EVENING OF HARMONY

Celebrating an Enduring Legacy and a Brilliant Future

APRIL 18, 2023
PROGRAM

Opening Remarks
Zebadiah Coombs

A Musical Selection
(approximately 35 minutes)
Canadian Brass

Student Remarks
Danielle Holloman

POP Chamber Orchestra
Andrés González, conductor

Dances In The Canebrakes, Nimble Feet
Florence Price
Orch. William Grant Still

Symphony No. 1, movement IV
Johannes Brahms
Arr. Vernon F. Leidig

Harambe (world premiere)
Evelyn Simpson-Curenton
Commissioned by Play On Philly

William Tell Overture
Gioachino Rossini
Arr. Jerry Lehmeier

Batuque
Oscar Lorenzo Fernandez

Beale Street Blues
W.C. Handy
Arr. Luther Henderson
Featuring Canadian Brass

Closing Remarks
Stanford Thompson

1812 Overture
Pyotr L. Tchaikovsky
Arr. Jerry Brubaker
Dear Friends,

At a 2011 El Sistema conference in California, a 23-year-old graduate from the Curtis Institute of Music with a passion for bringing music education to Philadelphia's underrepresented youth met a philanthropist with an equal passion for the power of music. This chance meeting brought Stanford Thompson and Carole Haas Gravagno together and made Play On Philly a reality. Stan and Carole believed that a transformative music education experience was the vehicle to building lifelong skills, cultivating academic achievement, and creating a supportive community.

Twelve years later, POP has instructed thousands of children. Children who, with hard work and persistence, grow into confident, resilient young people capable of finding success wherever their paths lead. Surrounded by dedicated Teaching Artists and staff, our students discover the joy of contributing to the greater good through the orchestra. Being a musician becomes part of their identity, a way to express themselves, and a source of pride. Thanks to Stan's vision and legacy, and with the help of a vast community of generous supporters, we will continue to serve Philadelphia far into the future.

Students, families, Teaching Artists, staff, Board, friends, and supporters – we’re all POP. Tonight, you’ll hear a cross-section of the POP Family perform together, lifting up all we’ve accomplished as we celebrate what the future will bring.

Thank you, Stan, for all you’ve given to our community. We wish you joy and success in your next adventure. And we expect you to come back often!

Warmly,
Your Family at Play On Philly
POP STAFF

Stanford Thompson
Founder and Executive Director

Elizabeth Kubiak
Associate Director

Jessica Zweig
Director of Educational Programming

Andrés González
Music Director

Patty Delany
Executive Assistant and Office Manager

Laura Kirk
Operations Manager

Davie Keiser
Program Manager

Jessica Scipione
Donor Relations Manager

Lea Pandy
Communications Manager

Christopher Santantasio
Grant Writer

Dr. Anna Meyer
Anderson Artist Program Manager

Allison Mion
Program Coordinator, St. Francis de Sales School

Anna Negron
Program Coordinator, Independence Charter School West

Sarah Barnaby
Program Coordinator, St. Rose of Lima School

Ian Taylor
Program Coordinator, Roman Catholic High School and Summer

POP TEACHING ARTISTS

Strings
Diego VillamiilGómez, Division Lead
Zane Carnes
Zebadiah Coombs
Victoria de la Cruz
Esau Jones
Nicholas Madamidola
Savannah Mueller
Bartholomew Shields
Natasha Sieczkowska
Hannah Solomon
Emilia Zegers Matthews

Winds
Nicholas Handahl, Division Lead
Abbegail Atwater
Audrey Emata
Tori Fisher
Jonathan Leeds

Brass
Paige Kerrigan, Division Lead
Ellie O’Hare
St. Clair Simmons III
Vince Tampio

Percussion
Elliot Beck, Division Lead
Jonathan Leibovic

Exploratory
Sara Montejo, Division Lead
Karena Crutchfield

Choir
Andrew Monath, Division Lead
Liz Filios
Reid Shriver, Apprentice

Chamber Groups
Frankie Carr, Strings
Thomas Kolakowski, Percussion
Jonathan Leeds, Winds
Ian Taylor, Brass
POP CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

**Violin**
Katia Campos *
Ellis Holloman ◊
Danielle Holloman ◊
Luigi Mazzocchi +
Charise Moeller
Zablotsky +
Mitch Newman +
Stephanie Oyelakin ◊
Diego VillamilGómez ~

**Viola**
Yuri Campos ◊
Zebadiah Coombs ~ *
Leron Goddard *
Kathleen Krull +
Natasha Sieczkowska ~

**Cello**
Cassia Campos ◊
Victoria de la Cruz ~
Gevon Goddard *
Nick Madamidola ~

**Bass**
Zane Carnes ~

**Flute**
Anna Meyer ~
Sophia Radford *
Lenni Ziegler-Hill ◊

**Oboe**
Marde Meek +
Celia Wojcik ∆

**Clarinet**
Jonathan Leeds ~
Zakyya McClenny ◊
Jessica Zweig ~

**Bassoon**
Kyla Payne ◊

**Horn**
Ellie O’Hare ~

**Trumpet**
Paige Kerrigan ~
Nasir Muldrow ◊
Ian Taylor ~
Stanford Thompson ~

**Trombone**
Nathan Hess ◊
Mya Hill ◊
Christina Rooks *

**Tuba**
Keith Holmes ◊

**Percussion**
Thomas Kolakowski ~
Trinity Robinson ◊
Dave Tarantino +

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**KEY**
* alumni
+ Former Teaching Artist/Staff
~ Current Teaching Artist/Staff
∆ guest student
◊ current student

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2023 HONOREE

**Stanford Thompson**
Founder and Executive Director of Play On Philly

Stanford Thompson is a musician and educator who serves as the Founder and Executive Director of Play On Philly and Founding Board Chairman of El Sistema USA and Equity Arc. Recognized as a TED Fellow, Stanford believes that music education is a powerful tool for positive personal and community change.

Mr. Thompson serves on the faculty of the Global Leaders Institute and regularly presents at major universities and music conservatories about leadership, entrepreneurship, and social justice. As a consultant, he has guided the development of dozens of music programs across the United States and collaborated with major orchestras, higher education institutions, and arts organizations to develop new strategies and initiatives that help provide equitable access to the arts.

As a professional trumpeter, Stanford has performed as a soloist and member with major orchestras around the world and continues to perform throughout the Philadelphia region. Stanford is a native of Atlanta, GA, a graduate of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra’s Talent Development Program and holds degrees from The Curtis Institute of Music and the New England Conservatory’s Sistema Fellows Program.
**GUEST ARTIST**

**Canadian Brass**

With an international reputation as one of the most popular brass ensembles today, Canadian Brass has truly earned the distinction of “the world’s most famous brass group.” Masters of concert presentations ranging from Bach, Vivaldi, and Ellington, to ballet and opera, Canadian Brass has developed a uniquely engaging stage presence and rapport with audiences. Since 1970, they have received a combined total of 25 Grammy and Juno nominations and won the German Echo Award for *Goldberg Variations*.

Most recently, Canadian Brass created another award-winning recording, *Canadiana*. The album features unique arrangements of many Canadian superstars including Joni Mitchell, k.d. lang, Bruce Cockburn, Drake, and DeadMau5. Education continues to be at the forefront of Canadian Brass’ yearly activities. As part of their commitment to training the next generation of brass players, there are over one million Canadian Brass quintet repertoire books in the hands of students in every country. The official website for Canadian Brass is canadianbrass.com.

*Keep up with Canadian Brass via twitter.com, Facebook/canadianbrass, Canadian Brass YouTube channel, and Instagram.*

*Canadian Brass recordings are available at canadianbrassstore.com.*

*Canadian Brass appears by arrangement with Opus 3 Artists 470 Park Avenue South 9th Floor North New York, NY10016 (phone 1-212-584-7500)*

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**ABOUT PLAY ON PHILLY**

**Play On Philly (POP)** provides high-quality music education to students, who would typically lack access, as a vehicle for life skills and academic achievement. We provide intensive music instruction and ensemble practice every day before and after school and over 25 performance opportunities throughout the year. Students range from pre-Kindergarten to 12th grade and are loaned an orchestral instrument at no cost. POP programming has proven results: our students score ten points higher on standardized tests and have improved behavior and study skills. We cultivate musical excellence, lifelong skills, and confidence. Learn more about POP at our website: playonphilly.org.

**Our Board of Directors**

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 -info@playonphilly.org
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  Amy Snyder
- **Mike Schuldt**  
  Thomas Vernon
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  Lee West

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**Warren G. Vogel, Esq.**  
Advisor to the Board
YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Make a gift via playonphilly.org/donate or a check to the address on the back of your program. Every dollar helps.

Join our Continuo Club, providing POP a consistent base of support through monthly giving.

Attend a concert; a full listing is on our website.

Donate a new or gently used instrument.

Learn about upcoming events and POP updates in our monthly Fanfare emails. Sign up at playonphilly.org.

Share a POP post on Facebook.

Invite POP students to perform at an event.

Sponsor a concert or recital.

Cover advertising costs to tell others about the amazing work of our students.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on any of the above, please contact Jessica Scipione at development@playonphilly.org or 215-398-7883.

Thank you for helping us to provide high quality music education to Philadelphia youth!

Scan to make a donation
Carole Haas Gravagno and the entire Play On Philly Family congratulate Stanford Thompson on his new endeavor!

Your leadership, passion, and dedication has inspired the lives of thousands of students in Philadelphia and we know that you’ll inspire the lives of so many more musicians across the United States in your next adventure.

Thank you to our Teaching Artists and staff at Play On Philly for continuing our shared vision of providing transformative music education to young people.
Stanford, you have immeasurably contributed to our community through Play On Philly.

We are honored to be partners, supporters and friends.

Thank you, Stan.

Tom and Pat Vernon

Eckert Seamans Congratulates Play On Philly For Its Continued Success In Propelling Philadelphia's Youth Toward Brighter Futures Through Music Education.

Our Attorneys Proudly Dedicate Their Time and Resources to Provide Pro Bono Legal Services In Support Of Social Change For Inner-City Children.
MASTERS GROUP DESIGN applauds Stanford Thompson for his inspirational vision. We can’t wait to see his impact in the years to come!

Kudos to the passionate staff and educators at POP who make our world a more beautiful place.

Congratulations, Stan!

Leslie and Rich
The Leslie Miller and Richard Worley Foundation
Thank you,
Stan!

David & Sharon Hessney

Our warmest wishes and heartfelt congratulations to Stanford Thompson on all he has accomplished since the founding of Play On Philly!

Stanford’s dedication and commitment to providing transformative music education to Philadelphia’s youth is an inspiration to us all.

We pay tribute as well to the Play On Philly staff, Teaching Artists and of course, the wonderful students who make up the POP family.

- The Rinaldi Family and Jacobs Music
WHYY celebrates and congratulates Stanford Thompson for his leadership and inspiration. Learn more at whyy.org/education

Please Touch Museum celebrates Stanford Thompson and Play On Philly

Like Play On Philly, WHYY is dedicated to creating inspirational, hands-on learning for our community’s youth, including exciting media classes in-school, online and at our WHYY studios.

Learn more at whyy.org/education
Equity Arc’s Board of Directors celebrates Stanford Thompson and his **transformative leadership** of Play on Philly as we welcome him to lead our efforts leveling the **playing field for underrepresented classical musicians** in the United States.

Thank you Stanford and POP! for years of partnering with PCMS to nurture artistry and relationships across generations and around the world.

www.EquityArc.org
St. Francis de Sales School

Congratulations to our Play on Philly students and teachers for another successful year!

www.desalesschool.net

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Congratulations to Stan Thompson
And the remarkable staff at Play On Philly

Drs. Thomas and Dennie P. Wolf

Connelly Foundation

Thank you, Stanford Thompson, for helping thousands of Philadelphia’s schoolchildren create harmony through music.

Your Friends at the Connelly Foundation

In memory of your oldest brother, Marcus Goldsmith Thompson, we are proud of your calling to serve society through music.

Love,
Mom, Dad, Marietta, Faye, Dawn, Eric, Alyce, and Donna

In honor of our father Dr. Hugh Butts and our dear friend Dr. Alan Miller who both played and loved classical music.

Samantha, Heather and Sydney Butts and Judith Nigro

Our warmest appreciation to Stanford for his visionary leadership. You gave POP your whole heart & soul. Bravo! We wish you every success in your new endeavor.

Congratulations to POP for continued excellence.

The best is yet to come.

Kathleen & Nick Chimicles
Congratulations Stan –

Your positive impact on thousands of lives is truly a sublime legacy.

 Couldn’t be prouder to be part of POP.

Harry Griendling

Dear Stan,

It started with a letter over eight years ago and has developed into a friendship. Fran and I wish you the best in all of your new adventures.

POP has excelled under your leadership. You will be missed at Play On Philly.

Stan and Fran Pollock

Stan, thank you for all you have done to support not only the students and community at Play on Philly but for students nationally through your initiation, development, and continued support of the national movement. Best wishes on your future endeavors!

With Gratitude, The ESUSA Board of Directors