

LIVINGSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

P. O. Box 253 – Livingston, New Jersey 07039

Isvan Jaray, Music Director and Principal Conductor

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE . . .

LIVINGSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA WILL HONOR CARMELA CECERE AT OPENING CONCERT OF 50TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON ON NOVEMBER 4

Carmela Cecere, co-president of the Livingston Symphony Orchestra (LSO), will be honored by the Symphony at its opening concert of the season on November 4. The occasion will also mark the 50th birthday of the LSO and the 250th anniversary of the birth of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Two well-loved Mozart compositions will be performed, the Overture to *The Magic Flute* and Piano Concerto No. 2 (“Elvira Madigan”), as well as Mussorgsky’s *Pictures at an Exhibition*, orchestrated by Maurice Ravel.

Cecere has been a member of the LSO Board of Trustees for 32 years, occupying positions of recording and corresponding secretary, vice-president and president. She served in the latter capacity for a total of three three-year terms and has been co-president with Punam Bhargava of Cedar Grove for the past 10 years. A composer, singer and teacher of piano for more than 50 years, Cecere also chairs the Symphony’s annual Young Artists Competition, an event that awards winners a \$1000 scholarship and an opportunity to perform with the orchestra.

“In my career I have never met anyone so devoted to an orchestra as Carmela,” LSO music director Istvan Jaray said. “Through the years she has fought very hard to maintain this orchestra, which owes its existence in part to her hard work.”

“She is also a performing artist herself and a great teacher,” said Jaray, who has conducted major orchestras in Europe and the United States. “Our relationship is unique. She understands my work and makes it rewarding and easier, not to mention the fact that she is a tremendous human being and very giving.”

Cecere’s former student Gary Schneiderman recalls his piano lessons in the late 60s and early 70s. “She is a *teacher*,” Schneiderman said, placing emphasis on the word ‘teacher.’

“She has a special talent and is fair and demanding. If you were serious, you could not have a better individual help you attain your goals.”

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Schneiderman also recalled working with Cecere and the LSO in more recent years as council person and mayor. “She is one of the crown jewels of Livingston – as is the LSO,” he said. The Symphony, including its “top quality children’s concerts,” provides “great cultural advantage” to the town, “and we are almost giving it away,” he said, referring to the affordability of tickets and of travel to a venue close to home.

The tribute to Cecere and gala opening concert of the LSO will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 4, at Livingston High School. The school is located at 30 Robert Harp Drive (off of South Livingston Avenue between Northfield Road and Mt. Pleasant Avenue) in Livingston. Tickets (\$15 adults; \$10 seniors and students; \$5 children) may be purchased at the door.

The LSO will present three additional events during its 50th anniversary season, each to be held at Livingston High School. A young people’s concert, “Famous Heroes and Villains,” will take place at 2 p.m. on Sunday, January 28. Children, who must be accompanied by an adult, will be admitted free of charge.

“Majesty and Brilliance,” at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 31, will showcase the winner of the LSO Young Artists Concerto Competition and include a performance of Stravinsky’s *Firebird Suite*.

The season finale, “With a Song in My Heart,” on Saturday, May 19, at 7:30 p.m., is billed as “a musical extravaganza celebrating 50 wonderful years of the Livingston Symphony Orchestra” that will feature works by Rodgers and Hart, Jerome Kern, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Andrew Lloyd Webber and others.

Those who would like additional information about LSO concerts may call (973) 635-8656.

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