

# Santa Rosa Symphony

2023  
2024  
SEASON

## NEWS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 13, 2024**

### ***Boléro & Tchaikovsky***

Geneva Lewis, to debut with Santa Rosa Symphony on Tchaikovsky's masterful Violin Concerto. First Symphony Project composer, Michael Djupstrom introduces his new work *Dreams of Flight*.

**March 23, 24 & 25, 2024, Weill Hall, Green Music Center**

(Santa Rosa, CA.) — Santa Rosa Symphony presents four incredible works. Considered one of the greatest violin concertos ever composed, the soaring melodies and dazzling virtuosity of the violin are on full display as Geneva Lewis takes to the stage to take you on a rollercoaster of emotions with Tchaikovsky's musical masterpiece. A Masterclass with Lewis will be held before the concert on Monday, March 25 at 4 pm. This is a free event for all ticket holders. The final in a four-year series, First Symphony Project composer, Michael Djupstrom, will introduce his new sublime work *Dreams of Flight*. Celebrate Ravel's intense creativity with *Boléro*, its hypnotic melody, and relentless crescendo, bringing this long-awaited program to a magnificent finale. Performances are March 23, 24 & 25, 2024 at Weill Hall, Green Music Center.

"It has been a dream come true to launch the First Symphony Project with the Santa Rosa Symphony when I arrived and I am incredibly grateful to the donors, musicians, and our audiences who have made it so successful. In this final year of the project, we welcome Michael Djupstrom - a colleague of mine from the Curtis Institute of Music - who has written some of the most evocative and beautiful new works I have experienced, and I cannot wait to share his vision for the orchestra with Santa Rosa. I also look forward to welcoming the rising star of the violin, Geneva Lewis, to make her debut with us on Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto." *Francesco Lecce-Chong*, Music Director

**Program at a glance:**

**HILDUR GUÐNADÓTTIR:** *Fólk fær andlit* [*People Get Faces*] for String Orchestra

**PIOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY:** Concerto in D major for Violin and Orchestra

**MICHAEL DJUPSTROM:** *Dreams of Flight* [California Premiere]

**MAURICE RAVEL:** *Boléro* for Orchestra

**MASTERCLASS: GENEVA LEWIS**

Monday, March 25, 2024, 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm at Weill Hall, Green Music Center.

The event is free, but a ticket is required to enter. To request a ticket, call (707) 546-8742 or go to [srsymphony.org](http://srsymphony.org).

**What is a masterclass?**

A masterclass is an open lesson, during which a student performs a solo work and is coached by a master teacher. The attending audience listens and learns as observers. It is a fun and informative opportunity to see a top-flight musician and music educator share insights and techniques and to watch a student learn and grow before your eyes.

Much of the advice given in a masterclass can be applied to any instrument. Therefore, all musicians are encouraged to observe the masterclasses, regardless of the instrument they play.

**Please note:** Parking is not included in the ticket. To purchase your \$5 parking permit in advance: [BUY PERMIT](#)

### **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 new 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.

**Geneva Lewis**, violin

New Zealand-born violinist Geneva Lewis has forged a reputation as a musician of consummate artistry whose performances speak from and to the heart. Lauded for “remarkable mastery of her instrument” (CVNC) and hailed as “clearly one to watch” (Musical America), Geneva is the recipient of a 2022 Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award, 2021 Avery Fisher Career Grant and Grand Prize winner of the 2020 Concert Artists Guild Competition. Additional accolades include Kronberg Academy’s Prince of Hesse Prize, being named a Performance Today Young Artist in Residence, and Musical America’s New Artist of the Month. Most recently, Lewis was named one of BBC Radio 3’s New Generation Artists.

Since her solo debut at age 11 with the Pasadena POPS, Lewis has gone on to perform with orchestras including the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Pasadena Symphony, Sarasota Orchestra, Pensacola Symphony, and Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra and with conductors including Nicholas McGegan, Edwin Outwater, Michael Feinstein, Sameer Patel, Peter Rubardt, and Dirk Meyer. The 2022-23 season includes performances with the Auckland Philharmonia, North Carolina Symphony, Augusta Symphony, Kansas City Symphony, Austin Symphony, and Arkansas Symphony. In recital, recent and upcoming highlights include performances at Wigmore Hall, Tippet Rise, Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, Washington Performing Arts, Merkin Hall, and the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concerts.

Deeply passionate about collaboration, Lewis has had the pleasure of performing with such prominent musicians as Jonathan Biss, Glenn Dicterow, Miriam Fried, Kim Kashkashian, Gidon Kremer, Marcy Rosen, Sir Andrés Schiff, and Mitsuko Uchida, among others. She is also a founding member of the Callisto Trio and artist-in-residence at the Da Camera Society in Los Angeles. Callisto received the Bronze Medal at the Fischhoff Competition as the youngest group to ever compete in the senior division finals. They were recently invited on the Masters on Tour series of the International Holland Music Sessions and performed at the celebrated Het Concertgebouw Amsterdam.

An advocate of community engagement and music education, Lewis was selected for the New England Conservatory’s Community Performances and Partnerships Program’s Ensemble Fellowship, through which her string quartet created interactive educational programs for audiences throughout Boston. Her quartet was also chosen for the Virginia Arts Festival Residency, during which they performed and presented masterclasses in elementary, middle, and high schools.

Lewis received her Artist Diploma and Bachelor of Music as the recipient of the Charlotte F. Rabb Presidential Scholarship at the New England Conservatory, studying with Miriam Fried. Prior to that, she studied with Aimée Kreston at the Colburn School of Performing Arts. Past summers have taken her to the Marlboro Music Festival, Ravinia Steans Institute, Perlman Music Program’s Chamber Workshop, International Holland Music Sessions, Taos School of Music, and the Heifetz International Music Institute.

Lewis is currently performing on a violin by Zosimo Bergonzi of Cremona, c. 1770 courtesy of Guarneri Hall NFP and Darnton & Hersh Fine Violins, Chicago.

High-res photos available upon request: Francesco Lecce-Chong, conductor, Geneva Lewis, violin  
Interview Opportunities: Francesco Lecce-Chong, conductor

#### **CONCERT ENHANCEMENTS:**

[Concert Program books](#): Available at all Classical concerts. Also available to view online.

[Concert Program notes](#): These can be read on the concert event page

Pre-concert talk: Conductor Francesco Lecce-Chong provides a 30-minute pre-concert talk one hour prior to the performance.

#### **SPONSORS:**

We gratefully acknowledge the generous contributions from the following:

Classical Concert Series Underwritten by **Anderman Family Foundation**

Sponsored by **Viking Cruises**

Conductor Francesco Lecce-Chong sponsored by **David and Corinne Byrd**

Guest Artist Geneva Lewis sponsored by **Sigmund Anderman, in memory of Susan Anderman**

Tchaikovsky Concerto in D major for Violin and Orchestra sponsored by **E. Nakamichi Foundation**

First Symphony project commissioners **Nancy and David Berto, Gordon Blumenfeld, Chuck and Ellen Wear,**

**Creighton White in loving memory of Dorothy Bristow White, Chloe Tula, and Francesco Lecce-Chong**

First Symphony project **The Amphion Foundation**

Discovery Open Rehearsal Series sponsored by **The Stare Foundation and David Stare of Dry Creek Vineyard**

Pre-Concert Talks sponsored by **Jamei Haswell, in honor of Richard Grundy**

Season Media Sponsor: *The Press Democrat*

#### **AT A GLANCE / CALENDAR LISTING:**

##### **WHAT:**

Santa Rosa Symphony [“Bolero & Tchaikovsky”](#)

**WHO:** [Santa Rosa Symphony](#), Francesco Lecce-Chong, conductor, Geneva Lewis, violin

**WHEN:** Saturday, March 23, 2024 at 2:00 pm – Discovery Open Rehearsal, no Pre-concert talk

Saturday, March 23, 2024 at 7:30 pm (Doors at 6:00 pm, Pre-concert talk 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm)

Sunday, March 24, 2024 at 3:00 pm (Doors at 1:30 pm, Pre-concert talk 2:00 pm - 2:30 pm)

Monday, March 25, 2024 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:**

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

\$32-\$105 for Classical Series performances.

Youths 7-17 years of age may receive one complimentary ticket with every paid adult. Request tickets through Patron Services at (707) 546-8742. Classical Series concerts only

\$10 student rush tickets for college students with a valid student ID. Available at the door only

##### **TICKETS:**

[rsymphony.org](http://rsymphony.org) or (707) 546-8742 (Weekdays 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, opening at 10:30 am Wednesday 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 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), seven 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.

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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