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Annual "Cultural Crossover" Gala Concert

Featuring classics from Bach to Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru and Ecuador

NORWALK, Conn. Norwalk Mayor Harry Rilling is proud to present the fourth annual Gala Concert of the INTAKE Organization, scheduled for Saturday March 21 at 7:00 pm at Norwalk Concert Hall. The event will gather the Norwalk Youth Symphony with the Mariachi Academy of Connecticut from the Spanish Community Center of Wallingford, sharing the stage for the first. As well as performances by Norwalk's Ballet Tonantzil, the INTAKE Ensemble and international virtuoso artist Paco Godoy, returning to Norwalk by popular demand.

"I am proud to present the Annual Gala Concert of the Intake Organization here in my city. We hope you will join us and share this important multicultural experience," said Mayor Harry Rilling, about the opportunity to showcase his municipality's musical quality and the versatility of its musicians while paying tribute to the Tish Gibbs and former Norwalk Mayor Bill Collins; devoted Norwalk residents, who have worked towards the Sister City program between Nagarote, Nicaragua and Norwalk, for over 25 years.

"The Norwalk Youth Symphony is proud to share this musical experience with our community. Once again, our young musicians will perform classics like Bach, Danzón Number 2 by Mexican composer Arturo Márquez and the Peruvian classic 'El Condor Pasa' by Daniel Alomía Robles" said Sarah Watkins, Executive Director of the Norwalk Youth Symphony, referring to the fourth Annual INTAKE Gala Concert, where the symphony occupies a prominent role.

Evangelina Mendoza, Artistic Director of the Mariachi Academy of Connecticut, said that the mission of the school is based on children learning to play traditional instruments used in a Mexican mariachi, and described this as a wonderful opportunity for the children of Wallingford to share this interesting musical activity with other youth alike.

Angelica Durrell from the INTAKE Organization expressed her satisfaction in preparing for this concert, once again, by rehearsing the young artists who will give it their best and have the opportunity to share the stage with internationally renowned artists. "Thanks to Mayor Rilling, our partners in the arts and our kind audiences for allowing us to open the doors of this Concert Hall and combine classical music with the traditional genres of different countries," said Durrell.

This concert is made possible through the underwriting support of SpreadMusicNow, BeFoundation, and the Department of Economic and Community Development of the State of Connecticut. “We are delighted to support this cross-cultural celebration,” said SpreadMusicNow’s director Richard Wenning, “INTAKE’s commitment to youth and community development through engagement in the universal language of music exemplifies the purpose of our investments.”

On this occasion, classics by Johan Sebastian Bach and Mexican Arturo Márquez will be performed; and popular Latin American works such as ‘El Condor Pasa’ (If I could) from Peru and the Nicaraguan ‘Credo’. For the latter piece, INTAKE will present a special guest conductor, José Criollo, who will lead the choir and young soloist, Lu Miranda.

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About INTAKE

The INTAKE Organization, Inc., is a Connecticut-based 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, founded in 2011. INTAKE’s mission (Instrumentally Native Taking on the Classics) is to improve the quality of life for opportunity youth by providing access to quality classical music education through the use of native instruments that represent diverse cultural backgrounds. The organization strives to make classical music relevant, accessible, and inclusive through education, community outreach, and cultural advocacy.

Having partnered with the University of Connecticut, Universidad Andina of Ecuador, Instituto Guatemalteco Americano of Guatemala; and held partnerships with the Cities of New Haven, Norwalk and Stamford, INTAKE strives to increase and cultivate new classical music audiences through institutional awareness and youth development. The award-winning organization is the subject of a PBS documentary ‘Compadre Huashayo’ to be aired twice during primetime on March 15th and 28th. For additional information, visit: www.intakemusic.org.

About SpreadMusicNow

The SpreadMusicNow Fund was established by Connecticut-based BeFoundation to help musically-inspired children and teens develop as musicians and creative thinkers. SpreadMusicNow funds music instruction for underserved youth, helping to shape their futures and build lifelong success. BeFoundation established the SpreadMusicNow Fund at Fairfield County’s Community Foundation. For more information visit www.spreadmusicnow.org.

About BeFoundation

BeFoundation is a private, family foundation dedicated to transforming the lives and communities of disadvantaged youth in Connecticut. BeFoundation invests in organizations that share a commitment to expanding the pathways available for college, career and life success while building creative, smart and engaged communities. For more information visit www.befoundation.org or call 203-938-9000.