

For immediate release

JOHNSTOWN, PA



Johnstown Symphony to Receive \$10,000 Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for Diverse and Accessible Programming

Johnstown, PA, January 10th, 2022: The Johnstown Symphony Orchestra is pleased to announce it has been approved by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to receive a Challenge America award of \$10,000. This grant will support our January, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Concert at the State Theater of Johnstown and our participation in the 2023 Juneteenth Celebration in Johnstown's Central Park. This grant is one of 262 Challenge America awards totaling \$2.62 million that were announced by the NEA as part of its first round of fiscal year 2023 grants.

"The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support arts projects in communities nationwide," said NEA Chair Maria Rosario Jackson, PhD. "Projects such as this one with the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra strengthen arts and cultural ecosystems, provide equitable opportunities for arts participation and practice, and contribute to the health of our communities and our economy."

The NEA award supports a pair of concerts aimed at diversifying the JSO audience and deepening our longstanding collaborative relationship with the Johnstown chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Erin Codey, Executive Director of the JSO, explained the importance of the grant for the region. "A grant from the NEA in support of our organization and community is monumental. We are proud to be recognized for the work our Music Director, James Blachly, and our Board of Trustees have been working towards for many years. Having our MLK Concert included as part of our Season 94 subscription performances and to be recognized and supported by the NEA is a dream come true. Expanding the diversity of our programming, outreach outside of our concert hall and serving the community through music is an integral aspect to the JSO's mission and values in supporting our region."

Sunday's concert at the State Theater will celebrate the music of black composers and feature a key note speaker in honor of the great Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Tickets to the sold-out performance

started at \$5, and the event will be live streamed for free. “We are sharing the link with homebound and incarcerated populations in the region,” continued Codey, “and we are conducting post-concert gatherings at Christ Centered Community Church to continue our engagement after the music stops.” The Juneteenth performance will be free and open to the public in Johnstown’s Central Park and will debut a new commission written specifically for the occasion.

For more information on other projects included in the NEA’s grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](https://www.arts.gov/news). For more information on the Celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr., visit the JSO website: <https://www.johnstownsymphony.org/more-about-mlk-concert>

About the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra

Tickets for Season 94 are now available at [johnstownsymphony.org](https://www.johnstownsymphony.org). The season is entitled *Hometown* and celebrates the feelings of connection and mutual empowerment that makes this orchestra so vital to our community.

The Johnstown Symphony Orchestra serves a four-county region Cambria, Bedford, Somerset, and Indiana counties through a diverse line-up of programming that ranges from entertainment to education to engagement. We actively pursue relationships and engage in conversation with adjacent non-profits and service organizations in our region. We aim to ensure our programming—educational, engagement, and entertainment—is created in response to feedback from our constituents. We believe that music and self-expression are not luxuries or extras, not for the rich and the elite, but a basic human need, to which all should have access. The Johnstown Symphony Orchestra is committed to serving the community through the transformative power of music; we look forward to strengthening our bond with our current friends and connecting with new ones.

Visit our website to purchase concert tickets and learn how to participate in the JSO’s ensembles, auxiliaries. Stay up to date by following [JSO’s Facebook page](#) (#johnstownsymphony) and our [Instagram](#) (@jtownsymphony1), for announcements, videos, photos, and more.

For further information, please contact JSO Executive Director Erin Codey 814-535-6738 ecodey@johnstownsymphony.org

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