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**Pasadena Symphony Association**

**Pasadena Symphony & POPS**

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For full artist bios and high res images visit: <https://pasadenasymphony-pops.org/tchaikovsky-and-sibelius-press-release-2022/>

**LA OPERA RESIDENT CONDUCTOR LINA GONZÁLEZ-GRANADOS LEADS THE PASADENA SYMPHONY FOR TCHAIKOVSKY NO. 5***With Sibelius Violin Concerto performed by International Tchaikovsky Competition winner   
Alexandra Conunova*

***Pasadena, CA –* The Pasadena Symphony** continues its **95th season** with **Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 5** on **Saturday, November 12, 2022** at **Ambassador Auditorium** with both matinee and evening performances at **2:00pm and 8:00pm.** Newly appointed **LA Opera Resident Conductor, Lina González-Granados** will lead the orchestra as the second Artistic Partner of the season. Hailing from Cali, Colombia, González-Granados won the 2021 Sphinx Medal of Excellence and Solti Award, and has made quite a splash in Los Angeles this season with her Hollywood Bowl debut described as "a show of raw power, an aural force to glue you to your seat” (*Los Angeles Times).*

The **Composers Showcase** opens the program with **Valerie Coleman’s Seven O’Clock Shout,** inspired by the bravery and sacrifice of the frontline works of the Covid-19 pandemic and the heartwarming ritual of evening serenades that sprung up to honor their heroism. International Tchaikovsky Competition winner **Alexandra Conunova** will then take center stage to paint the Romantic soundscape of **Sibelius’ Violin Concerto** with her impressive range of color. The program culminates with González-Granados taking the audience on a Romantic journey through a world of destiny, fate and shocking climaxes for a performance of Tchaikovsky’s Fifth Symphony that will have everyone talking.

The Pasadena Public Health Department recommends all guests either be fully vaccinated or obtain a negative COVID-19 test prior to entry to Ambassador Auditorium, but it is not required. Masks are strongly recommended but not required. As conditions in the community evolve, the Pasadena Symphony reserves the right to update policies with a focus on public safety. For the most up to date venue safety protocols, visit [pasadenasymphony-pops.org/symphony-covid-safety/](https://pasadenasymphony-pops.org/symphony-covid-safety/).

The Pasadena Symphony provides a vibrant experience specially designed for the music lover, the social butterfly or a date night out. Guests can arrive early to enjoy the outdoor, tented Symphony Lounge, which opens 2 hours prior to show time. A posh setting along Ambassador Auditorium's beautiful outdoor plaza, the Symphony Lounge offers small bites, coffee, cocktails and fine wines from The Michero Family, 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, with single tickets starting at $40. Both 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 Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 5

**Lina González-Granados**, conductor

**Alexandra Conunova**, violin

**Valerie Coleman** Seven O’Clock

**Sibelius** Violin Concerto  
**Tchaikovsky** Symphony No. 5

* **When:** Saturday, November 12, 2022 at 2:00pm and 8:00pm
* **Where:** Ambassador Auditorium | 131 South St. John Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91105
* **Cost:** Tickets start at $40.00
* **Parking:** Valet parking is available on St. John Ave 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 may be pre-purchased or purchased onsite. **Parking purchased onsite is cash only**.

**ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

**Lina González-Granados  
Conductor**

*"A show of raw power, an aural force to glue you to your seat.” – Los Angeles Times*

Praised for her “rich, heartfelt orchestral sound” (*Chicago Sun-Times*), “rhythmic vitality” (*San Francisco Chronicle*) and “raw power” (*LA Times*), Colombian-American Lina Gonzalez-Granados has distinguished herself nationally and internationally as a singularly-talented young conductor. Her powerful interpretations of the symphonic and operatic repertoire, as well as her dedication to highlighting new and unknown works by Latin-American composers, have earned her international recognition, most recently as the recipient of the 2021 Sphinx Medal of Excellence, the Third Prize and ECHO Special Award (European Concert Hall Organization) of La Maestra Competition, as well as the 2020 and 2021 Solti Foundation US Career Assistance Award.

After winning the Fourth Chicago Symphony Orchestra Sir Georg Solti International Conducting Competition, Lina was named the new Solti Conducting Apprentice under the guidance of Maestro Riccardo Muti, from February 2020 and continuing through June 2023. Last season, she was also appointed Resident Conductor by the LA Opera, a post she will hold thru June 2025, opening this season with a production of *Lucia de Lammermoor.* She has also held positions as Conducting Fellow of the Philadelphia Orchestra and Seattle Symphony.

Lina’s 2022-23 season brings her back to the Seattle Symphony, along with highly-anticipated debuts with the Orchestre Metropolitain, NACO, Indianapolis Symphony, Sarasota Symphony, North Carolina Symphony, Pasadena Symphony, Philadelphia Opera, Borusan Philharmonic, Aalborg Symphony, Orquesta Sinfonica de Galicia, as well as performances at Caramoor and Grafenegg Festivals.

Her momentous 2021-22 season highlights included heralded debuts with the LA Phil at the Hollywood Bowl, Chicago Symphony (an acclaimed last-minute stand-in), New York Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, National Symphony (USA), Houston Symphony, Gulbenkian Orchestra, Barcelona Symphony, Nürnberger Symphoniker, Filarmonica Arturo Toscanini, Kristiansand Symphony, Tapiola Sinfonietta, Polish National Radio Symphony, Orquesta del Principado de Asturias, Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León and Tenerife Symphony. She also led a production of *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* at the Dallas Opera.

Born and raised in Cali, Colombia, Lina made her conducting debut in 2008 with the Youth Orchestra of Bellas Artes. She holds a Master’s Degree in Conducting with Charles Peltz, a Graduate Diploma in Choral Conducting from New England Conservatory with Erica Washburn, and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Orchestral Conducting from Boston University. Her principal mentors include Riccardo Muti, Marin Alsop, Bernard Haitink, Bramwell Tovey and Yannick Nézet- Séguin.

**Alexandra Conunova  
Violin**

First Prize at the Joseph Joachim Violin Competition in Hannover in 2012, and prizewinner at the XV International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow and at the Singapore International Violin Competition, Alexandra Conunova has been hailed by her virtuosity, warm tone, impressive range of color, and flawless technique. In 2016 she also received the prestigious Fellowship by the Borletti-Buittoni Trust in London.

Recent highlights include engagements with the NDR Radiophilharmonie, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Mahler Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana, Musikkollegium Winterthur, Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse, Paris Chamber Orchestra, Orchestre Philharmonique de Marseille, Mariinsky Orchestra, Russian National Orchestra, NFOR, Orchestra Teatro Regio Torino, among others. She frequently performs under the batons of maestros Theodor Currentzis, Mikhail Pletnev, Gabor Takacs-Nagy, Lawrence Foster and Gianandrea Noseda, among others.

The 22/23 season will bring her debut at the Tivoli Festival as soloist/conductor of Vivaldi and Piazzola’s Four Seasons, and appearances with the Aalborg Symphony, Bochum Symphony, Deutsche Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz, NFM Philharmonic, Janacek Philharmonic, Orchestre National Avignon Provence, Norrlandsopera Orchestra, Pasadena Symphony, Orquesta Sinfónica de Galicia, Orquesta Sinfónica de Tenerife and Orquesta Simfònica de les Illes Balears. She will return to the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, with performances in Lausanne and Geneva, and with the National Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra.

The upcoming season also features recitals at the Tsinandali Festival, Aix-en-Provence, Schloss-Elmau, Ferrara, as well as a duo-tour with Christian Zacharias, performing Mozart's Sonatas for Violin and Piano.

Alexandra’s first recording of Prokofiev Violin Sonatas with Michail Liftis, on Aparté, was received with great acclaim: “This recording reveals Conunova as a major artist – in terms of both technical assurance and interpretative daring… I can’t recommend their freshly considered, vividly recorded interpretations highly enough” (*Gramophone*); “…this is already a candidate for one of the best discs of the year” (*The Strad*)

In Fall 2020, during COVID-19 lockdown and accompanied by an ensemble of friends and colleagues, she recorded and released Vivaldi’s Four Seasons also on Aparté, obtaining rave reviews: “her last recording as a whole is an exquisitely light and graceful reading from everyone, crowned by ravishingly sweet-toned and dancing filigree lines from Conunova herself”, “her playing is this fabulous: the warm-toned, easy fluidity of her virtuosities; her range of articulation, colour and shading; the subtle spontaneity; the natural shaping.” (*Gramophone*)

Conunova is regularly invited to the most prestigious festivals, such as Verbier, Gstaad, Montreux, Septembre Musical, Aix-en-Provence, Folle Journée, Besançon, Martha Argerich Festival, Ferrara Musica, Accademia Santa Cecilia…and collaborates as chamber music partner with Martha Argerich, Renaud Capuçon, Gauthier Capuçon, Denis Kozhukhin, Michail Lifits, Andreas Ottensamer, Gérard Caussé, Boris Brovtsyn and Jean Rondeau, among others.

For the last 3 years Alexandra has had the pleasure to work under the guidance and mentoring of one of the world’s leading professor, Edouard Wulfson, in Geneva.

Alexandra currently plays on Giovanni Batistta Guadagnini, ca. 1785 ex “Ida Levin”, on a kind loan from a music lover.

**Valerie Coleman   
Composer**

Valerie Coleman is regarded by many as an iconic artist who continues to pave her own unique path as a composer, Grammy®-nominated flutist, and entrepreneur. Highlighted as one of the “Top 35 Women Composers” by *The Washington Post*, she was named Performance Today’s 2020 Classical Woman of the Year, an honor bestowed to an individual who has made a significant contribution to classical music as a performer, composer or educator. Her works have garnered awards such as the MAPFund, ASCAP Honors Award, Chamber Music America’s Classical Commissioning Program, Herb Alpert Ragdale Residency Award, and nominations from The American Academy of Arts and Letters and United States Artists. Umoja, Anthem for Unity was chosen by Chamber Music America as one of the “Top 101 Great American Ensemble Works” and is now a staple of woodwind literature.

Coleman commenced her 2021/22 season with the world premiere of her latest work, Fanfare for Uncommon Times, at the Caramoor Festival with the Orchestra of St. Luke’s. In October 2021, Carnegie Hall presents her work Seven O’Clock Shout, commissioned by The Philadelphia Orchestra, in their Opening Night Gala concert featuring The Philadelphia Orchestra and Yannick Nézet-Séguin. This follows on the success of the world premiere of Coleman’s orchestral arrangement of her work Umoja, commissioned by The Philadelphia Orchestra and performed in Philadelphia and at Carnegie Hall in 2019, marking the first time the orchestra performed a classical work by a living female African-American composer. In February 2022, The Philadelphia Orchestra and soprano Angel Blue, led by Nézet-Séguin, will give the world premiere of a new song cycle written by Coleman, commissioned by the orchestra for performances in Philadelphia and at Carnegie Hall.

Coleman has been named to the Metropolitan Opera/Lincoln Center Theater New Works dual commissioning program in 2021/22. This season sees performances of her works by orchestras around the United States including the Minnesota Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Sarasota Orchestra, New Haven Symphony Orchestra, Yale Symphony Orchestra, Vermont Symphony and The Louisville Orchestra. Recent commissions include works for the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, The Library of Congress, Orchestra of St. Luke’s, American Composers Orchestra, The National Flute Association, University of Chicago and University of Michigan. Previous performances of her works have been with the New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Toronto Symphony and significant chamber ensembles and collegiate bands across the country.

Former flutist of the Imani Winds, Coleman is the creator and founder of this acclaimed ensemble whose 24-year legacy is documented and featured in a dedicated exhibit at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. She recently co-founded and currently performs as flutist of the performer-composer trio Umama Womama.

As a performer, Coleman has appeared at Carnegie Hall and The Kennedy Center and with The Philadelphia Orchestra, Hartford Symphony, New Haven Symphony, Boston University Tanglewood Institute, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Banff, Spoleto USA and Bravo! Vail. As a guest flutist, she has participated in the Mid-Atlantic Flute Fair, New Jersey Flute Fair, South Carolina Flute Society Festival, Colorado Flute Fair, Mid-South Flute Fair and the National Women’s Music Festival. In 2021/22, Valerie will appear at a host of festival and collegiate multi-disciplinary residencies, including Orchestra of St. Luke’s, Chamber Music Northwest, Phoenix Chamber Music Society, University of Michigan and Coastal Carolina University. Coleman will be the featured guest artist at the Long Island Flute Club, Raleigh Area Flute Association, Greater Portland Flute Society, Seattle Flute Society, University of Wisconsin-Madison Flute Day, Bethune-Cookman University Flute Day and the Florida Flute Society Festival.

As a chamber musician, Coleman has performed throughout North America and Europe alongside Dover Quartet, Orion String Quartet, Miami String Quartet, Harlem String Quartet, Quarteto Latinoamericano, Yo-Yo Ma, Ani and Ida Kavafian, Anne-Marie McDermott, Wu Han, David Shifrin, Gil Kalish, members of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, and jazz legends Paquito D’Rivera, Stefon Harris, Jason Moran and René Marie. A laureate of Concert Artists Guild, she is a former member of Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center CMS Two.

Coleman’s work as a recording artist includes an extensive discography. With Imani Winds, she has appeared on Sony Classical, Deutsche Grammophon, Sony Classical, Naxos, Cedille Records and eOne, and as a guest flutist on albums with Wayne Shorter Quartet, Steve Coleman and the Council of Balance, Chick Corea, Brubeck Brothers, Edward Simon, Bruce Adolphe, and Mohammed Fairouz. Her compositions and performances are regularly broadcast on NPR, WNYC, WQXR, Minnesota Public Radio, Sirius XM, Radio France, Australian Broadcast Company and Radio New Zealand.

Committed to arts education, entrepreneurship and chamber music advocacy, Coleman created the Imani Winds Chamber Music Festival in 2011, a summer mentorship program in New York City welcoming young leaders from over 100 international institutions. She has held flute and chamber music masterclasses at institutions in 49 states and over five continents, including The Juilliard School, Curtis Institute, Manhattan School of Music, Mannes College of Music, New England Conservatory, Oberlin College, Eastman School of Music, Yale University, Carnegie Mellon, Interlochen Arts Academy, Beijing Conservatory, Brazil’s Campo do Jordão Festival and Australia’s Musica Viva. As a part of Imani Winds, she has been artist-in-residence at Mannes College of Music, Banff Chamber Music Intensive and Visiting Faculty at the University of Chicago.

Coleman recently joined the Mannes School of Music Flute and Composition faculty in Fall 2021 as the Clara Mannes Fellow for Music Leadership. Prior to that she served on the faculty at The Frost School of Music at the University of Miami as Assistant Professor of Performance, Chamber Music and Entrepreneurship. In 2021/22, she leads a year-long residency at The Juilliard School in their Music Advancement Program through American Composers Forum.

She adjudicates for the National Flute Association’s High School Artist Competition, Concert Artist Guild, APAP’s Young Performing Concert Artists Program, ASCAP’s Morton Gould Award, MapFund Award and the Fischoff National Chamber Music Competition and has served on the Board of Advisors for Composers Now, Sphinx LEAD, APAP’s Classical Connections Committee and the National Flute Association’s New Music Advisory Committee and Board Nomination Committee.

Coleman’s compositions are published by Theodore Presser and her own company, V Coleman Music. She studied composition with Martin Amlin and Randy Wolfe and flute with Julius Baker, Judith Mendenhall, Doriot Dwyer, Leone Buyse and Alan Weiss. She and her family are based in New York City.

**ABOUT THE PASADENA SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION**

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. The multi-platinum-selling, two-time Emmy and five-time Grammy Award-nominated entertainer dubbed “The Ambassador of the Great American Songbook,” Michael Feinstein, leads the POPS as Principal Pops Conductor, succeeding Marvin Hamlisch.

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 seven performing ensembles, with over 400 gifted 4th-12th grade students from all over Southern California. The PYSO Symphony has performed at venues across the globe as well as on the 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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