



The Musicopia String Orchestras' Annual Winter Concert

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Philadelphia, PA ... On **Saturday, January 31st at 4:00 PM**, student musicians in the three ensembles that make up the [Musicopia String Orchestras](#) (MSO) program will present their annual Winter Concert at the Church of the Holy Trinity (1904 Walnut St). MSO students from across the Philadelphia area have spent the fall semester preparing for this concert, which showcases their dedication and growth as musicians.

This free public concert features a diverse repertoire of composers and musical styles. The program includes **the premiere of a new work, "Hoist Your Sails," by up-and-coming composer Nat Penn**, winner of the [Wildflower Composers'](#) Call for Scores, which drew a competitive pool of submissions from across the country.

The concert's featured piece is George Gershwin's "Oh, Lady Be Good!" a jazz standard that showcases several solos. As part of the MSO's commitment to choosing repertoire that challenges students, Dr. Jessica Morel shared: "At first, the students were hesitant about playing jazz and swing rhythms. For most of them, it was their first time playing in this style, which can feel like learning a new language. But after the first few rehearsals, they began to get into the groove of it, and now they love playing the Gershwin! We're very excited about that highlight of the program."

Younger students will perform the festive piece "Snowflakes," and Holst's beloved "Jupiter" from *The Planets*. The concert will also feature additional pieces by classical masters Dvořák, Prokofiev, Mozart, and Vivaldi.

For those unable to attend in person, the concert will also be streamed live. Viewers can tune in on Musicopia's [Facebook page](#) or [YouTube channel](#) during the time of the event. While attendance is free,

Musicopia invites community members to consider supporting this tuition-free program. Donations of any amount may be made at: <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/musicopia-inc/musicopia-string-orchestra>.

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About Musicopia

Musicopia's mission is to provide equitable access to music education and enrichment, encouraging self-confidence, global awareness, dedication and joy in Pre-K to 12th grade students and their communities. Since its founding in 1974, Musicopia has helped more than 400,000 children and their communities experience the benefits of first-hand exposure to the arts and is a recognized leader in rebuilding and revitalizing school music programs through a roster of professional artists sharing music from around the globe. Musicopia reaches thousands of children each year in the Delaware Valley/Philadelphia area through in-school music education, an afterschool string orchestra program, an afterschool drumlines program, community arts programming, the Philadelphia Lullaby Project, and its Gift of Music Instrument Donation Program.

Founded by Musicopia in 2005, the Musicopia String Orchestras program serves youth aged 7-18, living in the Greater Philadelphia region. The MSO is open to all youth, regardless of their family's ability to pay. 80% of these students attend low-income schools, many of which do not provide an orchestra program. This tuition-free program makes music education opportunities accessible for all youth.

For more information, please visit www.musicopia.net.