

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes Announces Winners of 2020 Doreen B. Hertzog Concerto & Aria Competition**

After a year of delays and postponements, the Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes (OSFL) is proud to announce two winners of the 2020 Doreen B. Hertzog Concerto & Aria Competition: Nikhil Lahiri (oboe; Corning, NY) and Christopher Tillen (piano; Weston, MA).

The Doreen B. Hertzog Concerto & Aria Competition was a program of the Elmira Symphony and Choral Society that began in the late 1960s. It is designed to showcase the finest young musicians from throughout the region, from Rochester, NY to Mansfield, PA and beyond. The winner of the competition is given the opportunity to perform one movement of a concerto or aria as a soloist with the OSFL. The 2020 preliminary competition took on a virtual format due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Even with the virtual format, the OSFL was pleased to have several applicants from a wide variety of instruments and voice for the 2020 Competition.

Nikhil Lahiri graduated from Corning-Painted Post High School where he was a member of their wind ensemble. Additionally, he has been principal oboe for both the Junior and Senior High Area All State ensembles, a position won through an annual audition through the New York State School Music Association. Lahiri was the principal oboe in the Youth Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes during the 2019-20 and 2020-21 seasons. He is currently pursuing a degree in biomedical engineering at Boston University. His performance of Alessandro Marcello's *Concerto in C Minor* with the OSFL will be in early June.

Christopher Tillen is a junior at Noble and Greenough High School (Dedham, MA). He has won various other concerto and piano competitions, including Fall Rivers Symphony Young Artist Competition, Bay State Piano Competition, and the URI Piano Extravaganza Bach Award for Intelligent Interpretation. Additionally, Tillen has received the Honorable Mention at the Steinway Society Piano Competition for several years in a row. He will perform Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto No. 2* with the OSFL on March 6, 2022 at The Clemens Center.

The 2022 Doreen B. Hertzog Competition is now open for preliminary auditions from student musicians in grades 9 through 12 on piano, strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion, or voice. Preliminary auditions will continue to be conducted via digital recordings and are due by April 20, 2022. A maximum of 12 students will be invited to a final round, in-person to be held on June 4, 2022. Full audition details are available at <https://www.osfl.org/hertzogcompetition.html>.

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**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 smaller 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 advance our mutual artistic growth 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 Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

