

**THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES THE LESS**  
**THE INTERNATIONAL ORCHESTRAL CONCERT SERIES**

**WITH**

**WESTCHESTER REFORM TEMPLE, SCARSDALE**

**THE HOFF-BARTHELSON MUSIC SCHOOL, SCARSDALE**

**PRESENT**

***TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN  
THROUGH MUSIC***

**1st Annual Benefit for the Afternoon Advantage Program of  
the Edward Williams School of Mount Vernon**

**CANTOR JILL ABRAMSON, SOPRANO**  
**MEMBERS OF THE HOFF-BARTHELSON FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA**  
**THE CANADIAN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA OF NEW YORK CITY**  
**REBECCA CHERRY, CONCERTMASTER**

**JUSTIN BISCHOF, CONDUCTOR**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2007**  
**7:00 PM**

**THIS CONCERT IS DEDICATED TO THE DISTINGUISHED AND INSPIRING  
CAREER OF SOPRANO ROBERTA PETERS FIELDS.**

## WELCOME TO

### ***TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN THROUGH MUSIC***

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the Church of St. James the Less, and to this Ecumenical Concert, *Transforming the Lives of Children Through Music*. We are truly delighted that members of St. James the Less, the Westchester Reform Temple, and the Hoff-Barthelson Music School have come together through this concert to assist the WJCS' "Amazing Afternoons," the Afternoon Advantage Program of the Edward Williams School of Mount Vernon. This program, led by Mary Figueroa, is a crucial and affirming part of the lives of the high-risk children who attend the school.

Music is one of God's greatest gifts. Through music we human beings express our greatest joys, our most profound emotions, and our hopes and dreams. Music is also among the principal means we have of worshipping God. Tonight the beautiful music we will hear will be enhanced in two crucial ways: First, musicians, leaders and concertgoers of different faiths will be united in presenting music that honors God. And second, we will be supporting the heroic efforts of teachers and students who, through their work, are transforming the lives of young people who are at risk in our society. This is truly a momentous occasion, and we must rejoice.

We are grateful to Justin Bischof, Conductor of Westchester Reform Temple and Music Director and Organist at the Church of St. James the Less, for conceiving of this unique event and bringing us together. We are also grateful to the countless volunteers, musicians, teachers, students and others who have worked tirelessly to make this concert possible.

We thank you for coming tonight, and we hope that each and every one of you will be blessed in the fullest way by what is shared tonight.

Father Tom Newcomb  
Rector

## **THE PROGRAM**

### **Welcome**

Father Thomason Newcomb, Rector  
Church of St. James the Less

### **Coriolan Overture**

by Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)

### **Remarks**

Justin Bischof

### **Let the Bright Seraphim**

by George Frederick Handel (1685–1759)  
Senior Cantor Jill Abramson, WRT, soprano

### **Remarks**

Rabbi Richard Jacobs, Senior Rabbi, WRT

### **Rochel M'vakoh Al Boneho** (Rachel weeps for her children)

by Cantor David Roitman (1884–1943)  
Arranged by A. W. Binder • Orchestrated by Tobias Wagner  
Senior Cantor Jill Abramson, WRT, soprano

### **Video Presentation**

Roberta Peters Fields

### **Remarks**

Roberta Peters Fields

### **Barber of Seville Overture**

by Gioacchino Rossini (1792–1868)

### **INTERMISSION (15 minutes)**

### **Symphony No. 7**

by Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)  
I Poco sostenuto; Vivace  
II Allegretto III Presto  
IV Allegro con brio

We ask that you please turn off all cell phones, PDAs, pagers, etc.  
Tonight's performance is being recorded. Thank you.

## **THE BENEFIT COMMITTEE**

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Rabbi Richard and Susan Jacobs • Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Kaizer • Mrs. G. Estabrook Kindred  
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Mr. & Mrs. Stephan Rathsack • Mr. & Mrs. Philip Reynolds • Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Simon  
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## **THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES THE LESS**

This church has been a part of the life and history of Scarsdale for over 150 years. The site on which our church is situated included a cemetery even before it was given to the church by Major William Popham in 1849. The earliest part of the church, the nave, where the congregation sits for worship, and where the majority of those attending tonight's concert will sit, was built in 1852. Over many generations, St. James has grown as Scarsdale has grown.

Today, our congregation includes roughly 400 members of all ages who come from very diverse backgrounds. Our parish life is centered in the Holy Eucharist, the principle act of Christian worship, which is celebrated Sunday morning at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. There is also a service on Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. which is followed by a Bible Study. The two major programs at St. James are Music and Christian Education, which you can read about below.

St. James the Less is involved in a great number of Outreach Projects, including the Midnight Run Program which feeds the homeless in New York roughly once a month; the Scarsdale Interfaith Food Pantry; assistance to Brooks Cottage at Children's Village in Dobbs Ferry; and various other programs. Each year St. James sponsors a Parish Rummage Sale, a Book Sale, and a Mardi Gras Party. These events, which provide fellowship to members, are supported by the Women of St. James and the Men of St. James, and raise money which helps us fund our Outreach Projects.

An important program of St. James the Less is our partnership with the Metropolitan Japanese Ministry. The Reverend Michael Kendall, who was rector of St. James, was instrumental in the founding of MJM as an Outreach ministry to the growing Japanese community in Westchester in the early 1980's. MJM expanded quickly to include New York City and the greater New York Metropolitan Area. This ministry of the Episcopal Church sponsors Bible Studies conducted in Japanese, English classes, Worship Services in Japanese, and other events designed to minister to the needs of the Japanese people. A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist in Japanese, sponsored by MJM, takes place in our Chapel on the Second Sunday of each month at 2:00 pm, and all are welcome to attend.

St. James the Less is a vital parish with a very welcoming spirit. There are opportunities for people of all ages to get involved, and we extend an invitation to any and all who seek a deeper and more meaningful life, to join us as we seek to know and love God as he has revealed himself in our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **MUSIC PROGRAM**

Our Music Program, under the dynamic leadership of our Director of Music Justin Bischof, is all encompassing from children's choirs to professional orchestral concerts. The overall guiding principle of the program is to bring the St. James community, as well as the one beyond our walls, together in celebration of God's presence through music. Whether it be a simple song with the Primary Choir, a complex Renaissance anthem with the Parish Choir, the game of mixed fruit (with musical adaptations) with the Junior Choirs, a Mozart Symphony with full orchestra on Easter Sunday, or a concert such as the one tonight, all of these enable both the listener and the musician in each of us to experience the joy, ecstasy and powerful presence of God through music.

Justin works with the children to increase their musical knowledge and skill set through the music of the Church and creates a learning environment that is both engaging and fun for the children. The 2007–2008 season includes a Children's Music Sunday (November 18) where the children will be providing the music for the entire service both as a choir and with individuals on their respective instruments. Our Primary Choir for ages 5–7 meets weekly and explores the simple rudiments of music in a fun and creative environment. Our two Junior Choirs (8–10 and 11–17) also meet weekly and learn anthems of all different styles that are then performed in the 10:00 a.m. service once a month as well as on various Holy Days.

Our Parish Choir is comprised of very dedicated and hard working volunteer singers in addition to 4 professional section leaders. They sing each Sunday at the 10:00 a.m. service and their repertoire encompasses the full range of choral music from the Renaissance to Gospel. We have begun a new tradition on Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday when the choir is joined by a full orchestra as we celebrate Christ's Birth and Resurrection. In addition to liturgical music we have established the International Orchestral Concert Series with the goal of sharing our wonderful music program and St. James the Less with the larger Westchester community.

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Our Christian Education Program is led by our charismatic Karen Cross, Associate for Christian Education. It includes Sunday Church School Classes which take place on Sundays following the 10:00 a.m. service from 11:10 a.m. to noon. They are taught by a dedicated group of teachers and helpers. Children's Chapel for younger children, led by Mrs. Cross, takes place each Sunday beginning at 10:00 a.m. Children are then brought into Church to sit with their parents after the sermon and prayers. On most Sundays, Parish Forums on various topics related to the Christian life take place in the Parish Hall for the adults while the children attend the Church School Classes. In addition, we have both a Junior High Youth Group and a Senior High Youth Group led by adult volunteers. The St. James the Less Nursery School, founded in 1968, has preschool classes at three levels for children beginning at ages 2, 3, and 4 respectively.

## **PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS**

### **WESTCHESTER REFORM TEMPLE**

WRT was established in 1953 by 40 families who saw the need for a reform temple that might serve the growing Central Westchester Jewish community. The congregation initially gathered at various religious and community facilities in Scarsdale. In 1958 our present home containing a sanctuary, several classrooms and offices was opened. Over the years, it has been greatly enlarged to meet the needs of a growing and thriving congregation.

Westchester Reform Temple welcomes anyone seeking to belong to a caring Jewish community committed to learning, celebrating and serving. As a Reform congregation, we observe the ancient traditions of our people in an ever-evolving manner, through prayer, song, ritual, and communal involvement. Join us and you will become an important part of our growth and development. We seek to make our synagogue a meaningful force in the lives of our members, welcoming and actively soliciting participation in all aspects of congregational life.

### **AMAZING AFTERNOONS AT MT. VERNON'S EDWARD WILLIAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS) offers an exciting and enriching extended day program at the Edward Williams Elementary School in Mt. Vernon with NYS Advantage After School funding. Amazing Afternoons serves approximately 100 first to fifth graders from 3:15–6:15 PM daily, with activities that include learning games, computer skills, music and dance, literacy, arts and crafts, sports, chess, homework/basic skills assistance, nutrition and conflict resolution. The goals are to improve grades, social and behavioral skills and to enhance positive self-image and outlook at school. Thanks to volunteers from Westchester Reform Temple and other community groups, the children share experiences with youth and adults from varied backgrounds and expertise, broadening their exposure and expanding their horizons. For more information, call 914-761-0600 ext. 205 or visit [www.wjcs.com](http://www.wjcs.com).

### **WESTCHESTER JEWISH COMMUNITY SERVICES WJCS**

WJCS is Westchester's most comprehensive not-for-profit, non-sectarian human service agency, helping people [address life](#) challenges, strengthen their networks of support and thrive in Westchester county. Our caring and compassionate programs serve more than 16,000 adults, seniors, children and families each year through approximately 60 sites from Yonkers to Yorktown. A wide range of clinical and community-based mental health, counseling and support programs, home health care services, learning programs and services for people with developmental disabilities are available to those who live or work in our County. We are in your homes, schools, synagogues, in clinic settings, and in the community—for whatever you need, wherever you may be. We're in Your Community... When You Need Us.



## **THE HOFF-BARTHELSON MUSIC SCHOOL**

Hoff-Barthelson Music School has achieved national recognition as a premier community music school for its unsurpassed leadership in education, performance and outreach. It is one of the largest community music schools in the country, serving more than 1,800 students from 50 Westchester municipalities and beyond. The faculty of 75 is drawn from the nation's most distinguished performers and educators.

The School offers a comprehensive after-school and Saturday music program of individualized instruction in combination with a sequential musicianship curriculum encompassing music theory, ear training and composition skills. Participation in large and small instrumental ensembles and chorus, and frequent performance opportunities in a warm, familial setting, are a hallmark of the School's curriculum. There are three Orchestras, four Choirs, a comprehensive Jazz Studies Program, three Flute Choirs, Master Classes, workshops, and guest appearances by world-renowned artists. Young children are introduced to music through the Preschool Center, Dalcroze-Eurhythmics music and movement classes, Suzuki Program, and recorder classes. The school year is further enhanced by a five-week Summer Arts Program.

## **THE ARTISTS**

### **CANTOR JILL ABRAMSON, SOPRANO**

Jill Abramson serves as Senior Cantor of Westchester Reform Temple in Scarsdale, NY. Previously, Cantor Abramson served Congregation Sukkat Shalom in Wilmette, IL from 2002–2007, where she was also Director of Education. She holds a B.A. in Anthropology from Grinnell College and received a Master of Sacred Music and investiture as Cantor from Hebrew Union College in 2002. An active member of the American Conference of Cantors, Cantor Abramson has served on editorial boards for Transcontinental Music Publications, and the National Commission for Worship, Music & Religious Living. She brings a strong international commitment to her social justice work having lived in Cameroon, West Africa, taught English in Indonesia, and directed a choir of Israeli and Arab teenagers while living in Israel. While in Chicago, Cantor Abramson served as Hebrew coach to the Chicago Symphony Chorus at the Ravinia Festival and at Orchestra Hall. She has given numerous recitals in New York, New Jersey, Minneapolis, Chicago and Jerusalem. She is a featured soloist on the recording "Shirei Tshuvah," music for High Holidays. Cantor Abramson lives in White Plains together with her husband, Rabbi Jonathan Malamy.



## **JUSTIN BISCHOF, CONDUCTOR**

A Canadian-Swiss resident of Scarsdale, Justin Bischof has rapidly made a name for himself as a conductor in operatic and orchestral circles in New York and major music centers in the United States. He is an internationally acclaimed concert organist and improviser with a repertoire that spans from the Baroque to world premieres. He has performed over 100 times with orchestra both in the U.S. and abroad. He is the Artistic Director & Conductor of both The Modus Opera Company and The Canadian Chamber Orchestra of New York City.

Recent conducting activities have included working with Ensemble Orchestral de Paris; the National Arts Center Orchestra (Ottawa), The Moscow Symphony Orchestra, members of the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra, The Chelsea Symphony, the Manhattan School of Music Symphony, Philharmonia and Opera Orchestra, the CCO/NYC, the Modus Opera Orchestra and the Regina Opera Orchestra. Recent repertoire has included such works as Beethoven's *Symphony No. 1*, Schumann's *Symphony No. 4*, Rachmaninoff's *Symphony No. 2*, Menotti's *The Medium*, Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 5*, Brahms' *Tragic Overture*, Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* and Donizetti's *Elixir of Love*. Mr. Bischof has served as assistant conductor to Kenneth Kiesler (University of Michigan), Alistair Neale (New World Symphony), Steve Osgood (American Opera Projects), Steve Crawford (Metropolitan Opera) and Alex Guzman (The Bronx Symphony). His conducting mentor is Kenneth Kiesler and he has participated in Mr. Kiesler's Conductors Retreat at Medomak, Maine, which is a multifaceted and transformative program in conducting and leadership that is making an impact worldwide. This past June, Justin had the honor of working with Mr. Kiesler and Maestro Pinchas Zuckerman in an intensive and highly selective conducting program in Ottawa. He has also studied with Steve Crawford, Gustav Meier, and Rossen Milanov.

Justin is one of the rare organists who performs extensively with orchestra on a regular basis. He has performed with numerous orchestras including the Zurich Symphony Orchestra, The Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and with members of the Orchestra of St. Luke's. His highly praised performance of Samuel Barber's rarely performed *Toccata Festiva* with the Zurich Symphony Orchestra at the Tonhalle, Zurich, was a season highlight. He was a featured soloist with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Andreas Delf in the world premiere performances of *The Revelation of St. John* by Daniel Schneider, composer-in-residence. In addition to the performances, which were recorded for NPR, Swiss Television interviewed him for later broadcast. In June 2006 he made a highly anticipated return appearance in Saint Saën's *Symphony No. 3 "Organ"* under the direction of Maestro Delf in a program shared with violinist Joshua Bell that included an improvisation on excerpts from *The Red Violin*. A live recording of the symphony which was later broadcast on NPR is available online via the MSO website. In September 2006 he was a featured soloist at the International Organ Festival in Olomuc, Czech Republic, presented by the Moravian Philharmonic and recorded for Czech Radio.

Mr. Bischof is one of the world's finest improvisers, having won first prize in the 2000 American Guild of Organists National Improvisation Competition in Seattle. His all improvisation performances have been met with critical acclaim throughout the U.S. and the world including San Francisco, Zurich, Paris, Seattle and London. Several European tours have taken him to England, France, Czech Republic, and Switzerland and such venues as

St. Paul's Cathedral and St. Eustache. He has toured Australia and New Zealand twice and will return in 2008.

Justin Bischof has a long and distinguished career as a professional liturgical musician both in church and temple. He was Associate Organist of the historic St. James the United Church of Montreal at age 16 before moving to New York City where he was appointed Associate Director of Music of The Church of the Heavenly Rest 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue at the age of 20. He conducted the professional choir and founded the Carnegie Hill Concert Series which brought over 5,000 people to the church every year. In 1995 he was named Director of Music and Organist at the 19<sup>th</sup> century Church of the Resurrection located at 74<sup>th</sup> street and Park Avenue. He formed a 10 voice professional choir that presented a full Renaissance mass weekly for 6 years and was comprised of early music musicians from around the world. He has served as Music Director & Conductor of Westchester Reform Temple in Scarsdale for the past 14 years. This internationally acclaimed institution is a leader in the Reform movement with liturgical music playing an integral role in the life of the institution. Mr. Bischof regularly collaborates with such renowned artists as David Geber (founding cellist, American String Quartet), David Krakauer and Roberta Peters with whom he performs annually.

### **THE CANADIAN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA OF NEW YORK CITY (CCO/NYC)**

The Canadian Chamber Orchestra of New York City is the first large ensemble in New York City created by and showcasing Canadian musicians and music as part of its mission. Comprised of many young Canadian players living in the New York City area, our goal is to promote Canadian artistry in New York City and beyond. The inaugural performance of the CCO/NYC took place at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007. For more information go to [www.canadianchamberorchestra.org](http://www.canadianchamberorchestra.org)

### **Rochel M'vakoh Al Boneho (Rachel weeps for her children)**

Thus said the Lord: A cry is heard in *Ramah*—wailing, bitter, weeping—Rachel is weeping for her children. She refuses to be comforted for her children who are gone. (Jer. 31:15) The Lord roars from high. God makes God's voice heard from God's holy dwelling; God roars aloud over God's [earthly] abode (Jer. 25:30). My Lord of Hosts, summoned on that day to weeping and lamenting, to tonsuring and girding with sackcloth. (Is. 22: 12) For those things do I weep, my eyes flow with tears; far from me is any comforter who might revive my spirit; my children are forlorn, for the enemy has prevailed. (Lam. 1:16) Hark! The Arielites cry aloud: Shalom's messengers weep bitterly. (Is. 33: 7).

# **THE CANADIAN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA OF NEW YORK CITY (CCO/NYC)**

**JUSTIN BISCHOF, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR**

## **FIRST VIOLIN**

Rebecca Cherry, concertmaster  
Matt Szemela  
Evija Kiger  
Patrisa Tomassini  
Jenn Ahn  
Kiwon Nahm  
Todd Sullivan  
Jonathan Weber

## **SECOND VIOLIN**

Melissa Tong  
Alberto Villa-Lobos  
Louis Villa-Lobos  
Ernesto Villa-Lobos  
Jonathan Kahn  
David Handler  
Miguel Campos-Neto

## **VIOLA**

Irena Momchilova  
Yachin Pan  
Brian Lindgren  
Angela Pickett

## **CELLO**

Beth Sturdevant  
Analisa Martinez  
Min-Jeong Kang

## **BASS**

Brad Lovelace  
Lisa Dowling  
Kris Saebo

## **FLUTE**

Erin Lesser  
Amy Tori

## **OBOE**

Mark Snyder  
John Frisch

## **CLARINET**

Ben Baron  
David Dunn

## **BASSOON**

Oleskie Zakharov  
Laura Vincent

## **HORN**

Matthew Marks  
Jason Sugata

## **TRUMPETS**

Sycil Mathai  
Kibum Park

## **TIMPANI**

Andy Blanco

## **Members of the Hoff-Barthelson Festival Orchestra**

## **VIOLIN**

Nicole Glotzer  
Nikita Lalwani  
William Markowiz

## **VIOLA**

Emily Chapman  
Oliver Hill

## **CELLO**

Susan Mandel  
Claire Allen-Solomon

## **FLUTE**

Lia McInerney  
Ezra Schrage

## **CLARINET**

Aaron Schluger

## **BASSOON**

Jonathan Sturr

## **HORN**

Michael Hua

## **TRUMPET**

Eric Seligman

## **PERCUSSION**

Alex Guenther

The Church of St. James the Less  
would like to thank everyone who made this evening possible  
by giving of their time and talent.

A heartfelt thank you to those whose financial contributions helped  
to underwrite this concert and send these deserving children to camp.

We wish to extend our deepest appreciation to our orchestra, who donated  
over \$4,000 worth of their fees tonight thereby reducing our expenses considerably.

Special thanks to Standing Room Only of Scarsdale and Jack Tacconi  
for assistance with all catering events and for graciously donating  
the food for the post-concert reception, and to  
Zachy's for generously donating the champagne for the post-concert reception.

Many thanks to Sandy Darlington for donating the printing of the program;  
Rebecca Stedman for creating and donating the glorious floral arrangements;  
Dorothy Yewer and Linda Wolk-Simon for chairing this groundbreaking event;  
and the Music Committee for their tireless efforts and dedication  
in helping to ensure the success of this Concert.

Thank you to our Music Director and Conductor, Justin Bischof, for inspiring and  
leading us to heights we did not think possible only a short time ago.

We embrace and rejoice in this new tradition for St. James the Less  
and the Westchester community.

## **THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES THE LESS**

CHURCH LANE AND CRANE ROAD

SCARSDALE, NY 10583

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The Rev Thomason L. Newcomb, *Rector*  
The Rev. John Bourhill, *Deacon*

Dr. Justin Bischof  
*Director of Music and Organist*

Karen Cross  
*Associate for Christian Education*

Wilder Howland, *Warden* Ilse Reynolds, *Warden* Kathy Cutlip, *Treasurer*

Edward Chang, Margy Loftus, John Palmer  
Tom Niles, Frank Schwall, Dorothy Yewer  
John Battiloro, Tracy McCarthy, Daniel O'Connor