



P.O. Box 3174
116 Court Street, 3rd Floor
Plymouth, MA 02361
508-746-8008
plymouthphil.org

Kim Corben, Executive Director
Steven Karidoyanes, Music Director/Conductor

Press Release

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CONTACT: Gail Dunford, Director of Marketing
508-746-8008
g.dunford@plymouthphil.org

THE DREAM OF AMERICA COMES TO LIFE AT *THE PHIL*'S OPENING NIGHT CONCERT

PLYMOUTH, MA — The **Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra** opens its 108th season with a performance that unites American history, live theater and remarkable symphonic music!

Steven Karidoyanes, who officially begins his 30th season leading *the Phil* with this Opening Night Concert, conducts the poignant *Ellis Island: The Dream of America*, penned by native New Englander-turned-Hollywood-composer **Peter Boyer**. Acclaimed actor, screenwriter, and author **Marianne Leone Cooper** is joined by fellow actor **Ed Hoopman** in this performance of *Ellis Island*. The concert also features “a musicians’ choice” selection. Collectively chosen by philharmonic musicians to perform this season is music from Serge Prokofiev’s dramatic and heartachingly beautiful ballet, *Romeo and Juliet*.

“This music immediately grabs you and doesn’t let go!” says conductor Karidoyanes about the *Romeo and Juliet* score. About *Ellis Island*, he states, “This music will bring our audience to both tears and cheers by its conclusion. I can’t wait to share it with our philharmonic audience!”

Karidoyanes adds, “My father’s father first came to this country through Ellis Island in the early part of the 20th century, so this music is especially meaningful to me and my family.”

Ellis Island: The Dream of America celebrates the historic American immigrant experience and the American dream. Innovative in its format, the work brings elements of the theater and multimedia into the concert hall, employing actors and projected historical images from the Ellis Island archives. Since its premiere in 2002, Boyer’s *Ellis Island* has gone on to enjoy tremendous success, becoming one of the most performed American orchestral works of the last two decades. The work has received over 250 live performances by more than 110 different orchestras, an extraordinary performance record matched by very few contemporary orchestral works.

Marianne Leone Cooper is an actor, screenwriter and essayist. She had a recurring role on HBO's *The Sopranos* as Joanne Moltisanti, Christopher's (Michael Imperioli's) mother. She has also appeared in films by Martin Scorsese, John Sayles, Nancy Savoca and the Farrelly brothers. Her essays and op-ed pieces on a variety of topics have appeared in the *Boston Globe*. She is married to Academy Award-winning actor Chris Cooper and was Jesse Cooper's mother for seventeen years. After his death in 2005, her essay on grief was published in the *Boston Globe* ("He Was Our Touchstone".) Her memoir, *Jesse, A Mother's Story*, published by Simon and Schuster, grew out of that essay.

Ed Hoopman is regularly seen on many Boston area stages including the New Repertory Theatre, The Lyric Stage Company of Boston, the Commonwealth Shakespeare Company and the Charles Playhouse. He is also an accomplished voiceover actor whose work can be heard both locally and nationally.

The concert takes place on **Saturday, September 30, 2023** at **Plymouth Memorial Hall** beginning at **7:30 PM**. Patrons are invited to the free **Pre-Concert Talk** with Steven Karidoyanes at **6:30 PM** to learn more about the music and composers on the evening’s program. Memorial Hall is fully accessible.

Individual ticket prices are \$30, \$55, \$65. Advance tickets can be purchased online at plymouthphil.org or by calling *the Phil* office at 508-746-8008.

Prior to the concert, the audience is encouraged to attend ***the Phil's Opening Night Cocktail Party*** at **Pilgrim Hall Museum at 6 PM**. Admission to the cocktail party is \$25, which can be reserved online or by calling the office at 508-746-8008.

Memorial Hall is located at 83 Court Street/Route 3A, Plymouth, MA. For more information about the Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra's 108th Season, visit plymouthphil.org or call 508-746-8008.

Next event of the Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra:

Simply the Best

Saturday, November 4, 2023 at 7 PM

Plymouth North High School Performing Arts Center

CLARICE ASSAD

Três Pequenas Variações (Three Little Variations)

AARON COPLAND

Suite: Appalachian Spring

TCHAIKOVSKY

Violin Concerto, featuring soloist Julianne Lee

Tickets: \$30, \$65 available at plymouthphil.org | 508-746-8008

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About the Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra

The Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra is a premier non-profit cultural institution in Massachusetts. Dedicated to artistic excellence and community enrichment, the orchestra offers world-class performances, innovative outreach programs, and strong community partnerships. Now launching its 108th season, *the Phil's* mission is to inspire, engage, and entertain through the power of live music. For more information, visit plymouthphil.org or call 508-746-8008.