

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Pasadena Symphony Association**  
**Pasadena Symphony & POPS**  
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**For artist images and bios click here:** <https://pasadenasympphony-pops.org/press-release-baroque-masters/>

**NICHOLAS MCGEGAN BRINGS A TRIO OF BAROQUE MASTERS  
WITH THE BEST OF BACH, VIVALDI AND HANDEL**

*Pasadena, CA* – Join the **Pasadena Symphony** and Principal Guest Conductor **Nicholas McGegan** as he delivers **Baroque Masters** on **January 26, 2019** at **Ambassador Auditorium** with performances at 2pm and 8pm. Highly regarded as “one of the finest baroque conductors of his generation” (*London Independent*), the two-time Grammy nominee will jump start your year as only he can with his historical performance practice bringing a wealth of experience to this popular Baroque repertoire with **Bach’s Brandenburgs**, **Vivaldi concertos** and **Handel’s** jubilant *Water Music*. “He’s a dynamo, a true animator, an energiser and an ignition point from which music can take off” (*Herald Scotland*). You won’t want to miss this chance to witness the “King” of Baroque interpretation at his finest, as he applies his special craft to these Baroque masterpieces.

For the symphony’s entrée to the new year, the virtuosic principal musicians of the Pasadena Symphony orchestra will perform solos for bassoon, violin, cello and viola. Bach’s Concerto for Two Violins starts off the program followed by Vivaldi’s Cello and Bassoon Concertos. The second half of the program returns to Bach for his beautiful Brandenburg Concerto No.6, leading to the celebratory Suite No. 1. of Handel’s famed *Water Music*. Pasadena’s own formidable soloists promise to bring together an absolutely riveting program, all in the masterful hands of Conductor Nicholas McGegan.

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 Conductor Nicholas McGegan, 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 Symphony Lounge, yet another addition to the carefree and elegant concert experience the Pasadena Symphony offers. A posh setting along 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 Pasadena Symphony performances take place at Ambassador Auditorium, located at 131 South St. John Avenue, Pasadena, CA. Subscriptions start at \$99 with single ticket prices starting at \$35. Tickets may be purchased online at [pasadenasympphony-pops.org](https://pasadenasympphony-pops.org) or by calling (626) 793-7172.

## IF YOU GO:

- **What:** The Pasadena Symphony presents Baroque Masters  
Nicholas McGegan, conductor  
Rose Corrigan, bassoon  
Aimée Kreston, violin  
Aaron Oltman, viola  
Sara Parkins, violin  
Andrew Picken, viola  
George Kim Scholes, cello

BACH Concerto for Two Violins  
VIVALDI Concerto for Cello  
VIVALDI Concerto for Bassoon  
BACH Brandenburg Concerto No. 6  
HANDEL *Water Music* Suite No. 1

- **When:** Saturday, January 26, 2019 at 2:00 pm and 8:00 pm
- **Where:** Ambassador Auditorium | 131 South St. John Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91105
- **Cost:** Tickets start at \$35.00
- **Parking:** Valet parking is available on St. John Ave for \$20. General parking is available in two locations: next to the Auditorium (entrance on St. John Ave) at the covered parking structure, and directly across Green street at the Wells Fargo parking structure (entrance on Terrace at Green St), both for \$10. 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.
- **Pasadena Symphony Lounge:** Located on the plaza at Ambassador Auditorium. Opens at 12:30pm before the matinee and 6:00pm before the evening performance.
- **Pre-Concert Discussion:** Pre-concert discussion with Conductor Nicholas McGegan begins one hour before curtain and is available to all ticket holders at no cost.

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## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

### NICHOLAS MCGEGAN

Principal Guest Conductor

As he embarks on his fourth decade on the podium, Nicholas McGegan — long hailed as “one of the finest baroque conductors of his generation” (The Independent) and “an expert in 18th-century style” (The New Yorker) — is recognized for his probing and revelatory explorations of music of all periods. In 2015 he begins his 30th year as music director of Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and continues as Principal Guest Conductor of the Pasadena Symphony.

Best known as a baroque and classical specialist, McGegan's approach— intelligent, infused with joy and never dogmatic — has led to appearances with many of the world's major orchestras. At home in opera houses, McGegan shone new light on close to twenty Handel operas as the Artistic Director and conductor at the Göttingen Handel Festival for 20 years (1991-2001) and the Mozart canon as Principal Guest Conductor at Scottish Opera in the 1990s.

His 15/16 season features appearances with the Los Angeles Philharmonic (with which he has appeared annually for 20 years), St. Louis, BBC Scottish, RTÉ National, and New Zealand Symphonies; the Cleveland Orchestra/Blossom Music Festival; the Orchestra of St. Luke's at Caramoor and Carnegie Hall, and the Juilliard School. Under McGegan this season, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra performs Scarlatti's *La gloria di primavera* at Carnegie Hall and throughout California's Orange County.

McGegan's extensive discography features eight releases on Philharmonia Baroque's label, Philharmonia Baroque Productions (PBP) including the 2011 GRAMMY® Award-nominated recording of Haydn Symphonies nos. 88, 101, and 104.

English-born Nicholas McGegan was educated at Cambridge and Oxford. He was made an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) "for services to music overseas." Most recently, McGegan was invited to join the board of Early Music America. Other awards include the Halle Handel Prize; the Order of Merit of the State of Lower Saxony (Germany); the Medal of Honour of the City of Göttingen, and a declaration of Nicholas McGegan Day, by the Mayor of San Francisco in recognition of his work with Philharmonia Baroque. In 2013, the San Francisco Conservatory of Music awarded him an honorary degree of Doctor of Music.

Visit Nicholas McGegan on the web at [www.nicholasmcgegan.com](http://www.nicholasmcgegan.com).

## **ROSE CORRIGAN**

### **Bassoon**

Rose Corrigan is principal bassoonist of Pacific Symphony, the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra and the Pasadena Symphony, and a former member of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and the Los Angeles Opera Orchestra. She is a graduate of the University of Southern California where she studied with Michael O'Donovan, and returned to the university as an adjunct professor, teaching bassoon from 1993 until 2011.

Corrigan has played bassoon and contrabassoon on the soundtracks of over 500 motion pictures, working with composers such as Michael Giacchino, Patrick Doyle, Hans Zimmer, Danny Elfman, John Powell, Jerry Goldsmith, John Williams, James Horner, Michel Legrand, Michael Kamen and William Ross. Films include *Ice Age*, *Life of Pi*, *Bolt*, *Despicable Me*, *Dances with Wolves*, *A River Runs Through It*, *Aladdin*, *The Lion King*, *Cars*, *Enchanted*, *WALL-E* and *Pirates of the Caribbean*. Her bassoon solos are prominent in *March of the Penguins*, one of the only movies to list a bassoonist in its closing credits. She has also performed on hundreds of records for stars like Paul McCartney, Tony Williams, Barbra Streisand and Natalie Cole.

## **AIMÉE KRESTON**

### **Violin**

A native of Chicago, violinist Aimée Kreston spent her formative years studying with renowned pedagogue Almita Vamos. Ms. Kreston holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the Curtis Institute of Music and a Master of Music degree from the University of Minnesota. After completing her degrees, Kreston continued her studies with the legendary concertmaster Michel Schwalbe.

In 1989 Ms. Kreston became the youngest member of the Minnesota Orchestra, and a year later won the post of Principal Second Violin. From 1993 to 1997 she served as Concertmaster of L'Orchestre de Paris, and has been privileged to perform as concertmaster with some of the world's greatest conductors including Christoph Eschenbach, Wolfgang Sawallisch, Carlo Maria Giulini, Sir Gorge Solti and Pierre Boulez.

In 1998, Ms. Kreston joined the Los Angeles Mozart Orchestra as Concertmaster, and in June of 2000, she was engaged as Concertmaster of the Pasadena Symphony. Ms. Kreston has performed in nearly every European country, having appeared as soloist at Amsterdam's Concertgebouw and as a chamber musician at the Chatelet Chamber music series in Paris, the Reims music festival, and at the Queluz Chateau festival in Portugal. Ms. Kreston was a prizewinner of the Tibor Varga International Violin Competition in Switzerland in 1989 and at the WAMSO Young artist's competition in Minneapolis in 1988.

Kreston is on the faculty of the Colburn School and the Pasadena Conservatory. She is also the Executive Director of the Eastern Sierra Symphony, a summer music festival in Mammoth Lakes, CA and a member of the Pasadena String Quartet.

## **AARON OLTMAN**

### **Viola**

Aaron Oltman has performed with many orchestras in Southern California, including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Los Angeles Opera, Pasadena Symphony, New West Symphony, Santa Barbara Symphony and the Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra. He has appeared in chamber music concerts for the Camerata Pacifica in Santa Barbara, Sundays Live at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the South Bay Chamber Music Society, the San Luis Obispo Mozart Festival, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic's Green Umbrella series. He is active in the Recording Industry and has participated in the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, Encore Music Festival in Cleveland and the Sunflower Music Festival in Topeka, Kansas.

He received his Bachelors and Masters degrees of Music in Performance at the University of Southern California and has performed in Master Classes for Karen Tuttle, Gerald Stanick, Robert Vernon and Roland Vamos.

## **SARA PARKINS**

### **Violin**

Violinist SARA PARKINS is a Grammy award winner for Best Chamber Music Performance of the complete recordings of the Haydn String Quartets with the Angeles Quartet.

Sara has a strong interest in contemporary music and is a member of The Eclipse Quartet, which focuses on playing living composers. Her Piano trio, Mojave, performs new music as well as the

great traditional works of past centuries. She is an active studio musician, was a member of the Rosetti String Quartet, and is a member of the acclaimed Eroica Trio.

In addition, Sara has performed with the Orchestra of St. Luke's in New York City and is currently the principal second violinist with the Pasadena Symphony. Ms. Parkins has performed at the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, the Banff Centre, Strings in the Mountains and the Bravo Festival in Vail, Colorado. Internationally, Sara has participated at the Taklos Festival in Zurich, The Wels Unlimited Festival, the Festival Internationale de Cadaques in Spain and in Eisenstadt, Austria. Other international performances include Buenos Aires, Ljubljana, Prague, Russia, Austria and Germany as a Chamber Musician and Soloist.

Sara attended the Curtis Institute of Music and SUNY at Stony Brook. She lives in Los Angeles and loves the sunshine despite the traffic!

## **ANDREW PICKEN**

### **Viola**

Andrew Picken is the Principal Violist of the Pasadena Symphony, and has served as Associate Principal Viola of the Los Angeles Opera Orchestra since 2004. He has also served as Principal Violist of the Long Beach Symphony, Glendale Symphony and Los Angeles Baroque Orchestra. He is Associate Principal Violist of the Los Angeles Master Chorale Orchestra and has been a member of many Southern California ensembles including the Los Angeles Mozart Orchestra, the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, the Santa Barbara Symphony and Pacific Symphony Orchestra. He has been a regular performer in the Chamber Music Unbound festival in Mammoth Lakes, CA, and has also lent his talents to the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Oregon Bach Festival and the Nevada Chamber Music Festival, among others.

A member of the Pasadena String Quartet, he has performed with the Music Guild concert series in Bel Air, as well as at venues throughout Southern California. He has appeared as a guest artist with the Henschel String Quartet, the Lafayette String Quartet, the Felici Piano trio and has recorded with the Coup d'Archer String quartet. As a conductor, he has led the orchestra at the Rocky Ridge Music Festival in Estes Park, CO.

A dedicated pedagogue, Andrew is on the faculty of Pepperdine University as well as the Colburn School and Pasadena Conservatory of Music. His students have matriculated into many of the top music schools in the country including Juilliard, Oberlin, New England Conservatory, Boston University, Colburn Conservatory and USC. Andrew is married to Pasadena Symphony Concertmaster Aimée Kreston.

## **GEORGE KIM SCHOLES**

### **Cello**

George Kim Scholes has successfully pursued a variety of musical activities. His career has encompassed chamber music, pop-rock touring and recording, composing and arranging, solo classical performing, recordings for television and film, teaching and orchestral playing.

Mr. Scholes started his career as a member of folk-rock artist Harry Chapin's band playing cello and keyboards. He performed in 200-250 cities a year worldwide, and recorded on Elektra Records.

Returning to classical performance, and during post-graduate studies at the New England Conservatory of Music, Kim won the Concert Artists Guild Competition and the US Trust Artist Award. He also won an award for Excellence in Teaching in the Gregor Piatigorsky Competition in Boston. He has held faculty positions at M.I.T., Hartt School of Music, University of Toronto, Longy School of Music and Chicago's Roosevelt University.

He commenced his orchestral career with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, followed by a decade as principal cellist of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. In California, he has served as principal cellist of Opera Pacific, international tours as an extra player with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, a frequent recorder on Hollywood film scores and is currently Principal Cello of the Pasadena Symphony.

Scholes also composed the film score for the B horror film *The Nesting*, and has recorded on the Titanic, Summit and Cedille labels, among others. George is very happy to reside in the Carson Valley of northern Nevada.

### **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 300 gifted 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students from more than 50 schools all over the Southern California region. The PYSO has toured internationally at prestigious venues in New York, Vienna, and most recently San Jose, Costa Rica. They regularly perform throughout Southern California and have appeared 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.

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