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2024 WINTER CONCERT REPERTOIRE

Directed by Jason Aiello and Jim Wang

STRING & CONCERT COMBINED ORCHESTRAS

French Dance (Jouissance vous donnerai), Traditional, arr. by Deborah Baker Monday Appalachian Sunrise by Doris Gazda Galop! by Brian Balmages

SINFONIA ORCHESTRA

Pulcinella (Overture) by Igor Stravinsky, arr. by Robert D. McCashin Colors of Home, by Alan Lee Silva Winter Solstice, by Todd Parrish

INTERMEZZO ORCHESTRA

Symphony No. 29 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, arr. by Thomas LaJoie

I. Allegro Moderato

Palladio (Concerto Grosso for String Orchestra) by Karl Jenkins

I. Allegretto

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year by Eddie Pola and George Wyle, arr. by Bob Cerulli

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

String Quartet in G Major by Florence Price

II. Andante moderato

Serenade for Strings in C Major, O. 48 by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

IV. Finale (Tema russo)

INTERMISSION

PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Carmen Suite No. 1 by Georges Bizet

I. Prélude

la. Aragonaise

II. Intermezzo

III. Sequedille

IV. Les dragons d'Alcala

V. Les Toréadors

The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire), Lyric and Music by Mel Torme and Robert Wells, arr. by Bob Lowden

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Symphony No. 4 in G Major by Gustav Mahler

I. Bedächtig. Nicht eilen

Symphony No. 5 in E Flat Major, Op. 82 by Jean Sibelius

III. Allegro moderato - Misterioso - Un pochettino largamente

Sleigh Ride by Leroy Anderson



STRING AND CONCERT ORCHESTRAS

French Dance (Jouissance vous donnerai), Traditional, arr. by Deborah Baker Monday

One of several popular dances from time of the French Renaissance, jouissance refers to a dance in which the feet stay on the floor, as opposed to one with leaps or lifts.

Appalachian Sunrise by Doris Gahzda

The Appalachians are the chief mountain system of eastern North America stretching for nearly 1,500 miles from the Gaspé Peninsula in Quebec, Canada to central Alabama in the United States. Principal mountain ranges in the Appalachians include the Adirondack Mountains, Allegheny Mountains, Blue Ridge Mountains, Catskill Mountains, Cumberland Mountains, and Great Smoky Mountains. The tallest peak in the system is North Carolina's Mount Mitchell, proudly standing at 6,684 feet. It is the spectacle of an Appalachian sunrise, however, that is most memorable for many of today's trailblazers. As glorious solar rays spread light and warmth across the grandeur below, the promise of a new day is offered for the taking. Whether it be the colors of autumn, the new life of spring, the blossoms of summer, or the glistening of winter, the beauty of daybreak in the Appalachians demonstrates the unequaled artistry of Mother Nature's hand.

Galop! by Brian Balmages

A glop is a lively ballroom dance in duple time, popular in the late 18th century. This work was inspired by Shostakovich and Kabalevsky, two incredible composers whose music the composer has performed many times. The quick-paced style of the galop along with some slight comedic elements combine to give the piece multiple personalities as the work progresses.

SINFONIA ORCHESTRA

Pulcinella (Overture) by Igor Stravinsky, arr. by Robert D. McCashin

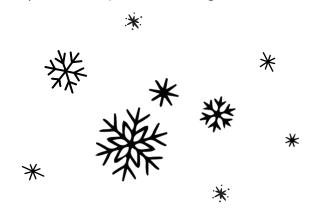
Pulcinella was a frequent character who originated in early Italian puppetry and became popular in the Commedia dell'arte, where masked characters would, with a few props, do improvised comedy. The character was likely so identified based on the Italian word 'pulcina', meaning hick/chicken, due to its longer beak-like nose. The music for Stravinsky's ballet, Pulcinella, is a 20th-century rewriting of music from the 18th century, partially drawn from the works of Giovanni B. Draghi (otherwise known by his nickname, Pergolesi), but also, likely numerous works by other composers from that time period.

Colors of Home, by Alan Lee Silva

A loving portrait of life throwing up in the pastoral foothills of Northern California, colors of Home convey a warm Americana feeling, featuring beautifully nuanced melodic themes and carefully crafted harmonies.

Winter Solstice, by Todd Parrish

This fresh, new work describes the wonder and adventure of the winter season. All sections alternate between both melody and accompaniment throughout.





INTERMEZZO ORCHESTRA

Symphony No. 29 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, arr. by Thomas LaJoie

I. Allegro Moderato

Mozart composed his sparkling Symphony in A, K. 201, early in 1774, about the time he turned 18. He had just returned from a visit with his father to Vienna, where he had heard the latest works of Haydn and others, and the experience seems to have inspired him to write a number of important new works. While this symphony still has a youthful vigor and grace and a wonderfully transparent texture, it is already moving away from the polished "entertainment" of Mozart's earlier music. With a nervous tension in the first movement themes, the beautiful cantabile of the slow movement, and the brilliant finale, this symphony represents the high point in his early symphonic writing. He then abandoned the form for four years, before returning to write the more complex and personally expressive late symphonies.

Palladio (Concerto Grosso for String Orchestra) by Karl Jenkins

I. Allegretto

The first movement of the Concerto Grosso for String Orchestra by Karl Jenkins is perhaps one of the most famous pieces of classical music to emerge from the 1990s, commonly known as Palladio after architect Andrea Palladio, who gave Jenkins the inspiration for this piece. The piece aims to reflect two of Palladio's hallmarks of mathematical harmony and architectural elements borrowed from classical antiquity and became even more recognizable when it was adapted and used for the 'Shadows', A Diamond is Forever, television commercial campaign.

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year by Eddie Pola and Geroge Wyle, arr. by Bob Cerulli

Actor and songwriter Eddie Pola frequently collaborated with orchestra leader George Wyle to produce memorable songs from the 1950s and 60s. It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year is one of their best known songs and was released by Andy Williams for his first Christmas record in 1963. Pola and Wyle paint a charming, traditional portrait of the holidays, filled with caroling, Dickensian "ghost stories," and cheerful gatherings and mistletoe, to illustrate the magic of the season.



CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

String Quartet in G Major by Florence Price

II. Andante moderato

In 2009, a couple began to renovate a dilapidated house they had purchased in St. Anne, a tiny community little more than an hour south of Chicago, in Kankakee County. Scattered across the floor and in piles stacked around the house, they found handwritten pages of music. Many were signed: Florence Price. Curious, they took to the internet, and discovered that Florence Price had, in the 1930's and '40's, been a composer of some repute – she had even been, very briefly, famous, the first Black woman to have a work performed by a major American orchestra. The small house had once been her summer home, and it had hidden for over half a century most of the musical output of someone who might have become one of the most celebrated American composers.

Part of that discovery was her String Quartet in G Major, composed in 1929. The Andante moderato performed tonight exemplifies her stylistic approach from this period. The entire movement displays a gentle lyricism that harkens back to Dvořák and Tchaikovsky, and is infused with the pentatonic inflections of spiritual music. Even in the minor mode of the middle faster-paced 'B section,' the mood remains one of tender contemplation.

Serenade for Strings in C Major, O. 48 by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

IV. Finale (Tema russo)

In November of 1880, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky was hard at work on two sharply contrasting pieces. The first was the bombastic and commemorative 1812 Overture, a piece the composer delivered out of a sense of dutiful professional obligation. The second was the elegant and soulful Serenade for Strings in C Major. Regarding the Serenade, Tchaikovsky wrote to his publisher, "I am violently in love with this work and cannot wait for it to be played."

The Finale (Tema russo) emerges with the single pitch of D, set in octaves that shimmer with the icy brilliance of sunlight hitting a blanket of freshly fallen snow. A plaintive, distant quote of the Russian folk song, from the Volga region, passing it from the upper strings to the lower. The main theme of the movement, marked Allegro con spirito, is a popular dance tune from Moscow, and this is pitted against a more songlike melody of distinctively Russian character. Tchaikovsky skillfully weaves these themes together until the very end, when he brings back the very opening music of the first movement. After this reminiscence, the tempo quickens gradually for a lively coda.

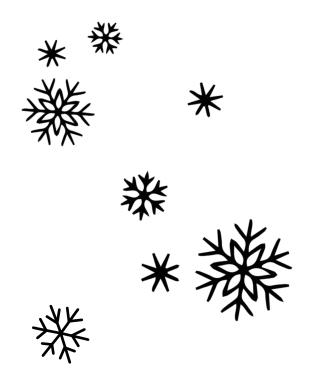
PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Carmen Suite No. 1 by Georges Bizet

This suite was most likely arranged by Ernest Guiraud about ten years after Bizet's death. They adhere very closely to Bizet's orchestration. Although the order of the musical allusions is in reversed chronological order, the Suite is directly inspired by Bizet's opera. The opera was first performed by the Opéra-Comique in Paris in 1875 and has since become one of the most popular and frequently performed operas in the classical canon; with the "Habanera", "Seguidilla" and "Toreador Song" among the best known of all operatic arias. The story is set in southern Spain and tells of the downfall of Don José, a naïve soldier who is seduced by the wiles of the fiery gypsy Carmen. José abandons his childhood sweetheart and deserts from his military duties, yet loses Carmen's love to the glamorous bullfighter Escamillo, after which José kills her in a jealous rage.

The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire), Lyric and Music by Mel Torme and Robert Wells, arr. by Bob Lowden

The Christmas Song (commonly subtitled "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire", or as it was originally subtitled, "Merry Christmas to You") is a classic Christmas song written in 1945 by Robert Wells and Mel Tormé. The Nat King Cole Trio first recorded the song in 1946. At Cole's behest – and over the objections of his label Capitol Records – a second recording was made later utilizing a small string section. This version became a massive hit on both the pop and R&B charts. The version that we are most familiar with is Cole's 1961 arrangement with full orchestra, and was selected by the Library of Congress in 2022 for preservation in the US National Recording Registry as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant."



SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Symphony No. 4 in G Major by Gustav Mahler

I. Bedächtig. Nicht eilen

From song to symphony, most of Gustav Mahler's music addresses, at least subliminally, the issue of mortality. His Symphony No. 4 offers perhaps the composer's happiest meditation on that subject, tracing a musical journey from earthly life through death to a heavenly afterlife. The first movement could be considered a musical "walk through the countryside" that begins with a flute and sleigh bell motif and then gives way to a pair of warm, cozy melodies that Mahler compared to "a dewdrop on a flower that, suddenly illuminated by the sun, bursts into a thousand lights and colors." As the movement progresses, a violin solo and woodwind bird calls take the melody into a somewhat darker and complex development as if one had become lost in the woods, culminating in a swirling, shattering orchestral tutti followed by a trumpet call Mahler named "the little summons" (later used in the 5th Symphony) that literally calls the movement to order and returns us to the warmth and safety of the initial melodies.

Symphony No. 5 in E Flat Major, Op. 82 by Jean Sibelius

III. Allegro moderato - Misterioso - Un pochettino largamente

Jean Sibelius was so beloved in his home country of Finland that the government declared his birthday a national holiday and commissioned him to write his Fifth Symphony to honor it. Sibelius conducted the premiere performance on his fiftieth birthday on December 8, 1915, to great acclaim. However, the ever-self-critical composer struggled in writing the symphony and continued to rework it in two major revisions over the course of five years.

Sibelius often drew inspiration from nature (bird calls, the buzzing of insects, the play of water), his connection with the Finnish landscape being integral to his identity. "Today at ten to eleven I saw sixteen swans," he wrote in his diary in 1915. "One of my greatest experiences! Lord God, what beauty! They circled over me for a long time. Disappeared into the solar haze like a gleaming silver ribbon." This moment was the inspiration for what he would call the "Swan Hymn," the swinging horn motif that evokes the graceful beating of the swans' wings as the woodwinds' countermelody suggests their call. But the gloriousness of this moment and the final iteration of the "Swan Hymn" are only so rewarding because of the dissonant struggles that precede them. Nonetheless, Sibelius claims a decisive victory with six perfunctory sledgehammer chords to draw the symphony to a stirring close.

Sleigh Ride by Leroy Anderson

The inspiration for Leroy Anderson's holiday classic came during a heat wave in Woodbury, Connecticut, in the summer of 1946. While digging trenches for spring water, Anderson composed several pieces in his head, including one about winter long ago. According to his widow, "Leroy didn't set out to write a Christmas piece. His intentions were to convey the entire winter season through the imagery of a sleigh ride." Anderson finished the piece in time for the Boston Pops 1948 season, and Sleigh Ride became an immediate hit. Over seventy-five years later, it remains one of the most popular pieces of holiday music in the world.

HONORS AND RECOGNITION

Congratulations Santa Monica High School Orchestra Students!

California All-State Music **Educators Conference (CASMEC)** All-State Orchestras and Bands January 16-19, 2025 Sacramento, CA

Symphony Orchestra

Grayson Fitzgerald, bass Gregory Gee, cello Elle Guggenheim, trumpet Connor Lee, bass Marina Shickler, violin

String Orchestra

Shayl Khatod, violin Daniel Ostrovsky, cello Clara Percus, violin

Symphonic Band

Matti Scott, trumpet Sohrab Zarin, bassoon

Concert Band

Nathaniel Chin, clarinet Alex Dimitrov, trumpet London Leslie, French horn Eli Tobel, clarinet

California Orchestra Directors Association (CODA) Honor Orchestras 2024 December 6 and 7, 2024 Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA

CODA Honor Symphony Orchestra

Alex Brandenburg, French horn Oliver Deutsch, violin Amber French, piccolo Allison Gee, viola Gregory Gee, cello Natalia Guerra, bass

Elle Guggenheim, trumpet Shayl Khatod, violin Roen Peralta, oboe Clara Percus, violin Adeline Rader, viola Alex Sebastian, viola Marina Shickler, violin

CODA Honor String Orchestra

Feben Avele, violin Eleanor Cadena, violin Oscar Hughes, viola Carlin Joensen, bass Eleanor Kim, viola Connor Lee, bass Athena Miller, violin Vasily Sahrai, violin Annélise Sebastian, viola Fiona Vader, viola

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COMBINED STRING & CONCERT **ORCHESTRAS**

Violin

Mimi Bijur** Daisy Moe** Jacqueline Campos Robles* Ariel Johnson* Darla Acosta Karina Aragon Evangeline Armstrong Laila Barranco Alexander Douglas Lennon Furano Amaris Garcia Sofia Garcia Artin Nejabati Emmett Palmer Anya Popovski Emma Ramirez Giovanna Ramos Alvarado Xochitl Vargas

Viola

Areaella Adera* Mylie Baker Johana Harewood-Pope Tabitha O'Neill Elena Policarpo Brandyn Schrobilgen

Cello

Olivia Choe* Esther Acosta Natalia Guerra Darien Jones Olivia Olvera-Sumano Aspen Penaloza Sofia Santoyo Layla Wiley

Bass

Genesis Mateo* Brynlee Baker Theo Karlin Austin Miller Noya Tewodros







SINFONIA ORCHESTRA

Violin

Izel Cermeno** Rosita Garcia** Alyssa Adauto Maedy Antonio Aguilar Julian Arias Elena Avila Uzai Bautista-Ramirez Haley Cruz Ithzáy Cruz Benjámin Felson Mirna Garmakani Devin Jericiau Alice Jimenez Mia Kondratyeva Sophie Lefevre Isaac Liberman Diego Lopez Charles Loughlin Maren Manjarrez Hannah Margulis Alfie McLoughlin Lily McMahon Cóle Quintero Tarek Shaker Allison Velazquez Luke Werner Aaron Williams Diana Zemaitis

Viola

Erini Kreakous* Erin Arita Neve Garcia-Langley Eva Gutierrez Varona Hoevet Max Jordan Raina Mehta Leora Norman Cole Soja Sarvin Torab Evan Walker

Cello

Juna Prizzi* Shane Akahoshi Laurel Cohn Jack Hagen Leon Ivanov Aija Kadish Elleri Klein Adali McArthur Jayde Smith Asher Spearman Emily Vasquez Maxwell Walker

Bass

Tate Daley* Daniel Esteban Garcia Nicolas Froech Anthony O'Brien Kainoa Waxman

INTERMEZZO ORCHESTRA

Violin

Sydney Chan** Arli Segall** Alex Alvizo Lohan Barnes Nyah Bishop Stella Callen Tanya Cortes Evelyn Gelfand Karina Hernandez Katie Lee Yared Lopez Julian Luis Aaliyah McGee Andrea Miranda Orozco Briana Negrete Finnegan O'Brien Alejandro Poza Stella Quiros Yahir Santiago Ruiz Julian Sassoon Mario Scaduto Payton Smith Andrew Walzer-Martinez Ryan Wells Selina Zhang Micah Zund

Viola

Philip Chernenkov* Mimi Bijur Ryan Chambers Philip Chernenkov Demiana Dous Anka Jovanovic Harper Lemle Sara Lord Melina Martinez Mia McTeigue

Cello

Ridlev Beck* Yeoniae Cho Jason DeBeech Yungbihn Douglas Rafael Hackman-Garcia Griffin Kay John MacDonald Ethan Suh

Bass

Lucie Demmer* Ian Oakes Salma Salib Serena Wu

PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Violin

Benjamin Clark** Grant Jensen** Athena Miller** Miyuki Saita** Tea Eisenberg* An Ngo* Vasily Sahrai* Siená Tovar Burke* Leo Bernknopf Ava Brara Amanda Camacho Kendi Cunningham Guadalupe De Pablo Kaitlyn Eggers Loa Garcia-Lopez Maya Jarmakani Théo Karlin Selin Kocataskin Megan Kovac Michael Kuzma Sierra Pacifici Hannah Rapoport-Kamman Marie Zucco-Reynolds

Viola

Fiona Vader* Sofia Ally Deborah Amezquita Kosei Cannon Ryan Gillespie-Breslo Amber Havel Sophia Hernandez Oscar Hughes Brooke Merriam Flle Oliva Mateo Peterson Riley Schreier

Cello

Hanako Gross* Nylah Bennett Grace Garcia Mason Gravelle Calum Hurwitz Adele Jouffret Luke Shimahara Ellie Skalaski Lewis Smith **Emily Umana** Orly Wilkinson

Bass

Carlin Joensen* Mylie Baker Ramona Gutierrez Nina Slavonia Lilla Valenzuela Edward Wallace

PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA CONT.

Flute

Emi Yamashiro-Hergert* Maeko Gross Sophia Huether Shayna Kadish Ana Katanic

Piccolo

Shayna Kadish*

Oboe

Liam Fitzpatrick* Otis Sloan

Clarinet

Teddy Forrer*
Dalia Puchalt*
Leo Kelty
James Tigrak
Asher Zaczepinski

Bass Clarinet

James Tigrak

Bassoon

Graham Gorman* Reed Walker

French Horn

Alex Brandenberg* Dylan Ezard* Giana Aimonetti Ethan Crawford Benicio De Oliveira Tiago Duarte Silva

Trumpet

Kyle Matsui* Alex Dimitrov Oliver Levine

Trombone

Emily Wessling* Koli Senchuk

Bass Trombone

Martin Williams*

Tuba

Émilien Ged*

Percussion

Brendan Aronin* Coby Hagooli Bolanos* Samir Hirji-Johnson Govind Raman Grace Wilkins

Harp

Angelina Knight-Weber

Piano

Jacob Haselhoff*

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

1st Violin

Aerin Lee**
Clara Percus*
Christopher Rhee*
Henry Sullivan*
Feben Ayele
Eleanor Cadena
Oriane LaChapelle
Marcus Neely
Adam Orshansky
Kyle Wang

2nd Violin

Marina Shickler**
Oliver Deutsch*
Shayl Khatod*
Salomon Singer-Portnoy*
Nathan DeBeech
Max Epstein
Jacob Haselhoff
Oscar Hughes
Maxwell Lin
Sofia Moreno-Morales
Eleanor Smith
Naomi Xia

Viola

Alex Sebastian*
Naomi Altman
Camille Choe
Allison Gee
Peter Jarvis
Eleanor Kim
Emily Martinez Santiago
Jackson Mayeda
Adeline Rader
Georgia Rowe
Annelise Sebastian
Alexandra Weinberger

Cello

Sophie O'Brien*
Gregory Gee*
Rose Gallagher
Josephine Kim-Pearson
Henry Kim
Eva Machtinger
Daniel Ostrovsky
Eliana Radusky
lan Rhie-Kim
Lyam Shapouri
Soren Thanawalla
Caspian Tidmore

Bass

Grayson Fitzgerald* Natalia Guerra Connor Lee Jordan Makhani

Flute

Arianna French* Tessa Rogers Amber French

Symphony Orchestra Cont.

Piccolo

Amber French*

Oboe

Roen Peralta* Silas Tropea-Lester

Clarinet

Nathaniel Chin* Eli Tobel Georgia Hadley Johnathan Lin

Bass Clarinet

Jasper Leigh

Bassoon

Sohrab Zarin*

French Horn

Alex Brandenburg* Charlotte Moss* Ethan Crawford London Leslie

Trumpet

Elle Guggenheim* Matti Scott* Marco Sung

Trombone

Alex Beekman* Luke Terlizzi

Bass Trombone

Nathaniel Jaffa*

Tuba

Yunho Heo*

Percussion

Max Bernstein* Eli Boreth* Declan Clark Landon Fringer Tess Sloan

Harp

Xylia Criswell*

Piano

Landon Fringer*

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

1st Violin

Aerin Lee** Clara Percus Marina Shickler Henry Sullivan

2nd Violin

Christopher Rhee* Oliver Deutsch Shayl Khatod Adam Orshansky Salomon Singer-Portnoy Kyle Wang

Viola

Alex Sebastian* Camille Choe Allison Gee Adeline Rader

Cello

Sophie O'Brien* Gregory Gee* Daniel Ostrovsky Lyam Shapouri

Bass

Natalia Guerra* Grayson Fitzgerald Connor Lee

** Concertmaster

* Principal







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Jason AielloDirector of Orchestras

Jason Aiello began teaching orchestra at Santa Monica High School in 2006, after graduating with honors from UCLA as the recipient of the Joyce Fahlman Fellowship. While at UCLA, he studied music education with Dr. Frank Heuser and cello with Antonio Lysy.

In addition to his work at Santa Monica High School, Mr. Aiello teaches cello sectionals and conducts the Sinfonia Orchestra for Elemental Strings, a youth orchestra program for elementary school students in Santa Monica. In past summers, Mr. Aiello has served as the Senior Camp Orchestra Director at the La Honda Music Camp in Northern California.

As a guest conductor, Jason has worked with honor orchestras sponsored by CMEA (California Music Educators Association) and SCSBOA (Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association). Currently, he serves on the board of the California Orchestra Directors Association, where his primary responsibilities have included creating and maintaining the CODA website and auditioning junior high and high school cellists for various CODA sponsored honor orchestras.



Jim WangDirector of Orchestras

Before Samohi, Jim was the orchestra director at Lincoln Middle School since 2011. He also taught all levels of strings in Rowland Unified School District before joining SMMUSD. From 2018-2022, he served on the board of SCSBOA as VP of Orchestra Education.

During Dr. Wang's tenure, Lincoln's Chamber Ensemble was invited to perform at ASTA's National Orchestra Festival in 2015 and 2020. Outside of SMMUSD, Dr. Wang worked coaching various chamber groups, conducted the SOL-LA Ensemble and the Pacific Blue Music Camp.

Dr. Wang earned his Master's and Doctorate degrees at USC Thornton School of Music in Music Teaching and Learning and a Bachelor of Music degree in Violin Performance from Biola University.



Ryan Baird, Bass Coach

Dr. Ryan Baird earned his DMA in Double Bass Performance from the University of Southern California, where he studied with David Allen Moore. Ryan regularly performs with Delirium Musicum chamber orchestra, the Santa Barbara Symphony, and serves as Principal Bass of the Downey Symphony. A passionate advocate for contemporary music, Ryan is the

Principal Bass of the Cabrillo Festival in Santa Cruz each August. He performs in the bass sections of orchestras throughout Southern California, including the Pasadena Symphony, Long Beach Symphony, Santa Barbara Opera, and Musica Angelica Baroque Orchestra.

In addition to performing, Ryan teaches private lessons and directs the Bass Ensemble at the Colburn Community School for the Performing Arts. During the summer, he teaches at the Idyllwild Arts music programs for pre-college musicians. In his free time, Ryan enjoys running in the mountains.



Ben Bartelt, Viola Coach

Multi-instrumentalist Ben Bartelt received his B.A. in Music, graduating summa cum laude from UCLA. He continued his studies at Yale University, where he received his Master's of Music on full scholarship, and at the Colburn Conservatory, where he was awarded the prestigious Artist Diploma. Ben enjoys a busy schedule as a performer and teacher around LA county. He is glad to be

coaching the talented students in Samohi's orchestra program.



Sheng-Ching Hsu, Violin Coach

A firm believer in the power of music, Sheng-Ching Hsu created "S-C Sidewalk Performance" where she brought weekly live music to the street corners of West LA during the pandemic, and was featured on KTTV Fox 11 Los Angeles and EliteGen Magazine in Toronto, Canada. Her story was also made into a documentary by "Aria's Lens" in China. A native of Taiwan, S-C is a member of Delirium Musicum, California Symphony and

New West Symphony, and serves as guest principal 2nd violin of St. Matthew's Chamber Orchestra. She serves as a faculty at CSU-Long Beach and Colburn Community School of Performing Arts. S-C is also a sought-after music arranger. Her latest commissions include the National Anthem for the New York Knicks' Lunar New Year Game in Madison Square Garden.

(www.shengchinghsu.com)



April Paik, Violin Coach

Violinist and Samohi alum April Paik returned to her native Los Angeles in 2017. One of the most memorable moments of April's high-school career was traveling to the ASTA National Orchestra Festival as concertmaster of the Samohi Symphony in 2005 and winning the grand prize. She is proud to be back helping the young musicians of Samohi continue the tradition of

excellence. After her undergraduate studies in the departments of music and German at UC Berkeley, April taught and performed throughout the Bay Area in regional orchestras, contemporary music ensembles, and as an avid chamber musician. In 2014, as a recipient of the Hertz Traveling Fellowship from UC Berkeley, she moved to Germany, where she performed with the Lübeck Philharmonic. She currently maintains a private teaching studio and teaches violin in the El Segundo schools. April particularly loves performing opera, contemporary music, and early music.

Eric Shetzen, Bass Coach

Double bassist Eric Shetzen maintains a multi-faceted career as a performer, teacher, and recording artist. He received both his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees at the Juilliard School in New York City and for three years served as Principal Bass of the Hyogo Performing Arts Center Orchestra in Osaka, Japan. He also spent several seasons as a Fellow in the New World Symphony, America's Orchestral

Academy directed by Michael Tilson Thomas. When Eric is not performing on stage in various SoCal orchestras and chamber music groups, he can be found teaching his studio of private bass students or recording the music of Hollywood's most iconic composers for film and television.



Charlie Tyler, Cello Coach

Cellist Charlie Tyler has enjoyed a varied career as soloist, chamber musician and orchestral performer in concert venues around the world. Charlie was named winner of the Cleveland Institute of Music's Concerto Competition, top prize winner of the Osaka International Music Competition, and winner of the Atwater Kent Strings Competition.

Charlie served as co-principal cello of the Hyogo Performing Arts Center Orchestra in Japan for three seasons, where he also appeared in numerous chamber music and solo recital concerts. In past summers he has participated in the Tanglewood Music Center, Maazel's Castleton Festival, and was principal cellist of the National Repertory Orchestra. He frequently performs in many orchestras around Southern California and has performed on

Charlie Tyler cont.

the Jacaranda and Dilijan Chamber music series, the Hear/Now Music Festival and with the Salastina Music Society.

Charlie also performs as a member of the Arizona MusicFest Orchestra each winter in Scottsdale, AZ. In addition to live performances, Charlie maintains an active recording career in Los Angeles, where he has played on numerous scores for film and television.



Laila Zakzook, Viola Coach

A spirited interpreter of chamber music, violist Laila Zakzook won the 2014 Lillian Fuchs Chamber Music Competition and the Honors Quartet Scholarship at the Colburn School of Performing Arts. Also committed to the performance of new music, Laila has given the Canadian premier of "In Manus Tuas," by Caroline Shaw. In 2013, Laila performed with Mika and Richard Stoltzman in "Duet" by Steve

Reich in Carnegie Hall. Laila has held principal and assistant principal positions under the batons of conductors such as Leonard Slatkin, Philippe Entremont and Leon Fleisher in the Banff Festival Orchestra, Manhattan School of Music Orchestras, The Royal Conservatory Orchestra, Oberlin Wind Ensemble, and the Colburn School of Performing Arts Chamber Orchestra. Laila appeared at Carnegie Hall with the Mimesis Ensemble in the premiere performance and subsequent recording of Sumeida's Song by Mohammed Fairouz. In 2011 and 2013, Laila held residencies at The Banff Centre. Laila has also participated in Rockport Chamber Music Festival, The Heifetz International Music Institute, Zephyr International Chamber Music Course and Festival, Stoughton Chamber Music Festival and Music by the Sea in British Columbia. Laila completed her studies at The Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music, having previously studied at The Manhattan School of Music and The Oberlin Conservatory. Laila has collaborated with the Grammy Award winning Attacca Quartet and artists such as Steven Dann, Barry Schiffman, Andrès Diaz and Osvaldo Golijov. Laila is a graduate of Santa Monica High School and is thrilled to be working with the talented violists in the orchestra program and Music by the Sea in British Columbia. Laila completed her studies at The Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music, having previously studied at The Manhattan School of Music and The Oberlin Conservatory. Laila has collaborated with the Grammy Award winning Attacca Quartet and artists such as Steven Dann, Barry Schiffman, Andrès Diaz and Osvaldo Golijov. Laila is a graduate of Santa Monica High School and is thrilled to be working with the talented violists in the orchestra program.



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