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**Pasadena Symphony Association**  
**Pasadena Symphony & POPS**  
Contact: Marisa McCarthy  
MMcCarthy@PasadenaSymphony-Pops.org  
(626) 793-7172 ext. 13



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Click here for artist images: <http://www.pasadenasympphony-pops.org/press-release-gershwin-rhapsody-in-blue/>

**THE PASADENA SYMPHONY PRESENTS GERSHWIN'S RHAPSODY IN BLUE**  
**WITH A COLORFUL PROGRAM OF ICONIC WORKS**

**Pasadena, CA** – Music Director David Lockington and the Pasadena Symphony continue their newly-expanded Singpoli Classics Series on Saturday, **November 5<sup>th</sup>** with **Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue***. A powerhouse program from start to finish with a kaleidoscope of colors, the repertoire opens to one of the great pieces of Americana with **Copland's *Appalachian Spring***, topped off by the quintessential Russian folktale – **Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade***. “This is going to be a really exciting colorful program of iconic pieces,” states Lockington.

The Pasadena Symphony continues its tradition of showcasing the stars of tomorrow here today with **Ray Ushikubo** performing Gershwin's Jazz Age masterpiece. Winner of the first-ever international Steinway Concerto Competition at the Colburn Academy Piano Festival in 2015, Ushikubo has been stunning audiences since the age of ten when he premiered at Los Angeles' Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. With performances at Carnegie Hall and on NBC's Tonight Show with Jay Leno under his belt, you won't want to miss this fifteen-year-old prodigy who Lockington calls “a remarkable young teenage pianist who has great virtuosity; great maturity.”

The Pasadena Symphony provides a quintessential experience specially designed for the music lover, the social butterfly or a date night out, and the inner epicurean in us all. For those who want to learn more about the music, join us for Insights – a free pre-concert dialogue with David Lockington, which begins one hour prior to each performance. Patrons who plan to arrive early can also enjoy a drink or a bite in the lively Sierra Auto Symphony Lounge, yet another addition to the carefree and elegant concert experience the Pasadena Symphony offers. A posh setting at Ambassador Auditorium's beautiful outdoor plaza, the lounge offers uniquely prepared menus from Claud & Co for both lunch and dinner, a full bar and fine wines by Michero Family Wines, plus music before the concert and during intermission.

All Symphony Classics concerts take place at Ambassador Auditorium, 131 S. St. John Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91105 with matinee and evening performances at 2:00pm and 8:00pm. Subscription packages start at \$99; regular individually priced tickets start at \$35 and may be purchased online at [pasadenasympphony-pops.org](http://pasadenasympphony-pops.org) or by calling (626) 793-7172.

## IF YOU GO:

- **What:** The Pasadena Symphony presents Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*.  
David Lockington, conductor  
Ray Ushikubo, piano

Copland	<i>Appalachian Spring Suite</i>
Gershwin	<i>Rhapsody in Blue</i>
Rimsky-Korsakov	<i>Scheherazade</i>

- **When:** Saturday, November 5, 2016 at 2:00pm and 8:00pm

- **Where:** Ambassador Auditorium | 131 South St. John Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91105

- **Cost:** Tickets start at \$35.00

- **Parking:** Valet parking is available on Green Street for \$15. General parking is available in two locations: next to the Auditorium (entrance on St. John Ave) at the covered parking structure for \$10 and directly across the street at the Wells Fargo parking structure (entrance on Terrace at Green St). ADA parking is located at the above-ground parking lot adjacent to the Auditorium (entrance on St. John Ave.) for \$10. Parking purchased onsite is cash only.

- **Sierra Auto Symphony Lounge:** Located on the plaza at Ambassador Auditorium. Opens at 12:30 pm before the matinee and 6:00 pm before the evening performance.

- **Pre-Concert Discussion:** Pre-concert discussions with David Lockington begins one hour before curtain and is available to all ticket holders at no cost.

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## ABOUT THE PASADENA SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION

Recent Acclaim for the Pasadena Symphony and POPS:

*"The Pasadena Symphony signals a new direction...teeming with vitality...dripping with opulent, sexy emotion." Los Angeles Times.*

*"...full of pulsating energy from first note to last... the strings were lushly resonant, the wind principals were at the top of their games, and the brass rang out with gleaming vigor." –Pasadena Star News.*

Formed in 1928, the Pasadena Symphony and POPS is an ensemble of Hollywood's most talented, sought after musicians. With extensive credits in the film, television, recording and orchestral industry, the artists of Pasadena Symphony and POPS are the most heard in the world.

The Pasadena Symphony and POPS performs in two of the most extraordinary venues in the United States: Ambassador Auditorium, known as the *Carnegie Hall of the West*, and the luxuriant Los Angeles Arboretum & Botanic Garden. Internationally recognized, Grammy-nominated conductor, David Lockington, serves as the Pasadena Symphony Association's Music Director, with performance-practice specialist Nicholas McGegan serving as Principal Guest Conductor. The multi-platinum-selling, two-time Emmy and five-time Grammy Award-nominated entertainer dubbed "The

Ambassador of the Great American Songbook,” Michael Feinstein, is the Principal Pops Conductor, who succeeded Marvin Hamlisch in the newly created *Marvin Hamlisch Chair*.

A hallmark of its robust education programs, the Pasadena Symphony Association has served the youth of the region for over five decades through the Pasadena Youth Symphony Orchestras (PYSO) comprised of five performing ensembles, with over 250 gifted 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students from more than 50 schools all over the Southern California region. The PYSO Symphony often performs on the popular television show *GLEE*.

The PSA provides people from all walks of life with powerful access points to the world of symphonic music.

## **ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

### **David Lockington Music Director**

Over the past thirty-five years, David Lockington has developed an impressive conducting career in the United States. A native of Great Britain, he served as the Music Director of the Grand Rapids Symphony from January 1999 to May 2015, and is currently the orchestra’s Conductor Laureate. He has held the position of Music Director with the Modesto Symphony since May 2007 and in March 2013, Mr. Lockington was appointed to the same position with the Pasadena Symphony. He also has a close relationship with the Orquesta Sinfonica del Principado de Asturias in Spain where he is currently the orchestra’s Principal Guest Conductor, and beginning with the 15/16 season he will be one of three Artistic Partners with the Northwest Sinfonietta in Tacoma, Washington.

In addition to his current posts, since his arrival to the United States in 1978 Mr. Lockington has also held additional positions with American orchestras, including serving as Assistant Conductor of the Denver Symphony Orchestra and Opera Colorado and Assistant and Associate Conductor of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. In May 1993 he accepted the position of Music Director of the Ohio Chamber Orchestra, assumed the title of Music Director of the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra in September 1995 and was Music Director of the Long Island Philharmonic for the 96/97 through 99/2000 seasons.

Mr. Lockington's guest conducting engagements include appearances with the Saint Louis, Houston, Detroit, Seattle, Toronto, Vancouver, Oregon and Phoenix symphonies; the Rochester and Louisiana Philharmonics; and the Orchestra of St. Luke's at Carnegie Hall. Internationally, he has conducted the Northern Sinfonia in Great Britain, the Israel Chamber Orchestra, the China Broadcasting Symphony Orchestra in Beijing and Taiwan and led the English Chamber Orchestra on a tour in Asia.

Recent and upcoming guest conducting engagements include appearances with the New Jersey, Indianapolis, Vancouver, Utah, Pacific, Colorado, Nashville, San Diego, Syracuse, Edmonton, Alabama, Columbus and Kansas City symphonies, the Florida and Louisville Orchestras, the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa and the Buffalo and Calgary Philharmonics. Mr. Lockington's summer festival activities include appearances at the Grand Teton, Colorado Music, Interlochen, Chautauqua and Eastern Music festivals.

David Lockington began his career as a cellist and was the Principal with the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain for two years. After completing his Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Cambridge, Mr. Lockington came to the United States on a scholarship to Yale University where he received his Master's degree in cello performance and studied conducting with

Otto Werner Mueller. He was a member of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra and served as assistant principal cellist for three years with the Denver Symphony Orchestra before turning to conducting.

## **Ray Ushikubo** **Piano**

Exhibiting an innate musicality well beyond his years, fifteen-year-old Japanese-American Pianist Ray Ushikubo has already performed on the stages of Carnegie Hall and Merkin Concert Hall in New York City, and on NBC's The Tonight Show with Jay Leno. Since his solo orchestral debut at age 10 with the Young Musicians Foundation Orchestra at Los Angeles's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Ray has appeared with world-renowned pianist Lang Lang at Orange County's Segerstrom Concert Hall, and with pianist and conductor Jeffrey Kahane and the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra at Royce Hall in Los Angeles. A recipient of the prestigious Davidson Fellow Laureate Award in 2014, Ray won the 2016 Piano Concerto Competition at the Aspen Music Festival and School.

During the 2016–2017 season, Ray makes his debut with the Pasadena Symphony and the Modesto Symphony Orchestra performing Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue with conductor David Lockington. He also performs the Grieg Piano Concerto with The Dream Orchestra at the Broad Stage in Santa Monica.

Recent engagements include performances with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, the Reno Philharmonic Orchestra, the Los Angeles-based ensemble MUSE/IQUE, the Asia America Youth Symphony; with conductors Jeffrey Kahane, Laura Jackson, David Benoit and Rachel Worby. At age 13, he performed and conducted from the keyboard Bach's Keyboard Concerto in D minor, BWV 1052, with the Academy Virtuosi at the Colburn School. More recently, Ray has given solo recitals at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) and at the Colburn School. He has also been a featured guest artist on Rob Kapilow's What Makes It Great? series at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, on San Diego's Mainly Mozart's series Mozart & the Mind, and at the Griffith Observatory as part of the Los Angeles Philharmonic's Immortal Beloved celebration, where he performed Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata.

Also an accomplished violinist, Ray loves to perform for people and has done so in a variety of settings. In August 2015 he made a special appearance as piano and violin soloist in a concert presented by Grand Performances in Los Angeles. The program featured Ray performing traditional classical works alongside jazz pianist Alfredo Rodriguez and electronic musician Daedalus, who "remixed" improvised versions of the classical works, crossing the genres of classical, electronic music, and jazz. Ray also joined both artists in an improvisatory encore. He has performed as violin soloist at the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra's 2014 Gala celebration, "StradFest," and with the New West Symphony as part of their Symphonic Adventures Program. Ray performed as piano soloist at the Los Angeles Japanese American Cultural & Community Center

(JACCC) for a peace ceremony honoring Hiroshima atomic bomb victims.

A 2014 Davidson Fellow Laureate, Ray was awarded \$50,000 by the Davidson Institute for his music project "Circle of Life in Music." Other awards include first prize at the first Steinway Concerto Competition at the 2015 Colburn Music Academy Piano Festival, the Young Artists Piano Prize at the 2013 Mondavi Young Artists Competition, the 2012 Steinway Prize for the best performance of a Beethoven Sonata, and first prize at the 2010 International Russian Music Piano Competition. Ray was a Gold Prize winner in the 2009 AADGT International Music Competition for piano and violin, leading to his Carnegie Hall debut.

Ray has been featured several times on the nationally syndicated radio program From the Top, and was named one of their Jack Kent Cooke Young Artists. Ray has also been a featured speaker at TEDx Redmond.

Since 2010, Ray has studied piano with Ory Shihor at the Colburn School's Music Academy, a pre-college program designed to prepare extraordinary young artists for careers as well-rounded professional musicians, where he is a Camille and Arnon Adar Scholar. At the Music Academy, he also studies violin with Robert Lipsett. He has attended the Aspen Music Festival and School and the Innsbrook Institute Summer Music Academy. Ray's other interests include math, wakeboarding, watching action movies, and Mercedes Benz automobiles.

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