

The Delaware Symphony Orchestra Proves Music is Universal



If you think the symphony is a place where only experts of classical music feel comfortable and welcome, think again. The Delaware Symphony Orchestra, which performs at the magnificent Grand Opera House in Wilmington, Delaware, has recently become an Art-Reach Arts Partner and has pledged tickets for Art-Reach members to almost every concert this season.



Most of The Delaware Symphony Orchestra performances take place at the Grand Opera House in Wilmington, Delaware

The Delaware Symphony Orchestra's history proves that music is universal and meant to be shared, played and enjoyed by all. Originally called the Tankopanicum Orchestra after the Native American name for the Brandywine River, the DSO was founded by Alfred I. duPont as a gathering place for amateur musicians who by day were mill workers, a doctor, a machinist, a clerk, a millwright, a blacksmith, a contractor and industrial laborers. From these humble beginnings, the orchestra grew into the professional, community-focused musical organization it is today.

While symphony concerts can be filled with music by composers who lived a long time ago or whose names are difficult to pronounce, this has no effect on the beautiful melodies they created or the ability to appreciate the wonderful sounds of an orchestra. It is no surprise that the DSO, with such a rich history where everyone enjoyed and took part in music, incorporated in its mission including as many people as possible in the orchestral experience. The Delaware Symphony Orchestra is devoted to bringing music to Delaware's children, and each year more than 11,000 students are treated to in-school ensembles, youth concerts and family concerts. This season the

DSO has added Art-Reach to the ways in which it makes the arts more accessible. It invites not only organizations in Delaware but Art-Reach members across the Philadelphia region to enjoy performances this season.

The shows available to Art-Reach members include classical concerts and family shows that last one hour and that offer audiences the chance to touch and feel the instruments. Family concerts are known as the Lollipop series and the first one occurs on Saturday, November 22nd at 2pm featuring music from Peter and the Wolf. On October 1, 2008, the orchestra will honor John Williams, the legendary contemporary American composer renowned for composing such film scores as Star Wars, Jaws, the Indiana Jones films, and the theme music for the Olympics. This is one you won't want to miss!

The DSO concert on October 18 will feature a tango for Superman with world-famous accordion player Lidia Kaminska, of whom Philadelphia Magazine has said, "She transforms the accordion into a massive force—more pipe organ than squeezebox—and burns through Mendelssohn, Scarlatti, Rachmaninoff, and selections from The Well-Tempered Clavier with virtuosic speed and technique. Kaminska has caused jaws to drop at concert halls from Europe to the Kimmel Center."

	<p>Lidia Kaminska will perform with the DSO on October 18th, 2008. Tickets are still available.</p>
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The DSO's intimate "Champagne Chamber Series" takes place in the DuPont Gold Ballroom. Performances include diverse musicians and at intermission champagne is served with delectable sweets. The first concert available to Art-Reach in this series will be at 8pm on January 20, 2009. Music featured will include work written for the harp by one of the most distinguished and performed African American Composers Dr. Adolphus Hairstock who will also be present to talk with the audience.

In addition, the Delaware Symphony Orchestra highlights popular music in its "DSO Plugged In" series. In February the orchestra welcomes Bugs Bunny as a special guest during a concert where Warner Bros. cartoons are shown while the orchestra provides live performances of the classic music used in the original films. A concert in April will highlight the music of rock icons Led Zeppelin.

Most concerts take place in the Grand Opera House in Wilmington. The DSO calls the Grand home, and the building is complete with elevators and low-cost parking. Art-Reach applauds and thankfully welcomes this fiercely talented organization to the ranks of our Arts Partners. Likewise Art-Reach encourages all our members to get out and experience an orchestra that embraces the community so warmly. To learn more about the Delaware Symphony Orchestra visit its website at www.desymphony.org. For show dates and times available to Art-Reach members, visit our online [member calendar](#) or call the Programming Department at 215-568-2115 x3.

-Stephanie Borton
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