

Café Ludwig is sponsored by
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ECHOES OF TIMES

Sunday, May 4, 2025 @ 3 p.m.

Orli Shaham, piano and host
Benjamin Smolen, flute and piccolo
Jessica Pearlman, oboe and English horn
Robert Walker, clarinet
Dennis Kim, violin
Meredith Crawford, viola
Warren Hagerty, cello
Michelle Temple, harp

REENA ESMAIL *The Light is the Same*
Benjamin Smolen, flute
Jessica Pearlman, oboe
Orli Shaham, piano

DEBUSSY *Sonata for Flute, Viola, and Harp*
Pastorale: Lento dolce rubato
Interlude: Tempo di minuetto
Final: Allegro moderato ma risoluto
Benjamin Smolen, flute
Meredith Crawford, viola
Michelle Temple, harp

—INTERMISSION—

MESSIAEN *Quartet for the End of Time*
I. Crystal liturgy
II. Vocalise, for the Angel who announces the end of time
III. Abyss of birds
IV. Interlude
V. Praise to the eternity of Jesus
VI. Dance of fury, for the seven trumpets
VII. Tangle of rainbows, for the Angel who announces the end of time
VIII. Praise to the immortality of Jesus
Robert Walker, clarinet
Dennis Kim, violin
Warren Hagerty, cello
Orli Shaham, piano

Performance at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts
Samueli Theater



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Orli Shaham, host and piano



A consummate musician known for her grace, subtlety, and brilliance, Orli Shaham has earned international acclaim as one of today's most gifted pianists. *The New York Times* described her as a "brilliant pianist," and *The Chicago Tribune* praised her as "a first-rate Mozartean." She

has performed on five continents, from Carnegie Hall to the Sydney Opera House, and is widely recognized for her interpretations of both classical and contemporary repertoire.

In her 2023–24 season, Shaham premiered *Light Forming*, a concerto composed for her by David Robertson, with the Seattle Symphony. She also toured Germany with the Brandenburg State Orchestra and performed with the Virginia, Monterey, and Rhode Island symphonies. As Artist-in-Residence with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra USA, she gave chamber music concerts in Washington and Florida.

Shaham serves as Artistic Director of Pacific Symphony's chamber series in Costa Mesa, a position she has held since 2007. She also founded and directs *Orli Shaham's Bach Yard*, an interactive concert series for children.

In 2024, she completed recordings of Mozart's complete piano sonatas, alongside concertos K. 453 and K. 491 with the St. Louis Symphony. A Steinway Artist since 2003, she is on faculty at The Juilliard School, has served on juries for the Cliburn and Honens competitions, and is co-host and creative contributor to NPR's *From the Top*. Shaham holds degrees from Juilliard and Columbia University and received both the Gilmore Young Artist Award and Avery Fisher Career Grant.



Benjamin Smolen, flute and piccolo



Benjamin Smolen was appointed principal flutist of Pacific Symphony in September 2011, where he holds the Valerie and Hans Imhof Chair. A prizewinner at the Haynes International Flute Competition, James Pappoutsakis Memorial Flute Competition, National Flute

Association Young Artist Competition, and New York Flute Club Young Artist Competition, Smolen has appeared as a soloist across Russia, Japan, Belgium, and France. He has performed concertos with Pacific Symphony, the Princeton University Orchestra, the Charlotte Civic and Youth Orchestras, and the Gardner Webb Symphony Orchestra.

His performances have been broadcast on NPR's *Performance Today* and *From the Top*, WGBH-Boston, WDAV-Charlotte, and French National Radio. He is also featured on the Naxos and Mode labels and has recorded for major film soundtracks, including *Monsters University*, *Planes*, *A Million Ways to Die in the West*, *Night at the Museum*, and *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. Smolen recently released his debut album, *Bach to Beaser*, with guitarist Jérôme Mouffe.

He studied at Princeton University, the Moscow

Conservatory, the New England Conservatory, and the University of Michigan. His primary teachers include Paula Robison, Michael Parloff, and Aleksandr Golyshv. A William S. Haynes Artist, Smolen performs on a handmade 14-karat gold Haynes flute.



Jessica Pearlman, oboe and English horn



Jessica Pearlman has served as principal oboist of Pacific Symphony since 2009. She moved to Southern California after earning her master's degree at The Juilliard School, where she studied with Elaine Douvas, Nathan Hughes, and Pedro Díaz. While in New York, she performed with

Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, the New York City Ballet, and the Metropolitan Opera. From 2007 to 2009, she was a member of Switzerland's Verbier Festival Orchestra, touring under Charles Dutoit and Ludovic Morlot. As a soloist, Pearlman has appeared with the San Jose Chamber Symphony, Pacific Chamber Symphony, Colorado College Summer Music Festival, and Mansfield Symphony Orchestra. *MetroActive* called her Pasculli performance a "tour de force."

A dedicated chamber musician, she performs in Pacific Symphony's Café Ludwig series with Orli Shaham and formerly toured with SHUFFLE Concert. She has recorded for more than 100 film and TV scores, including the *Star Wars* sequel trilogy and albums with Barbra Streisand and Seal.

Pearlman has taught at CSU Long Beach, Fullerton, Chapman University, and Irvine Valley College, and led residencies in Panama. Originally from Half Moon Bay, she holds dual degrees from Oberlin—a B.M. in oboe performance under James Caldwell and a B.A. in neuroscience. Her Johns Hopkins research was presented at the 2006 AANS conference.



Robert Walker, clarinet



Clarinetist Robert Walker is a professional musician originally from Queens, New York. Prior to joining Pacific Symphony, he was the tenured second and E-flat clarinetist of the Louisville Orchestra. He has also held principal positions with the Grant Park Orchestra and ProMusica Chamber

Orchestra and performed with the symphony orchestras of Cleveland, Nashville, Sarasota, and Saint Louis, where he served a one-year appointment as second and E-flat clarinet.

An active educator, Walker teaches private students in Southern California, served as the Valade Fellow at Interlochen Arts Camp, and collaborated with Orli Shaham on her *Baby Got Bach* series at the Aspen Music Festival. He was also a panelist for the Louisville Orchestra's innovative "Creator Corps" program. Before his full-time career in music, Walker held an eclectic mix of jobs—from elevator operator and box office teller to orchestra librarian, florist, and archivist of social movements. These varied experiences inform his artistry and his passion for expanding the reach and relevance of symphonic music in contemporary American culture.

Walker studied with Yehuda Gilad at the University of

Southern California and Alan Kay at The Juilliard School. He also credits Nathan Williams, Burt Hara, Joaquin Valdepeñas, and Charles Neidich as key mentors.

His hobbies include composition, score study, reading, biking (when time allows), and rewatching prestige TV from the early 2000s. He also enjoys singing nonsense to his cats.



Dennis Kim, violin



A citizen of the world, violinist Dennis Kim was born in Korea, raised in Canada, and educated in the United States. He has spent over a decade leading orchestras across the U.S., Europe, and Asia. Appointed concertmaster of the Tucson Symphony at 22, he went

on to become the youngest concertmaster in the history of the Hong Kong Philharmonic. He has also served as concertmaster of the Seoul, Tampere, and Buffalo Philharmonics. As guest concertmaster, Kim has led major orchestras on four continents, including the BBC Symphony, London Philharmonic, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, and Helsinki Philharmonic.

He made his solo debut with the Toronto Philharmonic at 14 and has since performed with top orchestras across Asia. Recent highlights include *The Four Seasons* at the Rockport Chamber Music Festival and a concert of John Williams' music with the National Symphony Orchestra of Cuba. A dedicated educator, Kim is on faculty at UC Irvine, Orange County School of the Arts, and Brevard Music Center. His former students perform with major orchestras worldwide and have attended leading conservatories including Curtis, Juilliard, and Colburn.

Kim regularly appears in Pacific Symphony's Café Ludwig series and performs with Trio Barclay. He has recorded for major films including *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker* and *It Chapter Two*. A graduate of the Curtis Institute and Yale School of Music, he plays the 1701 ex-Dushkin Stradivarius, on loan from a generous donor.



Meredith Crawford, viola



Meredith Crawford, principal viola of Pacific Symphony, is a Los Angeles-based musician who thrives on the city's artistic diversity and vibrant musical landscape. Known for her emotional connection with audiences and authentic musical expression, she brings warmth and depth to every

performance. At age 22—before completing her senior year at Oberlin Conservatory—Crawford won her first orchestral audition, earning a seat with Pacific Symphony. She was appointed assistant principal in 2012 and principal in 2018.

Praised as a "sensitive, poetic 'singer' on her instrument" with a "big, warm, inviting tone," Crawford has been likened to legendary violist Donald McInnes for her focused, lyrical sound and refined musicality.

A passionate chamber musician, she is the resident violist of Salastina, one of Los Angeles's most innovative and beloved chamber ensembles. She has also performed with the Lyris Quartet, New Hollywood String Quartet, Dashan Trio, Camerata Pacifica, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, the LA Philharmonic, and in Pacific Symphony's Café Ludwig series. Her festival appearances include the Mainly Mozart All-Star Orchestra.

Crawford is an active studio musician in film and television and has especially cherished opportunities to work with her childhood hero, composer John Williams.



Warren Hagerty, cello



Warren Hagerty has served as principal cellist of Pacific Symphony since 2019. A passionate chamber musician, he was the founding cellist of the Verona Quartet, winners of top prizes in major international competitions, including Wigmore Hall, Osaka, Melbourne, Fischhoff, and the

Concert Artists Guild's Victor Elmaleh Competition. In 2016, *Musical America* named the quartet "New Artist of the Month."

Hagerty has performed at renowned venues such as Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall, the Kennedy Center, and the Sydney Opera House. He holds degrees from The Juilliard School and Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, where his mentors included members of the Juilliard and Pacifica quartets, Eric Kim, and Sharon Robinson.

He has collaborated with artists including Renée Fleming, David Shifrin, Cho-Liang Lin, and Orion Weiss, and appeared at festivals such as La Jolla SummerFest, Chelsea Music Festival, and the New York String Orchestra Seminar. A committed advocate for new music, Hagerty premiered Michael Gilbertson's Pulitzer Prize-finalist string quartet, as well as works by Richard Danielpour and Sebastian Currier.

His teaching experience includes positions at Juilliard, Indiana University, and Oberlin, and he currently serves as Director of Junior Chamber Music Los Angeles.



Michelle Temple, harp



Harpist Michelle Temple has been a member of Pacific Symphony since 1994, and was named principal harp with the Santa Barbara Symphony in 1991. Enjoying frequent visits to her hometown, she also serves as principal harp for Opera Santa Barbara. An active freelancer, Temple delights

in playing a wide variety of musical styles and instrument combinations. She earned her advanced degrees from Indiana University and the University of Southern California.