NEW/PHILHARMONIC

Maestro Kirk Muspratt, Music Director and Conductor

NEW YEAR'S EVE CONCERT

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Welcome to the MAC! Our entire staff is thrilled to have you here and we are grateful that you have chosen to invest your time in live entertainment and world-class culture in our community. We want to offer you a space to unwind and enjoy an evening filled with laughter, music, dance, or theatre. Our aim is to provide you with unique and inspiring opportunities to engage more deeply with the arts. Join us for a complimentary pre-show MAC Chat or Q&A following specific performances. Our arts center, located in a community college, and offers over 60 student productions supported by professional lighting, sound, and costumes. These can be enjoyed at affordable costs, or you can attend our FREE programs like Music Friday at Noon and our free International Global Film series, Global Flicks in February. We hope to exceed your expectations with excellent service and special pre and post-show engagement opportunities. These will help you connect with the artists and art forms more deeply. While you are here, don't forget to visit the Cleve Carney Museum of Art in the lobby to experience cutting-edge contemporary art. You can also enjoy our full-service concession area and gift shop.

After your visit, please stay connected with us by joining us on Facebook (AtTheMAC) or subscribing to our e-newsletter to find out about added shows, events, and special offers (<u>www.AtTheMAC.org</u>). We challenge you to try something new at the MAC and expand your cultural palate. Come see the New Philharmonic Orchestra or a Buffalo Theater Ensemble Play. Or join us this summer for the Lakeside Summer Series. We are grateful for your presence here and we want to ensure that your visit is enjoyable. If you need anything, please don't hesitate to ask any of the staff and we will do our best to accommodate you.

We hope you have a wonderful time and look forward to entertaining you.

Enjoy the show!

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Diana Martinez Director, McAninch Arts Center



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Speaking for not only myself, but for the splendid, talented musicians in our ensemble, I want to thank you sincerely for your support and care of our unique symphony orchestra.

At New Philharmonic, we strive to give you not only first-class performances, but also to create a family of people, both on and off the stage, in order that we all experience the miracle of music together. As musicians, we seek to honor the genius and wonder of the composers who have given their gift to each and every one of us. Please come and say "hello" to me after the concerts, so I can always best understand what you experienced, what you felt, and what you would like to relate back to us.

KERK MUSEBAR

Kirk Muspratt, Artistic Director and Conductor

------ NEW PHILHARMONIC 2023-2024 SEASON -------

Tchaikovsky and Beethoven

Saturday, Sept. 23, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 24, 3 p.m. Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto Beethoven: Symphony No. 7 Esme Arias-Kim, violin

Sinatra Forever: A Salute to Frank Sinatra Saturday, Nov. 4, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5, 3 p.m. Starring Rick Michel **New Year's Eve Concert** Sunday, Dec. 31, 1:30, 5 & 8:30 p.m. Richard Ollarsaba, bass-baritone

The Best of John Williams

Saturday, Jan. 20, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 21, 3 p.m.

Brahms Piano Concertos Nos. 1 and 2 Saturday, Apr. 13, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Apr. 14, 3 p.m. Wael Farouk, piano

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New Philharmonic Kirk Muspratt, Music Director and Conductor 47th Season 2023-2024

New Year's Eve Concert

Kirk Muspratt, Music Director and Conductor

Richard Ollarsaba, bass-baritone

Sponsored by

Sullivan Taylor Family Trust

This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.



PROGRAM

Knall und Fall, Polka Schnell, op. 132Eduard Strauss
Blue Danube Waltz, op. 314 Johann Strauss II
Toreador AriaGeorges Bizet from Carmen Richard Ollarsaba, bass-baritone
Dance of the ComediansBedřich Smetana from The Bartered Bride
Hymne a l'amour Edith Piaf and Marguerite Monnot arr. Amir Awad Richard Ollarsaba, bass-baritone
The Dam Busters March Eric Coates
Secret Surprise Piece
The Star Spangled Banner Francis Scott Key and John Stafford Smith arr. Otto-Werner Mueller
Long Before I Knew YouJule Styne, Betty Comden, from Bells Are Ringing and Adolph Green Richard Ollarsaba, bass-baritone
Radetzky March, op. 228Sohann Strauss Sr.
Auld Lang Syne Traditional arr. Brendan Elliget

Please join us in the lobby for a champagne toast immediately following the performance.

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Mexican-American bass-baritone, **Richard Ollarsaba**, praised by *The Washington Post* for his "meltingly smooth bassbaritone" and for "evoking a young Ruggero Raimondi in looks and manner," represented the USA in the 2019 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World competition, was a member of the prestigious Ryan Opera Center at Lyric Opera of Chicago for

three seasons, and a grand finalist in the 2013 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.

This season he reprises the roles of Escamillo in *Carmen* with Opera Columbus, Count Almaviva in *Le nozze di Figaro* with Portland Opera and Piedmont Opera, and the title role in *Don Giovanni* with Inland Northwest Opera and Arizona Opera.

Season 2022/23 he debuted with the Glimmerglass Festival, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, and Portland Opera as Escamillo in their respective productions of Bizet's *Carmen*. He debuted with Chicago Opera Theater in the world-premiere opera *The Life and Death(s) of Alan Turing* composed by Justine F. Chen as Fred Clayton and Judge Harrison, and presented the role of Count Almaviva in *Le nozze di Figaro* with Knoxville Opera. On the symphonic stage, he made return appearances as bass soloist with the Palm Beach Symphony in their performances of Handel's *Messiah* and the Master Chorale of South Florida in their performances of Verdi's *Requiem*. He also debuted the self-curated recital "Neighbors Abroad, Family at Home" highlighting compositions from Mexico and the USA at his alma mater in the inaugural performance of the Fletcher Alumni Recital Series at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

Recent season credits include the title role of *Don Giovanni* with Opera Hong Kong, Opera Grand Rapids and Opera Carolina, the title role in *Le nozze di Figaro* with New Zealand Opera and Minnesota Opera, as well as Count Almaviva with Virginia Opera, Escamillo in *Carmen* with Kentucky Opera, Minnesota Opera, North Carolina Opera, Tulsa Opera, Annapolis Opera, and the Barhabor Music Festival, and Schaunard in *La bohèm*e with the Jacksonville Symphony. He has been a repeat featured soloist with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra notably in performances of Haydn's *Mass in Time of War* and Handel's *Messiah*.

While at the Ryan Opera Center at Lyric Opera of Chicago, his tenure included productions of *La Traviata, Capriccio, Anna Bolena, Tosca, The Passenger, Otello, Madama Butterfly, Parsifal* and the title role in *Don Giovanni* – stepping into the iconic part with a few hours' notice. Other operatic engagements include Asdrubale in Rossini's *La pietra del paragone,* Fallito in Gassmann's *L'opera seria*, Angelotti in *Tosca*, and Luciano in Musto's *Bastianello* with Wolf

Trap Opera; the title role in *Don Giovanni* with Intermountain Opera Bozeman; Timur in *Turandot* and Rochefort in *Anna Bolena* with Minnesota Opera; Ferrando in *Il trovatore* with North Carolina Opera, Colline in *La bohème* and Reverend John Hale in Ward's *The Crucible* with Piedmont Opera, Pistola in *Falstaff* with Opera Omaha, and Antonio in *Le nozze di Figaro* with Opera Cleveland.

In addition to performances on the operatic stage, Mr. Ollarsaba appears regularly in concert and recital. He has been the bass soloist with the Mainly Mozart Festival in a rare performance of Mozart's *Thamos, König in Ägypten*, Handel's *Messiah* with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Phoenix Symphony, and Kansas City Symphony, Bach's *St. John's Passion* with the Madison Bach Musicians, Dvorak's *Te Deum* with Apollo Chorus of Chicago, Bernstein's *Songfest* at the Ravinia Festival, Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* with the Macon Symphony Orchestra and Master Chorale of South Florida, Verdi's *Requiem* with the Salisbury Symphony, and Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy* in his debut with the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Tanglewood. That concert was a gala celebration of the venerable festival's 75th birthday and was telecast nationally on PBS.

A native of Tempe, Arizona, Richard Ollarsaba received his Bachelor of Music from the Cleveland Institute of Music and his Master of Music and postgraduate certificate from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. In addition to the Ryan Opera Center at Lyric Opera of Chicago, he trained at Minnesota Opera, Music Academy of the West, Chautauqua Opera, Aspen Music Festival, Tanglewood, and Wolf Trap Opera.



Kirk Muspratt (Music Director and Conductor) recently received the Conductor of the Year award from the Illinois Council of Orchestras. He was also named "Chicagoan of the Year" in classical music by John von Rhein and the staff of the *Chicago Tribune*. In honoring Muspratt, von Rhein said, "Ask the delighted adults and kids who this year flocked to his concerts in west suburban Glen Ellyn with the New

Philharmonic Orchestra ... They will tell you he made concert going an interactive experience that was both enlightening and— are you ready?—fun."

Recognized as one of the outstanding figures in the new generation of conductors, Muspratt has garnered international critical acclaim as a "born opera conductor" (*Rheinische Post*), "a knowledgeable musician who delivers superbly controlled, gorgeously shaped readings" (St. Louis Post-Dispatch), and "friend to local music" (*Midwest Beat Magazine*). The Los Angeles Times declared, "Watch him!"

In July 2004, Muspratt was named both music director of New Philharmonic and artistic director/music director of DuPage Opera Theatre (now New Philharmonic Opera). In his last 15 years, productions featured Otello, Madama Butterfly, Le Nozze di Figaro, Il Barbiere di Seviglia, Hansel and Gretel, La Boheme, Faust, Tosca, The Beggars Opera, Elixir of Love, Turandot, Gianni Schicchi, Cosi fan Tutte, The Mikado, La Traviata and Die Fledermaus.

In 2017 and 2009, New Philharmonic was awarded Professional Orchestra of the Year by the Illinois Council of Orchestras.

In his first months at New Philharmonic, Muspratt instituted a Side-by-Side program for local high school students. Six years ago, Muspratt initiated a popular Solo Competition for Children that results in a child performing at every New Philharmonic concert. In order to involve the community to the maximum, Muspratt has created "Just Ask Kirk[™]" cards for audience members' questions and a "Kirkature[™]" cartoon to help advocate the credo: "Classical music is for everyone."

Muspratt begins his 21st acclaimed season as music director of the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra (NISO). In 2006, with NISO, he initiated the South Shore Summer Music Festival.

From 1991 through 1996, Muspratt served as resident conductor to Lorin Maazel at the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. Prior to that, he was appointed as associate conductor to Joseph Silverstein at the Utah Symphony Orchestra (1990-1992). From 1987 through 1990, Muspratt served as assistant conductor to Leonard Slatkin at the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra as well as music director of the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra. He was music director of the Alberta Ballet from 1997 through 1999. At the New York Philharmonic, Muspratt has served as a cover conductor. During the 2018 and 2019 season Muspratt served as a guest conductor at the Joffrey Ballet.

In addition to his work in Pittsburgh, Utah and St. Louis, Muspratt has guest conducted the orchestras of Los Angeles, Montreal, London, Korean Broadcast Symphony, Detroit, Rochester, National Arts Center, Vancouver, Knoxville, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, Hamilton, Victoria, Thunder Bay, New Orleans, Stamford, Binghamton, Lafayette, South Bend, Puchon, Annapolis, Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra and Baltimore Chamber Symphony. Summer debuts have included the Tanglewood, Chautauqua and Sewanee Music Festivals and the Banff Center for Performing Arts.

In Europe, Muspratt was assistant conductor in the opera houses of Monchengladbach/ Krefeld, Germany, from 1985 to 1987. His American operaconducting debut came with the Utah Opera in 1991. He returned there to premiere Mascagni's *L'Amico Fritz*. Maestro Muspratt has conducted *Die*

Fledermaus for the Calgary Opera, *Faust* and *Merry Widow* for the Utah Opera, *Of Mice and Men* and *II Barbiere di Siviglia* for the Arizona Opera, all to stunning critical acclaim. In addition, he debuted at the Ash Lawn-Highland Summer Opera Festival in Virginia. He returned to Arizona Opera to conduct their production of *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, to the Utah Opera for their new production of *Faust* and *Amahl and the Night Visitors* at Opera Illinois.

In 1983 and 1984, Muspratt was invited to be a scholarship student at the Chautauqua Institute and in 1986 was selected as a conducting fellow at the Aspen Music Festival. A year later, he was invited into the Conducting Program at the Tanglewood Festival. In 1988, he was chosen to be one of three conducting fellows for the Los Angeles Philharmonic Institute at the Hollywood Bowl.

As a teacher, Muspratt has taught at the Conductors' Institute of the University of South Carolina, the Conductors' Guild National Workshops, Association of Canadian Orchestras National Conference in Toronto, the Conductors' Studio at Illinois State University and at Westminster Choir College in Princeton. During the summer, he has often taught a graduate conducting class at VanderCook College of Music and for the last three summers has been teaching at the Northwestern University Summer Opera Seminar. In 2019, he taught graduate conducting master classes at Illinois State University and judged the concerto competition at Northwestern University.

Having always enjoyed working with young people, he has conducted the Pennsylvania Regional Orchestra and the Pennsylvania All-State Orchestra and most recently the IMEA District 9 orchestra. Muspratt has conducted the Boston University Tanglewood Orchestra at the Tanglewood Festival. Muspratt has been the recipient of numerous awards, among them grants from the Canada Council and the Presser Foundation. In 1983 and again in 1984, he was winner of the Strauss Conducting Prize while a conducting student at the Vienna Conservatory. During his tenure in Utah, he received the first Utah Up 'n Comers Award ever given to a classical musician. This honor was awarded to Muspratt for his work and involvement in the Utah Arts Community. In 1987, he was named winner of the prestigious Exxon/Affiliate Artists Award.

He began his studies as a pianist in New York with Harold Zabrack and continued his studies at Temple University with Adele Marcus and Alexander Fiorillo. After completing graduate studies, Muspratt was accepted into the conducting program at the Konservatorium in Vienna, Austria.

Muspratt is a native of Crows Nest Pass, Alberta, Canada. He became an American citizen in the summer of 2010.

In 2016, he was honored to become a Paul Harris Fellow, an award named for the Rotary International Founder, Paul Harris.



Benjamin Nadel (Associate Conductor and Librarian) is a classically trained conductor, pianist, and violinist. Based in Chicago, he is the Associate Conductor and Orchestra Librarian for the New Philharmonic and Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra. In addition, he is the Orchestra Director at the Northwest Indiana Symphony Youth Orchestra and North Central College. Since he began these positions, Nadel has conducted a wide variety of programs

and has prepared hundreds of pieces across both the classical and pops repertoires.

Nadel began his conducting studies with Dr. Glenn Block at Illinois State University while completing his undergraduate degree in Music Education. He then went on to receive his MA in Orchestral Conducting at the University of lowa with Dr. William LaRue Jones. While pursuing his degrees, he had the opportunity both assist and conduct several operatic productions, including *Candide, La bohéme, La clemenza di Tito*, and *Iolanthe*. He has participated in several summer music festivals, one of which was Cincinnati Conservatory's program as a part of the summer music festival in Spoleto, Italy.

From 2011 – 2015 Nadel spent his summers with the Midwest Institute of Opera, as the assistant conductor to Maestro Joshua Greene of the Metropolitan Opera. While there, he conducted productions of *Don Giovanni, Così fan tutte*, and *Carmen* in addition to assisting and coaching productions of *Die Zauberflöte* and *La Cenerentola*.

Aside from his work as a professional conductor, Nadel has a strong connection and personal interest to music education. He believes that one of the most important aspects of being an artist is to pass along that experience and knowledge to the next generation of musicians. To that end, Nadel has worked with several high school ensembles in the Chicago area, including New Trier, Metea Valley, Glenbard West, Glenbard South, and Stevenson High School. His work has included side by side concerts with New Philharmonic. He has also led conducting workshops for the Opus Chamber Music camp, North Central College, and Illinois State University.



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Kirk Muspratt, Music Director and Conductor

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> For complete details, visit the MAC Box Office or contact the College of DuPage Foundation at (630) 942-2462 or foundation@codfound.org.

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 For your comfort and security, all backpacks and large bags must be checked.
- Please turn off all cell phones and any other alarms while in the theater.
- Emergency phone number at COD Police Department for after-hour calls is (630) 942-2000.
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