

Press Release

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**HEADLINE: DANA YOUNG ARTIST CONCERT - MONDAY,
MARCH 2, 2015 7:30 PM • DANA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA,
STAMBAUGH AUDITORIUM**

Youngstown, OH... The Dana Symphony Orchestra, Dr. Stephen L. Gage, Conductor, will present its first concert of the spring 2015 semester on Monday, March 2, 2015, 7:30 p.m. at Stambaugh Auditorium, 1000 Fifth Avenue, Youngstown, OH.

This concert includes the winners of the Dana Young Artist Competition. In November 2014, Dana School of Music graduate and upper division undergraduate students competed for a solo performance spot on this concert. Seventeen students auditioned, and three students earned the privilege of soloing with the Dana Symphony Orchestra.

The first of these is first-year graduate student, Joshua Wertz. He will perform Pierre Max Dubois' "*Concerto for Alto Saxophone and String Orchestra*." Wertz grew up in Altoona, PA and earned his Bachelor of Music in Saxophone Performance at Indiana University of Pennsylvania in May 2014. Josh studies with Dana Professor of Saxophone, Dr. James Umble and with Dr. Kent Engelhardt, Professor of Saxophone/Jazz at YSU.

Benjamin Dague is the second soloist. He recently completed the Master of Music in Guitar Performance at YSU after completing the Bachelor of Music in Guitar Performance in May 2012 at YSU. Ben will play movement two, Adagio, from Joaquin Rodrigo's "*Concierto de Aranjuez*." Dague currently lives in Pittsburgh, PA. As a Dana student, he studied classical guitar with Dr. Francois Fowler, Associate Professor of Guitar on the Dana School of Music faculty.

The third soloist is saxophonist Wilson Poffenberger from Hagerstown, Maryland. He is in his final semester as a graduate assistant in jazz and saxophone, and he is a candidate for the Master of Music in Saxophone Performance degree at YSU. Poffenberger will perform "*Legende for Alto Saxophone and Orchestra*." During his time at Dana, he has earned a number of honors and awards, and he has been a finalist in several regional and national solo and chamber music competitions. He earned the Bachelor of Music in Music Education at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He also studied with Dr. James Umble and Dr. Kent Engelhardt.

The concert will open with Johann Strauss, II's vibrant "*Overture, Die Fledermaus*." This composition is most often heard on and associated with the New Year's Day concert of the Vienna Philharmonic. Following the three soloists, the Dana Symphony Orchestra will close the program with Edvard Grieg's "*Peer Gynt Suite, No. 1, Op. 46*." This symphony hall favorite includes the beautiful "*Morning*" as its first movement and the powerful "*In the Hall of the Mountain King*" as its final movement.

Tickets for the program are available at the Stambaugh Auditorium box office and at the door. The program is \$5 for adults, \$4 for senior citizens and students, and free for students and faculty with a YSU ID. Call the Performing Arts Series at 330-941-2307 for more information.

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