

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pasadena Symphony Association
Pasadena Symphony & POPS
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For full artist bios and images [CLICK HERE](#).

PASADENA SYMPHONY PRESENTS MOZART'S TRIUMPHANT "JUPITER" SYMPHONY JANUARY 25
FREE FOR FIRST RESPONDERS AND FIRE VICTIMS
Plus an Instrument Drive for Affected Youth Orchestra Students

Pasadena, CA – Music Director **Brett Mitchell** and the **Pasadena Symphony** present **Mozart "Jupiter" Symphony** on **Saturday, January 25, 2025** with performances at **2:00pm** and **8:00pm** at **Ambassador Auditorium**. The jubilation of Mozart's Jupiter Symphony provides the perfect uplifting voice for our community in light of the devastating wildfires. The Pasadena Symphony believes in the restorative power of music, and the orchestra's affected musicians are looking forward to performing for their community so that we can all begin to heal through music. **Tickets to both concerts will be offered free of charge to first responders and anyone who has been displaced, evacuated or experienced loss from the wildfires.** Visit [Pasadenasympphony-pops.org](https://pasadenasympphony-pops.org) or [sign up here for free tickets](#).

Also on the program, "one of the most admired pianists of his generation" (*New York Times*), **Inon Barnatan** will perform groundbreaking composer **Florence Price's** soul-stirring **Concerto for Piano in One Movement**. 2024 GRAMMY-winning composer **Jessie Montgomery's** vibrant intergalactic piece **Starburst** will open the program.

The Pasadena Symphony will be holding **an instrument drive for students in the Pasadena Youth Symphony Orchestras who have lost their instruments in the fires** and to help replenish what was lost from Pasadena Unified School District's instrument library. The drive will take place during the concerts **at Ambassador Auditorium on January 25 from 12-4pm and 6-10pm. Instruments will also be accepted during Pasadena Neighbor Day at Wild Parrot Brewing Co. on Sunday, January 19 from 12-8pm.** Gently used orchestra instruments will be accepted, but please do not bring instruments in need of major repair. Those unable to attend in person can fill out this form for instrument donations: forms.gle/V2yCZS3CqLDSWyeR7. To provide monetary support for the instrument drive, you may give at pasadenasympphony-pops.org/donate.

All concerts are held at Ambassador Auditorium, 131 South St. John Ave, Pasadena, CA. Single tickets start at \$49 and subscriptions start at \$99. Both may be purchased online at www.pasadenasympphony-pops.org or by calling the Box Office at (626) 793-7172.

IF YOU GO:

- **What:** The Pasadena Symphony presents **Mozart "Jupiter" Symphony**

Brett Mitchell, conductor
Inon Barnatan, piano

Jessie Montgomery Starburst

Price Concerto for Piano in One Movement

Mozart Symphony No. 41 “Jupiter”

- **When:** Saturday, January 25, 2025 at 2:00pm and 8:00pm
- **Where:** Ambassador Auditorium | 131 South St. John Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91105
- **Cost:** Tickets start at \$49.00
- **Parking:** Valet parking is available on St. John Ave for \$25. General parking is available in two locations: next to the Auditorium (entrance on St. John Ave) at the covered parking structure, 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.). **Parking may be pre-purchased for \$15 or purchased onsite for \$20. Parking purchased onsite is cash only.**

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Brett Mitchell **Music Director**

Hailed for presenting engaging, in-depth explorations of thoughtfully curated programs, American conductor Brett Mitchell currently serves as Music Director of the Pasadena Symphony and Artistic Director & Conductor of Oregon’s Sunriver Music Festival. He previously served as Music Director of the Colorado Symphony (2017-21), Associate Conductor of The Cleveland Orchestra (2013-17), and Assistant Conductor of the Houston Symphony (2007-11) and Orchestre National de France (2006-09).

Working widely as a guest conductor, Mr. Mitchell’s recent engagements have included appearances with the Dallas, Detroit, Edmonton, Fort Worth, Houston, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, National, North Carolina, Oregon, Pasadena, San Antonio, San Francisco, and Vancouver symphonies; the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl; the Cleveland and Minnesota orchestras; the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra; the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra; the Grant Park Festival Orchestra; and a two-week tour with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. Mitchell also regularly collaborates with the world’s leading soloists, including Yo-Yo Ma, Renée Fleming, Itzhak Perlman, Kirill Gerstein, Conrad Tao, Rudolf Buchbinder, James Ehnes, Augustin Hadelich, Leila Josefowicz, and Alisa Weilerstein.

Born in Seattle in 1979, Brett Mitchell holds degrees in conducting from the University of Texas at Austin and composition from Western Washington University. His two principal professional mentors were Kurt Masur and Lorin Maazel. For more information, please visit brettmitchellconductor.com.

Inon Barnatan **Piano**

“One of the most admired pianists of his generation” (*New York Times*), Inon Barnatan has established a unique and varied career, equally celebrated as a soloist, curator, and collaborator. He is a regular soloist with many of the world’s foremost orchestras and conductors, and served as the inaugural artist-in-association of the New York Philharmonic for three seasons.

Barnatan's 2023-24 season highlights include concerto performances in the U.S. with the Colorado Symphony, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, and internationally with the Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, and London Philharmonic Orchestra. Barnatan will give solo recitals presented at Spivey Hall, The Phillips Collection, Leeds International Piano Series, Wigmore Hall, The Norwegian Opera and Ballet, and The 92nd Street Y.

In November 2023, Barnatan releases his album, *Rachmaninoff Reflections*, offering some of the composer's most cherished piano works, including his *Moments musicaux*, Prelude in G-Sharp Minor, and Barnatan's own arrangement of the Vocalise. The centerpiece of this project is Barnatan's breathtaking new piano arrangement of the *Symphonic Dances*.

Born in Tel Aviv in 1979, Barnatan started playing the piano at the age of three and made his orchestral debut at eleven. His musical education connects him to some of the 20th century’s most illustrious pianists and teachers: he studied first with Professor Victor Derevianko, a student of the Russian master Heinrich Neuhaus, before moving to London in 1997 to study at the Royal Academy of Music with Christopher Elton and Maria Curcio, a student of the legendary Artur Schnabel. The late Leon Fleisher was also an influential teacher and mentor. Barnatan is a recipient of an Avery Fisher Career Grant and Lincoln Center’s Martin E. Segal Award, and is an alum of CMS’s Bowers Program.

Jessie Montgomery **Composer**

Jessie Montgomery is a GRAMMY Award-winning composer, violinist, and educator. She is the recipient of the Leonard Bernstein Award from the ASCAP Foundation, and her works are performed frequently around the world by leading musicians and ensembles. Her music interweaves classical music with elements of vernacular music, improvisation, language, and social justice, placing her squarely as one of the most relevant interpreters of 21st-century American sound and experience. Her profoundly felt works have been described as “turbulent, wildly colorful and exploding with life” (*The Washington Post*).

Jessie was born and raised in Manhattan’s Lower East Side in the 1980s during a time when the neighborhood was at a major turning point in its history. Artists gravitated to the hotbed of artistic experimentation and community development. Her parents – her father a musician, her mother a theater artist and storyteller – were engaged in the activities of the neighborhood and regularly brought Jessie to rallies, performances, and parties where neighbors, activists, and artists gathered to celebrate and support the movements of the time. It is from this unique experience that Jessie has created a life that merges composing, performance, education, and advocacy.

Since 1999, Jessie has been affiliated with The Sphinx Organization, which supports young African-American and Latinx string players. She currently serves as composer-in-residence for the Sphinx Virtuosi, the Organization’s flagship professional touring ensemble. She was a two-time laureate of the annual Sphinx Competition and was awarded a generous MPower grant to assist in the development of her debut album, *Strum: Music for Strings* (Azica Records). She has received additional grants and

awards from the ASCAP Foundation, Chamber Music America, American Composers Orchestra, the Joyce Foundation, and the Sorel Organization.

Her growing body of work includes solo, chamber, vocal, and orchestral works. Some recent highlights include *Five Slave Songs* (2018) commissioned for soprano Julia Bullock by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, *Records from a Vanishing City* (2016) for the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, *Caught by the Wind* (2016) for the Albany Symphony and the American Music Festival, and *Banner* (2014) – written to mark the 200th anniversary of *The Star-Spangled Banner* – for The Sphinx Organization and the Joyce Foundation.

In the 2019-20 season, new commissioned works will be premiered by the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, the National Choral Society, and ASCAP Foundation. Jessie is also teaming up with composer-violinist Jannina Norpoth to reimagine Scott Joplin’s opera *Treemonisha*; it is being produced by Volcano Theatre and co-commissioned by Washington Performing Arts, Stanford University, Southbank Centre (London), National Arts Centre (Ottawa), and the Banff Centre for the Arts. Additionally, the Philharmonia Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony, Dallas Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, and San Francisco Symphony will all perform Montgomery’s works this season.

The New York Philharmonic has selected Jessie as one of the featured composers for their Project 19, which marks the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, granting equal voting rights in the United States to women. Other forthcoming works include a nonet inspired by the Great Migration, told from the perspective of Montgomery’s great-grandfather William McCauley and to be performed by Imani Winds and the Catalyst Quartet; a cello concerto for Thomas Mesa jointly commissioned by Carnegie Hall, New World Symphony, and The Sphinx Organization; and a new orchestral work for the National Symphony.

Jessie began her violin studies, at the Third Street Music School Settlement, one of the oldest community organizations in the country. A founding member of PUBLIQuartet and currently a member of the Catalyst Quartet, she continues to maintain an active performance career as a violinist appearing regularly with her own ensembles, as well as with the Silkroad Ensemble and Sphinx Virtuosi. Jessie’s teachers and mentors include Sally Thomas, Ann Setzer, Alice Kanack, Joan Tower, Derek Bermel, Mark Suozzo, Ira Newborn, and Laura Kaminsky. She holds degrees from the Juilliard School and New York University and is currently a Graduate Fellow in Music Composition at Princeton University.

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 film, television, recording and the orchestral industry, the artists of the Pasadena Symphony and POPS are some of the most heard in the world.

Brett Mitchell assumes the post of Pasadena Symphony Music Director on April 1, 2024. Michael Feinstein – the multi-platinum-selling, two-time Emmy and five-time Grammy Award-nominated entertainer dubbed “The Ambassador of the Great American Songbook” – leads the POPS as Principal Pops Conductor, succeeding Marvin Hamlisch. 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 Los Angeles Arboretum & Botanic Garden.

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). PYSO offers supplemental in-class instruction within the Pasadena Unified School District and eleven performance ensembles, serving over 700 4th-12th grade students from all over Southern California. The PYSO has performed at venues across the globe as well as on the television show *GLEE*.

The Pasadena Symphony Association provides people from all walks of life with powerful access points to the world of symphonic music. www.pasadenasympphony-pops.org

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