



Pacific Symphony

ALEXANDER SHELLEY ARTISTIC & MUSIC DIRECTOR

Class Act

The Frieda Belinfante Class Act Program

Handbook

2026-2027

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Dear Class Act Partners,

On behalf of Pacific Symphony, welcome to the Class Act 2026-27 season, and the 32nd year of this incredible program! We're delighted to be partnering together for this school year. This year Class Act will be exploring the theme of **"Symphonic Sagas"** through the music of **Richard Strauss**.

At the center of the Class Act partnership are the partners themselves: your school community, and our staff and musicians. To help our partners achieve the optimal Class Act experience, and most importantly to ensure that our students have an amazing year of music, we bring you the **2026-2027 edition of the Class Act Handbook**. This Handbook is designed to provide an overview of the Class Act year, to answer your most frequently asked questions and to give you step-by-step instructions on some of our more involved program elements.

You'll find a great deal of helpful information in these pages. Please remember that in addition to the Handbook, your Regional Manager and the entire **Class Act staff are also on hand to answer your questions and provide whatever support is needed**.

In addition to all the exciting Class Act activities ahead, you and your school community will also have numerous opportunities to deepen your relationship with Pacific Symphony through some **amazing concert offers. Look what we have in store for you on page 7!**

Thank you for being a valued member of the Class Act Family. We look forward to a spectacular year together!

All the best,

Ameena Khawaja

Vice President of Education and Community
Engagement
Pacific Symphony

Payal Swami

Senior Manager of Class Act
Pacific Symphony

Important Contacts

Pacific Symphony
17620 Fitch, Suite 100 Irvine, CA 92614
Main: 714.755.5788 Fax: 714.755.5789

Your Regional Manager should be your primary contact for Class Act correspondence. For urgent matters, please contact Administrative Staff if you cannot reach your Regional Manager.

Regional Managers

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Class Act Partner Schools for 2026-2027

School	City	RM	Musician
Arbolita Elementary	La Habra	Evelyn	Warren Hagerty
Christ Lutheran School*	Costa Mesa	Karen	Elliott Moreau
Clara J. King Elementary	Cypress	Evelyn	Will Howald
College Park Elementary	Costa Mesa	Lisa	Jennise Hwang
Frank and Irene Palomino Elementary	Santa Ana	Evelyn	Elliott Moreau
Frontiers Academy	Costa Mesa	Evelyn	Doug Basye
Irvine Chinese Immersion Academy	Irvine	Karen	Doug Basye
Juliet Morris Elementary	Cypress	Karen	Warren Hagerty
Montessori Schools of Irvine	Irvine	Karen	Jennise Hwang
Newport Coast Elementary	Newport Coast	Lisa	Ben Vargas
Red Hill Elementary	Santa Ana	Lisa	Jennise Hwang
Red Hill Lutheran School	Tustin	Karen	Will Howald
Saints Simon & Jude Catholic School	Huntington Beach	Karen	Elliott Moreau
Vibrant Minds Charter School	Anaheim	Evelyn	Cheryl Gates
Victoria Elementary	Costa Mesa	Karen	Cheryl Gates
Webber Elementary*	Westminster	Lisa	Cheryl Gates

* New School



Class Act Important Dates 2026-2027

Youth Concerts

Dates: Tuesday, April 27, 2027 and Monday, May 3, 2027

- Registration forms are due September 25th, 2026
- Final Assigned Attendance Dates and Times will be announced in October

Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall

Class Act Volunteer commitment is from 7:45 am – 1pm,
(all volunteers are expected to remain until 1pm)

Principal, Teacher Representative, Ambassador, and Parent Coordinator Meetings

To be scheduled as needed throughout the year. Your Regional Manager will provide you with more details as meetings are scheduled

Look on the next page for exciting concert attendance opportunities at amazing prices, EXCLUSIVELY for our Class Act Community!

Your Regional Manager will provide you will several copies of the following flyer as well as an electronic version that we encourage you to share with all of your school's families all year long!

COME TO THE SYMPHONY!

SAVE 20% on tickets to Pacific Symphony's Family Musical Mornings and Classical series concerts featuring the music of many of your favorite Class Act Composers!



FAMILY MUSICAL MORNINGS

Concerts designed just for kids & families!

SYMPHONY SPOOKTACULAR
October 24, 2026 | 10 & 11:30 a.m.

PIXAR IN CONCERT
March 20, 2027 | 10 & 11:30 a.m.

THE LITTLE PRINCE: OPERA FOR KIDS!
MAY 22, 2027 | 10 & 11:30 a.m.

PRESENTED BY 

CLASSICAL SERIES

Evening concerts for that perfect date night!

SHELLEY CONDUCTS MAHLER 2: RESURRECTION
October 1-3, 2026 | 8 p.m.

SHELLEY CONDUCTS THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE AND STRAUSS
October 22-24, 2026 | 8 p.m.

NOBU PLAYS RACHMANINOFF'S MIGHTY THIRD
November 19-21, 2026 | 8 p.m.

HOLIDAY CLASSICS: GRIEG'S PIANO CONCERTO
December 3-5, 2026 | 8 p.m.

USE PROMO CODE: **CLASSACT2627**

Online at PacificSymphony.org or call (714) 755-5799 (M-F, 9-5)

FREE PACIFIC SYMPHONY EVENTS

PACIFIC SYMPHONY YOUTH ENSEMBLES
November 22-24, 2026

O.C. LANTERN FESTIVAL
March 6, 2027 | 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
FREE family-friendly festival celebrating the end of the Lunar New Year



CLASS ACT PROGRAM SPONSORED BY



PACIFIC SYMPHONY IS A RESIDENT COMPANY OF SEGERSTROM CENTER FOR THE ARTS, 600 TOWN CENTER DRIVE, COSTA MESA

NEW FOR 2026-27: CLASS ACT TEACHER APPRECIATION CONCERTS!

Class Act Teachers will be invited to purchase up to 2 tickets at \$25/person for select concerts this season! Educators will be **recognized from the stage** and celebrated for all they do for our future musicians and music lovers!

Notifications will be sent out when tickets to these special concerts are available.

Introduction to Class Act and Pacific Symphony

Pacific Symphony's elementary school partnership program, **Class Act**, will celebrate its 32nd season in 2026-2027 with the music of Richard Strauss and the theme "Symphonic Sagas." From serving 5,000 students in 1994 to over 276,000 students through 2026, the program's growth is the result of a partnership between the Symphony, schools, and parents dedicated to bringing quality music education to Orange County's elementary students.

Pacific Symphony's core purpose is to enrich the human spirit through world-class symphonic music and community engagement. The Symphony maintains an ardent devotion to music education and works to foster deep connections with both its audience and the community as a whole.

Tying into these values, Class Act strives to enhance existing school music programs through additional musical experiences with the Symphony. The Class Act curriculum focuses on six main "contact points" with schools. The program works to increase awareness of, and involvement with, classical music for elementary school students and their families.

Class Act schools are selected through a competitive application process. Each year students form a relationship with a Pacific Symphony musician through activities including classroom lessons and assemblies. This is followed by the opportunity for students to share their experience with their families at a special evening of chamber music. Students culminate their year at a Youth Concert at the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, for students in grades 2 and higher, or with the Interactive Musical Experience for students in grades K-1.

Parent and teacher volunteers form the backbone of each school's Class Act Team. These individuals are dedicated to promoting arts education in schools and have been actively involved in Class Act from the program's inception. Teacher Workshops, given on-site at partner schools, foster high quality classroom instruction and offer curricular materials designed to enhance the objectives of the program.

One of Pacific Symphony's primary goals is to lead the nation's orchestras in energizing current, and engaging new, audiences by presenting innovative educational programs that lead to a deeper understanding and love of music. With this goal in mind, Class Act looks toward an exciting 32nd season and a future filled with innovative new initiatives.

Class Act Goals

Class Act program goals were developed in conjunction with Pacific Symphony, schools, teachers, and parents to provide “guideposts” in program development and implementation. They serve as a concrete reminder of the program’s mission and focus.

1. Form close relationships between school communities throughout Orange County and the Pacific Symphony.
2. Enrich the quality and enhance availability of music learning in schools through sequential interactions with professional musicians.
3. Develop a foundation for life-long learning through the arts.
4. Enhance the school's learning environment via repeated exposure to the expectations of a concert and guest-artist environment.
5. Facilitate the teaching of and exposure to the arts in the classroom.

Class Act and its Donors

Class Act could not exist without the Pacific Symphony and its generous donors.

At \$10 per student program cost, all schools benefit from an over 80% subsidy on their program costs*.

*=In addition to program costs, schools pay their own busing expense for Youth Concerts.

The cornerstone of Class Act’s funding is a multi-year grant from the **Ahmanson Charitable Community Trust, in the name of Frieda Belinfante. In addition to the Ahmanson Charitable Community Trust, many corporations and foundations provide substantial funding to the program.** Countless generous individuals give regularly to Class Act, both financially and in donations of time and service. Thank you in advance for remembering to thank and acknowledge Class Act donors in all marketing and communication efforts.

Class Act Program Elements Overview and School Team Commitment

You can find an overview of program elements including objectives, descriptions and facilities required for each element as well as an overview of each Class Act Team Member's commitment at the links below. You'll find a complete list of program elements listed by level each of the links below:

[Class Act Program Overview](#)

[Class Act School Team Commitment](#)

Additional Set-up Details, Preparation, and Implementation For Program Elements

The Class Act Program Elements Overview should have provided you with many of the details needed to implement the various program elements. Teacher Workshops and Bravo, for example, are quite straightforward and the Overview provides sufficient information for successful implementation. Other events, such as Preludes and Family Nights, are a bit more complex. **To ensure that all events are enjoyable and educational, we've provided more detail about certain program elements here.** As always, your Regional Manager will be happy to answer your questions and will host the Parent Coordinator meeting in the fall and provide additional resources.

The following links will provide helpful details concerning: Prelude Assemblies, Lessons, Family Nights, the Interactive Musical Experience (IME), Bravo Assemblies/Encore Letters, and Youth Concerts.

[Prelude Assemblies](#)

[Teacher Workshops](#) or [Info Sessions](#)

[Lessons](#)

(video links for [Parent Coordinators](#) and [Teachers](#))

[Family Nights](#)

(video link for [Parent Coordinators](#))

[IMEs](#)

[Bravo Assemblies/Encore Letters](#)

([video link](#))

[Youth Concert Attendance Cheat Sheet](#)

(video links for [Parent Coordinators](#) and [Teachers/Administration](#))

Talking About Class Act

Many of our team members have asked us for tools to help them publicize Class Act in their community. Provided here are some tools to help you in this task. **If you would like more detailed information or would like to discuss any aspects of marketing Class Act, please contact Ameena Khawaja, Vice President of Education and Community Engagement, who can provide additional materials and assistance and can be reached at ameena@pacificsymphony.org.** Thank you in advance for sharing this information with your school community.

You can find Class Act promotional materials at the following links:

[Promoting Class Act with your School Community \(Press Kit\)](#)

[Class Act One Page](#)

Pacific Symphony

Photography, Video, and Sound Recording Policies

We very much appreciate and encourage all efforts that our Class Act schools make to promote Class Act and Pacific Symphony in their schools and community. Although we are always excited about Class Act being featured in newsletters, local media, and other outlets, any media produced about Class Act and Pacific Symphony—including photos, videos, and sound recordings—must follow certain policies according to Pacific Symphony’s agreement with our musicians. Our Class Act staff is here to assist you in any way we can with these policies; however, please understand that some requests need to be planned far enough ahead in order for us to properly assist you.

Please carefully read the details below regarding the use of photography, videography, and sound recording. These policies apply to both Class Act and Pacific Symphony events. It is extremely important to share these policies with all team members at your school, and to inform the audience at each event about these policies, including guests and visitors that might not be familiar with these guidelines. If you have any questions about the information below, please contact Ameena Khawaja, Vice President of Education and Community Engagement, at ameena@pacificsymphony.org.

PHOTOGRAPHY:

Flash Photography is NEVER permitted under any circumstance while a musician is performing.

Non-Flash photography IS permitted during most Class Act events*. It is encouraged that you ask the musician and/or presenters before any photos are taken.

***Photography of any kind, flash or non-flash, is prohibited at all Class Act Youth Concerts**

VIDEO & SOUND RECORDING:

Video and/or Sound Recording of a musician’s or presenter’s performance is NEVER permitted unless prior permission has been granted. Please see details below.

If your school, district or other entity wishes to video or sound record a portion of any Class Act or Pacific Symphony event for a specific purpose, **a detailed written request must be provided to Pacific Symphony, at least 10 days prior to the date of the event you wish to record, stating why permission to record is being requested and what purpose it will be used for.** The detailed request must then be presented to the musicians’ union by Pacific Symphony. **Union approval must be obtained before permission will be granted to video or sound record at any Class Act or Pacific Symphony event.** Approval of such recordings is not guaranteed, and the use of the final video or sound recording will be limited based on union guidelines.

Pacific Symphony Social Media Guidelines

Follow us on social media!
@ClassActPS on Facebook and Instagram



Facebook Do's

- Tag whichever school you are associated with if they have a Facebook account (@ClassActElementary); the @ will disappear and tag will link to partner Facebook pages
- Tag @ClassActPS
- Always include a photograph
- Quotes from participants or musicians are fun
- Link to other pages if needed (relevant articles, videos, etc.)
- Feel free to share existing videos from Pacific Symphony and Class Act's YouTube Channel, Facebook, etc.
- Feel free to share Pacific Symphony's public events with your school community

Facebook Don'ts

- Don't take and/or post video of musicians playing music



Instagram Do's

- Use an interesting photograph or video (not including the musicians playing)
- Tag whichever school you are associated with if they have an Instagram account (@ClassActElementary); @ will remain and link to partner's Instagram account
- Tag @ClassActPS
- Hashtag a bunch of relevant topics (#MusicInSchools #ClassAct #Symphony #BrassQuintet etc.)
- Please note that Instagram videos on a regular post can only be up to 60 seconds long; videos on Instagram Stories can only be up to 15 seconds. Instagram TV videos can be between 1 and 15 minutes long when uploading from a mobile device and up to 60 minutes when uploading from the web.

Instagram Don'ts

- Don't take and/or post video of musicians playing music

In addition to the above guidelines, we strongly encourage all schools to follow and adhere to standard privacy practices and procedures, including consulting their school and district guidelines concerning posting to social media, especially regarding posting pictures and videos of minors.

Further Involvement with Pacific Symphony

If you are enjoying your time with Class Act, you may want to consider other opportunities for further involvement with the Symphony's other education programs for you or your student.

Discounted Tickets

Look on page 7 for details on how you can take advantage of a special promotion, just for our Class Act Community. **With 20% off** Family Concerts (excluding *The Nutcracker*) and selected Classical Concerts, why not enhance your Class Act year through the magic of Pacific Symphony?

Family Concerts are perfect for children ages 5-11 and evening concerts provide a perfect opportunity to enjoy a date night at the symphony. Visit www.pacificsymphony.org to learn more about our Family and Classical concerts.

Symphony on the Go!

Visit <https://www.pacificsymphony.org/sotg> for more information about our mobile stage community concert experience.

arts-X-press

Current and former Class Act students entering 7th, 8th, or 9th grade may also participate in *arts-X-press*, our summer arts immersion camp. *Arts-X-press* is a safe haven for self-expression. We create an environment that values each student's individuality and we cultivate students' ability to appreciate the magic in life. By the end of *arts-X-press*, our students feel more confident in themselves and leave with the courage to make meaningful contributions to their communities. Visit <https://www.pacificsymphony.org/arts-x-press> to learn more about this wonderful opportunity!

Volunteer Opportunities

Join us at our concerts and community events! Visit the Pacific Symphony website at <https://www.pacificsymphony.org/volunteer-center> to learn more about volunteer opportunities with Pacific Symphony.

Pacific Symphony Youth Ensembles

Pacific Symphony offers three Youth Ensembles for students who want to take their musical experience to the next level. **Pacific Symphony Concert Band, Pacific Symphony Youth Wind Ensemble, and Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra** include advanced middle school and high school students. Visit the Pacific Symphony website at <https://www.pacificsymphony.org/psye> to learn more about our three amazing Youth Ensembles.

All Youth Ensemble concerts are always free! See Page 7 for more details.