

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pasadena Symphony Association
Pasadena Symphony & POPS
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For images visit: <https://pasadenasympphony-pops.org/press-release-home-for-the-holidays/>

December 3, 2020

**PASADENA'S MOST CHERISHED HOLIDAY CONCERT GOES
HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS WITH A FREE LIVE STREAM DECEMBER 19**

Pasadena, CA – The **Pasadena Symphony's** annual **Holiday Candlelight** concert will be transformed into *Home for the Holidays* this season, delivered to viewers in a **free live-stream on December 19 at 4pm, available through December 21, 2020**. Pasadena's most sought-after holiday concert has sold out for the past nine years, and now patrons can enjoy this beloved event from the best seats in their house. This heartwarming community celebration will carry on the Pasadena Symphony's tradition of filling your holidays with the joy of music.

Music Director David Lockington will host this festive concert that features an array of ensembles including the **Los Angeles Children's Chorus, the Donald Brinegar Singers and the L.A. Bronze Handbell Ensemble**, along with a sextet of **Pasadena Symphony musicians**. Lockington will also appear throughout the program on cello, including for a piece he composed himself, with solo handbell artist **Linda Krantz**. Special guest **Lisa Vroman** will add her sparkling vocals to the performance. Regarded as a "musical and theatrical marvel" by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Vroman has countless Broadway credits under her belt, most notably starring for over eight years on Broadway, in San Francisco, and in Los Angeles as Christine Daaé in *The Phantom of the Opera*.

This year's program has something for everyone to ring in the holiday season, from traditional holiday classics to popular standards. Hear *Silent Night, What Child is This?, Carol of the Bells, Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas, Imagine, The Nutcracker Suite, Winter Wonderland, Let it Snow*, and many more cherished favorites. Top off your holidays with lasting memories for the whole family at this time-honored tradition, **now available for free** from the comfort of your own living room.

Home for the Holidays will be streamed to the public on **Saturday, December 19 at 4:00pm and will be available for free for 48 hours**. Watch on our website at pasadenasympphony-pops.org or subscribe to our YouTube channel to view it as part of the community with comments: www.youtube.com/ThePasadenaSymphony.

IF YOU GO:

- **What:** Home for the Holidays with the Pasadena Symphony

- **Who:**
David Lockington, Music Director and Host, Cello
Lisa Vroman, Vocalist
Linda Krantz (Solo Handbell Artist)
Los Angeles Children's Chorus
The Donald Brinegar Singers
L.A. Bronze Handbell Ensemble
Musicians of the Pasadena Symphony
 Aroussiak Baltaian, violin I
 Vivian Wolf, violin II
 Qiang Wang, viola
 Judith Henderson, cello
 Alison Bjorkedal, harp
 Alan Steinberger, keyboard

- **When:** Saturday, December 19, 2020 at 4:00pm, available for 48 hours through December 21, 2020

- **Where:** www.pasadenasymphony-pops.org OR www.youtube.com/ThePasadenaSymphony

- **Cost:** Free

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

David Lockington

Music Director and Host, Cello

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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Lisa Vroman

Soloist

From Broadway to Classics, on stage and in concert, Lisa Vroman has established herself as one of America's most versatile voices. She has been regarded as a "musical and theatrical marvel" by the San Francisco Chronicle, as well as "one of American Musical Theater's most beautiful voices" by acclaimed Broadway producer Sir Cameron Mackintosh.

Lisa starred for over 8 years on Broadway, in San Francisco, and in Los Angeles as Christine Daaé in *The Phantom of the Opera*. Ms. Vroman starred as Rosabella in *The Most Happy Fella*, making her New York City Opera debut with Paul Sorvino playing the title role. She starred as Lili Vanessi in *Kiss Me Kate* with both Glimmerglass Opera and the MUNY Theater of St. Louis, Anna Leonowens in *The King and I* with Lyric Opera of Virginia, and played Marian Paroo in *The Music Man* with Shirley Jones (Mrs. Paroo) and Patrick Cassidy (Harold Hill) at The Bushnell Theatre in Hartford CT. Lisa sang the role of Birdie in *Regina* with Utah Opera, conducted by Keith Lockhart; made her New Jersey Opera debut as Rosalinde in *Die*

Fledermaus (directed by Ira Siff); and premiered and recorded two Comic Operas by composers John Musto (Bastianello) and William Bolcom (Lucrezia) with the *New York Festival of Song*.

Her Broadway debut was in *Aspects of Love*, and she was the first to play both Fantine and Cosette in *Les Miserables*. For PBS she was featured with Colm Wilkinson and Michael Ball in Cameron Mackintosh's *Hey, Mr. Producer!* at a Royal Gala at the Lyceum Theatre in London.

She sang the role of Johanna in the San Francisco Symphony's Emmy Award winning PBS production of *Sweeney Todd in Concert*, with Patti Lupone and George Hearn. Both are available on DVD. Lisa starred as Laurey in *Oklahoma*, filmed live in concert for the BBC Proms Festival at Royal Albert Hall in London, played Mary Turner in Gershwin's *Of Thee I Sing/Let 'em Eat Cake* in concert with Michael Tilson Thomas conducting the San Francisco Symphony and Chorus, and played Lucy Brown in *Threepenny Opera* at the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco with Bebe Neuwirth, Nancy Dussault, and Anika Noni Rose. Other roles have included Laurie in *The Tender Land*; Maria in *The Sound Of Music*; Josephine in *HMS Pinafore*, Yum-Yum in *The Mikado*; and Anna 1 in *The Seven Deadly Sins*. She has sung Maria in *West Side Story*, Guenevere in *Camelot*, Carrie Pipperidge in *Carousel*, Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady*, and Amalia Balash in *She Loves Me*, as well as many other well-known musical roles.

Lisa is a George London Competition Grant recipient and a 1999 Minerva Award recipient from the State University of New York at Potsdam. She received an Undergraduate degree in Music Education from the Crane School of Music, SUNY Potsdam, a Masters degree in Fine Arts, Opera Performance from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, and was recently awarded an honorary Doctor of Music from SUNY Potsdam. Ms. Vroman has become an active mentor and sought-after clinician with many colleges and universities across the country and around the world. She has acted as a judge in both the Lotte Lenya Competition for the Kurt Weill Foundation and UCLA's Walter Jurmann Competition. She has recently joined the teaching faculty of the Institute for American Musical Theatre in New York.

With a repertoire that ranges from Stravinsky to Weill to Broadway, Lisa is a frequent guest soloist with theater and opera companies, and orchestras including San Francisco, Philadelphia, Chicago, Atlanta, the National, Malaysia, Seattle, Hong Kong, Cleveland, Nashville, Pacific, Utah, Dallas, the Boston Pops with Keith Lockhart, the New York Pops at Carnegie Hall, and the Philly Pops with Peter Nero. She made her debut at The Hollywood Bowl in Disney's 75th celebration, singing and dancing with legend Dick Van Dyke in a medley from *Mary Poppins*.

Lisa has sung in concert with composer Stephen Schwartz, organist David Higgs, and the Empire Brass Quintet. Her solo CD, *Broadway Classic*, features Metropolitan Opera mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe and 47 of San Francisco's finest orchestral players. Lisa had the honor of singing at the Profiles in Courage Award dinner in Boston at the JFK Library, as a guest of the Kennedy family. She has also sung on separate occasions for Queen Elizabeth, former presidents Gerald Ford, George H.W. Bush, and Bill Clinton, former Vice President Al Gore, and the Library of Congress.

Recent performances have included *An Evening of Rodgers & Hammerstein* with the Hong Kong Philharmonic, concert performances of Cole Porter's 1928 *La Revue Des Ambassadeurs* with l'Opéra de Rennes in France, a multi-city concert tour in China, and playing the role of Maria Callas in Terrence McNally's award winning play, *Master Class*.

Lisa lives in Pasadena, CA with husband Patrick O'Neil and their beautiful dog Barber.

Los Angeles Children's Chorus

Los Angeles Children's Chorus (LACC), widely recognized for its agile *bel canto* sound and artistic excellence, has been lauded as “hauntingly beautiful” (*Los Angeles Times*), “astonishingly polished” (*Performances Magazine*), “extraordinary in its abilities” (*Culture Spot LA*), and “one of the world's foremost children's choirs” (*Pasadena Star News*). Founded in 1986 and led by Artistic Director Fernando Malvar-Ruiz, who began his tenure in August 2018, LACC presents its own concerts and also performs with such leading organizations as LA Opera, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, Los Angeles Master Chorale, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Pasadena Symphony and POPS, Calder Quartet, Jacaranda and MUSE/IQUE. The Chorus serves more than 300 children ages 6 to 18 from 50 communities across Southern California in seven choirs – Concert Choir, Chamber Singers, Chorale (LACC’s soprano, alto, baritone, bass ensemble), Young Men’s Ensemble, Intermediate Choir, Apprentice Choir and Preparatory Choir – and a First Experiences in Singing program and First Experiences in Choral Singing Ensemble for 6-8-year-olds. LACC, recipient of Chorus America’s 2014 Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence, the nation’s highest choral honor, has toured North and South America, Africa, China, Cuba, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Europe. It appears on John Williams' latest recording, *John Williams & Steven Spielberg: The Ultimate Collection*, release in 2017, as well as the Los Angeles Master Chorale’s critically acclaimed Decca recording *A Good Understanding*. The subject of four documentaries by Academy Award®-winning filmmaker Freida Mock, LACC is featured in the Academy Award®-nominated *Sing!*, about a year in the life of the choir; *Sing Opera!*, documenting the production of the LACC-commissioned family opera *Keepers of the Night*; *Sing China!*, chronicling its groundbreaking tour to China prior to the Beijing Olympics; and *the CHOIR and the CONDUCTOR*, which documents Artistic Director Emerita Anne Tomlinson’s final year as conductor and lasting impact on the chorus. LACC has performed with John Mayer on NBC's “The Tonight Show” and was featured on PBS’s “Great Performances,” BBC Radio and Public Radio International's nationally syndicated show “From the Top,” among other credits. For more information, please visit www.lachildrenschorus.org.

The Donald Brinegar Singers

Donald Brinegar is a conductor, tenor soloist, voice instructor, educator and master class clinician. Professor Emeritus of Music at Pasadena City College, Brinegar directed the Choral Studies program at PCC for 36 years. Brinegar also conducts the Donald Brinegar Singers, a community choral ensemble in Pasadena, California, and is Director of Chorus for the Pasadena Symphony and POPS, During the summers he co-directs the Cal State Los Angeles masters program in choral conducting.

Brinegar has an extensive background as both as a soloist and a conductor, having performed throughout the United States, Japan, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, and Canada. He has performed as a featured soloist with Robert Shaw, Helmuth Rilling, Roger Wagner, Gerard Swartz, Murray Sidlin, Howard Swan, Charles Hirt, Rod Eichenberger, William Hall, Marvin Hamlisch, Michael Feinstein, and with numerous music festivals, orchestras and opera associations. He has collaborated artistically with Henry Mancini, Barry Manilow, The Los Angeles Philharmonic, John Delancie, and the Chieftains. His choirs have performed for the American Choral Directors Association Conferences, California Music Educators (MENC), Choral Conductors Guild, and at Carnegie Hall, the Los Angeles Music Center, and the Hollywood Bowl.

The Donald Brinegar Singers choral ensemble was founded in the Fall of 1997 as an ensemble of former students and colleagues of Professor Brinegar. The Singers are the resident chorus for the Pasadena Symphony and POPS, having sung for David Lockington, Grant Cooper, Marvin Hamlisch, Larry Blank, and Michael Feinstein. The ensemble has performed at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Walt Disney Concert Hall, the Hollywood Bowl, the Los Angeles Arboretum, among others. The Singers have given premiere performances of the music of Bruce Babcock, David Childs, Emma Lou Diemer, Morten Lauridsen, Z. Randall Stroope, and Eric Whitacre, among many others. The Singers recorded the background score for the film *The Bridge to Terabithia*, music by Aaron Zigman. They are the featured ensemble in an Irish Folk Song Collection, *Letters from Ireland* by Mark Brymer.

L.A. Bronze Handbell Ensemble

Under the artistic direction of Alex Guebert, L.A. Bronze is an auditioned handbell concert choir creating performances of the highest caliber for the community. Their music making is exciting and uplifting, and audiences around Southern California have praised their concerts. The group is comprised of accomplished handbell musicians who are seeking challenging opportunities for making music, while providing educational opportunities for the handbell community. Our members come from all over the L. A. basin and include musicians, educators, administrators and other professionals.

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 4th-12th grade students from more than 50 schools all over the Southern California region. The PYSO Symphony performs at prestigious venues throughout Southern California and has 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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