

## THE CONCERTS

**Senator Loretta Weinberg Band Shell In Votee Park at 8:00 p.m.**

**Palisade Avenue, Teaneck, New Jersey**

**Rain site: Thomas Jefferson Middle School Auditorium**

### **WEDNESDAY, July 3, 2024**

Conductor: TEDDI SOTIROPOULOS

Featured Soloist: RON LEVY, Piano

**Ron Levy**, internationally acclaimed pianist, has been called "first-class" by the New York Times. He regularly appears in major venues, both as a soloist and collaborative artist, and has been pianist and harpsichordist of many symphony orchestras. Ron has been Associate Artist of the venerable All Seasons Chamber Players; he was a frequent guest soloist with the resident chamber ensemble of the NY Metropolitan Museum of Art. A resident of Vermont for over 20 years, Ron was a faculty and Board member of the Manchester Music Festival, Music Director and Conductor of the Opera Theatre in Weston, Program and Music Director at the historic Equinox Hotel, and impresario of the "Music On The Hill" chamber music series of the Southern Vermont Art Center. A graduate of Oberlin Conservatory, he has taught at numerous colleges, and is currently on the faculty of Montclair University's Cali School of Music, as well as The Ridgewood Conservatory. In addition, he is Music Director of the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood, pianist & Assistant Conductor of the Orpheus Club Men's Chorus, a founding member of the Arundo Trio, and pianist of the award-winning Palisades Virtuosi [2022 American Prize], of which he is also a founding member. A prolific recording artist, CDs by Mr. Levy are available on the Albany, Centaur, Eroica, 4-Tay, Great Kate, High Point, Koch International, Phoenix, South Mountain and Summit labels.

A two-term President of the Professional Music Teachers' Guild of NJ, Mr. Levy is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Rockland [NY] and Monmouth [NJ] symphony orchestras; he is also a consultant to BIM Music Publications, Switzerland.

Ron is the unintentional star of the YouTube video "Five Top Worst Page Turn Fails," which has gone viral with over two million hits!

### **WEDNESDAY, July 10, 2024**

Conductor: TEDDI SOTIROPOULOS

Featured Soloist: JEFFREY BITTNER, Clarinet

**Jeffrey Bittner** is proudly serving in his twenty-second year as Director of Bands at Mahwah High School where he directs the MHS Symphonic Band, Marching Thunderbirds, Jazz Ensemble, Chamber Ensembles, Pit Orchestra, and Music Theory/Appreciation classes. Mr. Bittner received his bachelor's degree in Performance/Music Education from William Paterson University and a master's degree in Clarinet Performance from Ithaca College. He studied clarinet with Michael Galván at Ithaca College and with Karl Herman and William Shadel at William Paterson University.

Mr. Bittner's professional and community experiences include performances with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, New Jersey Wind Symphony, Eastern Wind Symphony, New York Opera Exchange, Litha Symphony Wind Ensemble, North Jersey Philharmonic, and of course, the Teaneck Community Band. He has played in the Teaneck Community band for twenty-two years. Bittner was also a member of the Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps in 1996 where he played trumpet in the Closing Ceremonies of the Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Mahwah High School bands have prospered under Mr. Bittner's direction. The band has received consistent superior ratings at regional, state, and national festivals including eleven gold ratings at the Region I Concert Band Festival and has been invited to perform as an honors band at the New Jersey State Gala Concert seven times. The band also performed at the NJMEA State Conference in East Brunswick, Avery Fisher Hall- Lincoln Center, and at the World War II Memorial in Washington D.C. Outside of music, Mr. Bittner takes part in "Competitive Bearding" where he travels to compete in local, state, national, and world beard and mustache competitions. Money raised at these competitions has supported

many local, national, and international charities. Mr. Bittner proudly holds the First Place National Title and Second Place World Title!

### **WEDNESDAY, July 17, 2024**

Conductor: TEDDI SOTIROPOULOS  
Featured Soloist: DANTE STERLING, Vocalist

**Dante Sterling** is a vocalist hailing from Essex County, NJ. His professional formation began at New Jersey City University, where he earned a B.A. in Music with a concentration in Musical Theater in 2005. From there, Dante embarked on a ten-year career in the performing arts, singing, acting and dancing, from New Jersey to off-off-broadway to the high seas on Celebrity Cruise ships. Presently, Dante works primarily as a yoga teacher in northern New Jersey while figuring out what he wants to do with his Master's degree in French, but he is always grateful for the opportunity to dust off his vocal chords. Mr. Sterling would like to extend his hopes that you enjoy the performance.

### **WEDNESDAY, July 24, 2024**

Conductor: TEDDI SOTIROPOULOS  
Featured Soloist: RICK ROBERTS, Trumpet

**Rick Roberts** resides in Sussex County and is an active trumpet player. He has appeared in area church ceremonies, and various musicals including *Annie* at Centenary University in Hackettstown, and *Seussical the Musical!* with the Northstar Theater Company in Sparta, NJ. Rick recently has resumed studies in music performance as a part-time continuing education student at Montclair State University. He is a long-time member of the New Jersey Wind Symphony, the Atlantic Brass Band, and is entering his third season with the Teaneck Community Band.

### **WEDNESDAY, July 31, 2024**

Conductor: TEDDI SOTIROPOULOS  
Featured Soloist: LUCAS HARVEY, Alto Saxophone

**Lucas Harvey** is a saxophonist, conductor, and educator based in northern New Jersey. He currently attends Montclair State University in Little Falls, NJ, pursuing the BM Music Education degree. Lucas has appeared as a soloist with multiple groups including the Montclair State University Wind Symphony and Rutgers University Chorus. He is the principal saxophonist of the Montclair State University Wind Symphony and was a member of the group when they toured in Europe. He has also performed with the New Jersey Wind Symphony, Eastern Wind Symphony, Montclair State University Symphony Orchestra, and multiple other chamber groups. As an educator, Lucas is formerly the band director at Fort Lee Elementary School No. 1 and was a visual, woodwind, and conducting instructor with the Fort Lee High School Marching Band. He also privately instructs students of all age's saxophone, clarinet, and piano. Outside of music, Lucas is a passionate Los Angeles Chargers and New York Yankees fan. Lucas is also passionate about the culinary arts.



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