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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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For artist images click here: <https://pasadenasympphony-pops.org/beethoven-emperor-press-release/>

**PASADENA SYMPHONY PRESENTS BEETHOVEN "EMPEROR" WITH A LITTLE LATIN FLAIR**  
*2019 Pulitzer Prize Winner Ellen Reid Opens the Program*

**Pasadena CA** – Music Director **David Lockington** and the **Pasadena Symphony** continue the **19-20 Classics season** with **Beethoven "Emperor"** on **Saturday, November 16, 2019** at **Ambassador Auditorium** with matinee and evening performances at **2:00pm and 8:00pm**. Along with Beethoven's heroic masterpiece, **Pulitzer-Prize-winning** composer **Ellen Reid's Petrichor** will open the performance by redefining 'surround sound' with spatialized musicians, shimmering strings and bright winds throughout the hall. Lockington delivers Latin sizzle in the second half of the program with the rapturous rhythms and sultry melodies of **De Falla's Three-Cornered Hat** and ***El amor brujo: Ritual Fire Dance***, and **Márquez's** wildly popular **Danzón No. 2** to finish off what he calls "a wonderfully exciting open-hearted program of dance music."

This lively concert brims with talent both on and off stage. At center stage, award-winning Italian pianist **Alessio Bax** will bring to life Beethoven's sublime and exuberant "Emperor" Piano Concerto with his exceptional lyricism and technique. Hailed as "among the most remarkable young pianists now before the public" by *Gramophone* for his recording of this same work, Bax has earned First Prize wins at both the Leeds and Hamamatsu International Piano Competitions, catapulting him to international fame.

Pasadena Symphony's **Composers Showcase** is proud to boast the winner of the **2019 Pulitzer Prize for Music** with composer and sound artist **Ellen Reid's Petrichor**. This piece premiered with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra in 2018, when Reid became the first composer to have works premiered by Los Angeles' four leading musical institutions — the Los Angeles Philharmonic, LA Opera, LACO and Los Angeles Master Chorale — all within one year. For this cutting edge performance, Reid will use the auditorium as a soundscape to create synesthesia to describe the phenomenon of Petrichor, the earthy scent produced when rain falls on dry soil. "The piece I'm writing is spatial, and this is both exciting and a challenge," said Reid when composing the piece. "The players will be scattered all over the hall, but no two halls are exactly the same."

To learn more about the music, join us for Insights – a free pre-concert dialogue with David Lockington and guest artists, which begins one hour prior to each concert. The Pasadena Symphony provides a socially vibrant experience specially designed for the music lover, the social butterfly or a date night out, and the inner epicurean in us all. Patrons can unwind at the Symphony Lounge, a posh setting along Ambassador Auditorium's beautiful outdoor plaza, that offers uniquely prepared menus for both lunch

and dinner at each concert from Claud & Co, fine wines by Michero Wines serving Riboli Family Wines, plus music before the concert and during intermission.

All concerts are held at Ambassador Auditorium, 131 South St. John Ave, Pasadena, CA. Subscription packages start at as low as \$99. Single tickets start at \$35 and may be purchased online at [www.pasadenasymphony-pops.org](http://www.pasadenasymphony-pops.org) or by calling (626) 793-7172.

#### **IF YOU GO:**

- **What:** The Pasadena Symphony presents Beethoven “Emperor”

David Lockington, conductor

Alessio Bax, piano

Ellen Reid Petrichor

Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 5 “Emperor”

De Falla Three-Cornered Hat: Suite No. 1

De Falla El amor brujo: Ritual Fire Dance

Márquez Danzón No. 2

- **When:** Saturday, November 16, 2019 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 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 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.

- **Symphony Lounge:** Located on the plaza at Ambassador Auditorium, the Rusnak Symphony Lounge opens at 12:00pm before the matinee and 6:00pm before the evening performance.

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

#### **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.

## **ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

### **David Lockington Music Director**

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 where he was a choral scholar, 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 with the Denver Symphony Orchestra for three years before turning to conducting.

Over the past thirty 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 Music Director of the Pasadena Symphony. He has a close relationship with the Orquesta Sinfonica del Principado de Asturias in Spain, where he was the orchestra's Principal Guest Conductor from 2012 through 2016, and in the 15/16 season was named 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 held positions with several other 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, Utah, Pacific, Colorado, Nashville, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Stamford, Tucson and Kansas City symphonies, the Florida and Louisville Orchestras, the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa and the Buffalo, Calgary and Oklahoma Philharmonics. Mr. Lockington's summer festival activities include appearances at the Grand Teton, Colorado Music, Interlochen, Chautauqua and Eastern Music festivals.

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## **Alessio Bax** **Piano**

Combining exceptional lyricism and insight with consummate technique, Alessio Bax is without a doubt "among the most remarkable young pianists now before the public" (*Gramophone*). He catapulted to prominence with First Prize wins at both the Leeds and Hamamatsu International Piano Competitions, and is now a familiar face on four continents, not only as a recitalist and chamber musician, but as a concerto soloist who has appeared with more than 100 orchestras, including the London and Royal Philharmonic Orchestras, Dallas and Cincinnati Symphonies, NHK Symphony in Japan, St. Petersburg Philharmonic with Yuri Temirkanov, and the City of Birmingham Symphony with Sir Simon Rattle.

This season, for his first appearances with three major orchestras, Bax revisits the two concertos heard on *Alessio Bax Plays Mozart*. He makes his Boston Symphony Orchestra debut playing Mozart's C-minor concerto (K.491) with Sir Andrew Davis. Then, on a spring tour of Australia and New Zealand, he not only reunites with the eminent conductor to reprise the same work for his Melbourne Symphony debut, but leads Mozart's B-flat major concerto (K.595) from the keyboard in his first performances with the Sydney Symphony. Bax completes the tour with a series of solo recitals and accounts of the Grieg concerto with Tadaaki Otaka that mark his Auckland Philharmonia debut. His international lineup also includes concerts in Israel and a Japanese tour featuring dates with the Tokyo Symphony, solo recitals, and chamber music at Le Pont International Festival in Ako and Himeji. Back in the U.S., he undertakes multiple concerto collaborations, including Brahms's Second with the Fort Worth Symphony under Miguel Harth-Bedoya and Barber with the Kansas Symphony and Edo de Waart, besides rejoining the

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center for a Hungarian-themed program and season-closing concert. He rounds out the season with a full summer of festivals, highlighted by his debut at France's International Chamber Music Festival of Salon-de-Provence, and returns to the Great Lakes Music Festival, Saratoga Chamber Music Festival, and Tuscany's Incontri in Terra di Siena festival, where he serves as Artistic Director.

Last season saw Signum Classics release the pianist's recording of Beethoven's "Emperor" concerto with the Southbank Sinfonia. Bax also undertook duo recital tours with Joshua Bell and Emmanuel Pahud; gave solo recitals at London's Wigmore Hall and the Leeds Piano Festival; returned to Hong Kong; and performed concertos by Gershwin, Rachmaninov, Grieg, and Schumann with orchestras including the Minnesota Orchestra, North Carolina Philharmonic, and Armenian Philharmonic. In 2016-17, he stepped in to play Brahms's Second with the Cincinnati Symphony under Sir Andrew Davis, in what proved "the most exciting debut in recent memory" (*Cincinnati Enquirer*), and made three appearances at the Wigmore Hall, including his solo recital debut, which aired live on BBC Radio 3.

Other highlights of recent seasons include Rachmaninov with London's Southbank Sinfonia and Vladimir Ashkenazy; his Minnesota Orchestra debut under Andrew Litton; a return to the Dallas Symphony for Barber under Jaap van Zweden, named one of the top ten concerts of 2013 by the *Dallas Morning News*; season-opening appearances with the Colorado Symphony; and concerts at L.A.'s Disney Hall, Washington's Kennedy Center, and New York's Carnegie Hall. In 2009, the pianist was awarded an Avery Fisher Career Grant, and four years later he received both the Andrew Wolf Chamber Music Award and Lincoln Center's Martin E. Segal Award, which recognizes young artists of exceptional accomplishment.

Bax is a staple on the international summer festival circuit, and has performed at the Verbier Festival in Switzerland; England's International Piano Series and Aldeburgh and Bath festivals; the Risør Festival in Norway; and the Moritzburg Festival, Ruhr Klavier-Festival, and Beethovenfest Bonn in Germany. In the U.S., he makes regular appearances at New York's Bard Music Festival, the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival, the Bravo! Vail festival, Mimir Chamber Music Festival, Minnesota's Beethoven Festival, Seattle Chamber Music Festival, Music@Menlo, Bridgehampton Chamber Music Festival, and Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival. He has given recitals at New York's Lincoln Center and other major music halls around the world, including those of Rome, Milan, Bilbao, Madrid, Paris, London, Tel Aviv, Tokyo, Seoul, Hong Kong, Buenos Aires, Mexico City, and Washington, DC. As a chamber musician, Bax has collaborated with Emanuel Ax, Sol Gabetta, Steven Isserlis, Nicholas Phan, Paul Watkins, Jörg Widmann, and the Emerson String Quartet, among many others.

Bax's celebrated discography for Signum Classics includes Beethoven's "Hammerklavier" and "Moonlight" Sonatas (a *Gramophone* "Editor's Choice"); *Bax & Chung*, a duo disc with Lucille Chung that includes Stravinsky's original four-hand version of the ballet *Pétrouchka* as well as music by Brahms and Piazzolla; *Alessio Bax plays Mozart*, comprising Piano Concertos K. 491 and K. 595 with London's Southbank Sinfonia and Simon Over; *Alessio Bax: Scriabin & Mussorgsky* (named "Recording of the Month ... and quite possibly my recording of the year" by MusicWeb International); *Alessio Bax plays Brahms* (a *Gramophone* "Critics' Choice"); *Bach Transcribed*; and *Rachmaninov: Preludes & Melodies* (an *American Record Guide* "Critics' Choice 2011"). Recorded for Warner Classics, his *Baroque Reflections* album was also a *Gramophone* "Editor's Choice." He performed Beethoven's "Hammerklavier" Sonata for maestro Daniel Barenboim in the PBS-TV documentary *Barenboim on Beethoven: Masterclass*, available as a DVD boxed set on the EMI label.

Alessio Bax graduated with top honors at the record age of 14 from the conservatory of Bari, his hometown in Italy, where his teacher was Angela Montemurro. He studied in France with Francois-Joël Thiollier and attended the Chigiana Academy in Siena under Joaquín Achúcarro. In 1994 he moved to Dallas to continue his studies with Achúcarro at SMU's Meadows School of the Arts, where, with Lucille Chung, he is now the Johnson-Prothro Artist-in-Residence. He also serves with Chung as co-artistic director of the Joaquín Achúcarro Foundation, created to support young pianists' careers. A Steinway artist, Bax lives in New York City with Chung and their four-year-old daughter, Mila. Beyond the concert hall he is known for his longtime obsession with fine food; as a 2013 *New York Times* profile noted, he is not only notorious for hosting "epic" multi-course dinner parties, but often spends his intermissions dreaming of meals to come.

**Ellen Reid**  
**Composer**

Ellen Reid is one of the most innovative artists of her generation. A composer and sound artist whose breadth of work spans opera, sound design, film scoring, ensemble and choral writing, she was awarded the 2019 Pulitzer Prize for Music and recently became the first composer to have works premiered by Los Angeles' four leading musical institutions — the Los Angeles Philharmonic, LA Opera, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, and Los Angeles Master Chorale — all within one year.

Ellen's first opera, *p r i s m*, earned her the 2019 Pulitzer Prize and opened to universal acclaim in sold-out runs on both the east and west coasts, as a part of New York's Prototype Festival and the LA Opera's Off Grand series. Upcoming highlights include a new work for the New York Philharmonic, and a collaboration with Janet Cardiff and George Bures Miller on a sound installation for the LA Phil's Walt Disney Concert Hall. In the fall of 2019, Ellen begins a three-year appointment as Creative Advisor and Composer-in-Residence for Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra.

Ellen was listed as one of Musical America's 30 Professionals of the Year in 2016 for her work with Luna Composition Lab, a mentorship program for young self-identified female, non-binary, and gender non-conforming composers that she co-founded with composer Missy Mazzoli. She received her BFA from Columbia University and her MA from California Institute of the Arts. Ellen splits her time between her two favorite cities — Los Angeles and New York.

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