



NEWS

Media Contact:

Brenda Fox

Director of Marketing and Patron Services

(707) 546-7097 x 218

bfox@srsymphony.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 29, 2022

Santa Rosa Symphony Season Opener Features Berlioz's *Fantastique*

Awadagin Pratt Performs Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23

October 1, 2 & 3, 2022 at Weill Hall, Green Music Center

(Santa Rosa, Calif.) —The Santa Rosa Symphony orchestra, conducted by Music Director Francesco Lecce-Chong, in its 11th season as Resident Orchestra of the Green Music Center, begins its 95th performance season on October 1, 2 & 3, 2022. Creativity positively dances in this bold, joyous season opener! The performance begins with Beethoven's Overture to *Die Geschöpfe des Prometheus* [*The Creatures of Prometheus*] and *Me he perdido* [*I've Gotten Lost*] by the up-and-coming First Symphony Project composer Angélica Negrón. Followed by Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 with the highly acclaimed Awadagin Pratt on piano. Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique* [*Fantastic Symphony*] brings a rousing conclusion to this powerful program.

Lecce-Chong said, "I am thrilled to open our season with Berlioz's masterpiece, *Symphonie fantastique* - an astounding act of creation that pushes the instruments of the orchestra to the limits of the composer's imagination. I also look forward to introducing our Composer-in-Residence, Angélica Negrón, to our orchestra and community during her first residency as well as welcoming esteemed pianist, Awadagin Pratt, for Mozart's delightful 23rd piano concerto."

Program at a glance:

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN: Overture to *Die Geschöpfe des Prometheus* [*The Creatures of Prometheus*]

ANGÉLICA NEGRÓN: *Me he perdido* [*I've Gotten Lost*]

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART: Piano Concerto No. 23

HECTOR BERLIOZ: *Symphonie fantastique* [*Fantastic Symphony*]

Awadagin Pratt, piano

Among his generation of concert artists, pianist Awadagin Pratt is acclaimed for his musical insight and intensely involving performances in recital and with symphony orchestras.

Born in Pittsburgh, Awadagin Pratt began studying piano at the age of 6. Three years later, having moved to Normal, Illinois, with his family, he also began studying violin. At the age of 16, he entered the University of Illinois, where he studied piano, violin and conducting. He subsequently enrolled at the Peabody Conservatory of Music where he became the first student in the school's history to receive diplomas in three performance areas – piano, violin and conducting.

In 1992, Pratt won the Naumburg International Piano Competition and was awarded an Avery Fisher Career Grant two years later. Since then, he has played numerous recitals throughout the United States, including performances at Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles, Chicago's Orchestra Hall and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. His many orchestral performances include appearances with the New York

Philharmonic, Minnesota Orchestra and the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Baltimore, Indianapolis, Atlanta, St. Louis, National and Detroit symphonies among many others. Summer festival engagements include appearances at Ravinia, Blossom, Wolftrap, Caramoor, Aspen and the Hollywood Bowl.

Also, an experienced conductor, Pratt has conducted programs with the Toledo, New Mexico, Vancouver, Washington, Winston-Salem and Santa Fe symphonies, the Northwest Sinfonietta, the Concertante di Chicago and several orchestras in Japan. Upcoming conducting activities include playing/conducting the Chamber Orchestra of Pittsburgh and conducting performances of *Porgy and Bess* for the Greensboro Opera.

A great favorite on college and university performing arts series and a strong advocate of music education, Awadagin Pratt participates in numerous residency and outreach activities wherever he appears. He is also frequently invited to participate on international competition juries, such as the Rubinstein International Piano Master Competition in Israel, the Cleveland International Piano Competition, Minnesota e-Competition, the Unisa International Piano Competition in South Africa and the Competition for Young Pianists in Memory of Vladimir Horowitz in Ukraine.

Awadagin Pratt, a Yamaha artist, is also the founder and Artistic Director of the Art of the Piano and produces a festival every spring featuring performances and conversations with well-known faculty members and pianists. Through the Art of the Piano Foundation, Pratt has commissioned seven composers – Jessie Montgomery, Alvin Singleton, Judd Greenstein, Tyshawn Sorey, Jonathan Bailey Holland, Paola Prestini and Peteris Vasks – to compose works for piano with string orchestra and/or *A Roomful of Teeth*.

Pratt is currently Professor of Piano and Artist-in-Residence at the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati. He also served as the Artistic Director of the World Piano Competition in Cincinnati and the Next Generation Festival. In recognition of his achievements in the field of classical music, he received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Johns Hopkins University, as well as honorary doctorates from Illinois Wesleyan and Susquehanna Universities and delivered commencement addresses at those institutions and Peabody Conservatory.

Awadagin Pratt is a Yamaha artist. For more information, please visit <http://www.awadagin.com/>.

Angélica Negrón, a Puerto Rican-born composer and multi-instrumentalist writes music for accordions, robotic instruments, toys, and electronics as well as for chamber ensembles, orchestras, choirs, and film. Her music has been described as “wistfully idiosyncratic and contemplative” (WQXR/Q2) while The New York Times noted her “capacity to surprise.” Negrón has been commissioned by the Bang on a Can All-Stars, Kronos Quartet, loadbang, Prototype Festival, Brooklyn Youth Chorus, Sō Percussion, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, Opera Philadelphia, the Louisville Orchestra and the New York Botanical Garden, among others.

Angélica received an early education in piano and violin at the Conservatory of Music of Puerto Rico where she later studied composition under the guidance of composer Alfonso Fuentes. She holds a master’s degree in music composition from New York University where she studied with Pedro da Silva and pursued doctoral studies at The Graduate Center (CUNY), where she studied composition with Tania León.

Also active as an educator, Angélica is currently a teaching artist for New York Philharmonic’s Very Young Composers program. She has collaborated with artists like Sō Percussion, Lido Pimienta, Mathew Placek, Sasha Velour, Cecilia Aldarondo, Mariela Pabón & Adrienne Westwood, among others and is a founding member of the tropical electronic band Balún. She was recently an Artist-in-Residence at WNYC’s The Greene Space working on El Living Room, a 4-part offbeat variety show and playful multimedia exploration of sound and story, of personal history and belonging. She was the recipient of the 2022 Hermitage Greenfield Prize. Upcoming premieres include works for the Seattle Symphony, LA Philharmonic, NY Philharmonic Project 19 initiative and multiple performances at Big Ears Festival 2022. Negrón continues to perform and compose for film.

ENHANCEMENTS:

- Program Books available online. Mailed to full-season subscribers
- Program notes are available on the concert event page
- Lecce-Chong provides a 30-minute pre-concert talk one hour prior to each performance, accompanied by Awadagin Pratt

SPONSORS:

Classical Concert Series underwritten by Anderman Family Foundation
Sponsored by Marcia Wagner in memory of Hap Wagner
Conductor Francesco Lecce-Chong underwritten by David and Corinne Byrd
Guest Artist Awadagin Pratt underwritten by Ava and Sam Guerrero
Discovery Open Rehearsal Series sponsored by The Stare Foundation and David Stare of Dry Creek Vineyard
Pre-Concert Talks Sponsored by Jamei Haswell
Media sponsors: *The Press Democrat*

High-res photos available:

- [Lecce-Chong](#)
- [Pratt](#)
- [SRS Orchestra](#)

Interview Opportunities: Francesco Lecce-Chong & Awadagin Pratt

AT A GLANCE / CALENDAR LISTING:

WHAT: [Santa Rosa Symphony concert srsymphony.org/](https://srsymphony.org/)“Fantastique”

WHO: [Santa Rosa Symphony](#)
[Francesco Lecce-Chong, conductor](#)
[Awadagin Pratt, piano](#)

WHEN:

Saturday, October 1, 2022 at 7:30 PM (Doors at 6:00 PM, Pre-concert talk 6:30 PM-7:00 PM)
(Discovery Open Rehearsal, Saturday, October 1 at 2:00 PM – no talk)
Sunday, October 2, 2022 at 3:00 PM (Doors at 1:30 PM, Pre-concert talk 2:00 PM-2:30 PM)
Monday, October 3, 2022 at 7:30 PM (Doors at 6:00 PM, Pre-concert talk 6:30 PM-7:00 PM)

WHERE: Weill Hall, Green Music Center, Sonoma State University

TICKET PRICES:

\$32-\$105 for Classical Series performances
\$18 / adult; \$10 / youth (7-17 years of age) for Discovery Open Rehearsal

TICKETS: srsymphony.org or (707) 546-8742 (Weekdays 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, opening at 10:30 AM
Wednesdays, closed Saturday & Sunday)

ABOUT SANTA ROSA SYMPHONY

Santa Rosa Symphony, the Resident Orchestra of the Green Music Center, is the third-oldest professional orchestra in California, and the largest regional symphony north of Los Angeles. Francesco Lecce-Chong, the Symphony's fifth music director in its 95 years, began his tenure in 2018. Alan Silow, President & CEO, began his tenure in 2002. The Symphony is committed to core values of artistic excellence, innovative programming, comprehensive music education and community service.

The Symphony's performance schedule includes 21 Classical Series concerts (seven sets), seven Discovery Dress Rehearsal concerts, a three-concert Family Series and a four-concert Pops Series, as well as special concerts.

Awards include an American Symphony Orchestra League MetLife Award for Community Engagement and a first-place award for adventurous programming in the 2012-2013 season from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP).

The Symphony is recognized as having one of the most comprehensive music education programs in California, serving nearly 30,000 youths annually. Collaborations with schools and organizations across Sonoma County have gained the Santa Rosa Symphony national attention and support.