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City of Norwalk and its Youth Symphony partner with INTAKE Organization for concert in the fall

NORWALK, Conn – Norwalk Mayor Richard A. Moccia will host the INTAKE Organization’s concert on Saturday, October 20, 2012 at Norwalk Concert Hall, featuring a collaborative performance between the Norwalk Youth Symphony and the INTAKE (Instrumentally Native Taking on the Classics) Ensemble.

Mayor Moccia supports INTAKE’s mission of bringing an innovative approach to classical music by focusing on its interpretation through the use of native instruments from a variety of cultures representing local communities in diaspora. “Students from the Norwalk Youth Symphony have gone out and done many great things upon graduation, some have remained in music and founded non-profit music organizations to give back to our community, while others have also gained success in other fields”, said Mayor Richard Moccia during this season’s final concert of the Norwalk Youth Symphony. “We very proud of INTAKE Organization founder and Artistic Director, Angelica Durrell, who is truly a Norwalk success-story”, said Moccia.

During the Norwalk Youth Symphony’s final concert on May 13th, Lisa Petno, chairman of the Norwalk Youth Symphony, announced its partnership with the INTAKE Organization for a joint concert in the fall. “We are continually striving to provide our musicians with unique and extraordinary experiences, and it will be especially rewarding to work with an organization founded by one of our alumni. We teach our musicians that music transcends cultural boundaries, and incorporating native instruments into our October concert with INTAKE will further emphasize this concept”, noted Petno.

The concert partnership consists of Norwalk Youth Symphony’s Concert Orchestra performing classical music by master composers with the INTAKE Ensemble—comprised of professional musicians who perform on native instruments. Maestro Richard Brooks will conduct the orchestra and native instruments like the accordion, native harp, marimba and other native percussion, charango (guitar-like stringed instrument similar to the mandolin), and pan flutes. Some original scores and special arrangements will be commissioned by INTAKE’s board member and virtuoso accordionist and pianist of Ecuadoran origin, Paco Godoy, in an effort to showcase the versatility of these classical and native instruments.

Rossini’s “William Tell Overture”, Strauss’ renowned “Blue Danube Waltz”, and Bizet’s “Habanera” from Suite No. 2 will be included in the culturally rich and diverse repertoire. “Classical music changed my life and being part of the Norwalk Youth Symphony had an enormous impact in my musical development”, said Angelica Durrell. “I remember coming to the NYS rehearsals and presenting a polished product at the end of each concert season, but I also remember wanting to partake in an organization that allowed for cross-cultural connections and created a positive social impact on the community by bringing people from many diverse musical and artistic cultures together”.

About INTAKE

The INTAKE Organization, Inc., is a Connecticut-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, founded by Angelica Durrell in 2011. The mission of INTAKE (Instrumentally Native Taking on the Classics) is to bring an innovative approach to classical music by focusing on its interpretation through the use of native instruments from a variety of cultures representing local communities in diaspora. INTAKE has partnered with the University of Connecticut, holding residencies at the United States Embassy in Quito and the National Assembly of Ecuador; the City of New Haven’s Department of Arts, Culture and Tourism; and the Stamford Public Schools System. INTAKE strives to increase classical music audiences through public performances, educational workshops, community outreach events, and cultural advocacy. Board members include Afa Sadykhly Dworkin from the national Sphinx Organization, and composers Gabriela Lena Frank and Tania León as Honorary Board members.

About the Norwalk Youth Symphony

The Norwalk Youth Symphony is sponsored by the City of Norwalk, Connecticut. The Norwalk Youth Symphony is dedicated to enriching the lives of young people within a musical community. Founded in 1956, the NYS has expanded since that time to include over 230 musicians from more than 30 area towns each year. Many alumni have gone on to study professionally at music conservatories and colleges such as Juilliard, Eastman, Manhattan School of Music, Berklee College of Music, Hartt College of Music and the New England Conservatory. All NYS members gain an invaluable discipline and musical experience that instills a lifelong appreciation of music and the arts.