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'Music matters': Stamford Symphony launches online channel

By David Fierro April 7, 2020 Updated: April 7, 2020 10 a.m.



1 of 3 Michael Stern, a Greenwich resident, is Stamford Symphony's new music director. The Stamford Symphony recently launched its new Stamford Symphony channel on its website. Photo: David Sussan photo



2 of 3 Stamford Symphony recently launched its new Stamford Symphony channel on its website. Photo: Contributed photo



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Although its spring concerts were canceled due to the COVID-19 outbreak, Stamford Symphony hopes to keep the music playing.

The symphony recently launched its new <u>Stamford Symphony Channel</u> on its website, <u>stamfordsymphony.org</u>. The channel offers a free virtual hub of classical music and entertainment provided by the Stamford Symphony.

The creation of the channel was inspired by a desire to connect and serve the community through music during the challenging times everyone is experiencing.

"Once it became clear that our spring concerts could not go ahead, we knew it was our duty as an artistic organization to help fill a void," Stamford Symphony CEO and president Russell Jones said. "Music provides comfort in uncertain times and our musicians are eager to step in and support the community.

"We could not be more grateful to the Jeniam Foundation, and our website creator, Accordia, for their generous support. We look forward to staying connected with everyone during these unprecedented times."

The Stamford Symphony Channel will feature previously recorded performances, solo serenades from home, and informal practice videos by Stamford Symphony's musicians.

Jones will conduct interviews with orchestra members to learn more about their lives, music, hobbies, and all the things they do when they are not on stage at the Palace Theatre — Stamford Symphony's home.

A section for kids includes resources for learning, improving musical skills, and even playing along with parents. Non-musical content is also provided, with musicians sharing some of their other talents. The channel will be continuously updated with content, ensuring there will be no limit to musical entertainment during the COVID-19 situation.

"As we are all facing this together, we have an opportunity to be united like rarely before and I know that music can be a big part of that," Stamford Symphony's newly appointed music director Michael Stern said.

A <u>Greenwich resident and 1981 Harvard graduate</u>, Stern has conducted the Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Cincinnati, Houston, Indianapolis, Montreal, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Seattle, Toronto, and National (Washington, D.C.) symphony orchestras. He has also conducted the Cleveland and Philadelphia orchestras, along with the New York Philharmonic.

He is in his second decade as the music director of the Kansas City Symphony and has appeared frequently at the Aspen Music Festival, along with serving as music director of Iris Orchestra in Tennessee.

"It's a privilege to know that with the musicians of the Stamford Symphony, we are going to continue to be here with you, as music matters to all of us," Stern said.

Stamford Symphony's spring concerts scheduled for March 21, March 22, April 18, April 19 and May 3 were canceled. The organization said on its website that it hopes to reschedule one or more of its concerts later in the year.

Updates will be provided on Stamford Symphony's website, <u>stamfordsymphony.org</u>, its Facebook page and through email.