



Pasadena SYMPHONY

BRETT MITCHELL Music Director

25|26
SEASON

AT AMBASSADOR AUDITORIUM

WELCOME TO THE PASADENA SYMPHONY'S 25/26 SEASON!

I can't tell you how excited we all are—onstage and off—to be back with you at the beautiful Ambassador Auditorium for another season of some of the greatest music ever created.

I want to begin by sincerely expressing how grateful I am to all of you for making me feel so welcome during our first season together, and hope that you feel just as at-home with us at the Ambassador. It's been an honor becoming part of this community, particularly given the challenges we all encountered during the Eaton Fire. Opening our January program with the Barber Adagio for strings in reflection of those affected by the fires is a moment none of us in the house will ever forget, and potentially illustrates the power and impact an orchestra that's truly invested in its community can have on that community. It was an honor to share music with you when we all needed it most, and it continues to be an honor as we march back together toward "the best of times."

And now, a few words about this season's programs, which I'm so eager for you to experience. As we close in on America's 250th birthday next summer, I'm excited to celebrate the best of American orchestral music, past and present, all season long. We'll present works by American masters Aaron Copland and Leonard Bernstein, as well as more contemporary classics by John Williams, Jennifer Higdon, Edgar Meyer, Juan Pablo Contreras and our very own principal tuba Jim Self, who celebrates 50 seasons with the Pasadena Symphony this year. We'll be pairing this American repertoire with great masterworks of the past, including Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique*, Mendelssohn's "Scottish" Symphony, Tchaikovsky's "Pathétique," Dvořák's "New World" and Beethoven's "Eroica." Add our phenomenal guest artists—violinist Tessa Lark, cellist Julian Schwarz, and pianists Michelle Cann, Orion Weiss and Joyce Yang—and we've got what we hope you'll agree is a compelling, can't-miss season.

We're so grateful to each of you for joining us and for continuing to make live music a priority in your lives. From all of us at the Pasadena Symphony, please accept this sincere, hearty welcome to our new season. We hope you'll enjoy these programs as much as we look forward to sharing them with you!

With every good wish,



Brett Mitchell
MUSIC DIRECTOR

SYMPHONIE FANTASTIQUE



“POWERFUL
TECHNIQUE &
EXCEPTIONAL
INSIGHT”

– *The Washington Post*

NOV 8, 2025

2pm & 8pm

BRETT MITCHELL conductor
ORION WEISS piano

JIM SELF Tour de Force
RAVEL Piano Concerto in G Major
BERLIOZ *Symphonie Fantastique*

Mitchell kicks off the season in dramatic style with Ravel’s jazz-inspired Piano Concerto and Berlioz’s bold, hallucinatory masterpiece of passion, obsession and vivid orchestral storytelling. Plus Principal Tuba Jim Self’s celebratory Tour de Force opens his 50th season with the orchestra!

MENDELSSOHN & MEYER



“TESSA LARK
EMBODIES
JOY IN MUSIC
MAKING.”

– John Corigliano, composer

JAN 24, 2026

2pm & 8pm

BRETT MITCHELL conductor
TESSA LARK violin

MENDELSSOHN
The Hebrides Overture (Fingal’s Cave)
EDGAR MEYER Violin Concerto
MENDELSSOHN
Symphony No. 3, “Scottish”

Embark on a rich musical journey as Mendelssohn’s evocative “Scottish” Symphony captures the misty beauty of the Highlands, and acclaimed violinist Tessa Lark brings you through fields of Southern bluegrass with fire and finesse for Edgar Meyer’s genre-blending concerto.

TCHAIKOVSKY PATHÉTIQUE



Photo credit: Titilayo Ayangade

FEB 21, 2026

2pm & 8pm

BRETT MITCHELL conductor

MICHELLE CANN piano

JEFFREY NYTCH Beacon

MOZART Piano Concerto No. 23

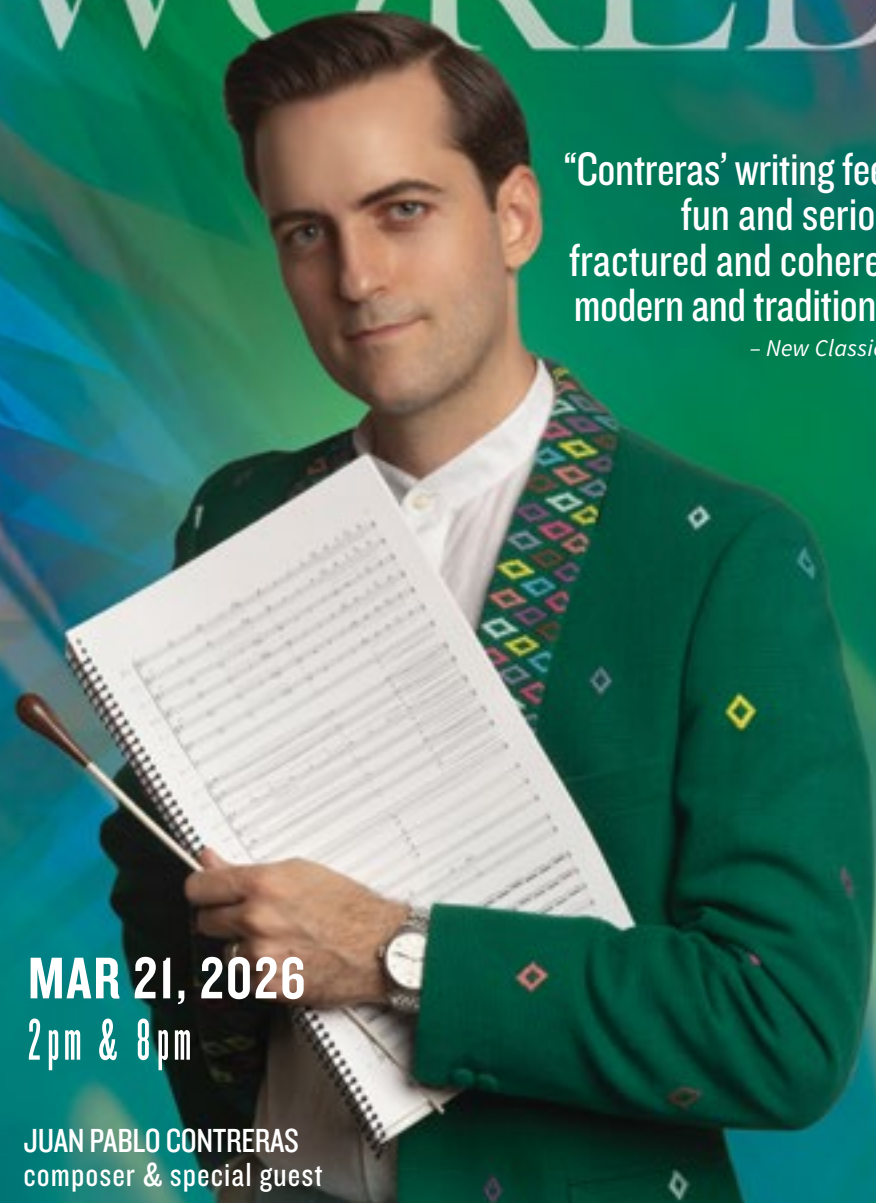
TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 6
“Pathétique”

“A PIANIST OF STERLING ARTISTRY”

– *Gramophone*

Delight in the elegance of Mozart’s 23rd Piano Concerto, shimmering with grace and lyrical beauty. Then, plunge into the emotional depths of Tchaikovsky’s haunting “Pathétique” for a gripping exploration of love, despair and fate.

FROM THE NEW WORLD



“Contreras’ writing feels fun and serious, fractured and coherent, modern and traditional.”

– *New Classic LA*

MAR 21, 2026

2pm & 8pm

JUAN PABLO CONTRERAS

composer & special guest

BERNSTEIN Three Dance Variations
from *Fancy Free*

CONTRERAS Symphony No. 1,
“My Great Dream” (*co-commission*)

DVOŘÁK Symphony No. 9,
“From the New World”

Be among the earliest to experience acclaimed composer Juan Pablo Contreras’ first symphony, capturing his journey to becoming a composer and a US citizen, and get lost in one of the most popular symphonies of all time – a tribute to the American spirit.

BEETHOVEN EROICA



APR 25, 2026

2pm & 8pm

BRETT MITCHELL conductor
JULIAN SCHWARZ cello

**“SCHWARZ’S DEEP TONE
SHOOTS STRAIGHT
TO THE HEART OF A
LISTENER.”**

– *Shepherd Express*

QUINN MASON Heroic Overture
(Overtura Eroica)

JENNIFER HIGDON Cello Concerto
(*west coast premiere*)

BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 3,
“Eroica”

Experience the bold spirit of Beethoven’s *Eroica*—revolutionary, heroic and full of power. Paired with the west coast premiere of Grammy-winner Jennifer Higdon’s cello concerto, this concert celebrates musical innovation across centuries.

AMERICA @250

**“HER ATTENTION TO
DETAIL AND CLARITY IS
AS IMPRESSIVE AS HER
AGILITY, BALANCE
AND VELOCITY.”**

– *The Washington Post*

MAY 30, 2026

2pm & 8pm

BRETT MITCHELL conductor
JOYCE YANG piano

JOHN WILLIAMS Selections from
American Journey

JONATHAN LESHNOFF Rhapsody on
America (*co-commission | west coast premiere*)

COPLAND Suite from *Appalachian Spring*
COPLAND *Lincoln Portrait*

A celebration of American orchestral music with a concert work by John Williams and two seminal pieces by Copland. Plus Joyce Yang dazzles on the west coast premiere of a new work by Jonathan Leshnoff to top off the season with a bang!





HOLIDAY CANDLELIGHT

THIRD
PERFORMANCE
ADDED!



LARRY BLANK, conductor
SARAH URIARTE BERRY, vocalist
DONALD BRINEGAR SINGERS
& JPL CHORUS
LOS ANGELES CHILDREN'S CHORUS
LA BRONZE HANDBELL ENSEMBLE
FRI, DEC 12 AT 7PM
SAT, DEC 13 AT 4PM & 7PM
ALL SAINTS CHURCH



TICKETS
\$45

DEC 6-7, 2025

Kick off your holiday season with this stunning tour of four elegant homes decorated for the holidays in floral regalia. A time-honored tradition for over 50 years, the Holiday Look In Home Tour has raised more than \$3 million for the Pasadena Symphony's concert series and educational programs.

Boutique – Pasadena Scottish Rite
150 N. Madison Ave.

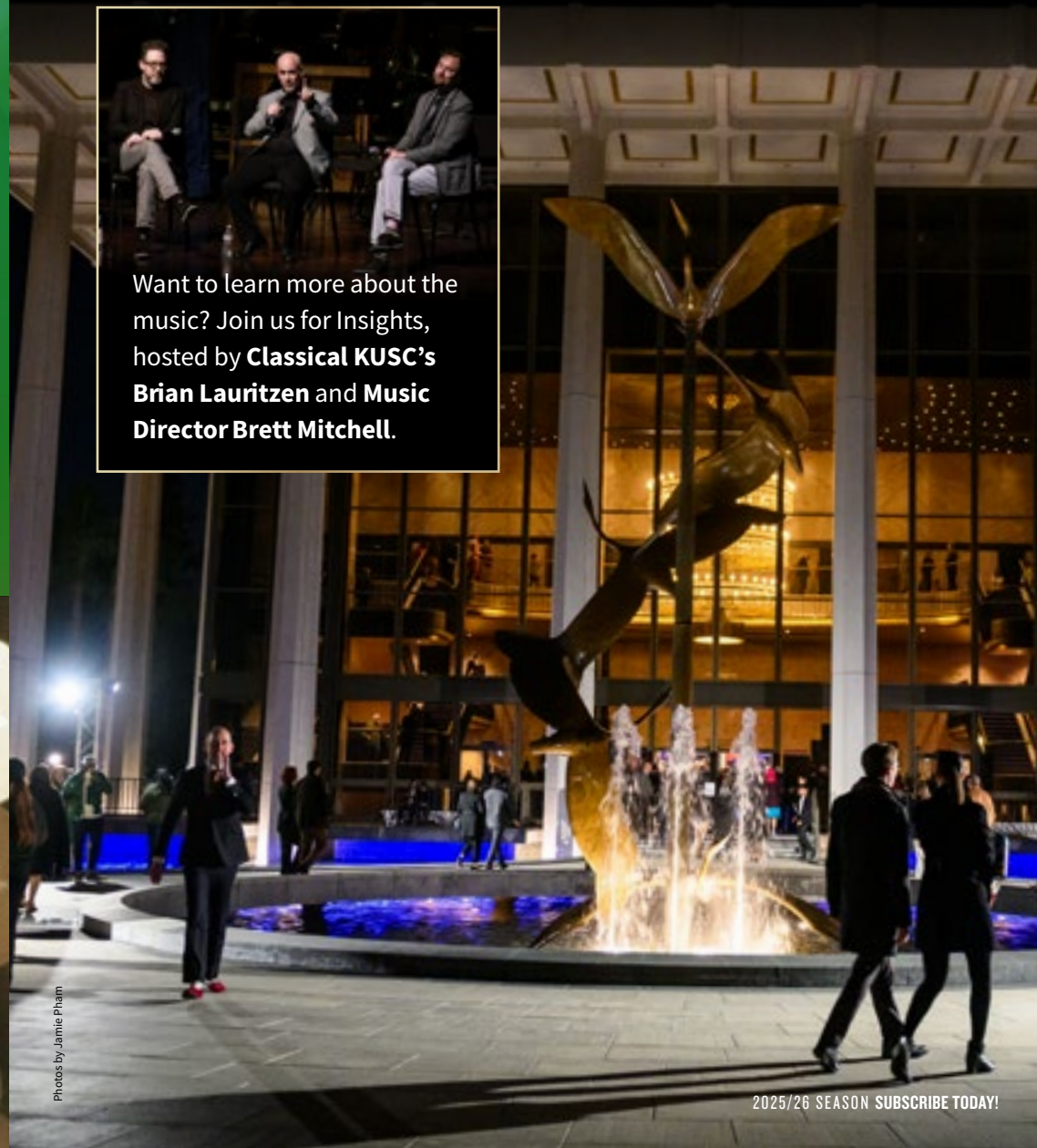
For tickets and more information:
PASADENAHOLIDAYLOOKIN.ORG

Join Us in the Symphony Lounge!

Arrive early to mix and mingle
in our tented lounge on the
Ambassador's beautiful plaza.
Enjoy small plates, a full bar
and sparkling conversation!



Want to learn more about the
music? Join us for Insights,
hosted by **Classical KUSC's**
Brian Lauritzen and Music
Director **Brett Mitchell**.



Photos by Jamie Pham

ENRICHING OUR COMMUNITY FOR NEARLY A CENTURY

Since 1928, the Pasadena Symphony has built community through music. The arts are an essential part of Pasadena's identity and your support is critical to keeping this tradition alive. A gift of any amount makes a difference in the lives of those who attend our concerts and the next generation of music lovers enrolled in our Pasadena Youth Symphony Orchestras (PYSO). Be a part of what makes Pasadena the thriving cultural gem of our region.



**GIVE A GIFT TODAY TO SUPPORT THE PASADENA
SYMPHONY AND MUSIC EDUCATION.**
[Pasadenasympphony-pops.org/give](https://pasadenasympphony-pops.org/give)

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION THROUGH MUSIC

2,500+ Students Reached Each Year

Through in-school programs, after-school ensembles and summer camps.

Pasadena Youth Symphony Orchestras (PYSO)

11 ensembles from beginner to advanced – **over 700 students** ages 8-18, from across the San Gabriel Valley.

Music in Underserved Classrooms

Partnering with Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) to bring free music instruction to Title I schools.

Empowering Teachers

Pasadena Symphony teaching artists support PUSD classrooms with co-teaching, training and curriculum tools.

Access for All

Scholarships, tuition assistance and free concert tickets ensure no child is left out.

Pathways for Lifelong Musicianship

From first-time players to pre-professional musicians, we support every stage of musical growth.

Building More Than Musicians

Fostering creativity, confidence and community through music. Every child deserves the chance to discover their voice through music. With your help, they can.



SUBSCRIBE
YOUR WAY!

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have never been easier.

- Pick the concerts you want! Choose 3, 4, or 6
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- Get total flexibility with ticket exchanges
- Hold your tickets on account if plans change

Subscribers also receive:

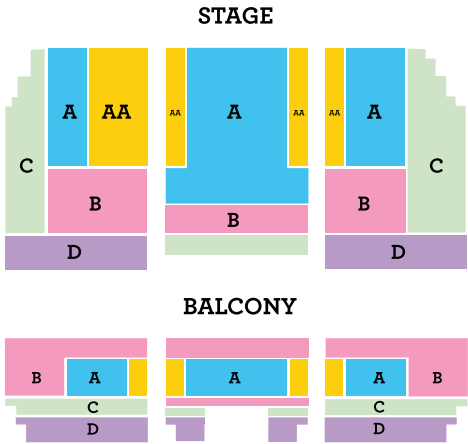
- Invitation to VIP season announcement party and open rehearsal
- FREE beverage voucher
- Unlimited additional single tickets at your discounted subscriber price
- 2 FREE ticket vouchers to bring friends

SUBSCRIBE
FOR AS
LOW AS \$120

FLEX PASS

Get a Flex Pass for only \$249 and enjoy the 25/26 season your way! Buy four tickets now at a highly discounted price, and select the concerts you want to attend later, when it best fits your schedule. You decide how to use them. Attend four different concerts, have two date nights, or bring yourself and three friends to one performance — mix and match however you choose!

SYMPHONY SERIES AT
AMBASSADOR AUDITORIUM

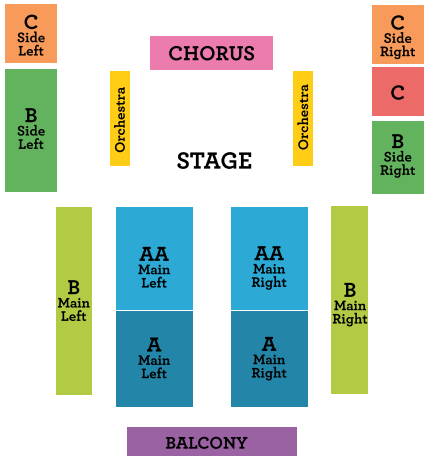


131 S. St. John Ave, Pasadena
Concerts are at 2:00PM & 8:00PM

SUBSCRIBE FOR
THE BEST SEATS

Can't Commit? Buy a
FLEX PASS
and choose dates later

HOLIDAY CANDLELIGHT AT
ALL SAINTS CHURCH



132 N. Euclid Ave, Pasadena
Concerts are at 4:00PM & 7:00PM

Pasadena
SYMPHONY

ORDER
TODAY!

ONLINE
PasadenaSymphony-Pops.org

MAIL
150 S. Los Robles, Suite 460
Pasadena, CA 91101

PHONE
626.793.7172
Mon-Fri
9am-5pm



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SYMPHONY SERIES AT AMBASSADOR AUDITORIUM

SELECT DESIRED DATES/TIMES	NOV 8 ○ 2PM ○ 8PM	JAN 24 ○ 2PM ○ 8PM	FEB 21 ○ 2PM ○ 8PM	MAR 21 ○ 2PM ○ 8PM	APR 25 ○ 2PM ○ 8PM	MAY 30 ○ 2PM ○ 8PM	
CHOOSE ○ 6 ○ 4 ○ 3 CONCERTS							
LOCATION	SUBSCRIPTION PRICE				SINGLE CONCERTS	NUMBER OF SEATS	TOTAL
Section AA	\$660	\$455	\$354	\$149	x		\$
Section A	\$588	\$399	\$312	\$117	x		\$
Section B	\$450	\$312	\$249	\$92	x		\$
Section C	\$330	\$240	\$192	\$72	x		\$
Section D	\$243	\$166	\$120	\$55	x		\$
FLEX PASS	(4) best available seats - \$249				x		\$

Flex Pass tickets are valid only for 25/26 Symphony Series at Ambassador Auditorium.
Seating is based on best available at time of redemption. Not eligible for Holiday Candlelight.

HOLIDAY CANDLELIGHT AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH

SELECT YOUR SEATS	CONCERT DATE/TIME DEC 12 ○ 7PM DEC 13 ○ 4PM ○ 7PM	
Orchestra	\$178	
Chorus	\$135	
Section AA	\$125	
Section A	\$105	
Balcony	\$135	
Section B Main	\$85	
Section B Side	\$73	
Section C	\$49	x
Section C Side	\$30	
Please consider a tax-deductible gift. A contribution of any amount can make an inspiring difference! Your support makes possible every performance, free community event and life-changing youth education experience.		THANK YOU!
Join our Conductor's Circle with a minimum donation of \$2,000. Enjoy complimentary parking, post-concert receptions, mingling with conductors, guest artists and the musicians of your orchestra.		CONDUCTOR'S CIRCLE
No refunds. Artists, programming, dates, and single ticket prices subject to change.		GRAND TOTAL =

SUBSCRIBE
& SAVE **25%**

25|26 SEASON

AT AMBASSADOR AUDITORIUM
BRETT MITCHELL MUSIC DIRECTOR

PASADENASYMPHONY-POPS.ORG | 626.793.7172

Photo by Jamie Pham

Pasadena **SYMPHONY**

Pasadena Symphony Association

150 S. Los Robles, Suite 460

Pasadena, CA 91101



TICKETS!