

PACIFIC SYMPHONY PRESENTS
SUMMERFEST 2025



DISCO FEVER – LET’S DANCE!

August 23, 2025 @ 8PM



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DEAR SUMMER CONCERT FANS,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Disco Fever – Let’s Dance!, the fourth concert in Pacific Symphony’s SummerFest series at the beautiful Great Park Live. On behalf of Music Director Carl St.Clair, Artistic and Music Director Designate Alexander Shelley, Principal Pops Conductor Enrico Lopez-Yañez, Principal Pops Conductor Laureate Richard Kaufman, the musicians of Pacific Symphony, our Board of Directors and staff, we’re delighted to share this high-energy, joy-filled evening with you.

Get ready to dance the night away! Enrico Lopez-Yañez leads us through the glittering world of disco, with powerhouse vocalists Maiya Sykes and Ty Taylor lighting up the stage with iconic hits like “We Are Family,” “Stayin’ Alive,” “I Will Survive,” and “The Hustle.” Inspired by Enrico’s own father’s love of the genre, this concert is a heartfelt tribute to the rhythm, soul, and sparkle of the 1970s. And don’t miss our audience dance-off: it’s your moment to shine!

As the summer winds down, **we invite you to join us for the final concert in our SummerFest series, Tchaikovsky Spectacular: Concert of Hope on September 6.** A breathtaking season finale complete with fireworks—an evening you won’t want to miss.

We also extend our sincere thanks to the City of Hope Orange County, Presenting Sponsor of SummerFest, whose generous support helps make concerts like tonight’s possible. And we remain grateful to the City of Irvine for creating this extraordinary venue—an outdoor home for live symphonic music that continues to bring our community together for nights like these, under the stars.

Looking ahead, we invite you to **experience the upcoming 2025–26 season at the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall.** With exciting new programs across our Classical, Pops, and Family Musical Mornings series, there’s something for everyone. Subscriptions and single tickets for all series are on sale now. Scan the QR code below or visit PacificSymphony.org to explore the unforgettable experiences we have in store.

We’re thrilled to have you with us tonight and deeply grateful for your support of Pacific Symphony and our mission to connect and uplift through the power of music.

Let’s dance!

John Forsythe
President & Chief Executive Officer
Pacific Symphony

Purchase
2025-26 Season Tickets



MUSIC DIRECTOR CARL ST. CLAIR



CARL ST. CLAIR
WILLIAM J. GILLESPIE
MUSIC DIRECTOR CHAIR

The 2024-25 season marked Music Director Carl St. Clair's 35th year leading Pacific Symphony. He is the longest-tenured American-born conductor of a major American orchestra. During St. Clair's lengthy history, Pacific Symphony has become the largest budgeted orchestra formed in the last 50 years. Pacific Symphony was invited by the League of American Orchestras to become the newest and youngest orchestra among America's Tier 1 Orchestras. Few orchestras can claim such rapid artistic development.

During his tenure, St. Clair has become widely recognized for his musically distinguished performances and his innovative approaches to programming. In April 2018, St. Clair led Pacific Symphony in its *sold-out* Carnegie Hall debut, celebrating Philip Glass' 80th birthday at the final concert of Carnegie's yearlong celebration of the preeminent composer. The concert ended with a standing ovation and with *The New York Times* calling the Symphony "a major ensemble!" St. Clair led Pacific Symphony on its first tour to China in May 2018, the orchestra's first international tour since touring Europe in 2006. The orchestra's European tour included playing concerts in nine cities (including Munich, Frankfurt, Cologne, Lucerne, and Vienna) in three countries appearing before capacity houses and receiving standing ovations and critical acclaim. The *Hannoversche Allgemeine* raved, "St. Clair and his fabulous orchestra completely won over Hanover...with spirit, a sense of sound, and utterly breathtaking precision" and Cologne's *General Anzeiger* exclaimed, "Electrifying...captivating!"

The orchestra made its national PBS debut in June 2018 on *Great Performances* with Peter Boyer's *Ellis Island: The Dream of America*, conducted by St. Clair. Among St. Clair's many creative endeavors are the highly acclaimed American Composers Festival, which began in 2000, and the opera initiative, "Symphonic Voices," which has included concert-opera productions of *Madama Butterfly*, *The Magic Flute*, *Aida*, *Turandot*, *Carmen*, *La Traviata*, *Tosca*, *Rigoletto*, and *La Bohème* in previous seasons.

St. Clair's commitment to the development and performance of new works by composers is evident in the wealth of commissions and recordings by the Symphony. Beginning in the 2023-24 season, Viet Cuong was named the Symphony's Composer-in-Residence. The 2016-17 season featured commissions from pianist/composer Conrad Tao and Composer-in-Residence Narong Prancharoen, a follow-up to the slate of recordings of works commissioned and performed by the Symphony in recent years. Other commissions include John Wineglass' *Alone*

Together, William Bolcom's *Songs of Lorca* and *Prometheus*, Elliot Goldenthal's *Symphony in G-sharp minor*, Richard Danielpour's *Toward a Season of Peace*, Philip Glass' *The Passion of Ramakrishna*, and Michael Daugherty's *Mount Rushmore*, and *The Gospel According to Sister Aimee*. St. Clair has led the orchestra in other critically acclaimed recordings including two piano concertos of Lukas Foss, Danielpour's *An American Requiem*, and Goldenthal's *Fire Water Paper: A Vietnam Oratorio* with cellist Yo-Yo Ma. Other commissioned composers include James Newton Howard, Zhou Long, Tobias Picker, Frank Ticheli, Sir James MacMillan, Chen Yi, Curt Cacioppo, Stephen Scott, Jim Self (Pacific Symphony's Principal Tubist), and Christopher Theofanidis.

Internationally, St. Clair has appeared with orchestras throughout the world. He has led orchestras in Asia, Central and South America, and Europe. In January 2024, following a 27-year relationship with Sinfonieorchester Wuppertal (Germany), St. Clair was named Honorary Guest Conductor for Life. In 2023, he concluded a successful 10-year tenure as Music Director with the National Symphony of Costa Rica. From 2008-10, St. Clair was General Music Director for the Komische Oper in Berlin. He also served as General Music Director and Chief Conductor of the German National Theater and Staatskapelle (GNTS) in Weimar, Germany, where he led Wagner's *Ring Cycle* to critical acclaim. He was the first non-European to hold this position at the GNTS; the role also gave him the distinction of simultaneously leading one of the newest orchestras in America and one of the oldest in Europe.

St. Clair has led the Boston Symphony Orchestra (where he served as Assistant Conductor for several years 1985-90), New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the San Francisco, Seattle, Detroit, Atlanta, Houston, Indianapolis, Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver symphonies, among many.

Carl St. Clair is a strong advocate of music education for all ages and is internationally recognized for his distinguished career as a master teacher. He has been essential to the creation and implementation of the Symphony's extensive education and community engagement programs. In addition to his professional conducting career, St. Clair has worked with most major music schools across the country. He received an Honorary Doctorate from Chapman University and has served as a Presidential Fellow, working closely with the students of the College of the Performing Arts (2018-22). St. Clair has been named "Distinguished Alumni" at the University of Texas Butler School of Music beginning 2019. And, for over 30 years, he has had a continuing relationship with the USC Thornton School of Music where he is Artistic Leader and Principal Conductor of the orchestral and large ensemble program.





ABOUT PACIFIC SYMPHONY

Pacific Symphony is the largest orchestra formed in the United States in the past 50 years and has earned national recognition for its adventurous programming, community engagement, and artistic growth. Founded in 1978, the Symphony has been led for 35 years by Carl St.Clair who is honored with the title of Music Director Laureate starting in the 2025-26 season. In 2024, Alexander Shelley was named Artistic and Music Director Designate for the 2025-26 season and will begin his full-time tenure in the 2026-27 season, marking a bold new chapter in the Symphony's artistic evolution.

With a purpose to lift the human spirit through the power of music, the Symphony is a pillar of the cultural landscape of Southern California, enriching lives and bringing communities together through creative and diverse programming. As the resident orchestra of the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, the Symphony presents more than 100 concerts and events each year alongside a rich array of education and community engagement programs, reaching more than 300,000 residents of all ages.

Pacific Symphony features an expansive range of programming through the Classical Series, the beloved Pops Series led by Principal Pops Conductor Enrico Lopez-Yañez, SummerFest at the Great Park outdoor venue in Irvine, and engaging Family Musical Mornings concerts for young children and their families. In its 47-year history, Pacific Symphony has gained national and international recognition, with recent highlights including a 2018 Carnegie Hall debut in celebration of composer Philip Glass; a five-city tour of China; and a PBS Great Performances broadcast of Peter Boyer's "Ellis Island: The Dream of America."

Pacific Symphony's education and community engagement programs have been recognized by the National Endowment for the Arts, expanding access to orchestral music and fostering a lifelong connection to the arts. These include the Frieda Belinfante Class Act program, which enhances music education in elementary schools; arts-X-press, a summer arts program for middle school students; and Heartstrings, which brings free access to music to community members by partnering with local schools, nonprofits and social service agencies. Pacific Symphony also nurtures the next generation of musicians through its renowned youth ensembles, including the Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra, Youth Wind Ensemble, Santiago Strings, and Youth Concert Band. These groups have toured internationally, earned prestigious awards, and provided young artists with opportunities to excel.

By combining artistic excellence with a commitment to education and accessibility, Pacific Symphony continues to enrich lives, foster new talent, and create meaningful connections throughout Southern California. Its innovative programs ensure music remains a vital part of the community's cultural fabric.

PACIFIC SYMPHONY MUSICIANS



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Alexander Shelley • Artistic and Music Director Designate

Phillip N. and Mary A. Lyons Artistic and Music Director Designate Chair

Enrico Lopez-Yañez • Principal Pops Conductor

Hal and Jeanette Segerstrom Family Foundation Principal Pops Conductor Chair

Richard Kaufman • Principal Pops Conductor Laureate

Jacob Sustaita • Assistant Conductor

Mary E. Moore Family Assistant Conductor Chair

FIRST VIOLIN

Dennis Kim
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Eleanor and Michael Gordon Chair*

Yoomin Seo
*Associate Concertmaster
Judy and Wes Whitmore Chair*

Jeanne Skrocki
*Assistant Concertmaster
Arlene and Seymour Grubman Chair*

Michael Siess
Christine Frank

Ayako Sugaya
Ann Shiau Tenney **30**

Joanna Lee+
Robert Schumitzky
Agnes Gottschewski

Dana Freeman
Julie Ahn
Paul Manaster

SECOND VIOLIN

Madalyn Parnas Möller*
Elizabeth and John Stahr Chair

Jennise Hwang**
Yen Ping Lai
Yu-Tong Sharp **30**

Ako Kojian+ **25**
Linda Owen
Sooah Kim
MarlaJoy Weisshaar
Alice Miller-Wrate
Shelly Shi

VIOLA

Meredith Crawford*
Victor de Almeida**
Carolyn Riley
John Acevedo
Hanbyul Jang
Julia Staudhammer
Joseph Wen-Xiang Zhang **30**
Cheryl Gates
Phillip Triggs

CELLO

Warren Hagerty*
Catherine and James Emmi Chair
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Robert Vos
László Mezö **45**
Ian McKinnell **45**
M. Andrew Honea
Rudolph Stein
Emma Lee

BASS

Richard Cassarino*
Douglas Basye**
Christian Kollgaard
David Parmeter+ **30**
Andrew Chilcote
David Black **45**
Andrew Bumatay
Constance Deeter

FLUTE

Benjamin Smolen*
Valerie and Hans Imhof Chair
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Cynthia Ellis **45**

PICCOLO

Cynthia Ellis

OBOE

Jessica Pearlman **15**
Suzanne R. Chonette Chair
Ted Sugata **10**

ENGLISH HORN

Lelie Resnick

CLARINET

Robert Walker*
The Hanson Family Foundation Chair
David Chang
Charlie and Ling Zhang Chair

BASS CLARINET

Joshua Ranz

BASSOON

Rose Corrigan*
Ruth Ann and John Evans Chair
Elliott Moreau **20**
Andrew Klein
Allen Savedoff

CONTRABASSOON

Allen Savedoff

FRENCH HORN

Keith Popejoy* **20**
Adedeji Ogunfolu
Kaylet Torrez**
Henry Bond

TRUMPET

Barry Perkins*
Susie and Steve Perry Chair
Tony Ellis

TROMBONE

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David Stetson

TUBA

Vacant

TIMPANI

Vacant

PERCUSSION

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Michelle Temple
The Sungaila Family Chair

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** Assistant Principal
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Celebrating **15** **20** **25**
30 **40** **45**
years with Pacific Symphony
this season.

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Federation of Musicians, Local 7.

DISCO FEVER LET'S DANCE!



Saturday, August 23 @ 8 PM

Enrico Lopez-Yañez, conductor
Maiya Sykes, vocalist
Ty Taylor, vocalist
Pacific Symphony

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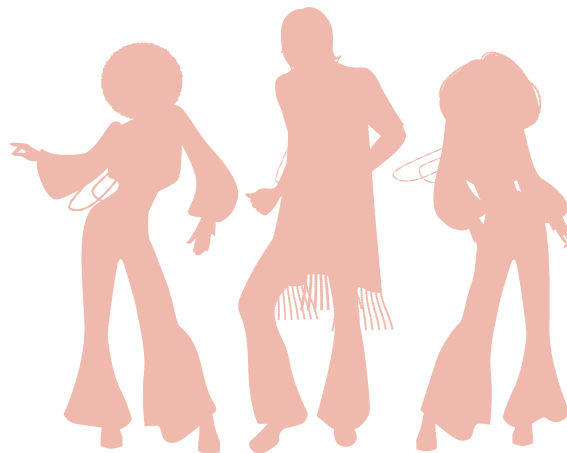
Get ready for a night of non-stop dancing as Pacific Symphony presents Disco Fever, a high-energy concert conducted by Principal Pops Conductor Enrico Lopez-Yañez.

This exciting performance features the incredible vocal talents of Maiya Sykes and Ty Taylor performing iconic disco anthems like "We Are Family," "Stayin' Alive," "I Will Survive," and "The Hustle." The fun continues with an on-stage dance-off, where audience members can show off their best disco moves. Inspired by Enrico's father's love for the genre, this concert will take you on an unforgettable ride back to the groovy '70s.

PROGRAM

The program will be announced from the stage.

There will be one 20-minute intermission.



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Michelle Vacca
Grateful Patient

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Maiya Sykes, vocals

Maiya Sykes is a classically trained vocalist, producer, vocal arranger and entrepreneur. She studied independently with Nina Simone and Betty Carter. After graduating from Yale University, she went on to further her musical education at The Musicians' Institute.

Sykes has provided back-up vocals for for The Black Eyed Peas, Macy Gray, Fantasia, Joss Stone, Michael Buble, Leona Lewis, and Rita Ora. She was a featured backup singer for Macy Gray in her live show for more than five years. She recently provided backgrounds and was featured in the Oscar award-winning film *La La Land*.

As a recording artist, Sykes released a dance single with DJ Manny Lehman, "Body Rock," recorded under the pseudonym Oceana, which reached number 1 on the Billboard Dance Charts in 2009.

Shortly after her four-chair turning debut on season 7 of *The Voice*, Sykes began working with YouTube sensation Postmodern Jukebox. Her featured videos with Postmodern Jukebox have received over 3 million views and have been mentioned in *Time Magazine* and the *HuffPost*.



Ty (Tyrone) Taylor, vocals

Ty (Tyrone) Taylor began singing at age five at St. Paul's Baptist Church in Montclair, New Jersey. His Cherub Choir solo in "This Little Light Of Mine" became an internal anthem of how he has navigated his life ever since. Ty's choir director and elementary school teachers encouraged him to start his professional career, leading to roles in multiple national commercials, voice-overs and a handful of Broadway shows before he reached adulthood. Then, at what many might consider the height of a performer's evolution, he finished his Broadway run with Jason Robert Brown's *Songs For A New World* (Original Cast Recording), *Grease!*, and then left New York for a music career in Hollywood.

After earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Carnegie Mellon, Ty pursued additional ambitions. Enter Elektra recording artists Dakota Moon for his first recording contract. They hit the road with the likes of Tina Turner, Celine Dion, Eric Clapton, and early Destiny's Child. It was in this acoustic, soul-rock, chart-topping band that Ty launched into songwriting. This led to the next band, Ghost Hounds, a bluesy rock outfit produced by Nile Rodgers. These two group showcases propelled Ty to winning a spot as a contestant on producer Mark Burnett's CBS Television series *Rockstar: INXS*, where he would be one of the last men standing.

Ty continued to find opportunities to express his talent in impressive and unexpected ways. His Rockstardom took him next in Las Vegas to wow crowds nightly in *We Will Rock You*, a musical by legendary supergroup Queen. Upon returning to California, Hollywood audiences got to catch him as The Leading Player in The Mark Taper Forum/Deaf West Theatre production of *Pippin*.

Ty's abilities also captured the attention of Martin Scorsese. Subsequently, he gave voice to The Blues, as Lester in Scorsese's HBO original series *Vinyl*. He has several singles on the GRAMMY®-nominated album *Vinyl: Music From the HBO Series - Volume 1*. He also crooned three love songs on Disney's *Happily Ever After* album, and his chops are ferociously animated in the Dr. Seuss film, *The Lorax*.

All this and more led him to his current and most recognized post as lead singer of the critically acclaimed soulful blues-rock band Vintage Trouble. Four albums in, these guys have toured across 30 countries and played over 3,000 shows. They've shared the stage with rock leviathans such as The Who, Bon Jovi, Eric Clapton, The Rolling Stones, Lenny Kravitz, Booker T. Jones, Willie Nelson, and AC/DC. Vintage Trouble has been celebrated by media giants including *Billboard*, *Rolling Stone*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *NPR*, and has played a host of televised performances—*Jimmy Kimmel LIVE!*, *Conan*, *The Late Show*, *Jools Holland*, *The Tonight Show*, *Austin City Limits*, *The View*, and more—bringing Ty into living rooms all around the world. Vintage Trouble continues to be a national and international hit-maker, known for its authentic swagger and electrifying live shows.



His early radio jazz endeavor, *Ty Taylor's Nouveau Mid-Century Romance Songbook*, is a collection of songs he penned in the fashion of mid-century radio jazz tunes. These compositions hold to the beauty of the past, while ushering our complex American history to the present. Timeless and relevant.

Over the past year, besides releasing *Juke Joint Gems* (A collection of lost treasures) with Vintage Trouble and writing and recording their forthcoming album, Baz Lurhman handpicked Ty to sing in his upcoming Elvis project. Ty has written, produced and/or been featured in commercials for Nike, Body Armor and more. Spring and summer found him recording the world's biggest gospel spirituals, partnering with one of the film industry's most celebrated composers. He starred on *Daryl's House* with the legendary Daryl Hall as well as narrating and starring in *If These Walls Could Talk* with Vintage Trouble on AXS TV. Disney and Marvel chose him to be featured as an on camera performer to launch one of their Mega series.

It's safe to say that the "little light" Ty used to sing about in church just keeps on shining.

ABOUT THE CONDUCTOR

Enrico Lopez-Yañez, conductor

He currently serves as Principal Pops Conductor of the Detroit and Pacific Symphonies, Principal Conductor of Dallas Symphony Presents, and Principal Guest Conductor of Pops at the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. Lopez-Yañez has quickly established himself as one of the nation's leading conductors of popular music and become known for his unique style of audience engagement. Also an active composer/arranger, he has been commissioned by the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, Houston Symphony, San Diego Symphony and Omaha Symphony, and has had his works performed by orchestras including the Atlanta Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, National Symphony, Phoenix Symphony, Seattle Symphony, and Utah Symphony among others.

Lopez-Yañez has conducted concerts with a broad spectrum of artists including: Nas, Patti LaBelle, Itzhak Perlman, Trisha Yearwood, Kenny Loggins, Stewart Copeland, Kelsea Ballerini, Leslie Odom Jr., Renee Elise Goldsberry, Portugal The Man, Ben Rector, Cody Fry, Hanson, The Beach Boys, Kenny G and more. Each year Lopez-Yañez conducts the annual Let Freedom Sing! Music City July 4th fireworks show which is televised annually on CMT reaching millions of viewers across the nation.

This season Lopez-Yañez will collaborate with artists including Dolly Parton, Bernadette Peters, Lyle Lovett, War & Treaty, Ben Folds, Indigo Girls, Joss Stone, Girl Named Tom, Lettuce, and Tower of Power. He will appear with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, St. Louis Symphony, Toronto Symphony as well as make return appearances with the Baltimore Symphony, Houston Symphony, National Symphony, Seattle Symphony, Utah Symphony, and more. Previously, Lopez-Yañez has appeared with orchestras throughout North America including the Cincinnati Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony, and the San Francisco Symphony among others.

Lopez-Yañez was the recipient of the 2023 "Mexicanos Distinguidos" Award by the Mexican government, an award granted to Mexican citizens living abroad for outstanding career accomplishments in their field. As an advocate for Latin music, he has arranged and produced shows for Latin Fire, Mariachi



Los Camperos, The Three Mexican Tenors, and collaborated with artists including Aida Cuevas, Arturo Sandoval and Lila Downs.

As Artistic Director and Co-Founder of Symphonica Productions, LLC, Lopez-Yañez curates and leads programs designed to cultivate new audiences. Symphonica's show offerings range from Pops shows to Family and Education productions which have been described as "incredibly special - and something that needs to become the new norm" (Lima Symphony). Symphonica's productions have been performed by major orchestra across North America including the Baltimore Symphony, Edmonton Symphony, Florida Orchestra, Milwaukee Symphony, North Carolina Symphony, Tucson Symphony and many more.

As a producer, composer, and arranger, Lopez-Yañez's work can be heard on numerous albums including the UNESCO benefit album *Action Moves People United* and children's music albums including *The Spaceship that Fell in My Backyard*, winner of the John Lennon Songwriting Contest, Hollywood Music and Media Awards, Family Choice Awards and Kokowanda Bay, winner of a Global Media Award as well as a Parents' Choice Award where Lopez-Yañez was lauded for his "catchy arrangements" (Parents' Choice Foundation). For more information visit: @enricolopezyanez



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Pacific Symphony 50th Anniversary Endowment Campaign: A Vision for the Future



A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

Since 1978, Pacific Symphony has been vital to Orange County's cultural scene, offering world-class performances and engaging educational programs. With over 75 dedicated musicians and more than 100 concerts annually, we strive to enrich lives throughout Southern California.

JOIN US IN SECURING THE FUTURE

We invite you to invest in our Endowment to sustain and grow these programs.

THE PHIL AND MARY LYONS CHALLENGE

We are excited to announce the \$10 Million Challenge from Phil and Mary Lyons, providing a dollar-for-dollar match for all pledges made to the endowment before June 30, 2027. This means your contribution will effectively double, bringing us closer to our \$100 million endowment goal. Participate in this challenge to honor your love of music while ensuring a vibrant future for Pacific Symphony.

IMPACTFUL PROGRAMS

Your support sustains our signature concert series, including the Classical and Pops Series, and education initiatives like Class Act and Heartstrings, reaching thousands of young musicians and underserved communities.

ENDOWMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions can be made through cash, securities, or estate planning. Our endowment currently stands at over \$40 million, with a goal of \$100 million by 2035 to secure long-term financial stability.

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- **\$500,000:** Section Musician Chair
- **\$1 million:** Principal Chair for 15 years
- **\$2.5 million:** Associate/Assistant Principal Chair in perpetuity
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By contributing to our endowment, you ensure that Pacific Symphony continues to inspire future audiences.

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While we cherish our donors all season long, we publish our listing only twice per season. For more information or to learn how your investment ensures music and dreams will remain woven into the fabric of our Orange County communities for years to come, please contact us at (714) 876-2345.

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A Tribute to Carl St.Clair

From bold first impressions to three decades of visionary leadership, Carl's impact echoes in every note, every life, and every corner of our community.



I remember the first time I saw Carl St.Clair conduct. In 1991, he led the Chicago Symphony in Mendelssohn's *Italian* Symphony at a national gathering of the League of American Orchestras in front of thousands of orchestra managers, peers, and volunteers. Despite the pressure of this event, Carl radiated confidence and passion. His intensity, grace, and purpose left a lasting impression. I remember thinking, "This is a conductor I won't forget."

Years later, when I heard Pacific Symphony was searching for a new administrative leader, and that Carl was its Music Director, my heart leapt. The idea of joining forces with such an inspiring artist leading one of the country's fastest-growing orchestras filled me with excitement.

During my interview week, I visited the orchestra's Santa Ana home—an old church near a Jack in the Box—and sat in on a rehearsal of Mahler's *Fifth Symphony*. Despite the humble setting, the music soared. Carl was fully immersed, sculpting phrases with precision and drawing out powerful expression. What struck me most was the deep trust between Carl and the musicians. This wasn't just an orchestra; it seemed to be a family. As Carl once said, "People weren't hugging before I got here."

Over the past two decades, Carl has taught me about music, vision, and leadership. He sees musicians not just as ensemble

players but as artists with unique voices. He handpicked most of today's Pacific Symphony musicians, shaping a sound defined by passion, expressiveness, individuality, and flexibility. The character of this orchestra reflects Carl's belief in personal expression within collective excellence.

Carl also modeled what it means to be a true community-based orchestra. He inspired us to bring music out of the concert hall—into schools, community centers, parks, and places of healing. This year marks the 30th anniversary of our Frieda Belinfante Class Act program, which reaches thousands of schoolchildren annually. Ten years later, we launched Heartstrings, offering free tickets and instrumental instruction to children from underserved communities. Carl's vision ensured that thousands of young people experience live classical music for the first time. Pacific Symphony also sponsors four youth ensembles and a middle arts immersion camp. The commitment to music education and community engagement set Pacific Symphony apart.

Under Carl's leadership, Pacific Symphony has achieved international acclaim—from performances at Carnegie Hall to tours across Europe and China. Today, we are the largest-budgeted American orchestra founded in the past 50 years and proudly recognized as a Group 1 orchestra by the League of American Orchestras. We perform in one of the crown jewels of the Segerstrom Center—the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall—a world-class venue that likely would not have been built without a first-rate orchestra to call it home.

Through it all, Carl has modeled loyalty, humility, and love—especially in his devotion to his wife Susan through life's challenges and joys.

Carl, thank you for your vision, your generosity of spirit, and the beauty you've brought to this community. Your legacy lives on in every note we play and every life we touch. It remains an honor to work with you. With admiration and love,

John Forsythe
President and CEO, Pacific Symphony

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