



Presents

Winters Center for Autism Percussion Ensemble

Jeffrey Kautz, Music Director/Conductor

**November 15th, 2022
7:00pm
Winters Center for Autism
92 Mahan Street
West Babylon, NY 11704**

Program

Star Spangled Banner

Francis Scott Key

Blackbird

The Beatles

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

Jane Taylor

Somewhere Over The Rainbow

Yip Harburg

Program Notes

The Star-Spangled Banner is the national anthem of the United States. The lyrics come from "Defense of Fort McHenry," a poem written in 1814 by the 35-year-old lawyer and amateur poet Francis Scott Key after witnessing the bombardment of Fort McHenry by British ships of the Royal Navy in the Chesapeake Bay during the Battle of Fort McHenry in the War of 1812. The poem was set to the tune of a popular British song written by John Stafford Smith for the Anacreontic Society, a men's social club in London. To Anacreon in Heaven (or The Anacreontic Song), with various lyrics, was already popular in the United States. Set to Key's poem and renamed The Star-Spangled Banner, it would soon become a well-known American patriotic song. With a range of one octave and one fifth (a semitone more than an octave and a half), it is known for being difficult to sing. Although the poem has four stanzas, only the first is commonly sung today. The Star-Spangled Banner was recognized for official use by the Navy in 1889, and by President Woodrow Wilson in 1916, and was made the national anthem by a congressional resolution on March 3, 1931 (which was signed by President Herbert Hoover). Before 1931, other songs served as the hymns of American officialdom. Hail, Columbia served this purpose at official functions for most of the 19th century. My Country, 'Tis of Thee, whose melody is identical to God Save the Queen, the British national anthem, also served as a de facto anthem. Following the War of 1812 and subsequent American wars, other songs emerged to compete for popularity at public events, among them The Star-Spangled Banner.

Blackbird was composed shortly after The Beatles' stay in Rishikesh, India, and featured on the *White Album*. The song was written on McCartney's farm in Scotland. Shortly afterwards, on the first night his future wife Linda Eastman stayed at his house in London, McCartney performed the song to the fans waiting outside the gates. The song was written on McCartney's

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McCartney has claimed that the music was inspired by Bach's Bourrée in E minor, which he and George Harrison had learned to play on the guitar at a young age.

The music of 'Blackbird' features several time signature changes. The phrase 'Blackbird singing in the dead of night' is in 3/4, while much of the remainder of the song switches between 4/4 and 2/4.

The lyrics were inspired by the civil rights movement in America; the 'blackbird' of the title was said to represent a typical woman facing oppression in the era.

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star is one of the most recognizable lullabies – a go-to for many, 'Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star' has been adapted and performed by parents and professional musicians alike.

It's also been a popular choice for potential lullaby playlists for Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern. The music has been around a lot longer than the lyrics. The tune is from the French melody 'Ah! Vous dirai-je, Maman', written in the mid-1700s.

Mozart composed his twelve-bar variation on 'Ah! Vous dirai-je, Maman' in the early 1780s at the age of 25. His variations are for solo piano and is what we are familiar with today.

In the 1806 English poet Jane Taylor wrote the poem The Star which would go on to form the basis of the lyrics for the lullaby.

'Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star' is usually performed in C Major and contains five verses in total (you can find them at the bottom of this article). It is the same tune as 'Baa, Baa Black Sheep' and the 'Alphabet song'.

It has been sampled by a range of artists including Nicki Minaj, DJ Jazzy Jeff & the Fresh Prince, The Supremes, and Louis Armstrong.

It was parodied by Lewis Carroll in Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and adapted by Leonard Nimoy for his 1967 album Leonard Nimoy Presents Mr. Spock's Music from Outer Space.

Research has shown singing to babies – whether its 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star' or something else – has great benefits for parents and infants.

Dr Shannon de L'Etoile told RNZ Concert's Upbeat last year singing to babies helps develop bonding between mother and child and encourages children to self-regulate.

It can also help mothers with postnatal depression and benefit babies with Down syndrome.

'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star' has also been used in numerous studies to research children's development in vocal pitch accuracy, perception of intervals, contour and key, to grow self-

esteem in the classroom, in music therapy for feeding and sleeping in premature infants, and as a method to encourage children to compose and improvise music.

Over the Rainbow is a ballad by Harold Arlen with lyrics by Yip Harburg.^[1] It was written for the 1939 film *The Wizard of Oz*, in which it was sung by actress Judy Garland^[2] in her starring role as Dorothy Gale.^[1] It won the Academy Award for Best Original Song and became Garland's signature song.

About five minutes into the film, Dorothy sings the song after failing to get Aunt Em, Uncle Henry, and the farmhands to listen to her story of an unpleasant incident involving her dog, Toto, and the town spinster, Miss Gulch (Margaret Hamilton). Aunt Em tells her to "find yourself a place where you won't get into any trouble". This prompts her to walk off by herself, musing to Toto, "Someplace where there isn't any trouble. Do you suppose there is such a place, Toto? There must be. It's not a place you can get to by a boat, or a train. It's far, far away. Behind the moon, beyond the rain", at which point she begins singing.

Composer Harold Arlen and lyricist Yip Harburg often worked in tandem, Harburg generally suggesting an idea or title for Arlen to set to music, before Harburg contributed the lyrics.^[3] For their work together on *The Wizard of Oz*, Harburg claimed his inspiration was "a ballad for a little girl who... was in trouble and... wanted to get away from... Kansas. A dry, arid, colorless place. She had never seen anything colorful in her life except the rainbow". Arlen decided the idea needed "a melody with a long broad line".^[4]

By the time all the other songs for the film had been written, Arlen was feeling the pressure of not having the song for the Kansas scene. He often carried blank pieces of music manuscript in his pockets to jot down short melodic ideas. Arlen described how the inspiration for the melody to "Over the Rainbow" came to him suddenly while his wife Anya drove.

The song was originally sung in A-flat major.^[6] Arlen later wrote the contrasting bridge section based on the idea of "a child's piano exercise".^[7]

Italian newspaper *Il Messaggero* has noted a resemblance, both harmonic and melodic, between *Over the Rainbow* and the theme of the intermezzo (known as Ratcliff's Dream) of Pietro Mascagni's 1895 opera *Guglielmo Ratcliff*.^[8]

Biographies



Award-Winning Solo Timpanist Jeffrey Kautz is very passionate and moved by the timpani. Jeffrey attained a Master of Music degree in Timpani Performance from NYU Steinhardt in 2019 and from Mannes School of Music in 2017 with a Bachelor of Music degree with Honors in Percussion Performance. In May 2022, he was appointed Principal Timpanist of the Centre Symphony Orchestra. Jeffrey is also currently Principal Timpanist of the Manhattan Symphonie in NYC and Principal Percussionist of the South Shore Symphony Orchestra in Long Island, NY. Before joining those groups, Jeffrey was the former Principal Timpanist of the Massapequa Philharmonic, Amore Opera, Apotheosis Opera, International Chamber Orchestra of America, and the Prague Summer Nights Festival. He was also an Actor Drummer on the HBO Series Plot Against America working with John Turturro and Winona Ryder.

Mr. Kautz has won an impressive number of prizes and awards –twenty-nine between 2015 and 2022 in competitions as a Timpanist (In Timpani Competitions) in the U.S., Singapore, Canada, Austria, Germany, Estonia, Sweden, Hong Kong, Italy, Greece, Spain, France, and Switzerland. Some of the prizes that Jeffrey was awarded are: First Prize Percussion Grand Prize Category 2021 Music Competition Online, Audience Award Winner Percussion Category Summer 2021 21st Century Talents Music Competition, First Prize 2021 The Muse International Music Competition Category E, Grand Prize Winner Classical Music May 2021 International Youth Music Competition, Gold Medal Winner Ages 24-26 Category 2021 Quebec Online International Music Competition, Best Interpretation of a Contemporary Work Award Winner 2021 My Music Awards Online Music Competition, 1st Prize 2021 “Citta Di Massa” International Competition Soloists Section Percussion Category, Champion Winner 2020 ASCO International Music Competition W3 Senior Group, First Prize Autumn 2020 North International Online Music Competition Category IX, Gold Star 2020 Music & Stars Awards Online Classical Music

Competition Winds Emergent Category, First Prize 2020 International Music Competition
'Bonn' Grand Prize Virtuoso Senior Category, First Prize 2020 International Music Competition
'Salzburg' Grand Prize Virtuoso Senior Category, First Place 2020 American Protégé
International Concerto Competition (based in NYC) College Students and Professional
Musicians Group, Won the Brilliant Award 2020 Brilliant Talent Discovery Awards
International Music Competition (based in Singapore) for the Senior Category, First Prize 2018
New York International Percussion Competition Timpani Division I, Winner 2017 Mannes
Concerto Competition, and Winner of the College Age Group 2015 Philadelphia International
Music Festival Concerto Competition.

Jeffrey is currently the percussion instructor at Music & Arts in Commack, NY and was a former intern percussion instructor at both The Manhattan School of Music Pre-College and The Mannes School of Music Preparatory Division.

Mr. Kautz has appeared as a timpani concerto soloist with the Mannes Orchestra, NYU Steel Band, and the NYU Percussion Ensemble.

Besides music, Jeffrey is very involved in working with adults with Autism.
Mr. Kautz and The Winters Center for Autism organization are winners for Theresa Foundation Grant in which Jeffrey was appointed as Music Director and Conductor for The Winters Center for Percussion Ensemble.

Mr. Kautz's Upcoming performances in the 2022-2023 Season are: Several performances with the South Shore Symphony Orchestra in which he will appear as Timpani Soloist in March 2023 performing Michael Daugherty's Raise the Roof for Timpani and Orchestra and several performances with The Winters Center for Autism Percussion Ensemble including appearing as one of the Timpani Soloists as well as his students in April 2023.

Jeffrey Kautz would like to thank all the players for all their hard work, and families and friends for all their love and support.



The Theresa Foundation has a vision of the world where artistic expression and physical recreation are just as important to adults as they are to children. We believe in a world where every child, regardless of ability or challenging conditions, is free to communicate through and participate in every art or recreational activity.

A society without art is a society without soul. Art enables us to express our inner thoughts, fears, joys, and sadness. Our artistic expression—whether written, danced, painted, or sculpted—tells us who we are, what is important to us, and how we relate to the world.

Likewise, physical recreation, in all its forms—from individual and team sports, to dance, and yoga—is good for the mind and the body, forming an essential component of health and wellness.

Because children are our future, we believe in nurturing each child, and the inalienable rights of artistic expression and physical recreation for all.



The Theresa Foundation honors the memory of Theresa Alessandra Russo by touching the lives of children with special needs and their families.

The Foundation fosters each child's unique abilities by supporting programs focusing on art, music, dance, drama, and recreation.



Winters Center for Autism, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit affiliated with the Winters Family Foundation, was established in 2020 after years of thoughtful planning and development. Joe and Michele Winters, native Long Islanders, have been strong advocates for high-quality services for people with autism since their son Sean's diagnosis in 1996. They have long believed that employment provides people with a sense of fulfillment and purpose. Today, autism affects 1 in 54 children in the United States.

The Center is a dynamic partnership of dedicated people working together to enhance the lives of adults with autism through job creation, training and placement to address the excessive unemployment rate among people with autism. Although there are many programs that provide excellent services for children and teens, there is a huge gap in the number of services and opportunities for adults with autism.



The Winters Center for Autism addresses that need by identifying skills and talents of our participants and matching them with businesses and organizations open to creating jobs for capable and trained employees, creating a kinder and more inclusive Long Island community.

The Center also provides fitness, recreation and social programs to assist participants in achieving their goals.



Winters Center for Autism Percussion Ensemble

Brandon Pastor
 Andrew Pastor
 Harrison Deastyne
 Chris Volpe
 Maia Napolitano
 Steven Dolinsky
 Todd Dugan*
 Gianna DeRusso*

Guest Artist *

Other Upcoming Performances

Holiday Cheers – December 20, 2022, at 7:00pm

Comfort Classics – February 28, 2023, at 7:00pm

Season Finale – April 18, 2023, at 7:00pm

Featuring Jeffrey Kautz, Brandon Pastor, Andrew Pastor, Harrison Dearstyne, Chris Volpe, Maia Napolitano, and Steven Dolinsky; Timpani Soloists.