



# Queens of Rock and Soul

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# A Message from our Executive Director

---



Welcome to the second concert of our 55th season - Queens of Rock and Soul.

Tonight we celebrate some of the most powerful, inspirational and entertaining music of our lifetimes. I dare you not to sing along and dance in the aisles.

We are thrilled to have the talented LaKisha Jones leading our vocals tonight with her powerhouse duo of Damala LaVette and Regina Morgan on backup vocals.

When Greg first suggested this concert, he sent me a link to LaKisha beautifully singing the iconic Whitney Houston song "I Will Always Love You." I started to cry listening to her sing and knew we had to book her right away!

I hope you are moved by the music of our singers and our versatile musicians (they were playing Rachmaninov a few weeks ago) and that the songs bring back special memories for you.

Much of this music was written more than five decades ago when the Hershey Symphony was founded. Just like our orchestra, this music is also timeless.

Thank you for spending your evening with us. We hope to see you back in December for our holiday concert and in 2024 for the rest of our special anniversary season!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Cort".

Susan Cort  
*Executive Director*

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# A Message from our Board President

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Welcome to an extraordinary night of music with the Hershey Symphony Orchestra as we proudly present Queens of Rock and Soul.

Tonight, Maestro Greg Woodbridge and our talented musicians extend a warm welcome to the incredibly gifted LaKisha Jones, a Broadway and American Idol sensation. Together, they will pay homage to the iconic divas of rock and soul, including the likes of Diana Ross, Donna Summer, Tina Turner, Aretha Franklin, and Whitney Houston.

We invite you to fully immerse yourself in the timeless classics and unforgettable hits that have transcended generations. The passion and dedication of our musicians and our exceptional guest artists have been poured into this production, ensuring a night of musical excellence that will linger in your memory long after the final note has played.

To our generous sponsors and patrons, we want to express our deep gratitude. Your support is the cornerstone of our ability to bring such exceptional performances to our community. Without you, none of this would be possible, and we thank you for your vital role in our continued success.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jordan Yeagley'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J' and 'Y'.

Jordan Yeagley, Esq.  
*President, Hershey Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors*



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# Maestro Gregory Woodbridge

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Gregory Woodbridge begins his tenure as Music Director of the Hershey Symphony Orchestra this season, which will include three Masterworks and three Pops Concerts. He also holds the position of Associate Conductor of the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra and Music Director/Conductor of the Harrisburg Symphony Youth Orchestra (HSYO). He continues to inspire impassioned performances from orchestras at all levels, student through professional, and has been praised for his exceptional musicianship and artistry on the podium.

Maestro Woodbridge began studying piano at the age of seven and violin at the age of nine. He holds degrees from Penn State University, and furthered his conducting studies with Michael Jinbo (the Pierre Monteux Conducting Institute in Maine); Leonid Korchmar (Kirov Opera and St. Petersburg Conservatory); Ennio Nicotra (founder of the Ilya Musin Society); and Gustav Meier and JoAnn Falletta at the Conductor's Institute Richmond Symphony Masterclass.

Maestro Woodbridge was previously Music Director and Conductor of the Central PA Youth Orchestra, the Wednesday Club Youth Orchestra, the Central Pennsylvania Symphony and the York Youth Symphony Orchestra. In addition to having served as guest conductor for the Hershey Symphony for five years, other previous conducting engagements include, York Symphony (PA), the PMEA Region IV-V State Orchestra Festival, the Lebanon Valley College-Community Orchestra, the Messiah College Orchestra, and return engagements with the Hershey Symphony at Mt. Gretna's Summer Theatre Series. He has also led the Harrisburg Symphony on their Masterworks and Pops Series. Maestro Woodbridge lives in Mechanicsburg, PA with his wife Heather and their two children, Delaney and Liam.

He is honored to serve as the new music director and conductor for the Hershey Symphony and continue this extraordinary 55-year tradition.



# Personnel for Tonight's Concert

---

## ***Violin I***

John Gazsi-  
(*Principal*)  
Michele Allen  
Priscilla Howard  
Andrew Kurtz  
Angela Lansinger  
Beth McLean  
Laurie Williamson  
Tiffany Young Yanelli

## ***Violin II***

Michal Peterson-  
(*Principal*)  
Chris Bradley  
Deanna Geiter  
Arlene Gibble  
Hannah Gorrell  
Erica Jafari  
Emily Kiefer  
Tessa Lenker  
Ann Ouyang  
Sarah Wagner

## ***Viola***

Susan Hoffman-  
(*Principal*)  
Kathy Becker  
Dolores Dillon  
Kimberly Elicker  
Christina Lacey  
Kate Lynagh  
Jonathan Rehrer  
David Wang

## ***Cello***

Michael Rusli-  
(*Principal*)  
Ian Hunt  
Scott Kuntz  
Shirley Nolt  
Jennifer Reese

## ***Bass***

Benjamin Byham-  
(*Principal*)  
Matt Heinz  
Evan Hunt

## ***Flute***

Kim Ferroni  
Brent Fisher  
Lydia Klinger

## ***Piccolo***

Kim Ferroni  
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## ***Oboe***

Scott Gilbert  
Ann Kirby

## ***Clarinet***

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Gary Troxell

## ***Bass Clarinet***

Andy Herring

## ***Alto Saxophone***

Brent Fisher

## ***Tenor Saxophone***

Andy Herring  
Laurence Kilpatrick

## ***Baritone Saxophone***

Andy Herring

## ***Bassoon***

Ruth Barley  
Cynthia Reinecker

## ***Horn***

Richard Fries  
Catherine Marco  
Al Stokes  
Theresa Swenson

## ***Trumpet***

Bruce Druckenmiller  
Gary Hoffman  
Ken Smeltz

## ***Trombone***

Paul Brettschneider  
Robert Sproul  
Robert Warfield

## ***Tuba***

Nate Miscannon

## ***Timpani***

David Knott

## ***Drum Set***

Joe Dudeck

## ***Percussion***

Ross Campanella  
Vincent Checco  
Chris Mack  
Matt Wolfe

## ***Piano/Keyboard***

Steffan Bomberger

## ***Guitar***

Rusty Banks

## ***Electric Bass***

Eric Birkness

# Queens of Rock and Soul

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*Friday, October 27, 2023 • 8 pm • Hershey Theatre*

A Whitney Houston Tribute

Arranged by Victor Lopez

I'm Coming Out

Bernard Edward, Nile Rodgers,  
arr. Wendell Smith

How Will I Know

George Merrill, Shannon Rubicam,  
and Narada Michael Walden,  
arr. Wendell Smith

Celebration

Ronald Bell, arr. Ralph Ford

Bad Girls

Donna Summer, arr. Wendell Smith

What's Love Got To Do With It

Graham Lyle, arr. Wendell Smith

Proud Mary

John Fogerty, arr. Wendell Smith

## **Intermission**

Pinball Wizard

Peter Townshend,  
arr. Patrick Roszell

River Deep – Mountain High

Jeff Barry and Phil Spector,  
arr. Wendell Smith

Nutbush City Limits

Tina Turner, arr. Wendell Smith

I Will Always Love You

Dolly Parton,  
adapted by Wendell Smith

Skyfall

Adele Adkins and Paul Epworth,  
arr. Marill Jeffries

Respect

Otis Redding,  
adapted by Wendell Smith

Last Dance

Paul Jabara, arr. Wendell Smith

**SAVE THE DATE!**

*Hershey Symphony Gala • April 28, 2024*

# LaKisha Jones

---



Best known to millions of TV viewers as a top four finalist during the 2007 season of "American Idol," LaKisha Jones is ready to reclaim center stage in music, theater and television.

Her last album, "So Glad I'm Me" was full of Jones' expressive, full-bodied and arresting vocals, the same voice that electrified "American Idol" viewers with the "Dreamgirls" showstopper "And I Am Telling You" and later the Broadway stage in the Oprah Winfrey produced, Tony Award-winning musical, "The Color Purple."

Having worked with hit-making songwriters and producers including Tony Nicholas (Patti LaBelle, Luther Vandross), Ro & Sauce (Brandy, Ne-Yo) and Greg Curtis (Keyshia Cole, Yolanda Adams), Jones' album featured a spirited mix of R&B and soul. A few noteworthy songs included the single "Same Song," penned by award-winning songwriter Dianne Warren, Whitney Houston's "You Give Good Love," the gospel song "Just As I Am," and Jones soaring ballad to her daughter, "Beautiful Girl."

Her drive and motivation dates back to her childhood in Flint, Michigan. Raised by her mother and grandmother, Jones was exposed to music by legendary singers such as Whitney Houston, Aretha Franklin and Patti LaBelle, with her grandmother urging the young girl to "let your voice shine" thereby prompting Jones to sing in church choirs and music programs. Joining various chorale groups and a cappella choruses throughout high school, Jones entered and won the top prize at Flint's local talent contest, "The Super Show" in 1997.

Jones auditioned for "Idol" in the 2007 season where she became the fourth finalist. She segued from "Idol" to the Broadway stage for "The Color Purple" where she played two roles: that of a "church lady" and of the pivotal character "Sophia." The latter role she alternated with R&B icon Chaka Khan, who became her mentor. Jones participated in Khan's 35th Anniversary Tour. Following her Broadway stint Jones provided vocal coaching on MTV's reality competition "Legally Blonde: The Search for Elle Woods," a show designed to find and hone Broadway's next star.

# Damala LaVette

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Damala LaVette is known to wow the crowd with her deep, sultry, butter-like voice.

Stomping the grounds of Wilmington, Delaware, Damala began using her voice to entertain many audiences for as long as she can remember.

LaVette eventually took her talents to The University of the Arts in Philadelphia where she earned her Vocal Performance degree. After graduating, she became a teaching artist for Christiana Cultural Arts Center, Delaware Shakespeare, and Wilmington Children's Chorus, just to name a few.

As Damala began to dive deep into the world of music, she has been afforded opportunities to sing for the Philly Pops, Michelle Williams, WURD radio, and has most recently toured Europe as a lead and background gospel vocalist.

Damala continues to perform around the world and maintains her very own vocal studio where she teaches students of all ages the art of singing. Damala LaVette believes that a world without music is a world that doesn't exist. As she would say, "The more I sing, the better I feel and the more I want to perform!"



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# Regina Morgan

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Regina Morgan, soprano, is noted for “consistently delivering powerhouse opera vocals.”

In the 2021-22 season, she appeared as the soprano soloist with the Brooklyn Contemporary Chorus in their *Handel: The Messiah* holiday concert. In the 2019-20 season, she appeared with Theatre Under the Stars (TUTS) in *Elf: The Musical*. And she appeared in the television premiere of *Godspell for Encore!* On Disney+ and RAGTIME in the 2018-19 season.

Past seasons have included Barbarina in *Le Nozze di Figaro* with Boston University’s Opera Institute, and Sophie in the

Boston premier of Tobias Picker’s *Emmeline*.

She has also appeared in Philip Glass’ *Hydrogen Jukebox* as Soprano I with BU’s Fringe Festival, Laetitia in *The Old Maid in the Thief* in collaboration with BU’s College of Communications’ radio broadcast.

Equally at home on the concert stage, she was part of the GRAMMY award winning Houston Chamber Choir for 3 seasons. During the pandemic, Houston Chamber Choir successfully produced a condensed virtual season prior to returning to the socially distanced stage. Some of the concert repertoire included a groundbreaking musical work by James Whitbourn: *Annelies: The Diary of Anne Frank*, “By Local” concert featuring works from Houston-based composer, *Circlesong* by Bob Chilcott, and world premiere of *Two Streams*, a cantata by Daniel Knaggs.

As a soloist, she has performed as Eve in *The Creation* with BU’s Symphony Orchestra, Handel’s *Messiah* with the Masterworks Chorale, and John Rutter’s *Magnificat* with Neponset Choral Society in Massachusetts.

Regina received her M.M. from Boston University and B.A. from Sam Houston State University.





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## Hershey Symphony Orchestra

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Program cover photograph: Doug Nicotera

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# The Maestra Dr. Sandra Dackow Endowed Chair

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The Maestra Dr. Sandra Dackow Endowed Chair was established in 2022 to recognize and honor Dr. Sandra Dackow's contributions to the Hershey Symphony Orchestra. The endowment will help fund the expense of a conductor for the Hershey Symphony in perpetuity based on a generous gift from Frank and Karen Paris.

Dr. Dackow's tenure with the Hershey Symphony encompassed 32 years. During her tenure, the Hershey Symphony became one of the finest volunteer symphony orchestras in America and was invited to play at

Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. Dr. Dackow's quest for musical excellence improved the skill of the players resulting in many outstanding and memorable performances over the years.

Just as the orchestra grew in performance quality and popularity, Dr. Dackow grew in her concert style. In her introductions to pieces, she cued the audience for what to listen for, gave the audience the "back story" behind the music, and she shared biographical (often humorous) tidbits about composers. She effectively engaged the audience to become more involved with the music in a most entertaining way.

In addition to being a first-rate conductor, Dr. Dackow is a dedicated music educator. She founded the Hershey Festival Strings, an organization to involve middle school students in orchestral performances. Over the years, the program involved hundreds of students. Many went on to become members of the Hershey Symphony Orchestra or other community orchestras.

The Hershey Symphony is grateful to Dr. Dackow for her many years of service and her tremendous contributions to its success and is also pleased to honor her as Conductor Laureate.

# The Hershey Symphony Foundation

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The Hershey Symphony Orchestra Foundation was established to ensure the long-term future of the Symphony. Established as a supporting foundation in 1988, it receives, holds, and invests permanent gifts in an endowment fund, with on-going distributions that directly benefit the Hershey Symphony Orchestra. Governed by a board of directors made up of members of the community and the orchestra, it depends upon the support of friends like you who treasure the innovation and artistic excellence of the Hershey Symphony Orchestra.

Gifts to the Foundation provide long-term support to the Orchestra. In addition to making cash gifts, planned gifts can be made in a variety of ways, including beneficiary designations for your retirement plan, life insurance, investment accounts, or remembering the Hershey Symphony Orchestra in your will or living trust. Qualified retirement plans, such as traditional Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) and 401(k) plans, may be the most tax-efficient way to make a planned gift to the Foundation. These assets have never been taxed and, as a charitable organization, the Foundation would not have to pay any taxes on a gift from a retirement plan. Gifts of appreciated securities are another tax-efficient donation in which the Foundation receives the full market value of the securities. The donor claims the same amount on their tax return and avoids the capital gains assessment on a future sale. Lastly, if you are 70½ or older, you can instruct your IRA custodian to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). QCDs can fulfill some or all of your annual required minimum distribution. They are excluded from taxable income, but they do not produce a charitable contribution deduction.

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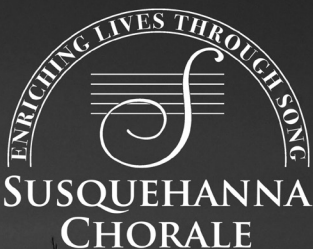
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The Legacy Society consists of individuals who have made a provision in their estate plan for the Hershey Symphony Orchestra Symphony Foundation in the form of a bequest, a life income gift, or trust arrangement, thus becoming a part of the Orchestra's legacy and its future. Please let us know if you have made us a part of your estate plan so that we can recognize your thoughtfulness as we "keep the music playing."

Including the Foundation in your financial planning can increase and enhance your transfer of wealth. For further information on how you can help keep the music playing, please contact Brooke S. Petersen, CFP®, Foundation Chair, 4117 Kimbers Rd. Harrisburg, PA 17112 or by calling (917) 587-9341.



*Linda L. Tedford*  
Artistic Director, Founder, and Conductor



## 2023-2024 Season:

### Annual Youth Choral Festival

Sunday, November 19, 2023, 4:00 pm

Messiah University, Mechanicsburg

### A Candlelight Christmas

Friday, December 15, 2023, 7:30 pm

Messiah University, Mechanicsburg

Saturday, December 16, 2023, 7:30 pm

Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown

Sunday, December 17, 2023, 4:00 pm

Market Square Presbyterian Church, Harrisburg

### 1000 Beautiful Things

Friday, May 17, 2024, 7:30 pm

Derry Presbyterian Church, Hershey

Saturday, May 18, 2024, 7:30 pm

Market Square Presbyterian Church, Harrisburg

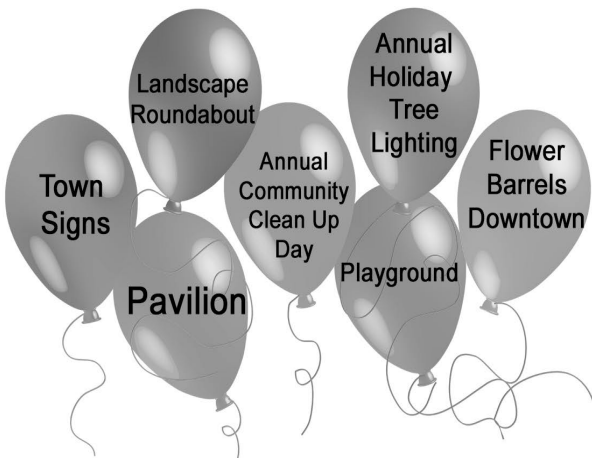
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# Young Artist Competition Returns!

The Hershey Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition celebrates artists with superior musical ability in South Central Pennsylvania. The competition is open to all students enrolled in grades 7 through 11.

The winner receives a \$1,000 William & Ruth Cagnoli Award.  
Learn more at [HersheySymphony.org](http://HersheySymphony.org)

## *About the Cagnolis*

William and Ruth Cagnoli founded Cagnoli Music, offering instrument sales, repairs and more to musicians of all ages in Central Pennsylvania. The Cagnolis also owned and operated Marty's Music in Lebanon for many years. A professional woodwind player in the region, William Cagnoli was also one of the early founders of The Hershey Symphony Orchestra and conducted the musicians on several occasions. Mr. Cagnoli also spent nearly 20 years at the Lebanon Veterans Hospital as a Registered Musical Therapist. Allan Cagnoli, their son, is honored to provide the one-thousand dollar award for the Hershey Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition winner, in memory of his parents, who deeply loved music, education, and their community.



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