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March 1, 2024

## **Santa Rosa Symphony announces 2024-2025 Season "Celebrate Extraordinary"**

Season Subscriptions go on sale Monday, March 4, 2024

**PLUS, Year 2, Road to 100, *The Complete Beethoven Symphonies***

(Santa Rosa, Calif.) — The Santa Rosa Symphony (SRS), in its 13th season as Resident Orchestra of the Green Music Center, announces its 97th season, "Celebrate Extraordinary." Music Director Francesco Lecce-Chong, in his 7th year with the Symphony, brings us hand-picked masterpieces and contemporary works. The Classical Series 2024-2025 runs from October 19, 2024, to May 3, 2025, and is underwritten by Anderman Family Foundation. Season subscriptions go on sale Monday, March 4, 2024. The SRS five-year special concert series, *Road to 100, The Complete Beethoven Symphonies*, continues with year two on June 1, 2025. The Symphony's annual fundraising event, *Celebration 2024! An Evening in Paris* takes place on Friday, October 18, 2024, at 6:00 pm, Weill Hall, Green Music Center.

The Santa Rosa Symphony opens this season with Beethoven's exquisite Violin Concerto. The composition features Sonoma County native David McCarroll. The season also features uplifting pieces from Aaron Copland, *Fanfare for the Common Man*, *Seven O'Clock Shout* by Valerie Coleman, and Prokofiev's Suite from *Romeo and Juliet*. Two new premieres are presented, including a World Premiere by Jonathan Leshnoff, *Warum hast du gelitten?*, inspired by Gustav Mahler, going hand-in-hand with his revered masterpiece Symphony No. 3, *Resurrection*. Additionally, *musica pyralis* by Katherine Balch has its West Coast Premiere in October. The final season of RACH & the Hollywood Sound presents Rachmaninoff's last work, *Symphonic Dances*, and three film musical excerpts from *The Magnificent Seven*, *Deception*, and *Catch Me if You Can*. Pairing two Symphonies, the first by Brahms, Symphony No. 4, and the second by Bernstein, *The Age of Anxiety* on which Joyce Yang will perform on the piano. Yue Bao brings her electrifying presence as she makes her debut in Weill Hall at the Green Music Center conducting Dvořák's *From the New World* and Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto. Holst's *The Planets* delivers vivid depictions of seven of the planets with an uplifting performance by the Young Women's Chorus of San Francisco. Gershwin's Concerto in F featuring Orion Weiss on piano will bring the season to its grand finale.

"I am delighted to join my incredible colleagues throughout the 2024-25 season for programs full of orchestral favorites, sensational soloists, and unique perspectives. I look forward to sharing monumental works of creativity, from Mahler's "Resurrection" Symphony to Holst's "The Planets" as well as celebrating the final installment of our four-year cycle of Rachmaninoff's orchestral works. An amazing lineup of star soloists join us, including my dear friends on the piano, Joyce Yang and Orion Weiss. Perhaps the most meaningful will be showcasing the artistry of violinist David McCarroll who grew up in Santa Rosa supported by our own education programs before starting his acclaimed career around the world. All of us on stage look forward to these and many more thrilling musical journeys with our fantastic audiences all season long!" **Francesco Lecce-Chong**, conductor

"We are thrilled to share the 2024-25 concert season with our patrons and the broader Sonoma County community," remarked SRS President & CEO J. Andrew Bradford. "Maestro Lecce-Chong has masterfully curated a compelling season of programming that will showcase the remarkable virtuosity of our incredible

orchestra. As one looks across the season – which includes well-known masterpieces, compelling contemporary works, and some of the most in-demand guest artists on the concert circuit today – there truly is something for everyone. We very much look forward to welcoming the community to Green Music Center for inspiring, transformative musical experiences during this season-long celebration of the extraordinary!” **J. Andrew Bradford**, President & CEO

#### **FOUR-YEAR PROJECT CONCLUDES**

In its fourth and final season, RACH & the Hollywood Sound continues to explore Rachmaninoff’s orchestral works alongside influential Hollywood composers. This year, Rachmaninoff’s orchestral work, Symphonic Dances, Elmer Bernstein’s *The Magnificent Seven*, Erich Korngold’s *Deception*, and John Williams’ Escapades from *Catch Me if You Can* will be performed on January 11, 12 & 13, 2025.

#### **2024-2025 CLASSICAL SERIES PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS**

##### **Symphonies**

- **Johannes Brahms:** Symphony No. 4
- **Leonard Bernstein:** Symphony No. 2, *The Age of Anxiety*
- **Gustav Mahler:** Symphony No. 2, *Resurrection*
- **Antonín Dvořák:** Symphony No. 9, *From the New World*

##### **Concertos**

- **Ludwig van Beethoven:** Concerto in D major for Violin and Orchestra
- **Pytor Tchaikovsky:** Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor for Piano and Orchestra
- **Felix Mendelssohn:** Concerto in E minor for Violin and Orchestra
- **George Gershwin:** Concerto in F major for Piano and Orchestra

##### **Special mentions**

- **Katherine Balch:** *musica pyralis* (West Coast Premiere)
- **Aaron Copland:** *Fanfare for the Common Man, Lincoln Portrait*
- **Valerie Coleman:** *Seven O’Clock Shout* for Orchestra
- **Jonathan Leshnoff:** *Warum hast du gelitten?* (World Premiere)
- **Sergei Prokofiev:** Suite from *Romeo and Juliet*
- **Gabriela Lena Frank:** *Elegía Andina* for Orchestra
- **Gustav Holst:** *The Planets* for Orchestra, Opus 32
- **Shuying Li:** *Purple Mountains* for Orchestra
- **Gabriela Ortiz:** *Antrópolis* for Orchestra
- **Sergei Rachmaninoff:** Symphonic Dances

##### **Acclaimed guest artists**

- **Yue Bao**, guest conductor
- **Simone Porter**, violin
- **David McCarroll**, violin
- **Joyce Yang**, piano
- **Kai Ryssdal**, narrator and host of public radio’s *Marketplace*
- **Jon Kimura Parker**, piano
- **Magdalena Kuźma**, soprano
- **Gabrielle Beteag**, mezzo-soprano
- **Adelle-Akiko Kearns**, cello

## 2024-2025 CLASSICAL SERIES CONCERTS

The Symphony's 97th performance season (October 2024 – May 2025)

The season opens on Saturday, October 19, 2024, with the finale of the seven-concert Classical Series on May 3, 2025. Saturday and Monday 7:30 pm / Sunday 3:00 pm / Discovery Open Rehearsal - Saturday 2:00 pm (*dates and descriptions below*). All performances are at the Green Music Center's Weill Hall on the Sonoma State University campus in Rohnert Park, California.

### **Beethoven & Copland**

October 19, 20 & 21, 2024

**Francesco Lecce-Chong**, conductor

**David McCarroll**, violin

**Kai Ryssdal**, narrator

**AARON COPLAND:** *Fanfare for the Common Man*

**LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN:** Concerto in D major for Violin and Orchestra, Opus 61

**KATHERINE BALCH:** *musica pyralis* (West Coast Premiere)

**AARON COPLAND:** *Lincoln Portrait* for Narrator and Orchestra

Beethoven's only concerto for violin is an exquisite musical composition featuring David McCarroll, a Sonoma County native, and Concertmaster of the Pittsburgh Symphony. Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man* is a tribute to the strength and resilience of ordinary people. *Lincoln Portrait*, narrated by the host of public radio's *Marketplace*, Kai Ryssdal, reflects on the legacy of Abraham Lincoln.

### **Tchaikovsky & Prokofiev**

November 9, 10 & 11, 2024

**Francesco Lecce-Chong**, conductor

**Jon Kimura Parker**, piano

**VALERIE COLEMAN:** *Seven O'Clock Shout* for Orchestra

**PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY:** Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor for Piano and Orchestra, Opus 23

**SERGEI PROKOFIEV:** Suite from *Romeo and Juliet*

Celebrating the human spirit, *Seven O'Clock Shout* pays homage to our frontline workers. Tchaikovsky's timeless musical masterpiece, Piano Concerto No. 1, is filled with gorgeous harmonies and classic melodies. The program's finale, Prokofiev's brilliant *Romeo and Juliet* Suite, is a spectacular showcase of virtuosity and enduring romance.

### **Mahler's Resurrection**

December 7, 8 & 9, 2024

**Francesco Lecce-Chong**, conductor

**Magdalena Kuźma**, soprano

**Gabrielle Beteag**, mezzo-soprano

**SSU Symphonic Chorus, Jenny Bent**, director

**JONATHAN LESHNOFF:** Warum hast du gelitten? (World Premiere)

**GUSTAV MAHLER:** Symphony No. 2 in C minor/E-flat major, *Resurrection*

Inspired by Mahler's own text and letters to his wife, Alma, Leshnoff's world premiere combines the full power of the orchestra and choir in just eight short minutes! With its grandeur and breathtaking melodies, Mahler's revered masterpiece, the *Resurrection* Symphony, ignited his lifelong exploration of the beauty of the afterlife.

*Please note, that there will not be a Discovery Rehearsal for the December 2024 concert. Included in the Discovery Rehearsal Series package price is one ticket for one of the December performances on Saturday, Sunday, or Monday, at no extra cost.*

### **RACH & the Hollywood Sound**

January 11, 12 & 13, 2025

**Francesco Lecce-Chong**, conductor

**Adelle-Akiko Kearns**, cello

**Andrew Harrison**, saxophone

**ELMER BERNSTEIN:** *The Magnificent Seven*: Symphonic Suite for Orchestra

**ERICH KORNGOLD:** Concerto in C major for Cello and Orchestra from *Deception*, Opus 37

**JOHN WILLIAMS:** Escapades from *Catch Me if You Can* for Alto Saxophone and Orchestra

**SERGEI RACHMANINOFF:** Symphonic Dances for Orchestra, Opus 45

This season marks the stunning conclusion to this four-year series. Featuring music from the films *The Magnificent Seven*, *Catch Me if You Can*, and *Deception* – notably, the last showcasing SRS Principal Cellist Adelle-Akiko Kearns. An audience favorite, Rachmaninoff's final orchestral work, *Symphonic Dances*, is a tour de force with a kaleidoscope of emotions that ends with a feeling of gratitude.

### **Bernstein & Brahms**

February 22, 23 & 24, 2025

**Francesco Lecce-Chong**, conductor

**Joyce Yang**, piano

**SHUYING LI:** *Purple Mountains* for Orchestra

**JOHANNES BRAHMS:** Symphony No. 4 in E minor, Opus 98

**LEONARD BERNSTEIN:** Symphony No. 2 for Piano and Orchestra, *The Age of Anxiety*

The deep, emotional intensity and rich harmonies of Brahms' astonishing Symphony No. 4, his final symphony, bring a spellbinding energy. Bernstein's Symphony, *The Age of Anxiety*, featuring the spectacular pianist Joyce Yang, blends jazz and blues to depict post-war anxieties, culminating with hopefulness.

### **A New World**

March 22, 23 & 24, 2025

**Yue Bao**, guest conductor

**Simone Porter**, violin

**GABRIELA LENA FRANK:** *Elegía Andina* for Orchestra

**FELIX MENDELSSOHN:** Concerto in E minor for Violin and Orchestra, Opus 64

**ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK:** Symphony No. 9 in E minor, Opus 95, *From the New World*

With her electrifying presence, conductor Yue Bao makes her debut in Weill Hall. Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto displays lyrical beauty and technical brilliance with a breathtaking performance by Simone Porter. Dvořák's *From the New World* weaves a tapestry filled with the rich and harmonic influences of Native American and African American music.

### **The Planets**

May 3, 4 & 5, 2025

**Francesco Lecce-Chong**, conductor

**Orion Weiss**, piano

**Young Women's Chorus of San Francisco**

**GABRIELA ORTIZ:** *Antrópolis* for Orchestra  
**GEORGE GERSHWIN:** Concerto in F major for Piano and Orchestra  
**GUSTAV HOLST:** *The Planets* for Orchestra, Opus 32

Holst's *The Planets* delivers vivid depictions of seven of the planets, each with distinct character and musical imagery, uplifted by the choir. Experience the vibrant energy and soulful beauty of one of America's most iconic piano concertos. This work by George Gershwin features the astonishing Orion Weiss on piano.

## 2024-2025 SEASON SPECIAL EVENTS

### Road to 100 | The Complete Beethoven Symphonies, Year 2

Sunday, June 1, 2025 at 3 pm

Francesco Lecce-Chong, conductor | Weill Hall, Green Music Center

**LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN:** Symphony No. 2 in D major, Opus 36

**LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN:** Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Opus 67

In year two of the *Road to 100: The Complete Beethoven Symphonies*, SRS performs two of Beethoven's great works. Symphony No. 2 is bright and optimistic highlighting his mastery of classical form. Symphony No. 5 is one of the most recognizable pieces of music ever composed, a dramatic and powerful work full of struggle and triumph.

Performed with the orchestra in unique configurations reflecting how the symphonies, in Beethoven's time, may have been played. *Be a part of the journey to our centennial celebration in the 2027-2028 season!*

**Tickets go on sale, July 29, 2024.**

## CELEBRATION 2024! *An Evening in Paris*, October 18, 2024

The Symphony's annual fundraising event, Celebration 2024! *An Evening in Paris*, honoring J. Andrew Bradford, Santa Rosa Symphony President & CEO, will be held on Friday, October 18, 2024 at 6:00 pm at Weill Hall, Green Music Center. Celebration 2024! includes an elegant reception and a private recital. A gourmet dinner in the Person Lobby features a paddle raise for the Symphony's music education programs.

## FULL LIST OF WORKS IN THE 2024-2025 CLASSICAL SERIES

*In order performed:*

Aaron Copland	<i>Fanfare for the Common Man</i>
Ludwig van Beethoven	Concerto in D major for Violin and Orchestra, Opus 61
Katherine Balch	<i>musica pyralis</i> (West Coast Premiere)
Aaron Copland	<i>Lincoln Portrait</i> for Narrator and Orchestra
Valerie Coleman	<i>Seven O'Clock Shout</i> for Orchestra
Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky	Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor for Piano and Orchestra, Opus 23
Sergei Prokofiev	Suite from <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>
Jonathan Leshnoff	Warum Hast du Gelitten? (World Premiere)
Gustav Mahler	Symphony No. 2 in C minor/E-flat major, <i>Resurrection</i>
Elmer Bernstein	<i>The Magnificent Seven</i> : Symphonic Suite for Orchestra
Erich Korngold	Concerto in C major for Cello and Orchestra from <i>Deception</i> , Opus 37
John Williams	Escapades from <i>Catch Me If You Can</i> for Alto Saxophone and Orchestra
Sergei Rachmaninoff	Symphonic Dances for Orchestra, Opus 45
Shuying Li	<i>Purple Mountains</i> for Orchestra
Johannes Brahms	Symphony No. 4 in E minor, Opus 98
Leonard Bernstein	Symphony No. 2 for Piano and Orchestra, <i>The Age of Anxiety</i>
Gabriela Lena Frank	<i>Elegía Andina</i> for Orchestra
Felix Mendelssohn	Concerto in E minor for Violin and Orchestra, Opus 64
Antonín Dvořák	Symphony No. 9 in E minor, Opus 95, <i>From the New World</i>
Gabriela Ortiz	<i>Antrópolis</i> for Orchestra

George Gershwin	Concerto in F major for Piano and Orchestra
Gustav Holst	<i>The Planets</i> for Orchestra, Opus 32
Ludwig van Beethoven	Symphony No. 2 in D major, Opus 36
Ludwig van Beethoven	Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Opus 67

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE 2024-2025 CLASSICAL SERIES**

On sale March 4, 2024 (*The subscription renewal deadline to retain the same seats is April 5, 2024*)

### **7-Concert Classical Series**

The seven-concert package secures the same seat for all the Symphony's Classical Series concerts. Packages are **\$189-\$686**. (Some seating areas require a minimum, per-seat donation). *Packages available for purchase starting March 4, 2024.*

### **4-Concert Mini-Series**

Patrons select four of the seven Classical Series concerts to create a customized Mini-Series. four-concert packages are **\$120-\$420**. five-concert packages are also available. (Some seating areas require a minimum, per-seat donation). *Packages are available for purchase starting March 4, 2024.*

### **Come As You Can Series**

Eight ticket vouchers, which may be redeemed in any combination of performance days and seats. Offers the greatest flexibility. Seating is the best available at the time of redemption. *The package is \$456 and is available for purchase starting May 28, 2024.*

### **Discovery Rehearsal Series**

These general-seating, working rehearsals are ideal as a shared family experience, a sneak preview of the performances, or as an economical alternative for price-conscious patrons. Saturday at 2 pm of the concert weekend. Some restrictions apply. The package is **\$119** (adults) and **\$70** (youth 12 and under) and is *available for purchase starting May 28, 2024.*

*Please note, that there will not be a Discovery Rehearsal for the December 2024 concert weekend. Included in the package price is one ticket for one of the December performances on Saturday, Sunday, or Monday at no extra cost.*

**Single tickets on sale July 29, 2024**

### **FREE YOUTH TICKETS**

To encourage their exposure to classical music and transform Symphony attendance into a family outing, youths 7-17 years of age may attend the Symphony for free with a paid adult. These two-for-one tickets are not available for purchase online and only apply to Classical Series concerts.

Student Rush tickets are available 1-1/2 hours before the performance, \$10/ticket with a valid student ID.

## **CONDUCTOR AND GUEST ARTISTS SHORT BIOGRAPHIES**

### **FRANCESCO LECCE-CHONG, Music Director and Conductor**

Conductor Francesco Lecce-Chong is the Music Director of the Santa Rosa Symphony and the Eugene Symphony in Oregon. The press has described him as a "fast-rising talent in the music world" with "the real gift" and recognized his dynamic performances, fresh programming, deep commitment to commissioning and performing contemporary music, and community outreach.

Lecce-Chong has appeared with orchestras around the world including the San Francisco Symphony, New York Philharmonic, Seattle Symphony, National Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Toronto Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Colorado Symphony, and Hong Kong Philharmonic and collaborated with world-renowned soloists including Renée Fleming and Itzhak Perlman.

Lecce-Chong is the recipient of several distinctions, including the prestigious Solti Foundation Award. Trained also as a pianist and composer, he completed his studies at the Curtis Institute of Music with Otto-Werner Mueller after attending the Mannes College of Music and Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Italy. He has been mentored and supported by celebrated conductors including Bernard Haitink, David Zinman, Edo de Waart, Manfred Honeck, Donald Runnicles, and Michael Tilson Thomas.

**YUE BAO**, guest conductor

Conductor Yue Bao made her subscription debut with the Houston Symphony on their opening night concert of the 20/21 season and has led the orchestra both at Jones Hall and at their summer concert series at the Miller Theatre. She made her Chicago Symphony Orchestra debut at the Ravinia Festival in 2021.

In recent seasons, Bao has conducted the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the Seattle Symphony, and the Calgary Philharmonic. She also debuted with the San Francisco Symphony, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and the Minnesota Orchestra.

Bao was the Bruno Walter Memorial Foundation Conducting Fellow at the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music. In 2018, she served as the David Efron Conducting Fellow at the Chautauqua Music Festival, where she returned as a guest conductor in the 2022 season.

Along with her Artist Diploma from The Curtis Institute of Music, Bao holds Bachelor of Music degrees in orchestral conducting and opera accompanying from the Shanghai Conservatory of Music and a Master of Music degree in orchestral conducting from the Mannes School of Music.

**DAVID McCARROLL**, violin

David McCarroll has been appointed concertmaster of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, holding the Rachel Mellon Walton Concertmaster Chair, beginning with the 2022-2023 season. Musik Heute has described him as “a violinist of mature musicality and deep understanding of his repertoire whose playing is distinguished by clarity of form and line.”

Winner of the 2012 European Young Concert Artists Auditions, he made his concerto debut with the London Mozart Players in 2002 and has since appeared as soloist with many orchestras including the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra, Tonkünstler-Orchester Niederösterreich (Simone Young, Grafenegg), Hong Kong Sinfonietta (Christoph Poppen), Santa Rosa Symphony, and Philharmonie Zuidnederland. He regularly performs in major concert halls such as the Konzerthaus Berlin, Vienna Konzerthaus and Musikverein, Amsterdam’s Concertgebouw and Muziekgebouw, Wigmore Hall, Library of Congress, Kennedy Center, 92nd Street Y, and Carnegie Hall, while his performances have been broadcast on many radio stations including WGBH Boston, WQXR New York, National Public Radio, Ö1, BR-Klassik and the BBC.

Also, an active chamber musician, he served from 2015 to 2022 as the violinist of the renowned Vienna Piano Trio with whom he toured and recorded extensively. The Trio’s recording of the complete Brahms piano trios was awarded the 2017 Echo Klassik prize and in 2020 the Trio’s Beethoven recording won the Opus Klassik award.

McCarroll was born in Santa Rosa, California in 1986 and began studying the violin with Helen Payne Sloat at the age of four. At eight, he attended the Crowden School of Music in Berkeley studying with Anne Crowden.

**KAI RYSSDAL**, narrator

Kai Ryssdal is an American radio journalist and the host of *Marketplace*, a business program that airs weekdays on U.S. public radio stations. He also co-hosts the spinoff podcast Make Me Smart with Kimberly Adams. Before hosting *Marketplace*, he was the host of the *Marketplace Morning Report*, a seven-minute business roundup, as well as the weekend program *Marketplace Money*.

Ryssdal is from Briarcliff Manor, New York. He spent several years of his childhood in England and Denmark before moving back to the United States at age eight, living in Westchester County, New York. He graduated from Emory University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History in 1985. Ryssdal received his Master of Arts in National Security Studies from Georgetown University in 1993.

After graduating from college, Ryssdal spent eight years in the United States Navy, first flying a Northrop Grumman E-2 Hawkeye from the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt, and later as a Pentagon staff officer. After earning his Master's degree, Ryssdal joined the U.S. Foreign Service, serving in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, and Beijing, China.

Before joining *Marketplace*, Ryssdal was a reporter and substitute host for The California Report, a news and information program distributed to public radio stations throughout California by KQED-FM in San Francisco.

**JON KIMURA PARKER**, piano

A veteran of the international concert stage, Jon Kimura Parker has performed as guest soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra and Wolfgang Sawallisch in Carnegie Hall, toured Europe with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Andre Previn, and shared the stage with Jessye Norman at Berlin's Philharmonie. Conductors he has recently worked with include David Afkham, Pablo Heras-Cassado, Claus Peter Flor, Jeffrey Kahane, Carlos Kalmar, Peter Oundjian, Larry Rachleff, Xu Zhong and Pinchas Zukerman. A true Canadian ambassador of music, Parker has given command performances for Queen Elizabeth II, the U.S. Supreme Court, and the Prime Ministers of Canada and Japan. He is an Officer of The Order of Canada, his country's highest civilian honor.

An active media personality, Parker hosted the television series *Whole Notes* on Bravo! and CBC Radio's *Up and Coming*. His YouTube channel features the *Concerto Chat* video series, with illuminating discussions of the piano concerto repertoire.

Parker has recorded music of Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev, Chopin and PDQ Bach for Telarc, Mozart for CBC, and Stravinsky under his own label.

Parker studied with Edward Parker and Keiko Parker privately, Lee Kum-Sing at the Vancouver Academy of Music and the University of British Columbia, Robin Wood at the Victoria Conservatory, Marek Jablonski at the Banff Centre, and Adele Marcus at The Juilliard School. He won the Gold Medal at the 1984 Leeds International Piano Competition. He lives in Houston with his wife, violinist Aloysia Friedmann, and their daughter Sophie.

**MAGDALENA KUŹMA**, soprano

Polish-American soprano Magdalena Kuźma is promptly establishing a name for herself in both concert and operatic repertoire with critics at Opera News raving about her "star quality" and "strikingly good technique." Seen and Heard International's Rick Perdian describes her talent as "a voice that instantly engages the listener: shining, free, and lustrous."

A current Metropolitan Opera Lindemann Young Artist, Kuźma made her mainstage Met debut in the 23-24 season as Giannetta in *L'elisir d'amore*, followed by Juliette in Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette* at The Glimmerglass Festival. This season at the Metropolitan Opera, she sings Sister Catherine in the premiere of *Dead Man Walking*, Papagena in *The Magic Flute*, and Yvette in *La Rondine*.

On the concert stage, she was the soprano soloist in Mahler's Symphony No. 4 with Richmond Symphony. She looks forward to returning to Mahler No. 4 this summer with the Utah Symphony. In the 24-25 season, Kuźma sings the solos in Mahler's Symphony No. 2 with the Santa Rosa Symphony and Brahms's Ein Deutsches Requiem with the Santa Barbara Symphony.



**GABRIELLE BETEAG**, mezzo-soprano

American mezzo-soprano Gabrielle Beteag (pronounced Bee-tag) brings a fresh joy and commanding warmth to repertoire spanning Baroque to contemporary works. Praised as a “showstopper” by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Beteag’s recent performance in the Merola Grand Finale concert was “a virtuoso display of rhythmic precision and vocal exuberance.”

A recent graduate of the Adler Fellowship at San Francisco Opera, Gabrielle began the 2023-24 season appearing with the company as Stimme von Oben in *Die Frau ohne Schatten* an Image of Frida Kahlo in *El último sueño de Frida y Diego*, and the Teacher in *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs*. She then traveled to Cape Town, South Africa, where she placed as a semifinalist in the 2023 Operalia World Opera Competition. Later this season, she sings Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* with the San Francisco Ballet.

Inspired by contemporary repertoire, Beteag counts her role creation of Iras in John Adams’ *Antony and Cleopatra* during San Francisco Opera’s Centennial Season (2022-2023) a career highlight, in addition to performing in the West Coast premiere of Errollyn Wallen’s *Roundel*. During the same season, she also performed the role of Sœur Gertrude in *Dialogues des Carmélites*.

**SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY SYMPHONIC CHORUS**, Jenny Bent, director

The Sonoma State University Symphonic Chorus comprises music majors, students from other majors, staff, faculty, and community members. The chorus performs large works such as Mozart’s *Requiem*, Bernstein’s *Chichester Psalms*, and Orff’s *Carmina Burana*, as well as thematic projects such as *Madrigals and All That Jazz* and the annual holiday *Family Concert by Candlelight*. Beginning with a special Sunrise Choral Concert during the Green Music Center’s 2012 grand opening weekend, the Symphonic Chorus makes its permanent home in the Joan and Sanford I. Weill Hall and Schroeder Hall at Sonoma State University.

**JENNY BENT**, Santa Rosa Symphony Choral Director

Jenny Bent, DMA, is Director of Choral Activities at Sonoma State University and Project Manager of Chanticleer’s summer program, *Chanticleer in Sonoma*, in addition to her responsibilities as Choral Director for Santa Rosa Symphony.

Bent is a graduate of Boston University (BM in Voice Performance, MM in Choral Conducting, MM in Voice Performance) and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (DMA in Choral Conducting and Choral Literature). Her teachers include Ann Howard Jones, Jerold Siena, and Ruth Ann Swenson. She has also worked with such choir eminences as Robert Shaw, Joseph Jennings, Matthew Oltman, Peter Bagley, Dennis Keene, and Julian Wachner.

In California, Bent’s choirs have received much acclaim, earning unanimous superior ratings and command performances at choral festivals throughout the Bay Area and receiving invitations to perform at such venues as Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center in New York City and Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. She has ten years of experience as a high school music educator, most recently having served as the Director of Vocal Music at the Marin School of the Arts. From 2002-2007 she was the artistic director and conductor of the award-winning teen treble choir, Chantons. Bent also served on the voice faculty of the Boston University Tanglewood Institute.

In addition to her academic work, Bent serves as an adjudicator for such organizations as the California Music Educators Association, the American Choral Directors Association, Golden State, and clinics choirs throughout the Bay Area and beyond.

**ADELLE-AKIKO KEARNS**, cello

Adelle-Akiko Kearns, the principal cellist of the Santa Rosa Symphony, received the prestigious Artists International Award, a position she has held since 2011. She made her New York recital debut at Carnegie’s Weill Hall in November of 2008. Since then, she has appeared on the world's most important stages including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, Suntory Hall, Davies Symphony Hall, and many others.

As a chamber musician, Kearns has performed at the world's leading music festivals including the Saito Kinen, Aspen, Tanglewood, Yellow Barn, and Spoleto Festivals. She has collaborated with members of the legendary Juilliard String Quartet as well as renowned chamber musicians Jorja Fleezanis, Axel Strauss, Ian Swensen, Paul Hersh, Jodi Levitz, Daisuke Suzuki, and the Da Capo Chamber Players.

Before joining the Santa Rosa Symphony, Kearns served as the Assistant Principal Cello of the Louisiana Philharmonic and as a member of the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra. In addition to her position in Santa Rosa, she also performs as principal cellist of the Merced Symphony; assistant principal cellist of Symphony San Jose, the Music in the Mountains Festival, and the Monterey Symphony Orchestra; Associate Principal Cellist of the Stockton Symphony; and as a member of the Marin Symphony.

Kearns holds degrees from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and The Juilliard School. Her principal teachers include Bonnie Hampton, Joel Krosnick, Sadao Harada, and Irene Sharp. A native of San Francisco, Kearns currently resides in San Jose, where she maintains an active teaching studio.

**JOYCE YANG**, piano

Blessed with "poetic and sensitive pianism" (*Washington Post*), Steinway artist Joyce Yang captivates with her virtuosity, lyricism, and interpretive sensitivity. As a Van Cliburn International Piano Competition silver medalist and Avery Fisher Career Grant recipient, Yang showcases her colorful musical personality in solo recitals and collaborations with the world's top orchestras and chamber musicians.

She has performed as soloist with the New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, the Baltimore, Detroit, Houston, Milwaukee, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, Sydney, and Toronto symphony orchestras, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, and the BBC Philharmonic (among many others), working with such distinguished conductors as Edo de Waart, Lorin Maazel, James Conlon, Manfred Honeck, Jacques Lacombe, Leonard Slatkin, David Robertson, Bramwell Tovey, Peter Oundjian, and Jaap van Zweden. In recital, Yang has taken the stage at New York's Lincoln Center and Metropolitan Museum; the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC; Chicago's Symphony Hall; and Zurich's Tonhalle.

Recent season highlights include Yang's debuts with the New Jersey Symphony, Royal Flemish Philharmonic, and Cambridge International Piano Series, Montreal with I Musici de Montréal with Jean-Marie Zeitouni, and Pittsburgh Symphony, playing Schumann's Concerto and multiple returns to the New York Philharmonic. She concluded a five-year Rachmaninoff cycle with de Waart and the Milwaukee Symphony.

**SIMONE PORTER**, violin

Violinist Simone Porter has been recognized as an emerging artist of impassioned energy, interpretive integrity, and vibrant communication. In the past few years, she has debuted with the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and with several renowned conductors, including Stéphane Denève, Gustavo Dudamel, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Nicholas McGegan, Ludovic Morlot, and Donald Runnicles. Born in 1996, Porter made her professional solo debut at age 10 with the Seattle Symphony and her international debut with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in London at age 13. In March 2015, Porter was named a recipient of an Avery Fisher Career Grant.

At the invitation of Esa-Pekka Salonen, Porter performed his work, "*Lachen verlernt*" (Laughing Unlearned), at the New York Philharmonic's "Foreign Bodies," a multi-sensory celebration of the work of the composer and conductor. In recent seasons, she has also appeared at the Edinburgh Festival performing Barber under the direction of Stéphane Denève and at the Mostly Mozart Festival performing Mozart under Louis Langrée. She has also performed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl with both Nicholas McGegan and Ludovic Morlot and at Walt Disney Concert Hall with Gustavo Dudamel.

Raised in Seattle, Porter studied with Margaret Pressley as a recipient of the Dorothy Richard Starling Scholarship and was then admitted into the studio of the renowned pedagogue Robert Lipsett, with whom

she studied at the Colburn Conservatory of Music in Los Angeles. Summer studies have included many years at the Aspen Music Festival, Indiana University's Summer String Academy, and the Schlern International Music Festival in Italy.

Simone Porter performs on a 1740 Carlo Bergonzi violin made in Cremona Italy on a generous loan from The Master's University, Santa Clarita, California.

### **ORION WEISS, piano**

One of the most sought-after soloists in his generation of young American musicians, the pianist Orion Weiss has performed with major American orchestras, including the Chicago Symphony, Boston Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and New York Philharmonic. His deeply felt and exceptionally crafted performances go far beyond his technical mastery and have won him worldwide acclaim.

As a recitalist and chamber musician, Weiss has appeared across the U.S. at venues and festivals including Lincoln Center, the Ravinia Festival, Sheldon Concert Hall, the Seattle Chamber Music Festival, La Jolla Music Society SummerFest, Chamber Music Northwest, the Bard Music Festival, the Bridgehampton Chamber Music Festival, the Kennedy Center, and Spivey Hall. He won the 2005 William Petschek Recital Award at Juilliard and made his New York recital debut at Alice Tully Hall that April.

Weiss's impressive list of awards includes the Gilmore Young Artist Award, an Avery Fisher Career Grant, the Gina Bachauer Scholarship at The Juilliard School, and the Mieczyslaw Munz Scholarship. A native of Lyndhurst, OH, Weiss attended the Cleveland Institute of Music, where he studied with Paul Schenly, Daniel Shapiro, Sergei Babayan, Kathryn Brown, and Edith Reed.

### **YOUNG WOMEN'S CHORUS OF SAN FRANCISCO**

The Young Women's Chorus of San Francisco is the premier ensemble of the Young Women's Choral Projects. The Chorus comprises singers ages 12-18 and has been praised for its beauty of sound, stellar musicianship, and dynamic programming. Acclaimed in the American Record Guide for its "refined and beautifully controlled singing," the Young Women's Chorus has also won many competitive, national awards including the American Prize in Choral Performance, the Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence, the Dale Warland Singers Commission Award from Chorus America and American Composers Forum, and the ASCAP Adventurous Programming Award. Recent activities include a debut performance at Carnegie Hall in 2018; concert tours to South Africa (2019), France (2022), and Argentina (2023); the premiere of the opera Abraham in Flames in 2019; and performances with the London Philharmonia Orchestra and the San Francisco Symphony. Performing repertoire from early music to contemporary selections, the Chorus annually performs a professional series of concerts in the Bay Area, and commissions new works by leading composers.

### **SPONSORS**

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## **CLASSICAL SERIES EXPERIENCE ENHANCEMENTS**

### **CONCERT CONVERSATIONS** (*one hour prior to Classical Series performances*)

Music Director Francesco Lecce-Chong discusses the music and composers, often with the guest artists, one hour prior to the Classical Concert Series performances in Weill Hall. These informative, pre-concert talks, which are included in the price of the ticket, are general seating. Concert Conversations are held before Saturday and Monday night performances at 6:30 PM and prior to Sunday afternoon performances at 2:00 pm.

### **PROGRAM NOTES**

Program Notes, posted on each of the seven Classical Series concert event pages offer insight and fascinating details about the concert program. See [srsymphony.org](http://srsymphony.org).

### **SPOTIFY PLAYLISTS**

Classical Series concert event pages include a Spotify playlist of the works on that concert program. Full-season Spotify playlists can also be found on the Symphony's website under, Plan Your Visit.

### **HOSPITALITY PARTNERS**

The DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel | Sonoma Wine Country in Rohnert Park provides lodging for Santa Rosa Symphony guest artists and conductors. The hotel's Bacchus Restaurant and Wine Bar are open for pre- and post-concert dining.

Rodney Strong Wine Estates provides its award-winning wines as the Symphony's exclusive wine partner for the 2024-2025 Private Reserve Club receptions held in the Symphony League Founders room during intermission and following each Classical Series performance. In addition, Rodney Strong provides wine for additional events such as the *Celebration 2024*, the Symphony's annual fundraising event, and *Road to 100* special concert.

Korbel provides its award-winning champagne as the Symphony's exclusive champagne partner for the 2024-2025 season Private Reserve Club receptions held in the Symphony League Founders room during intermission and following each Classical Series performance. In addition, Korbel provides champagne for additional events such as the *Celebration 2024*, the Symphony's annual fundraising event, and *Road to 100* special concert.

### **LOGISTICS - THE GREEN MUSIC CENTER**

All Classical Series performances are held at Weill Hall, at the Donald and Maureen Green Music Center on the campus of Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, with access from the Rohnert Park Expressway entrance near Petaluma Hill Road. The campus is just 42 miles north of San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge.

### **PARKING**

Entering the Sonoma State University campus from Rohnert Park Expressway, there are parking lots

immediately to the right. Parking in lots L, M, N and O is included in the price of a ticket for Santa Rosa Symphony Classical, Discovery Rehearsal and Family Series concerts. (*Parking fees may be charged for additional or special events.*)

#### **PATRON SERVICES OFFICE LOCATION AND HOURS**

Location: 50 Santa Rosa Avenue (1st floor, off elevator lobby)

Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, and Fri, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm; Wed, 10:30 am - 5:00 pm; closed Sat, and Sun.

Mailing Address: Santa Rosa Symphony, 50 Santa Rosa Avenue Suite 410, Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Phone: (707) 546-8742, Web: [srsymphony.org](http://srsymphony.org), email: [tickets@srsymphony.org](mailto:tickets@srsymphony.org).

#### **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 96 years, began his tenure in 2018. J. Andrew Bradford joined SRS as President and CEO in 2023. The Symphony is committed to the 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), Discovery Dress Rehearsal concerts, a three-concert Family Series, a four-concert Pops Series, and 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 California's most comprehensive music education programs, serving nearly 20,000 youths annually. Collaborations with schools and organizations across Sonoma County have gained the Santa Rosa Symphony national attention and support.

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