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- [Legals](#)
- [Graduation News](#)

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- [Sports Briefs](#)
- [Events/Scores](#)

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Local News

3rd Annual Allegro Con Brio Festival is June 17

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Allegro Con Brio presents "Mind-Body Connection" featuring pianist Stephanie Wendt at 8 p.m. Friday, June 17, at Wayzata Community Church, 125 E. Wayzata Blvd., Wayzata.

The concert, conducted by William Stuber, features the Grieg Piano Concerto, Weber's Der Freischutz Overture and Brahms' Symphony No. 1.

"The third annual Allegro Con Brio Festival explores the mind-body connection that music ignites, not only for the audience, but also for the musicians," said Carley Miller, publicist for Allegro.

For this concert, Allegro is partnering with Mind Body Solutions, an organization that offers innovative yoga programs, she said.

"Matthew Sanford will help the audience truly

understand and experience how a mind/body experience can happen both through yoga and music," she said.

Sanford was paralyzed from the chest down at age 13 after surviving a devastating car accident, Miller said.

Wendt, the featured pianist, has performed as a soloist and chamber musician on five continents, according to a news release from Allegro.

Allegro Con Brio includes top freelance orchestra musicians from the Twin Cities and includes members of Minnesota Orchestra, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Minnesota Opera and VocalEssence, the news release said.

Based in Wayzata, Allegro is an arts group that integrates all ages and levels of musicians in its programs. Allegro is the brainchild of Stuber, a Juilliard graduate who serves as the organization's artistic director and conductor, the news release said.

The nonprofit organization sponsors an annual two-week youth orchestra summer camp (Allegro Orchestra Camp), a professional summer orchestra festival (Allegro Con Brio), a free, year-round community orchestra concert series (Allegro Sinfonia) and youth string classes (Allegro String Classes), the news release said.

During the Allegro Con Brio concert festival on June 17, advanced students from the camp will be playing the same music as their professional counterparts and sharing the stage with them, the news release said.

"It's thrilling to provide role models for students," Stuber said. "We believe the role of the professional coaches and instructors is to serve as teachers, mentors and advocates. That carries on throughout the program. The beginning students model the top camp students who model the professionals. Everyone in the continuum has someone they can look up to."

Being able to play alongside professional musicians, as well as learn from them, is a unique opportunity for the students, he said.

“These are some of the top kids in their school orchestras,” Stuber said. “Most will continue to study music at the college level. A side-by-side experience can give them the confidence and inspiration to become a professional orchestra musician.”

Tickets: \$20 general admission/\$10 student. For tickets and information call Allegro at 952-258-0394 or visit www.allegronotes.org.

– Compiled by Sally Thompson

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