00 PM | Clemens Center, Elmira, NY

Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes to Celebrate Music in Our Schools Month with “Música Diversa”

The Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes (OSFL) announces “Música Diversa,” a celebration of Music in Our Schools Month and diversity in classical music, with its concert on Sunday, March 6, 2022 at 4:00 PM at the historic Clemens Center in Elmira.

For more than 30 years, March has been recognized by the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) as Music in Our Schools Month (MIOSM) to raise awareness of the vital, humanizing, quick-minded expression of the heart that is music education for all students. As part of this celebration, the Junior String Ensemble (JSE) and the Youth Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes will perform Peter Warlock’s *Capriol Suite* based in part, on early French Renaissance dances side-by-side, under the direction of Debrah Devine, conductor of the JSE and assistant concertmaster of the OSFL. The Youth Orchestra will also perform side-by-side with the OSFL for *Danzon No. 2* by popular Mexican composer Arturo Marquez.

Also as part of the MIOSM celebration, Christopher Tillen will perform Sergei Rachmaninoff’s *Piano Concerto No. 2* as a guest soloist with the OSFL. Tillen is one of the tied winners of the 2020 Doreen B. Hertzog Concerto & Aria Competition. This remarkable young pianist is a junior at Noble and Greenough High School in Dedham, MA and is a Young Artist Diploma Level IV scholar at the Rivers School Conservatory.

The remainder of the program will celebrate diversity in music with works by composers of underrepresented backgrounds. Florence Price is known as the first African-American woman recognized as a symphonic composer. She composed over 300 works, such as *Adoration*, a work originally written for organ. William Grant Still’s *Symphony No. 1*, best known as “Afro-American Symphony,” was the first symphony written by an African-American and premiered by a leading U.S. orchestra, the Rochester Philharmonic in 1931. Still, a contemporary of George Gershwin, may have had the song “I Got Rhythm” controversially borrowed from him. Bright Sheng is a Chinese-American conductor, pianist, and “one of the foremost composers of our time.” *Black Swan* is Sheng’s orchestration and arrangement of Johannes Brahms’ *Intermezzo Op. 118 No. 2 for Piano*.

The OSFL will comply with the COVID guidelines of The Clemens Center, which requires masks for all audience members regardless of vaccination status.

\$10-50 | Children under 18 Free | 10% group discount

Tickets: <https://clemenscenter.org/> | 607-734-8191

This concert is sponsored in part by The Tripp Foundation and Gary & Bonnie Chollet.

ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA OF THE SOUTHERN FINGER LAKES (OSFL)

The OSFL offers four regular season full orchestra concerts, including a side-by-side Youth Orchestra and professional musician collaboration, a Musicians' Choice Chamber Music Series, concerts by the Chorus of the Southern Finger Lakes, several concerts by the Youth Orchestra and Junior String Ensemble, as well as small-scale ensemble concerts for children. Under the guidance of distinguished Music Director and Conductor, Toshiyuki Shimada, the OSFL is a strong supporter of highlighting the musical achievements of young musicians with its own Youth Orchestra and Junior String Ensemble programs, as well as the Hertzog Concerto Competition for young artists in grades 9 - 12. The OSFL collaborates with regional cultural partners, artists, and like-minded organizations to celebrate our mutual artistic vision in the greater Elmira-Corning area.

Support for the Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes comes from Corning Incorporated Foundation, Hilliard Corporation, the Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes, and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

