Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra
At Newark High School
December 6, 2019
The Newark Central School District, in conjunction with the Greater Newark Chamber of Commerce, will once again host an evening of holiday music with the incomparable Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra in the Newark High School on Friday, December 6th at 7:30 p.m.

“We are very proud and privileged to host the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra for the 19th consecutive year. These holiday concerts here in our community are a wonderful annual holiday tradition that so many of us look forward to,” said Cynthia Briggs, NCSD Music Department Leader and Kelley School instrumental music teacher.

“The Newark Central School District would also again like to thank the many sponsors who have enabled us to present this performance at a really affordable price,” Briggs said. “We are especially grateful for all of our donors for their generous support of this event.”

Dr. Paul Shewan, Professor of Instrumental Music and Conducting at Roberts Wesleyan College, who is a member of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra trumpet section and has been a guest conductor on numerous occasions including at RPO holiday concerts in Newark, will conduct this year’s concert here.

Shewan, who also conducts the Wind Ensemble and Orchestra and teaches trumpet, brass ensembles, brass methods, and instrumental conducting at Roberts Wesleyan, has recorded as a trumpet soloist, ensemble member, and conductor on several commercial CDs.

In the summer of 2004, he conducted the Eastman Wind Ensemble during its four-week tour of Japan, Taiwan, and Macau. He has also conducted the Varna Philharmonic Orchestra in Bulgaria. In 2005, he formed the Eastman/Roberts Chamber Players, an ensemble consisting of Eastman School of Music and Roberts Wesleyan students.

He has conducted performances for live public radio broadcasts on the “Music at Midday” series from Roberts Wesleyan College and as soloist and conductor on the “Live from Hochstein” concert series. He performed J. S. Bach’s “Brandenburg Concerto No. 2” with members of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and was a frequent trumpeter with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra from 1985-2002. He is currently awaiting the publication of a new recording for trumpet and piano.

Shewan has guest conducted the Air Force Bands of Liberty (Boston) and Heritage of America (Virginia) and has conducted several High School district and regional music festivals. In 2009, he conducted the Syracuse Symphony Youth Orchestra and was the guest conductor for the Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra (RPYO) in 2014. Each summer he conducts a concert with members of the Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra (HYSO) and the RPYO. In the summer of 2012, he was guest conductor with the wind ensemble, “Concordia Santa Fe” in New Mexico. He is also the conductor of the RWC High School Honors Band Festival. He has recently been published in “The Conductor's Companion” (compiled and edited by Gary Stith, Meredith Music Publications, 2017). Each summer he spends two weeks conducting the high school orchestra at the Csehy Summer School of Music.
The guest baritone soloist for this year’s RPO concert in Newark will be Dr. Jeffery McGhee who is Professor of Voice at Roberts Wesleyan College.

He has appeared as a soloist with the RPO in A Holiday Concert (2010); as narrator for its “Liberty for All: A Salute to Veterans” program (2011); as narrator/soloist in RPO educational performances of “The Composer is Dead” (2012); and as narrator/soloist in its “Around the Town” concert: “America’s Musical Roots” (2015).

McGhee has also performed art songs and spirituals on the “Live from Hochstein” (WXXI) radio broadcast (2012, 2015) with Dr. Michael Landrum.

During the summer of 2016, Dr. McGhee was awarded a summer scholarship grant to develop a lecture recital centering on the Life and Spirituals of H.T. Burleigh and those composers who have followed in his footsteps. In collaboration with Dr. Landrum, they have performed this recital at the University of Southern Mississippi and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, at churches, and most recently at the NYSSMA Winter Conference (2017), with an upcoming performance in Jacksonville, Florida.

McGhee is currently in the final stages of completing a CD of hymns, spirituals, and spiritual songs, accompanied by retired Roberts’s faculty member Dr. Michael Landrum.

Admission to the RPO concert is $5 for students, $10 for senior citizens and $12 for adults. Advance sale tickets are available at the Newark and Lyons branches of Lyons National Bank, at Wegmans and Newark High School. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Before the concert Dec. 6th, music will be provided by the NHS Jazz Band and “Downbeat” in the gymnasium at 6:40 p.m. They will be directed by NHS instrumental music teacher Robert Humphrey.

The Newark Music Boosters will be selling concessions at the event.

Anyone with questions may call Briggs at 332-3200 ext. 3140.