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Pasadena Symphony Association
Pasadena Symphony & POPS
Contact: Lora Unger
Lunger@PasadenaSymphony-Pops.org
(626) 793-7172 ext. 12



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For full artist bios and high res images visit: <https://pasadenasympphony-pops.org/21-22-symphony-season-announcement/>

PASADENA SYMPHONY ANNOUNCES SEVEN ARTISTIC PARTNERS TO LEAD THE ORCHESTRA FOR THE 2021-2022 SYMPHONY SERIES TOGETHER WITH NEWS THAT MUSIC DIRECTOR DAVID LOCKINGTON WILL BE ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE SEASON

Acclaimed conductors Keitaro Harada, Nic McGegan, Brett Mitchell, Anna Rakitina, Jenny Wong, Lidiya Yankovskaya and Joseph Young will serve as Artistic Partners and lead the orchestra for the 21/22 season

The Pasadena Symphony's annual Composers Showcase will feature works from musicians who are shaping the future of classical music with Brett Banducci, Gabriela Frank, Jessie Montgomery, Nkeiru Okoye, Adam Schoenberg and Gabriella Smith

The Pasadena Symphony is committed to providing the safest possible setting for the community and will require all concertgoers to be fully vaccinated to attend concerts at Ambassador Auditorium.

For protocols, visit: pasadenasympphony-pops.org/symphony-covid-safety/

Pasadena, CA – Pasadena Symphony announces its 94th season with an exhilarating schedule of seven concerts, running **October 16, 2021** through **April 30, 2022**. Alongside a stellar program of celebrated classical works and guest artists, the symphony introduces seven conductors who will serve as **Artistic Partners**, each bringing a new and diverse voice to the podium and the Pasadena community. The annual **Composers Showcase** for the 2021-22 season will feature works by both emerging and established contemporary composers at each concert, including one world premiere by Brett Banducci. Music Director David Lockington will be on a leave of absence for the season. All concerts take place at Pasadena's **Ambassador Auditorium** with both matinee and evening performances at 2pm and 8pm. The season also includes the annually sold-out **Holiday Candlelight** Concert on Saturday, **December 18, 2021** with both 4pm and 7pm performances at **All Saints Church**.

"We are excited to finally bring our full orchestra back to work indoors this October to our home at the acoustically exquisite Ambassador Auditorium," says **Lora Unger, CEO** adding "we'll be welcoming the community back to indoor concerts safely, ensuring all are vaccinated both in the audience and on stage. This season's lineup of conductors, guest artists and featured composers represents a diversely powerful voice of the future of classical music and we're honored to bring the joy of live music back to the concert hall where it belongs."

Conductor **Joseph Young** and violinist **Randall Goosby** kick off the 2021/22 season on **October 16** with **Beethoven Symphony No. 7** and **Brahms Violin Concerto**, and **Anna Rakitina** leads the orchestra on **November 13th** with **Dvořák's Symphony No. 9 "New World"** alongside **Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue** with

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pianist **Llewellyn Sanchez-Werner**. Conductor **Jenny Wong** will ring in the holidays with the orchestra at its annual **Holiday Candlelight Concert** on **December 18**. Performance specialist **Nicholas McGegan** returns to lead the orchestra's annual Baroque concert on **January 22** with **Vivaldi's Gloria** and **Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 5**; **Lidiya Yankovskaya** and virtuoso violinist **Chee-Yun** bring **Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto** and **Romeo and Juliet** to the stage on **February 12**; **Brett Mitchell** and pianist **Aldo López-Gavilán** perform **Greig's Piano Concerto** and **Mozart Symphony No. 40** on **March 19**; and **Keitaro Harada** and **Valentina Lisitsa** close the season on **April 30** with **Prokofiev Piano Concerto No. 3** and **Beethoven Symphony No. 5**.

Fostering the future of classical music is integral to the Pasadena Symphony's mission and the 2021-22 season will usher in the second annual Composers Showcase, featuring the best and brightest contemporary composers on each symphony concert. **Jessie Montgomery's Banner** opens the season on October 16, with **Nkeiru Okoye's Voices Shouting Out** on November 13, **Gabriella Smith's Brandenburg Interstices** on January 22, **Gabriela Franks' Elegia Andina** on February 12, **Adam Shoenberg's Finding Rothko** on March 19 and on April 30, the orchestra will perform the world premiere of **In Nomine** by **Brett Banducci**.

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. Audiences can enjoy a drink or a bite in the lively outdoor 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 for both lunch and dinner and a full service bar before the concert and during intermission.

All Symphony series concerts take place at Ambassador Auditorium, 131 S. St. John Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91105, with performances at 2pm and 8pm. Subscription packages start at \$99 with single tickets starting at \$35. Both may be purchased online at pasadenasympphony-pops.org or by calling (626) 793-7172.

2021/22 Symphony Series Calendar

Beethoven Symphony No. 7

October 16, 2021

Joseph Young, conductor

Randall Goosby, violin

Jessie Montgomery	Banner
Brahms	Violin Concerto
Beethoven	Symphony No. 7

Rhapsody in Blue

November 13, 2021

Anna Rakitina, conductor

Llewellyn Sanchez-Werner, piano

Nkeiru Okoye	Voices Shouting Out
Gershwin	Rhapsody in Blue
Dvořák	Symphony No. 9 "New World"

Holiday Candlelight**December 18, 2021**

Jenny Wong, conductor
Soloist to be announced
Los Angeles Children's Chorus
The Donald Brinegar Singers
L.A. Bronze Handbell Ensemble

Baroque: Brandenburg 5**January 22, 2022**

Nicholas McGegan, conductor
Aubree Oliverson, violin
Martha Chan, flute
Bogang Hwang, harpsichord
Los Angeles Children's Chorus
Pasadena Civic Ballet

Gabreilla Smith Brandenburg-Interstices
Boccherini Musica notturna delle strade di Madrid
Bach Brandenburg Concerto No. 5
Vivaldi Gloria

Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto**February 12, 2022**

Lidiya Yankovskaya, conductor
Chee-Yun, violin

Gabriela Frank Elegia Andina
Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto
Tchaikovsky *Romeo and Juliet* Fantasy Overture
Rimsky Korsakov Capriccio espagnol

Mozart Symphony No. 40**March 19, 2022**

Brett Mitchell, conductor
Aldo López-Gavilán, piano

Adam Shoenberg Finding Rothko
Grieg Piano Concerto
Mozart Symphony No. 40

Beethoven Symphony No. 5**April 30, 2022**

Keitaro Harada, conductor
Valentina Lisitsa, piano
James Thatcher, horn

Brett Banducci In Nomine (world premiere, Pasadena Symphony commission)
Prokofiev Piano Concerto No. 3
Beethoven Symphony No. 5

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Beethoven Symphony No. 7, October 16, 2021



Joseph Young
Conductor

Praised for his suavely adventurous programming, Joseph Young is widely recognized as one of the most gifted conductors of his generation. He currently serves as Music Director of the Berkeley Symphony, Artistic Director of Ensembles for the Peabody Conservatory, and Resident Conductor of the National Youth Orchestra–USA at Carnegie Hall.

Recent tenures include Assistant Conductor of the Atlanta Symphony, Resident Conductor of the Phoenix Symphony and Joseph was a featured conductor at the League of American Orchestras' prestigious Bruno Walter National Conductor Preview. Joseph is a recipient of the 2015 Solti Foundation U.S. Career Assistance Award for young conductors, an award he also won in 2008 and 2014.



Randall Goosby
Violin

Randall Goosby made his solo debut with the Jacksonville Symphony at age 9. At the age of 13, he was the youngest winner of the Sphinx Concerto Competition and received the Isaac Stern Award, which led to his debut at Carnegie Hall. *The New York Times* raved that he “exerted a masterly level of control and lavished an exquisite tone...his performance won him a deserved standing ovation for its sheer virtuosity.”

Randall has performed on NPR’s “From the Top” and was honored as a *Rising Star* of the Stradivari Society. He shares his love of music through community engagement programs for public schools, children’s hospitals and music programs across the USA. Randall earned his Bachelor of Music and Master of Music from Juilliard. He currently plays on a Guarneri del Gesu (1735) on generous loan from the Stradivari Society.



Jessie Montgomery
Composer

Jessie Montgomery is an acclaimed composer, violinist and educator. She is the recipient of the Leonard Bernstein Award from the ASCAP Foundation, and her works are frequently performed around the world. She interweaves classical music with elements of vernacular music, improvisation and social justice, placing her squarely as one of the most relevant interpreters of contemporary American sound.

Her works have been described by the *Washington Post* as “turbulent, wildly colorful and exploding with life.” Highlights of her growing body of work include *Five Slave Songs* (2018), *Records from a Vanishing City* (2016), *Caught by the Wind* (2016), and *Banner* (2014), written to mark the 200th anniversary of The Star-Spangled Banner. She holds degrees from the Juilliard School and New York University and is currently a Graduate Fellow in Music Composition at Princeton University.

Rhapsody in Blue, November 13, 2021



Anna Rakitina
Conductor

Anna Rakitina is the assistant conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, only the second female assistant conductor in the Boston Symphony's history, and was a 2019-20 Dudamel Fellow with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Anna won prestigious prizes at the Malko Competition in Copenhagen (2018), "Deutscher Dirigentenpreis" competition in Cologne (2017) and the TCO International Conducting Competition in Taipei (2015).

Anna was born in Moscow, began her musical education as a violinist and studied conducting at Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory and Hamburg's Hochschule für Musik und Theater. She founded the chamber orchestra "Affrettando" in conjunction with conductor Sergey Akimov in Moscow. Recent debuts include performances with the Boston and Baltimore Symphony Orchestras, Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne, Orchestre de Paris among others around the world.



Llewellyn Sanchez-Werner
Piano

A gifted virtuoso, Llewellyn Sanchez-Werner has been described as "poetic and electrifying, with a masterful technique." He has been featured on NPR, CNN International, the Wall Street Journal and WDR-Arte. Llewellyn is a Gilmore Young Artist, an honor awarded every two years highlighting the most promising American pianists of the new generation. He received the Atlantic Council Young Global Citizen Award recognizing his dedication to social action through music in such countries as Iraq, Rwanda, France, Canada and the United States. He partnered with the Gershwin family on a concert and biographical tribute to the Gershwin brothers, and performed "Hallelujah Junction" for John Adams at his 70th birthday celebration.

A California native, Sanchez-Werner began his first musical degree at age 5, and at 6 began performing regularly with orchestras. At Juilliard, he was the youngest ever to earn a Bachelor's Degree at 14 and a Master's Degree at 18. Sanchez-Werner studies with Boris Berman at the Yale School of Music, where he received the Charles S. Miller Prize at the completion of his first year in their prestigious Artist Diploma program.



Nkeiru Okoye
Composer

A composer with a gift for incorporating many influences and styles, Nkeiru Okoye is well known for her opera, *Harriet Tubman: When I Crossed that Line to Freedom*, the orchestral work, *Voices Shouting Out*, which she composed as an artistic response to 9/11 and her piano suite, *African Sketches*. Profiled in Routledge's *African American Music: An Introduction* textbook, Dr. Okoye is also the inaugural recipient of the Florence Price Award for Composition. In March 2020, the State of Michigan issued a proclamation acknowledging Dr. Okoye's "extraordinary contributions" to the history of Detroit for *Black Bottom*, a symphonic experience commissioned in celebration of the centennial season of Orchestra Hall.

Upcoming compositions for the 2021-2022 season include *Euba's Dance* for cellist Matt Haimowitz, *When young spring comes* for pianist and NPR Host, Laura Downes and a micro-opera, *600 Square Feet*, for Cleveland Opera Theatre. Dr. Okoye is a board member of Composers Now and holds a BM in Composition from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and a PhD in Music Theory and Composition from Rutgers University.

Holiday Candlelight, December 18, 2021



Jenny Wong
Conductor

A native of Hong Kong, Jenny Wong is currently the Associate Artistic Director of the Los Angeles Master Chorale. Conducting highlights include performances of Peter Sellars' staging of di Lasso's *Lagime di San Pietro* while on tour in Australia, Mexico and throughout the U.S. Wong was one of nine national recipients of OPERA America's inaugural Opera Grants for Women Stage Directors and Conductors, through which she will be conducting Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire* and Kate Soper's *Voices from the Killing Jar* with Long Beach Opera in collaboration with WildUp.

Wong has been a conducting fellow for the Oregon Bach Festival, Baltimore Chamber Orchestra, Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, Distinguished Concerts International New York and Hong Kong SingFest. Wong received her Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music from the University of Southern California. She earned her undergraduate degree in voice performance from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Baroque: Brandenburg 5, January 22, 2022



Nicholas McGegan
Conductor

Nicholas McGegan has been described as "an expert in 18th century style," by *The New Yorker*. McGegan has dedicated five decades to conducting and recently completed a lauded 34-year tenure as Music Director of Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Chorale, for which he is now Music Director Laureate. He has also served as Principal Guest Conductor of the Pasadena Symphony and Hungary's Capella Savaria. McGegan's approach — intelligent, infused with joy and never dogmatic — has led to appearances with many of the world's major orchestras including Cleveland,

Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Hong Kong, Sydney, the Royal Concertgebouw and regular collaboration with choreographer Mark Morris on numerous projects.

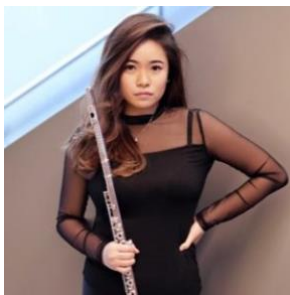
McGegan's discography includes more than 100 releases spanning five decades, including more than 40 with Philharmonia Baroque and Chorale, and close to twenty with Capella Savaria, who appointed him Principal Guest Conductor for Life. He was made an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) "for services to music overseas". McGegan is committed to the next generation of musicians, frequently conducting and coaching students in regular engagements at Yale, Juilliard, Harvard, the Colburn School, Aspen Music Festival and more.



Aubree Oliverson
Violin

23-year-old violinist Aubree Oliverson is a charismatic performer and communicator who loves sharing the joys of music with people of all ages. The *Miami New Times* has raved about her “powerful performance, brimming with confidence and joy.” Her solo debut with the Utah Symphony at age eleven opened the door to a life pursuit as a concert violinist. Very quickly thereafter Aubree garnered several accolades, including her Carnegie Hall Weill Hall recital debut at age twelve as winner of the American

Protégé International Strings Competition, several featured performances on NPR’s *From The Top*, a 2016 National Young Arts Foundation Award and winner of the 2016 U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts, the highest honor the U.S. government can bestow on a high school student. Aubree currently studies with Robert Lipsett at the Colburn Conservatory of Music. She plays on a 1743 Sanctus Seraphin violin thanks to the generous loan of Dr. James Stewart.



Martha Chan
Flute

Born and raised in Hong Kong, Martha Chan is an Artist Diploma candidate at The Colburn School, where she studies with Jim Walker. She graduated with her MD from Rice University and holds a BM from The Eastman School of Music. At age 14, Martha debuted as soloist with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra and made her New York solo debut in Carnegie Hall's Weil Recital Hall after winning first prize at the 2015 American Fine Arts International Concerto Competition. Martha has performed as principal flute at The John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts with the National

Symphony Orchestra Summer Music Institute and at Lincoln Center with the Eastman Philharmonia.



Bogang Hwang
Piano

Bogang Hwang is a 24-year-old pianist from Seoul, Korea. She began playing the piano at age six and earned her Bachelor's degree at Seoul National University. She is a prize winner in many competitions in Korea including the Eumag Chunchu Competition, Educlassic Music Competition, Korea Germany Brahms Association Competition, The Seoul Orchestra Competition, Eumyoun Piano Competition and The Korean Liszt Competition. She has also participated in a number of festivals, including the Seoul

National University International Piano Academy, Seoul National University International Chamber Music Festival and Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival. Hwang is currently an Artist Diploma candidate at the Colburn Conservatory of Music, where she studies with Fabio Bidini.



Gabriella Smith
Composer

Gabriella Smith’s music is described as “high-voltage and wildly imaginative” (*Philadelphia Inquirer*), and “the coolest, most exciting, most inventive new voice I’ve heard in ages” (*Musical America*). Her music has been performed throughout the U.S. and internationally by the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Roomful of Teeth, Eighth Blackbird, Bang on a Can All-Stars, Nashville Symphony and PRISM Quartet among

others. Recent highlights include the world premieres at Bravo! Vail Music Festival, and performances of Tumblebird Contrails by the Los Angeles Philharmonic in January 2019. In 2016, Gabriella served as the Nashville Symphony's inaugural Composer Lab & Workshop Fellow. She is a recipient of a BMI Student Composer Award (2018), the ASCAP Leo Kaplan Award (2014) and three ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer Awards among others. Gabriella received her BM in composition from the Curtis Institute of Music and MM at Princeton University.

Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto, February 12, 2022



Lidiya Yankovskaya
Conductor

Russian-American conductor Lidiya Yankovskaya is a committed advocate for Russian masterpieces, operatic rarities, and contemporary works on the leading edge of classical music. She has conducted more than 40 world premieres, including 16 operas, and her strength as an innovative and multi-faceted collaborator has brought together the worlds of puppetry, robotics, circus arts, symphonic repertoire and opera onstage. She serves as Music Director of Chicago Opera Theater and is the Founder and Artistic Director of the Refugee Orchestra Project, which proclaims the cultural and societal relevance of refugees through music. She holds a BA in Music and Philosophy from Vassar College and an MM in Conducting from Boston University. A recipient of Solti Foundation U.S. Career Assistance Awards in 2018 and 2021, Ms. Yankovskaya has been featured at the League of American Orchestras' Bruno Walter National Conductor Preview and served as U.S. Representative to the 2018 World Opera Forum in Madrid.



Chee-Yun
Violin

Violinist Chee-Yun's flawless technique, dazzling tone, and compelling artistry have enraptured audiences on five continents. Charming, charismatic, and deeply passionate about her art, Chee-Yun continues to carve a unique place for herself in the ever-evolving world of classical music. Chee-Yun has performed with many of the world's foremost orchestras and conductors. She has received exceptional acclaim as a recording artist since the release of her debut album of virtuoso encore pieces in 1993. Chee-Yun has performed frequently on NPR's *Performance Today* and on WQXR and WNYC radio in New York City. A short documentary film about Chee-Yun, *Chee-Yun: Seasons on the Road*, premiered in 2017 and is available on YouTube.

Chee-Yun's first public performance at age eight took place in her native Seoul after she won the Grand Prize of the Korean Times Competition. At 13, she came to the United States to perform in a Young People's Concert with the New York Philharmonic. In addition to her active performance and recording schedule, Chee-Yun is a dedicated and enthusiastic educator. She gives master classes around the world and has held several teaching posts at notable music schools such as the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, Indiana University School of Music and Southern Methodist University in Dallas. Chee-Yun plays a violin made by Francesco Ruggieri in 1669. It is rumored to have been buried with a previous owner for 200 years and has been profiled by the *Washington Post*.



Gabriela Frank
Composer

Included in the *Washington Post's* list of the 35 most significant women composers in history (August, 2017), identity has always been at the center of composer/pianist Gabriela Lena Frank's music. Born in Berkeley, California to a mother of mixed Peruvian/Chinese ancestry and a father of Lithuanian/Jewish descent, Frank explores her multicultural heritage most ardently through her compositions. Winner of a Latin Grammy and nominated for Grammys as both composer and pianist, Gabriela also holds a Guggenheim Fellowship and a USA Artist Fellowship, given each year to fifty of the country's finest artists.

Her music has been described as "crafted with unself-conscious mastery" by the *Washington Post*. Gabriela Lena Frank is regularly commissioned by luminaries such as cellist Yo Yo Ma, soprano Dawn Upshaw, as well as by the talents of the next generation such as conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin of the New York Metropolitan Opera and Philadelphia Orchestra. Frank earned her BM and MM at Rice University and earned her DMA at the University of Michigan.

Mozart Symphony No. 40, March 19, 2022



Brett Mitchell
Conductor

Hailed for presenting engaging, in-depth explorations of thoughtfully curated programs, Brett Mitchell has served as Music Director of the Colorado Symphony since July 2017. Brett is in consistent demand as a guest conductor, making his debut with the San Francisco Symphony in July 2019, and has served as Associate Conductor of The Cleveland Orchestra and Assistant Conductor of the Houston Symphony.

In addition to his work with professional orchestras, Mr. Mitchell is also well known for his affinity for working with and mentoring young musicians. His tenure as Music Director of the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra was highly praised, and included a four-city tour of China in 2015. Mr. Mitchell holds degrees in conducting from the University of Texas at Austin and composition from Western Washington University, which selected him as its Young Alumnus of the Year in 2014. Mr. Mitchell was also one of five recipients of the League of American Orchestras' American Conducting Fellowship from 2007 to 2010.



Aldo López-Gavilán
Piano

Praised for his "dazzling technique and rhythmic fire" by the *Seattle Times* and dubbed a "formidable virtuoso" by *The Times* (London), Cuban pianist and composer Aldo López-Gavilán excels in both the classical and jazz worlds as a recitalist, concerto soloist, chamber-music collaborator and performer of his own electrifying jazz compositions. Upcoming highlights include performances of his piano concerto *Emporium* with the West Michigan Symphony, two U.S. tours with Harlem Quartet and the debut of his new trumpet concerto, commissioned by New York's Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, with Arturo Sandoval at Carnegie Hall on February 19, 2022.

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López-Gavilán was born in Cuba to a family of internationally acclaimed classical musicians. He made his professional debut at age twelve with the Matanzas Symphony Orchestra. Parallel to his classical abilities, López-Gavilán developed remarkable skills in improvisation. He was invited to perform in the world-famous Havana Jazz Festival with the legendary Chucho Valdés, who called him “simply a genius, a star.”



Adam Schoenberg
Composer

Emmy Award-winning and Grammy® nominated Adam Schoenberg has twice been named among the top 10 most performed living composers by orchestras in the United States. His works have received performances and premieres at the Library of Congress, Kennedy Center, New York Philharmonic, The Cleveland Orchestra, Dallas Symphony Orchestra and Hollywood Bowl. Schoenberg received two 2018 Grammy® Award-nominations, including Best Contemporary Classical Composition for *Picture Studies*. He has served as Composer-in-Residence with the Fort Worth Symphony and won several awards, including ASCAP’s Morton Gould Young Composer Award for his orchestral work *Finding Rothko*.

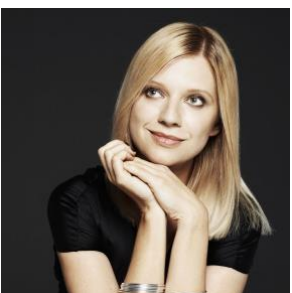
An accomplished film composer, highlights include *That Far Corner: Frank Lloyd Wright in Los Angeles* (recipient of a 2019 Emmy award for Best Musical Composition) and *Graceland*, co-written with his father, Steven Schoenberg, which premiered at the 2012 Tribeca Film Festival. A graduate of Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Schoenberg earned his Master’s and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from The Juilliard School. He is currently a professor at Occidental College, where he runs the composition and film scoring programs.

Beethoven Symphony No. 5, April 30, 2022



Keitaro Harada
Conductor

Conductor Keitaro Harada maintains a growing, international presence throughout North America, Asia, Mexico and Europe. With his home bases in the United States and Japan, the 2020-21 season marked his tenure as Music & Artistic Director of the Savannah Philharmonic and Associate Conductor of the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra. Harada has also served as Associate Conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and Cincinnati Pops. He is a five-time recipient of The Solti Foundation U.S. Career Assistance Award, Bruno Walter National Conductor Preview and received the Seiji Ozawa Conducting Fellowship at Tanglewood Music Festival. Harada was a student of Lorin Maazel at the Castleton Festival and Fabio Luisi at the Pacific Music Festival and in 2018 and 2016, he was invited by Valery Gergiev to serve on the faculty of the Pacific Music Festival.



Valentina Lisitsa
Piano

Valentina Lisitsa is not only the first YouTube star of classical music; more importantly, she is the first classical artist to have converted her internet success into a global concert career in the principal venues of Europe, the US, South America and Asia. She posted her first video on YouTube in 2007 and her YouTube channel now records 346,000 subscribers and 147 million views with an average of 75,000 views per day.

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For the 125th anniversary of Tchaikovsky's death, Decca released a special CD-Box of the complete works for solo piano by Tchaikovsky with Valentina. Her discography includes recordings of every piano concert by Rachmaninoff, works by Chopin, Philipp Glass, Liszt and Scriabin as well as her latest *CD: Love Story – Piano Themes from the Cinema's Golden Age*, with major film music from the 1920s.



James Thatcher
Horn

James Thatcher began his professional career at age 16 when he played and studied in Mexico City with his uncle, Gerald Thatcher, former principal hornist with the National Symphony of Mexico. He is currently principal horn of the Pasadena Symphony, but principally he is a studio player, a recipient of the Most Valuable Player Award from the National Association of Recording Arts and Sciences and “arguably the most often heard horn player in the world” due to his performances on some 70 to 80 films per year for the last 20 years. James performed in multiple films by Oscar-winning composer John Williams including *Always*, *Jurassic Park*, *The Lost World*, *Sleepers* (in which he received an on-screen credit), *Nixon*, *Schindler's List*, *JFK*, *Sabrina*, *Home Alone*, *Rosewood*, *Seven Years in Tibet* and *The Patriot* as well as the fanfare for the 1992 Olympics. Thatcher is on faculty of the USC Thornton School of Music.



Brett Banducci
Composer

Brett Banducci is a composer, violist and educator residing in Los Angeles. Brett is the 2016 recipient of the Andrew Imbrie Music Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. A frequent performer with the Pasadena Symphony, Los Angeles Master Chorale Orchestra, Long Beach Symphony, Hollywood Chamber Orchestra and the Hollywood Studio Symphony, he has played on countless records, films, and television scores— including recent albums by Madonna and Barbra Streisand. His compositions have been performed and premiered at Brooklyn's MATA Festival Interval New Music Series, the Aspen Music Festival and the Los Angeles-based Hear Now Festival, among others. Brett received his DMA from the University of Southern California. He currently hosts a dynamic new podcast called Classical Chops Studio.

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