Pacific Symphony
ALEXANDER SHELLEY ARTISTIC & MUSIC DIRECTOR

The 2026-27 season of Pacific Symphony Youth Ensembles is made possible thanks to the generous contributions from our gracious supporters.



Pacific Symphony Youth Concert Band | Let's Dance!, November 22 @ 1:00 PM



Pacific Symphony Santiago Strings | What We Inherit, November 22 @ 7:00 PM



Pacific Symphony Youth Wind Ensemble | Sounds of Stars, Love, & Home, November 23 @ 7:00 PM



Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra | 1911, November 24 @ 7:00 PM

Pacific Symphony is a proud Resident Company of
Segerstrom Center for the Arts®
Celebrating 40 Years

WELCOME TO THE 2026-27 PSYE SEASON!

This season will be a celebration of new partnerships and milestones, as we welcome **Moon Doh, Pacific Symphony Assistant Conductor & Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra Music Director**. We also celebrate the **landmark 20th anniversary season of Pacific Symphony Youth Wind Ensemble (PSYWE)**. Under the leadership of **Dr. Gregory Xavier Whitmore**, PSYWE continues to chart new musical terrain through artistic partnerships with leading composers and artists.

Additionally, it is a joy to again welcome **Angela Woo**, now embarking on her **5th season as Pacific Symphony Youth Concert Band Music Director**, and **Dr. Johanna Gamboa-Kroesen, Pacific Symphony Santiago Strings Music Director** and recent recipient of the 2026 American Prize in Orchestral Programming (Youth Orchestra Division).

Looking ahead, we anticipate a rich and varied season of PSYE concert experiences, including celebrated guest artists, composers, and new composition debuts, and we invite you to join us in these exciting musical adventures!

Grounded in the creative leadership of **Pacific Symphony's Artistic & Music Director, Alexander Shelley**, PSYE continues to build upon the rich legacy established by Music Director Laureate Carl St.Clair. It is with this guidance and the support of the **Pacific Symphony & PSYE Boards of Directors**, plus the extraordinary support of our many generous donors and community of supporters that this program is made possible.

Thank you so much, and please enjoy the music!



Shawne Natalia Zarubica
Managing Director, Pacific Symphony Youth Ensembles, Pacific Symphony

PACIFIC SYMPHONY YOUTH ENSEMBLES (PSYE)

Pacific Symphony Youth Ensembles (PSYE) is one of the largest and most prestigious pre-professional music training programs in the nation, nurturing and inspiring exceptional young musicians in grades 6 through 12. PSYE provides its members with advanced and innovative artistic experiences that cultivate musical excellence, personal growth, and lifelong engagement through the art of symphonic performance.

Now under the creative leadership of Alexander Shelley, Pacific Symphony's Artistic & Music Director, PSYE continues to build upon the rich legacy established by Music Director Laureate Carl St.Clair. Together, their vision reflects a shared commitment to inspiring the next generation of artists and audiences.

Comprised of four performing ensembles—Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra, Pacific Symphony Youth Wind Ensemble, Pacific Symphony Santiago Strings, and Pacific Symphony Youth Concert Band—PSYE offers students the opportunity to develop their artistry through professional repertoire, world-class coaching, and unique performance experiences.

Members benefit from engaging conversations and mentorship with Maestro Shelley, receive regular coaching from Pacific Symphony musicians, and collaborate with renowned guest artists such as Yo-Yo Ma, Cho-Liang Lin, Narong Prangcharoen, Derrick Skye, Regina Carter, and Glenn Dicterow, among many others.

The Youth Ensembles perform regularly at the acclaimed Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall in Costa Mesa, CA, as well as at venues throughout the region. These free, community-focused performances are warmly received each season, touching the lives of thousands of Southern California residents.

Membership in PSYE is determined through annual auditions held each spring, drawing more than 700 applicants each year. The 349 students currently participating represent over 75 schools across Orange County and beyond. Graduates of the program go on to study at leading institutions including Juilliard, Johns Hopkins University/Peabody Institute, UCLA, University of Michigan, Stanford, USC, Brown, Vanderbilt, Yale, and many more.

PSYE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Artistic & Music Director, Pacific Symphony

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Music Director, Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra & Assistant Conductor, Pacific Symphony

Johanna Gamboa-Kroesen
Music Director, Pacific Symphony Santiago Strings

Gregory X. Whitmore
Music Director, Pacific Symphony Youth Wind Ensemble

Angela Woo
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Vivian Junyuan Wu
Youth Orchestra Manager & Santiago Strings Manager, Pacific Symphony

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Youth Concert Band Brass Coach, Pacific Symphony

Catrina Currier
Youth Concert Band Saxophone Coach, Pacific Symphony

Tu Han Huynh
Youth Concert Band Percussion Coach, Pacific Symphony

Haiyang Wang
Youth Concert Band Woodwind Coach, Pacific Symphony

Lisa Yoshida
Santiago Strings Instrumental Coach, Pacific Symphony

Cole Stewart
Youth Ensembles Intern, Pacific Symphony

* Also member of Board of Directors for Pacific Symphony
† Pacific Symphony Life Director



Pacific Symphony
ALEXANDER SHELLEY ARTISTIC & MUSIC DIRECTOR

LET'S DANCE!

Sunday, Nov. 22, 2026 @ 1 p.m.

Angela Woo, conductor
Duane Otani, guest conductor
Tu Han Huynh, guest conductor and percussion coach
PSYCB Percussion Ensemble
Pacific Symphony Youth Concert Band

Scan the code below for full concert information and program notes

BRIAN BALMAGES	*Blue Ridge Reel*
JAMES CURNOW	*Three English Folk Dances* *I. Sword Dance* *II. Waltzsong Dance (Next Monday Morning)* *III. Morris Dance*
JOSH WALKER	*Whirlygig*
BRIAN NOZNY	*Bakken Overture* Tu Han Huynh, guest conductor and ensemble coach PSYCB Percussion Ensemble
CAROL BRITTIN CHAMBERS	*Fandango* Duane Otani, guest conductor
JULIE GIROUX	*A Time to Dance*
MICHAEL SWEENEY	*Lament and Tribal Dances*
WARREN BARKER	*A Galop to End All Galops*

(No Intermission)

This afternoon's performance is generously sponsored by Sino US Performing Arts Organizations 中國風藝術協會

Our warmest thanks to **Hans and Valerie Imhof** for their foundational and multi-season support of Pacific Symphony Youth Concert Band.

Special thanks to **Stanley Behrens** for his generous support of **PSYE's Young Composer Project**.

Performance at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts
Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall

MEET THE PSYCB

Angela Woo / Music Director
Jackson Nguyen / PSYCB Manager

Sections listed alphabetically under principals.

Madison Berchtold / Brass Coach
Catrina Currier / Saxophone Coach
Tu Han Huynh / Percussion Coach
Haiyang Wang / Woodwinds Coach

FLUTE
Jacob Han, *principal*
Catherine Huang
Brianna Jung
Bora Kim
Abigail Lee
Jessie Long
Jonathan Miller
Iris Wu

OBOE
Erin Han, *principal*
Andy Jin
Felix Zhou

CLARINET
Adrian Kang, co-*principal*
Daniel Cui, co-*principal*
Anson Chao
Preston Chun
Rohan Dedhia
Mark Kao
Yunhoo Kim
Leia Kim
Jeffrey Lee
Sihu Lee
Stella Lee
Hyunwoo Park
Evelyn Park
Julian Park
Jeyi Park
Eason Wang
Roy Yoon
Kevin Zhang

BASS CLARINET
Gavin Wolfe, *principal*
Mitchell Hirota

BASSOON
Ashley Jung, *principal*
Hannah Pearce
Kyle Shen

ALTO SAXOPHONE
Timothy Hsu, *principal*
Ian Choi
Tanav Saran
Chris Song
Phoebe Tsai
Eric Yang

TENOR SAXOPHONE
Asa Goldberg, *principal*

BARITONE SAXOPHONE
Adrian Dee, *principal*

FRENCH HORN
Aaron Chung, *principal*
Olivia Belski
Abby Julian
Aiden Rhee
David Wilsen
Daniel Woo

TRUMPET
Jayden Lee, *principal*
Tommy Ahn
Jasper Cheng
Gregory Dodge
Vivian Kwak
Jonathan Lee
Donovan Seyler
Ryland Wei
Luke Yang

TROMBONE
Daniel Yoo, *principal*
Joshua Choi
Austin Gonzalez
Cara Hagemann
Louis Liu
Jayden Park

TUBA
Alvin Hsieh, *principal*
Chloe Chen
Charlotte Jin

PERCUSSION
Megan Chan, *principal*
Julian Kim
Arden Lu
Asher Malo
Sharon Qian
Riena Umezu

PACIFIC SYMPHONY YOUTH WIND ENSEMBLE MENTORS
Joel Anne (Tuba)
Henry Chang (Euphonium)
Qianer Cheng (Flute)
George Chuan (Bass Clarinet)
Neil Dedhia (Bari Sax)
Darien Espinoza (Alto Sax)
Jay Homma (Tenor Sax)
Alex Lee (Trumpet)
Eli Magdaleno (Tuba)
Diego Tarry (Euphonium)
Johnny Xia (Percussion)
Ray Yu (Alto Sax)

SCHOOLS REPRESENTED
Alderwood Elementary School
Augustine Ramirez Intermediate School
Beacon Park School
Beechwood School
Cadence Park School
Capistrano Valley High School
Carmenita Middle School
Chaparral Middle School
Crean Lutheran High School
D. Russell Parks Junior High School
Diamond Bar High School
Eastwood Elementary School
El Toro High School
Ethel Dwyer Middle School
Fred Newhart Middle School
Heritage Oak Private Education
Jeffrey Trail Middle School
Lakeside Middle School
Long Beach Polytechnic High School
Mater Dei High School
Northwood High School
Orange County Classical Academy
Orange County School of the Arts
Orchard Hills Middle School
Oxford Academy
Plaza Vista School
Portola High School
Rancho San Joaquin Middle School
Sage Hill School
Santiago High School
Sierra Vista Middle School
South Pointe Middle School
St. Margaret's Episcopal School
Troy High School
Tuffree Middle School
Venado Middle School
Woodbridge High School
Yorba Linda Middle School

ABOUT THE MUSIC DIRECTOR



Angela Woo is Director of Instrumental Music at John Adams Middle School (Santa Monica, CA) where nearly 300 students comprise three concert bands and three string orchestras. The John Adams ensembles have consistently earned the highest possible ratings at performance festivals. In 2011, the John Adams Middle School Wind Ensemble was selected to perform at the inaugural California All-State Music Education Conference as the only middle school concert band in the state to be so honored.

Woo is also the founding Music Director of Pacific Symphony Youth Concert Band (Orange County, CA). Now in its fifth season, this group is part of the Pacific Symphony Youth Ensembles, one of the largest and select pre-professional music training programs in the nation for young musicians in grades 6 through 12 that is affiliated with a Tier-One professional orchestra.

For over 25 years, Woo has enjoyed an active schedule as a guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator with numerous honor groups, conducting symposia, and music festivals throughout the United States. Woo has been invited by several universities to lead professional development workshops for music educators at the elementary and secondary levels. Her guest conducting invitations have included All-State honor bands and orchestras at the middle school and high school levels in Kentucky, Oregon, Michigan, Colorado, California, Georgia, and Louisiana. Woo has been invited by the WorldStrides Honors Performance Series to conduct in Carnegie Hall (New York) with the 2019 and 2022 Middle School Honors Orchestra, and the 2020 High School Symphony Orchestra.

On the international level, Woo was the first woman to conduct at the 1992 XIV New Music Forum in Mexico City, premiering wind music of Karel Husa, Vincent Persichetti, George Crumb, and William Schuman. In 2019, Woo was the first international guest conductor for the middle school State Honours Ensemble Program at the Queensland Conservatorium at Griffith University (Brisbane, Australia), and returned to guest conduct the national high school Wind Orchestra with the 2023 Australian Honours Ensemble Program.

An alumna of the University of California, Los Angeles, Woo holds the degrees Bachelor of Arts in Music Education and Piano Performance, Master of Education, and Master of Fine Arts in Conducting. She also holds the Master of Arts in Educational Administration from California State University, Northridge. Prior to her appointment to John Adams Middle School in 1995, Woo was Director of Music at Corona del Mar High School in Orange County, California where she led the band, orchestra, choral, and jazz ensembles. She also served as conductor of the Santa Monica College Wind Ensemble during the 1995-96 season.

Woo is a staunch advocate for music education at all levels. She has been recognized and honored for her advocacy and service to music education by local, regional, and national organizations, including the Santa Monica Rotary Club (2005 Santa Monica-Malibu District Teacher of the Year), the John Philip Sousa National Foundation (2012 Legion of Honor Laureate), the Education Through Music - Los Angeles Foundation (2019 Shining Star Award), and the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association (2020 Gold Award and 2025 Outstanding Middle School Educator Award). Woo was named the recipient of the 2024 California Music Educators Association Middle School Music Educator Award.

ABOUT THE GUEST CONDUCTOR



Tu Han Huynh is a third-year UCLA music education student and percussionist studying with Theresa Dimond and Gregory Goodall. A jazz musician, they studied vibraphone for five years and bring experience in piano, violin, saxophone and global percussion traditions, including Indian tabla and Thai pong lang. At UCLA, Tu Han performs with the Percussion Ensemble, Marching Band, Contemporary Jazz Ensemble, Wind Ensemble and Symphony. They serve as marching band bass drum section leader and librarian. Passionate about music education, Tu Han enjoys coaching concert bands and chamber ensembles.

ABOUT THE GUEST CONDUCTOR



Duane Otani has directed bands at Rancho Bernardo High School since 2010 and chairs its Performing Arts Department. His ensembles consistently earn top festival ratings, while the Rancho Bernardo Royal Regiment has won five SCSBOA gold medals. He has led performances at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and throughout Europe. His honors include the 2020 CMEA State Band Educator Award and the 2026 John Philip Sousa Foundation Legion of Honor Award. SCSBOA's president-elect and a frequent clinician and guest conductor, Otani will conduct the 2027 California All-State Junior High Concert Band.

ABOUT PSYCB

Celebrating its fifth season, Pacific Symphony Youth Concert Band was established in 2022 through the support of Hans and Valerie Imhof. Led by Angela Woo, it serves musicians in grades 6–9 from more than 36 Southern California schools. One of four Pacific Symphony Youth Ensembles, it develops artistry and confidence through outstanding concert band repertoire. Members receive mentorship from Artistic and Music Director Alexander Shelley, coaching from Symphony musicians and opportunities to perform twice annually at the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall. Across the Youth Ensembles program, more than 700 students audition annually, and graduates attend leading universities and conservatories.

PROGRAM NOTES

Blue Ridge Reel (2013) by **Brian Balmages** (b. 1975) was inspired by the town of Asheville in western North Carolina. The piece draws on both bluegrass and modern popular music, just as the Blue Ridge Mountain region brings together historic traditions with modern life.

James Curnow (b. 1943) has served as composer, conductor, educator, and publisher. His ***Three English Folk Dances*** (2016) contrast a sword dance, a waltz song, and a Morris dance, a type of English folk dance dating to the fifteenth century.

With its 3/4 waltz feel reminiscent of a musical carousel, ***Whirlygig*** (2020) by celebrated composer/percussionist **Josh Walker** features a catchy melody and contrasting textures. Written for percussion ensemble, the piece has a lilting, dreamlike quality that engages performers and audiences alike.

Brian Nozny (b. 1977) leads a diversified career as a percussionist, composer, and educator, spanning a wide array of musical styles, including classical, jazz, world, and popular genres. His ***Bakken Overture*** (2023) is an energetic and groovy percussion quartet for commonly found drums and auxiliary percussion instruments.

Carol Brittin Chambers has won both critical and industry acclaim. ***Fandango*** (2025) was inspired by the fandango, a lively Spanish and Portuguese folk dance typically accompanied by castanets and guitars.

Julie Giroux (b. 1961) has written music for symphony orchestra, chorus, chamber ensembles, and brass and woodwind choirs. ***A Time to Dance*** (1999) was inspired by the famous passage from Ecclesiastes 3:1–4.

Michael Sweeney (b. 1952) has taught in Ohio and Indiana public schools for many years and has composed more than 500 works. Rather than creating an identifiable personal style, Sweeney generally seeks to make each of his works sound distinct. Commissioned by the Iowa Bandmasters Association, ***Lament and Tribal Dances*** was composed in 2001.

Warren Barker (1923-2006) came out of a brief retirement in 1975 after working as composer, arranger, and conductor in Hollywood. He composed a multitude of works for concert band and wind ensemble. He wrote ***A Galop to End All Galops*** in 1977, shortly after entering this new phase of his career.

Scan for complete bios and program notes

Joshua Grayson, Ph.D., is an historical musicologist and graduate of the USC Thornton School of Music, and the program note annotator for Pacific Symphony Youth Ensembles.



Pacific Symphony
ALEXANDER SHELLEY ARTISTIC & MUSIC DIRECTOR

WHAT WE INHERIT

Sunday, Nov. 22, 2026 @ 7 p.m.

Dr. Johanna Gamboa-Kroesen, conductor
Pacific Symphony Santiago Strings

Scan the code below for full concert information and program notes

SAMUEL COLERIDGE-TAYLOR	*Four Novelletten*, Op. 52, No. 4 *IV. Allegro Molto*
PAUL LEWIS	*Rosa Mundi*
CALLISTO GUATELLI PASHA *Arr. Emre Araci*	*Osmanli Sergi Marşi (Marche de L'Exposition Ottomane)*
RIFAT BEY *Arr. Emre Araci*	*Sultan V. Murad için Şarkı-i Duaiye (Prière pour S.M.I. le Sultan Mourad*
ROGER & MASON PRZYTULSKI	*Snapshots* *MM220A* *Peafowls* *Puma Ridge & Rooster Rock* *Destination* *Procession* *Constellation* PSSS parent guest musicians Commissioned and premiered by PSSS
GUSTAV HOLST	*A Moorside Suite* *Scherzo* *Nocturne* *March*

(No Intermission)

This evening's performance is generously sponsored by Sino US Performing Arts Organization 中國風藝術協會

Special thanks to **Stanley Behrens** for his generous support of **PSYE's Young Composer Project**.

Performance at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts
Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall

MEET THE PSSS

Dr. Johanna Gamboa-Kroesen / Music Director
Vivian Junyuan Wu / PSSS Manager
Dr. Lisa Yoshida / PSSS String Coach

Sections listed alphabetically.

VIOLIN I

Harmonie Fu
Hudson Fu
Alicia Huang
Henry Jang
Caylin Jeon
Jimin Kang
Emily Lee
Grace Lee
Jane Lee
Zackary Lee
Kevin Liu
Ryan Noda
Summer Park
Lucas Poon
Kaitlyn Sung
Xindi Wang

VIOLIN II

Max Chen
Sophie Chen
Eunseo Choi
Stella Chu
Maya Goto
Ritaro Iizuka
Claire Kim
Lynn Kim
Camden Lau
Lupita Manzano Hernandez
Kaylee Park
Tam Pham
Kyle Poon
Eunice Tak
Olivia Wang
Nanoka Yasue
Miho Yazaki
Melody Ye

VIOLA

Jane Ahn
Edward Han
Enhe Hu
Logan Huynh
Uthara Iyer
Madeleine Joo
Fiona Kim
Gahyeon Kim
Ariane Liang
Wei Yu Lin
Elle Shueh
Grace Wang
Chelsey Yu
Tim Zhang

CELLO

Jamie Chang
Sean Choi
Zachary Gerhart
Iris Kim
Lucas Kim
Ryan Kim
Seowoo Kim
Theodore Kim
Kayla Lai
Duhan Li
Ayane Matsuzaki
Jeremiah Ming
Lioma Quoit Minematsu
Jonathan Wei
Abigail Yoo
Hannah Yoon

DOUBLE BASS

Jordan Kim
Evan Ryu
Dean Saunders
Keegan Seigel
Zixin Zhao

SCHOOLS REPRESENTED

Arnold O. Beckman High School
Beacon Park School
Cadence Park School
Corona del Mar Middle and High School
Heritage Oak Private Education
Hughes Middle School
Irvine High School
Jeffrey Trail Middle School
Lakeside Middle School
McPherson Magnet School
Orange County School of the Arts
Orchard Hills Middle School
Oxford Academy
Pacific Academy
Panorama Elementary School
Pioneer Middle School
Plaza Vista School
Portola High School
Rancho San Joaquin Middle school
Red Hill Lutheran School
Santa Margarita Catholic High School
Sierra Vista Middle School
South Lake Middle School
St. Margaret's Episcopal School
Tesoro High Schol
Troy High School
TVT Community Day School
University High School
Veritas Classical Academy
Vista Verde K-8 School
Woodsboro Elementary School

ABOUT THE MUSIC DIRECTOR



Dr. Johanna Gamboa-Kroesen is a GRAMMY®-nominated music educator, conductor, and Assistant Professor of Music Education at the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music, where she teaches courses in music education, string pedagogy, and conducting, and supervises student teaching. She holds a Doctorate in Education from UCLA, a Master of Music Education from The Hartt School, and dual Bachelor of Music degrees in Music Education and Violin Performance from Chapman University.

As Music Director of Pacific Symphony Santiago Strings, one of Southern California's premier youth orchestras, Dr. Gamboa-Kroesen is recognized for her artistry, inclusivity, and commitment to young musicians' artistic growth. Under her leadership, the ensemble was named *Grand Champion* at the 2026 National Orchestra Festival and has been hailed for performing "with a maturity and intentionality well beyond their years… making music with a sense of freedom." Her work as a conductor draws upon a breadth of cultural traditions and musical styles to cultivate connection and growth through ensemble learning, earning her recognition as the winner of the *2026 American Prize in Orchestral Programming* in the youth orchestra division. She maintains an active guest conducting schedule with school, youth, and regional honor orchestras and leads workshops and clinics for music educators across the country.

Dr. Gamboa-Kroesen's scholarship examines string pedagogy, inquiry-based learning, school belonging, and culturally responsive music education. As a Fulbright Scholar in the Philippines, she examined how cultural understandings of identity and human connection can inform music teaching and learning. Her community partnerships extend this work to music learning with justice-involved youth, creating opportunities for emerging educators to reflect on their teaching practices and explore their evolving professional identities. Her publications appear in *Research Studies in Music Education, Professing Education, American String Teacher,* and *Teaching Music*. She presents nationally and internationally, including at conferences of the International Society for Music Education, Society for Music Teacher Education, College Music Society, National Association for Music Education, and American String Teachers Association. Additional engagements include the California All-State Music Education Conference, Mid-Atlantic String Symposium, Suncoast Music Education Research Symposium, and International Conference on Education and Justice.

Dr. Gamboa-Kroesen serves on the *American String Teacher* editorial board and as President-Elect of ASTA Los Angeles. She previously served as Chair of the ASTA College Committee, supporting collegiate engagement, professional sustainability, and inclusive access within the string teaching community. She has received multiple research grants and teaching awards and collaborates with school districts as a curriculum and instructional consultant. Prior to her appointment at UCLA, she taught orchestra in public schools for sixteen years. Her work across university and community settings remains grounded in her classroom experience and a commitment to connecting people, cultures, and communities through shared creative practice.

ABOUT THE COMPOSERS



Roger Przytulski is a composer, conductor and performer active throughout Los Angeles and Orange counties whose music has been performed internationally. His works have been performed by the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, American Composers Orchestra, Bulgarian National Radio Philharmonic, USC Thornton Symphony, and Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra, among others. He has composed scores for award-winning short films screened at the Directors Guild of America and music featured in History Channel documentaries.

An experienced conductor and educator, he has led clinics, rehearsals and ensembles through faculty roles at Long Beach City College, Orange County School of the Arts, and Orange County Music & Dance Conservatory. As a performer, he has worked with Helmut Rilling, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, American Jazz Philharmonic, South Coast Symphony, and jazz artists Dewey Erney and Buddy Collette. He is a member of BMI.



Mason Przytulski is a 10th-grade composer and violinist at Woodbridge High School in Irvine. He has performed with Pacific Symphony Santiago Strings, the All Southern High School Honor Orchestra and IUSD Honor Orchestras.

Mason has composed music for string orchestra and concert band, drawing inspiration from video games, contemporary media, and the repertoire he performs. As a member of Santiago Strings, he participated in Pacific Symphony's Young Composer Project. He continues to study composition, violin, and percussion, exploring new ways to bring his musical ideas to life. *Snapshots* is his first commission and receives its premiere in this concert.

ABOUT PSSS

Celebrating its 35th season, Pacific Symphony Santiago Strings (PSSS) is a nationally celebrated youth string orchestra founded in 1991 by Lonie Bosserman and Margie Chan. Originally sponsored by the Orange County Chapter of the Suzuki Music Association of California, it joined Pacific Symphony in 2007.

After three decades under educator Irene Kroesen, Dr. Johanna Gamboa-Kroesen, a UCLA faculty member, became music director in 2022.

Representing more than 30 Southern California schools, PSSS serves talented instrumentalists in grades 6–9 and is one of four Pacific Symphony Youth Ensembles. Members develop musical sensitivity, confidence, and ensemble skills through outstanding string repertoire, mentorship from Alexander Shelley, and coaching by Pacific Symphony musicians. They perform twice each season at the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall and participate in periodic retreats and touring opportunities.

The Youth Ensembles program draws more than 700 audition applicants annually, with graduates continuing their studies at institutions including Juilliard, UCLA, USC, Stanford, and Yale.

PROGRAM NOTES

Principally known for his cantata *Hiawatha's Wedding Feast*, African-British composer **Samuel Coleridge-Taylor** (1875-1912) considered it his life's mission to honor the contributions and dignity of African Americans. ***Four Novelletten*** (1903) was one of the composer's own favorites.

Paul Lewis (b. 1943) is an esteemed composer of film, television, and concert music. He composed ***Rosa Mundi*** (2004) to find solace while mourning the passing of a beloved relative. While composing the work, a single flower of his favorite rose plant bloomed in his garden.

Originally from Parma, **Callisto Guatelli Pasha** (1819-1899) served as court musician to four Ottoman sultans. ***Osmanli Sergi Marşi (Marche de L'Exposition Ottomane)*** was written in 1863 for the occasion of the General Ottoman Exhibition.

Born in Constantinople (modern-day Istanbul), **Rifat Bey** (1820-1888) served as music teacher and chamber musician to the court of the Ottoman sultans. ***Sultan V. Murad için Şarkı-i Duaiye (Prière pour S.M.I. le Sultan Mourad)*** (1876) was written for the ascension of Sultan Mourad V (1840-1904).

Roger Przytulski (b. 1976) is currently a professor at Long Beach City College and is serving as composer-in-residence for the Pasadena Youth Symphony and several other groups. His son, violinist, percussionist, and composer **Mason Prztulski** (b. 2010) is currently a tenth-grade student at Woodbridge High School in Irvine. Commissioned by Santiago Strings, ***Snapshots*** (2026) was written jointly by the father and son duo.

Gustav Holst (1874-1934) has become one of the most famous English composers of the late Victorian and Edwardian periods. Originally written for brass band, ***Moorside Suite*** was commissioned by the National Brass Band Festival Committee in 1927.

Scan for complete bios and program notes

Joshua Grayson, Ph.D., is an historical musicologist and graduate of the USC Thornton School of Music, and the program note annotator for Pacific Symphony Youth Ensembles.



Pacific Symphony
ALEXANDER SHELLEY ARTISTIC & MUSIC DIRECTOR

SOUNDS OF STARS, LOVE & HOME

Monday, Nov. 23, 2026 @ 7 p.m.

Dr. Gregory X. Whitmore, conductor
Dr. David Vickerman, guest conductor
Chelsea Chaves, mezzo-soprano
Pacific Symphony Youth Wind Ensemble

Scan the code below for full concert information and program notes

DAVID MASLANKA	*Morning Star*
PERCY GRAINGER	*Colonial Song* *Molly on the Shore*
ERIC WHITACRE	*October* Dr. David Vickerman, guest conductor
—INTERMISSION—	
CAROLINE SHAW *Trans. Cody Edgerton*	*Is A Rose* *I. The Edge* *II. And So* *III. Red, Red Rose* Chelsea Chaves, mezzo-soprano
MICHAEL DAUGHERTY	*Vulcan* *I. Pon Farr* *II. Mind Meld* *III. Vulcan's Forge* Ella Choi & Johnny Xia, snare drum solos

This evening's performance is generously sponsored by Sino US Performing Arts Organization 中國風藝術協會

Special thanks to **Stanley Behrens** for his generous support of **PSYE's Young Composer Project**.

Performance at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts
Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall

MEET THE PSYWE

Dr. Gregory X. Whitmore / Music Director
Jackson Nguyen / PSYWE Manager

Sections listed alphabetically under principal.

FLUTE
Sarah Feigenbaum, *principal*
Qianer Cheng
Emma Fu
Grady Gillen
Lyric Huang
Euna Kim
Annabel Lin
Chloe Park
Melody Shi
Jason Solorzano
Lucia Yu
Aiden Zhang

OBOE
Olivia Park, *principal*
Fenton Benne
Gia Kwak
Seoah Shin

CLARINET
Kai Doushgounian, *principal*
Alex Butterly
Eric Choi
Ben Chow
Jenna Hong
Stella Kim
Claire Kuo
Landon Lee
Jayden Lim
Leon Liu
Nathan Ranz
Ethan Wang
Gabi White
Christine Yang

BASS CLARINET
George Chuan, *principal*
Jon Lee
Chris Stalker

BASSOON
Normandie Olsen, *principal*
Alex Gonzalez
Evan McCormick

ALTO SAXOPHONE
Jayden Lee, *principal*
Darien Espinoza
Theo Jeon
Shido Kamai
Jude Lee
Jai Lue
Max Mar
James Park
Justin Vo
Max Wang
Ray Yu

TENOR SAXOPHONE
Armaan Diwan, *principal*
Jay Homma
Ryu Hosono
Brayden Lee
Nash Loyd

BARITONE SAXOPHONE
Neil Dedhia, *principal*
Ben Xie

FRENCH HORN
Sylas Wei, *principal*
Brandon Dee
John Le
Ellie Monahan
Timorie Olsen
Mya Warren
Rico Xu

TRUMPET
Bomi Bishop, *principal*
George Ty, *co-principal*
Austin Ahn
Ryan Choi
Cash Ferrato
Brent Kim
Alex Lee
Damian Lee
Tomo Nagasaki
Camrie Olson
Justin Seo
Brandon Yoon

TROMBONE
Adrian Perez, *principal*
Austin Bauer
Naturel Jones
Cruz Magana
Ada Mjolsness
Enzo Nohai
Gwyn Renger

BASS TROMBONE
Riley Villena, *principal*
Vinhy Tran

EUPHONIUM
Diego Tarry, *principal*
Henry Chang
William Guo
Ava Tambong

TUBA
Eli Magdaleno, *principal*
Joel Anne
Max Ledezma
Fernando Vazquez

PERCUSSION
Ella Choi, *principal*
Momoka Hayashibe
Thomas O'Malley
Kylee Tang
Johnny Xia

PIANO
Angela Luo, *principal*

HARP
Amber Chui, *principal*

SCHOOLS REPRESENTED
Arnold O. Beckman High School
California Academy of Mathematics and Science
California High School
Cerritos High School
Crean Lutheran High School
Diamond Bar High School
El Dorado High School
El Toro High School
Eleanor Roosevelt High School
Garden Grove High School
Irvine High School
Katella High School
Laguna Hills High School
Los Altos High School
Magnolia High School
Mission Viejo High School
Northwood High School
Orange County School of the Arts
Oxford Academy
Portola High School
San Juan Hills High School
San Marcos High School
Santiago High School
Sunny Hills High School
Trabuco Hills High School
Troy High School
University High School
Valley Christian High School
Woodbridge High School
Woodrow Wilson High School

ABOUT THE MUSIC DIRECTOR



Gregory Xavier Whitmore is Conductor of the University Symphonic Winds at California State University Fullerton (CSUF). In addition to this artistic responsibility, Dr. Whitmore is an Associate Professor of Instrumental Music Education and serves as Area Coordinator of the CSUF Music Education Department. Dr. Whitmore is also in his 13th season as Music Director of Pacific Symphony Youth Wind Ensemble, one of only a handful of youth wind ensembles connected to a group one professional symphony orchestra (Pacific Symphony) in the United States.

Dr. Whitmore's previous appointments in higher education include tenure as Director of Bands at Irvine Valley College (Irvine, CA), Mt. San Antonio College (Walnut, CA), and College of the Desert (Palm Desert, CA). Prior to his work in higher education, Dr. Whitmore spent 13 years as Director of Bands at Cathedral City High School (Cathedral City, CA).

A proud Midwesterner and native of Ann Arbor, Michigan; Dr. Whitmore earned his bachelor's degree in instrumental music education from The University of Michigan School of Music, Theater and Dance. While a student at Michigan, Dr. Whitmore performed in the University of Michigan Symphony and Concert Bands; and led the University of Michigan Marching Band as "Michigan's Man Up Front"—Drum Major - from 1999 to 2001—becoming the second Black Drum Major in the history of the University of Michigan.

Dr. Whitmore received his master's degree in music with an emphasis in wind conducting from California State University, Fullerton. Dr. Whitmore holds a master's degree, and a doctorate in music and music education from Columbia University (Teachers College) in the city of New York.

A Second Place Winner of the 2017 American Prize in Conducting, Dr. Whitmore has conducted ensembles around the world in such notable concert venues as the Teatro Nacional de Costa Rica, The Sydney Opera House (Sydney, Australia), The Golden Hall of The Musikverein (Vienna), The Wiener Konzerthaus (Vienna), The MuTh (Vienna), Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall (Costa Mesa, CA), Symphony Hall (Chicago), The Kennedy Center (Washington, D.C.), Carnegie Hall (New York City), Walt Disney Concert Hall (Los Angeles), Meng Concert Hall (Fullerton, CA), Weill Hall (Sonoma, CA), The Ambassador Auditorium (Pasadena, CA), Holy Trinity Church (Stratford, England), St. John's Smith Square (London), Chateau Vaux le Vicomte (Paris), and Heidelberg Castle (Germany). Under Dr. Whitmore's direction, the Cathedral City High School Symphony Band was selected to perform as the showcase ensemble during the 2008 California Band Directors Association Annual Convention. Dr. Whitmore is a conductor for the World Strides Honors Performance Series.

With a research interest in music educator values as operationalized into pedagogy, in addition to investigating the concert band as an artistic medium, Dr. Whitmore has presented research at music education symposia throughout the United States and abroad, including The Midwest Clinic and the International Society of Music Education World Congress. Dr. Whitmore's research has been published in *Visions of Research in Music Education*. Dr. Whitmore has been recognized in four editions of *Who's Who Among America's Teachers* and he has been included in the 2005/2006 Edition of the *National Honor Roll's Outstanding American Teachers*. Dr. Whitmore was selected to represent the State of California by *School Band and Orchestra Magazine* in the 2008 edition of *50 Band Directors Who Make a Difference*.

Dr. Whitmore belongs to professional organizations that include College Band Directors National Association, Kappa Kappa Psi Honorary Band Fraternity, Alpha Delta Phi Fraternity, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity, Pi Kappa Lambda Honor Society, The National Association for Music Education, Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association, and the California Music Educators Association, College Band Directors National Association, and The National Band Association.

Learn more about Dr. Whitmore at gwhitmore.com

ABOUT THE GUEST CONDUCTOR

Dr. David Vickerman, conductor



David Vickerman is Director of Bands, Professor of Music, and Associate Director of the School of Music at San José State University, where he conducts the Wind Ensemble and Disrupt, SJSU's new music ensemble, and teaches undergraduate and graduate instrumental conducting. He is the coauthor, with Alexandra Beller, of *The Embodied Conductor: A Somatic Approach with Laban and Bartenieff*, forthcoming from Oxford University Press in 2027. Since 2023, he has served as Music and Artistic Director of the San José Wind Symphony, becoming only the third director in the ensemble's history since its founding in 1958.

Dr. Vickerman's contributions to music education and conducting have earned him numerous honors, including The American Prize in Conducting, the CMEA Bay Section Outstanding Music Educator Award, and the John Swain College/University Music Educator Award from the California Music Educators Association. Under his leadership, the SJSU Wind Ensemble was selected to perform at CASMEC and the CBDNA Western/Northwestern Division Conference.

Before joining SJSU, Dr. Vickerman served as Director of Bands at The College of New Jersey, where the Wind Ensemble performed at CBDNA and NAfME conferences. He also held conducting positions at Johns Hopkins University and with Washington, D.C.'s Great Noise Ensemble. A sought-after guest conductor, he has led honor bands across the country.

A passionate advocate for contemporary music, Dr. Vickerman has commissioned and premiered works by numerous composers and arranged music by Gabriela Lena Frank, Philip Glass, Sigur Rós, and others. He frequently presents on conducting pedagogy, ensemble engagement, and socially conscious repertoire. He holds degrees from the Peabody Institute, the University of Oregon, and CSU Stanislaus.

ABOUT THE GUEST ARTIST

Chelsea Chaves, mezzo-soprano



Chelsea Chaves has performed widely and is adored for her lyricism and winning stage presence. Since graduating with her master's degree from the USC Thornton School of Music, Chaves has been featured in opera productions and concerts, including Astoria Music Festival, Musiktheater Bavaria, Opera Santa Barbara, OperaWorks, the 2022 GRAMMY® Award-Winning Pacific Chorale, Pacific Symphony, Songfest, and many more. Her favorite roles include Hanna Glawari from Lehár's *Die Lustige Witwe* and Pamina from Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*.

Chaves is passionate about bringing classical music to the younger generations and is often featured with Long Beach Opera and Pacific Symphony in their outreach pursuits.

In 2018, she was a recipient of the prestigious vocal award from the Profant Foundation in Santa Barbara and was a finalist for the Loren L. Zachary Competition in 2015. She has also sung the National Anthem at two Laker games. Chelsea received her Bachelor of Music degree from Chapman University.

Scan for complete bios

ABOUT PSYWE

Celebrating its 20th season, Pacific Symphony Youth Wind Ensemble (PSYWE) is one of Southern California's premier pre-professional ensembles for high school woodwind, brass, and percussion musicians. One of four Pacific Symphony Youth Ensembles, PSYWE represents more than 30 schools and serves accomplished instrumentalists in grades 9–12.

Dr. Gregory Xavier Whitmore, music director since 2014, has guided the ensemble through commissions and world premieres of more than eight works by established and emerging composers. A collaboration with Jules Pegram resulted in a work that received the 2019 College Band Directors National Association Frederick Fennell Composition Award. Under his leadership, PSYWE has welcomed more than 18 guest conductors, hosted more than 17 composer residencies, and collaborated with more than 27 guest artists. Featured composers include John Mackey, Kevin Day, Alex Shapiro and Frank Ticheli. In 2025, PSYWE performed at the North American Saxophone Alliance Western Region Conference.

International highlights include a successful 2025 Costa Rica tour featuring a sold-out concert at the Teatro Nacional de Costa Rica. During its 10th-anniversary season in 2016–17, PSYWE toured Salzburg and Vienna, earning first place in its category at the Summa Cum Laude International Youth Music Festival. Performances included Vienna's Musikverein, MuTh Concert Hall, and Konzerthaus.

Members benefit from mentorship by Pacific Symphony Artistic & Music Director Alexander Shelley, coaching from Symphony musicians and opportunities to collaborate with guest artists. Selected through annual auditions, musicians perform three concerts each season at the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall in Costa Mesa. Through challenging repertoire and collaborative performance, PSYWE fosters musical excellence, artistic confidence, and personal growth.

Previous music directors: Dr. Josh Roach (2009–2013) and Michael J. Corrigan (2007–2008).

PROGRAM NOTES

Morning Star (1997) by **David Maslanka** (1943-2017) was commissioned by the Grand Ledge High School Wind Symphony in honor of the inauguration of the school's new performance hall. Maslanka calls the work a "happy piece, a concept which does not usually attach itself to my music."

Percy Grainger (1882-1962) was perhaps one of the twentieth century's most idiosyncratic composers, maintaining a lifelong interest in folk music. In ***Colonial Song*** (1911), Grainger sought "to express feelings aroused by my thoughts of the scenery and people of my native land (Australia)."

Grainger's ***Molly on the Shore*** (1907) is an arrangement of a traditional Irish folk song by the same name and also incorporates the Irish song "Temple Hill."

Eric Whitacre (b. 1970) is one of today's established stars of classical music. ***October*** (2000) was specifically written to be suitable for young instrumentalists, a special challenge for the composer. Its four themes depict differing aspects of the autumn season.

Violinist, singer, and composer **Caroline Shaw** (b. 1982) has achieved wide acclaim for her music. The co-founder of the vocal group Roomful of Teeth, Shaw became the youngest ever recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for Music in 2012. She composed her song trilogy ***Is A Rose*** between 2016 and 2019.

Michael Daugherty (b. 1954) combines a modernist aesthetic and artistic experimentalism with subject matter drawn from American pop icons. ***Vulcan*** (2014) was inspired by the 1966-1969 television show *Star Trek*.

Scan for complete bios and program notes

Joshua Grayson, Ph.D., is an historical musicologist and graduate of the USC Thornton School of Music, and the program note annotator for Pacific Symphony Youth Ensembles.



Pacific Symphony
ALEXANDER SHELLEY ARTISTIC & MUSIC DIRECTOR

1911

Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2026 @ 7 p.m.

Moon Doh, conductor
Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra

Scan the code below for full concert information and program notes

MAURICE RAVEL *Dances nobles et sentimentales*, M.61a
1. *Modéré, très franc*
2. *Assez lent, avec une expression intense*
3. *Modéré*
4. *Assez animé*
5. *Presque lent, dans un sentiment intime*
6. *Vif*
7. *Moins vif*
8. *Épilogue. Lent*

MAURICE RAVEL *Ma mere l'Oye*, M.60a
1. *Pavane de la Belle au bois dormant. Lent*
2. *Petit Poucet. Très modéré*
3. *Laideronnette, Impératrice des pagodes. Mouvement de marche*
4. *Les entretiens de la Belle et de la Bête. Mouvement de valse modéré*
5. *Le jardin féerique. Lent et grave*

—INTERMISSION—

IGOR STRAVINSKY *Petrushka* (Ballet) – 1947 version
Part 1. The Shrovetide Fair
Part 2. Petrushka's Cell
Part 3. The Moor's Room
Part 4. The Shrovetide Fair (Evening)

This evening's performance is generously sponsored by Sino US Performing Arts Organizations 中國風藝術協會

Special thanks to **Stanley Behrens** for his generous support of **PSYE's Young Composer Project**.

Performance at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts
Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall

MEET THE PSYO

Moon Doh / Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra Music Director
Vivian Junyuan Wu / PSYO Manager

FLUTE
Sophia Zhou, *principal*
Gloria Zhou, *assistant principal*
Kaya Baird
Jia Kim

OBOE
Connor Shim, *principal*
Michelle Hsu

ENGLISH HORN
Stephanie Zhou

CLARINET
Chloe Baek, *co-principal*
Ian Suh, *co-principal*
Daniel Chung
Mason Ahn

BASS CLARINET
Jon Lee

BASSOON
Tyler Phan, co-*principal*
Landon Moats, co-principal
Calvin Chin

FRENCH HORN
Carson Li, *principal*
Anna Wilsen
Chloe Shin
Nathan Kuo
Koen Wang
Loralai Tran

TRUMPET
Kole Orndoff, *principal*
Kaitlyn Chung, *assistant principal*
Minseo Chung
Alvin Chung

TENOR TROMBONE
Nathan Sung, *principal*
Taylor Wong, *assistant principal*

BASS TROMBONE
Zuriel Martinez, *principal*

TUBA
Dao Wang, *principal*

HARP
Noella Lee, *principal*
Leenah Yoon, *assistant principal*

PIANO
April Zhang, *principal*
Angela Luo

PERCUSSION
Vivienne Hsi, *principal*
Daniel Kim
Talon Lu
Jungwoo Park

VIOLIN I
Seaena Kim, *co-concertmaster*
Danny Yoo, *co-concertmaster*
Natalie Xu
Audrey Lee
Anna Shung
Maxwell Lee
Junseo Lee
Caleb Schweiger
Victoria Shung
Haoqi Wang
Jimin Ha
KariAnne Chien
Esther Ahn
Winston Ryee
Ho Sen Ken Xiao

VIOLIN II
Eric Shin, *principal*
Joanna Kang, *assistant principal*
Claire Yuan
Abigail Chung
Annessa Hui
Adam Liu
Audrey Ma
Owen Lo
Emmalyn Kim
Nicholas Nguyen
Charissa Catanus
Grace Chun
Lana Sirkin
Anika Chen

VIOLA
Gracie Park, *principal*
Joanne Chen, *assistant principal*
Jayden Kim
Miono Quoit-Minematsu
Annabelle Jin
Olivia Guo
Emily Pan
Brian Kim
Eric Lee
Luke Lee
Jacquelyn Cheng
Haeyul Kim
Amber Yun
Emily Xiao

CELLO
Alex Hwang, *co-principal*
Bryan Tseng, *co-principal*
Jeremy Lee
Aiden Kim
Zachary Kim
Kathryn Loutzenheiser
Jaxon Yoon
Erin Suh
Olivia Moon
Audrey Ma
Seojun Baek
Aidan Chew
Adam Przytulski
Kaitlyn Lee
Livia Kuo
Jayden Lee

DOUBLE BASS
Guy Lee, *principal*
Sartaj Benipal, *assistant principal*
Parker Brueggeman
Yehia Mansour
Derek Cha
Gangmo Kim
Chris Ding
Hanna Saeidi

SCHOOLS REPRESENTED

Aliso Niguel High School
Arnold O. Beckman High School
Beacon Park School
Canyon High School
Crean Lutheran High School
Diamond Bar High School
Eleanor Roosevelt High School
Esperanza High School
Irvine High School
Long Beach Polytechnic High School
Northwood High School
Orange County School of the Arts
Oxford Academy
Pacifica Christian High School
Portola High School
Sage Hill School
St. Margaret's Episcopal School
Tesoro High School
Trabuco Hills Highschool
Troy High School
University High School
Valencia High School
Vista Murrieta High School
Woodbridge High School
Yorba Linda High School

ABOUT THE MUSIC DIRECTOR



Moon Doh begins his tenure as assistant conductor of Pacific Symphony in the 2026-27 season, working closely with Artistic & Music Director Alexander Shelley and leading the orchestra's education and family programs. He also serves as music director of Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra and conducts the Farmers & Merchants Bank Family Musical Mornings and Frieda Belinfante Class Act Youth Concerts.

Doh is also music director of the Butler County Symphony Orchestra in western Pennsylvania. Since 2021, he has served as associate conductor of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, leading subscription, education, family, and film concerts, as well as sold-out performances with Sting, Laufey, and Nas. His community initiatives have brought Beethoven's string quartets to Pittsburgh libraries, "Discovery and Drinks" discussions to breweries, and children's concerts to MuseumLab in collaboration with Mo Willems.

Previously, Doh served as artistic director and conductor of Cologne's Flora Symphony Orchestra, where he launched its first livestream concert series and developed educational initiatives. His European conducting engagements include the WDR Funkhausorchester, Duisburger Philharmoniker, Düsseldorfer Symphoniker, Romanian Chamber Orchestra, Málaga Philharmonic Orchestra, and Sinfonietta Cracovia. Additional collaborations have taken him to the Neue Philharmonie Westfalen, Bergische Symphoniker, Dortmunder Philharmoniker, and Pleven Philharmonic in Bulgaria. Recent U.S. debuts include the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, The Syracuse Orchestra, and Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra.

Born in South Korea, Doh grew up in the Philippines, Russia, and the United States. He began studying cello and piano at age nine and has maintained a commitment to young musicians, conducting Germany's Hessen All-State Orchestra and Tonhalle Düsseldorf's Under-16 Orchestra and coaching the Youth Orchestra of Essen. He continues working with high school and collegiate ensembles throughout the greater Pittsburgh region. His community service has extended to asylum seekers in Hungary, underserved children in Bangladesh, and incarcerated individuals in Baltimore.

Doh earned a bachelor's degree in international relations and economics from Johns Hopkins University and a bachelor's degree in music composition from Sahmyook University in South Korea. At Johns Hopkins, he led student service initiatives, reflecting his longstanding commitment to community engagement. He studied orchestral conducting at the Robert Schumann Hochschule Düsseldorf and participated in the Accademia Chigiana and Bartók Festival. His mentors include Manfred Honeck, Rüdiger Bohn, and Peter Eötvös. A recipient of the Takaya Urakawa Foundation Grant, Doh also served on the board of Violence Prevention Network USA.

Follow Moon on Instagram: @doh.moon

ABOUT PSYO

Founded in 1993, Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra (PSYO) has emerged as one of the leading pre-professional training orchestras in the nation. Led by Moon Doh, Pacific Symphony Assistant Conductor and PSYO Music Director, the ensemble provides its members with advanced artistic and technical training and cultivates musical excellence, personal growth, and lifelong engagement with the art of orchestral performance.

Under the creative leadership of Alexander Shelley, Pacific Symphony's Artistic and Music Director, PSYO continues to build upon the rich legacy established by Music Director Laureate Carl St.Clair. Together, their vision reflects a shared commitment to inspiring the next generation of artists and audiences.

Representing over 25 schools in the Southern California region, PSYO provides members with in-depth exposure to the traditional orchestral canon, as well as engagement with exciting new works and living composers. PSYO serves exceptional young instrumentalists in grades 9-12 and is one of four youth ensembles offered by Pacific Symphony's Youth Ensembles program.

PSYO members benefit from the mentorship of Maestro Shelley, receive regular coaching from Pacific Symphony musicians, perform at the magnificent Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall in Costa Mesa, CA, and enjoy periodic touring opportunities, including tours to Bulgaria in 2011, to China in 2016, and to the Czech Republic and Austria in 2023.

Membership in the Pacific Symphony Youth Ensembles program is determined through annual auditions held each spring, drawing more than 700 applicants each year. Graduates of the program go on to study at leading institutions including Juilliard, Johns Hopkins University/Peabody Institute, UCLA, University of Michigan, Stanford, USC, Brown, Vanderbilt, Yale, and many more.

PROGRAM NOTES

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937) has come to be considered the foremost composer of early twentieth-century France. His music often juxtaposes structural features of the past and a firmly diatonic foundation with modern harmonic embellishments. Perhaps unexpectedly, Ravel, a fixture of twentieth-century French musical modernism, held a fascination with nineteenth-century American author Edgar Allan Poe, considering him his "third teacher." In ***Valses nobles et sentimentales*** (1911), he deliberately sought to create what he called "a style that is simpler and clearer, in which the harmony is harder, and the lines of the music are made to show up." The piece demonstrates his anti-Romantic commitment to the classical ideal, as well as his notion of modernism as a logical outgrowth of the past rather than a radical break from it.

Ravel composed ***La mere l'Oye*** *(Mother Goose)* in 1908-1911. Based on traditional fairy tales, it was originally written as a piano duet for his friends' children.

A year after being thrust into international fame, **Igor Stravinsky** (1882-1971) was invited to compose a second ballet for Les Ballets Russes, a Russian ballet company founded by Sergei Diaghilev and dedicated to introducing Russian ballet to France. The resulting work, ***Petrushka*** (1911), takes place on Maslenitsa, a traditional Russian celebration before Lent, in St. Petersburg in the 1830s. Its plot centers on the puppet Petrushka, a stock figure common to many Russian folk puppet shows, who is brought to life along with two other puppets by a magician. It proved a huge popular and critical success.

Scan for complete bios and program notes

Joshua Grayson, Ph.D., is an historical musicologist and graduate of the USC Thornton School of Music, and the program note annotator for Pacific Symphony Youth Ensembles.