

PENINSULA *symphony*

Symphony Sounds

October, 2017

51st Season, Number 1

Terri Zinkiewicz

Peninsula Symphony Concert

Sunday, October 29, 2017, at 7:00 PM

Redondo Union High School Auditorium
222 North Pacific Coast Highway
Redondo Beach, CA 90277

WATER MUSIC

Mendelssohn	<i>Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage</i> , Opus 27
Glazunov	<i>Das Meer</i> (The Sea), Opus 28
Liadov	<i>The Enchanted Lake</i> , Opus 62
Bernstein	<i>On the Waterfront</i>

Concert Details

Doors open at 6:00 PM. Center-section seating is reserved for members at the Patron level and above.

Pre-concert lecture by Music Director Gary Berkson begins at 6:15 PM for Symphony Association members. General public admitted at approx. 6:50 PM.

POST- CONCERT RECEPTION

Immediately after the concert, Symphony Association members at the Sponsor level and above (\$250+) are invited to a reception at:

Ws China Bistro
1410 Pacific Coast Highway
Redondo Beach, CA 90277

Please contact the Symphony office at 310-544-0320 to RSVP for the reception. Also let us know if you wish to upgrade your membership level in order to attend.

Welcome to the Peninsula Symphony's 51st Season

Last year we celebrated the Peninsula Symphony's 50th Anniversary season. This year we begin our second fifty years. The pre-concert lecture for Symphony Association members begins at 6:15 PM followed by the concert at 7:00 PM. Association members at the sponsor level and above (\$250+) may attend a reception after the concert at Ws China Bistro (reception RSVP: 310-544-0320).

If you have not already done so, please renew and consider upgrading your membership in the Peninsula Symphony Association. You may visit the membership table at any of our concerts, go to our website at www.pensym.org, or call our office at 310-544-0320.

This edition of ***Symphony Sounds*** includes photos from the final two concerts of last season and recent events, short previews of the pieces and composers that will be performed at the October 29 concert and other articles. We look forward to greeting you at our first concert on Sunday, October 29.



Music Director Gary Berkson presents an educational pre-concert lecture before every concert to introduce the music and composers for the evening's concert. He presents a different perspective that can enhance your concert experience.

Music Preview (Please see the 2017-2018 Program Book that is distributed at all concerts for more detailed program notes.)

Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage, Opus 27
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Mendelssohn was an early Romantic composer, conductor, pianist and organist. He showed extraordinary musical talents at a very young age, like Mozart. He was from a wealthy family that encouraged, but did not force, his musical development. By the age of fourteen, Mendelssohn had already composed twelve string symphonies and a piano quartet, with his first symphony coming one year later. He wrote the famous String Octet in E-flat major at age sixteen and *Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage* in 1828 at age nineteen. He took an interest in Bach's music and reintroduced the public to many of Bach's compositions. He founded the Leipzig Conservatory of Music in 1843.

Mendelssohn is well known for his symphonies (Symphony No. 3 "Scottish" was part of the Peninsula Symphony's 2013-2014 season), his violin concerto, string octet, *Songs Without Words* for solo piano, *The Hebrides Overture*, and many other pieces.

Mendelssohn based *Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage* on two poems written by his much older friend Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. Contrary to an idyllic view of a nice calm seascape, the first poem and beginning of the music evokes the deathly stillness of the sea. Later the flute signals a breeze is picking up, enabling wind-powered ships to sail toward their destinations, and the music turns more joyous. Near the end, the trumpets indicate a safe landing before a sudden switch to a quiet ending (relief) in the final three measures. The composition was premiered in 1832 in Berlin.

Das Meer (The Sea), Opus 28
Aleksandr Glazunov (1865-1936)

Aleksandr Glazunov was a Russian composer, teacher and conductor. He began piano lessons at age nine and composition two years later, studying for a time with Rimsky-Korsakov. He had a long tenure at the St. Petersburg

Conservatory, initially as a professor of instrumentation in 1899 and then as Director from 1905 through 1928. He then toured Europe and the United States before settling in Paris.

Glazunov was known for having a prodigious musical memory and for his ability to sight-read complex orchestral scores. His body of works includes three ballets, eight symphonies, five concertos, seven string quartets and many other piano and orchestral works.

Das Meer (The Sea) is a symphonic fantasy that was composed in 1889 and dedicated to the memory of Richard Wagner. Glazunov conducted its premiere the same year in St. Petersburg. The score includes a narrative about a man sitting on the seashore imagining different pictures of nature, beginning with beautiful sunshine and a calm sea, followed by severe wind and storms before the sea again is calm and the sunshine returns. The music follows this general program and is quite challenging for the orchestral musicians.

The Enchanted Lake, Opus 62
Anatole Liadov (1855-1914)

Anatole Liadov was a Russian pianist, composer and teacher. He studied at the St. Petersburg Conservatory under Rimsky-Korsakov and was also a long-term faculty member there. He also started his own publishing house at his own expense. Despite this, Liadov has few published works of his own, and none are large-scale.

Material for *The Enchanted Lake* came from a never-completed opera. The piece's subtitle is "A *Legendary Picture*." The impressionistic-sounding piece begins and ends with quiet rippling of the waters created by the strings and much of the rest of the piece is peaceful, but there are several impressive crescendos and good use of orchestra color throughout this approximately seven-minute work.

On the Waterfront
Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)

Conductor/composer Leonard Bernstein was one of the first American-born musicians to achieve worldwide acclaim in all of the major concert halls. He studied at Harvard and Curtis

before joining Serge Koussevitzky's conducting class at Tanglewood. During World War II he became assistant conductor of the New York Philharmonic, where he achieved instant fame in 1943 by conducting a concert with just a few hours advance notice and no rehearsal, due to illness of the guest conductor, Bruno Walter. Many current musicians and classical music lovers grew up watching Bernstein's televised "Young People's Concerts" from 1958-1972. Bernstein was appointed music director of the New York Philharmonic in 1958, a post he held until he stepped down in the late 60s in order to devote more time to composition, although he served as guest conductor around the world for the rest of his life. He won sixteen Grammys and received the Kennedy Center Honors award.

Bernstein's most famous compositions were for the Broadway stage, including *West Side Story* and *On the Town*. These fused jazz, pop and classical elements.

On the Waterfront (1954) is Bernstein's only score for a full-length movie. The film is about corruption and violence on the docks of Hoboken, New Jersey, although there is also a love-story component. The suite included in our concert is an approximately twenty-minute work premiered in 1960. It is played continuously, unlike most suites that are comprised of separate pieces. Although based on the film score, it does not follow it exactly. It includes jazzy elements, plenty of percussion instruments and also music from the love theme.

Past Events

The Norris Foundation Concert

The June 18, 2017 Peninsula Symphony concert, titled "*An Idyllic Evening*," began with Music Director Berkson's pre-concert lecture. He spent most of his effort on the Barber cello concerto, as it was likely to be new to most of the audience. It can be difficult to understand and appreciate in just one hearing, particularly if you are not used to hearing new sounds. The solo cello part is deemed "almost impossible to play," and the orchestra parts are also quite challenging. The concerto incorporates jazzy elements that can be tricky to count.

Prior to the concert downbeat Teddy Greenwald, 2017 Rips Scholarship Chair, introduced Yousef El-magharbel, the winner of the 2017 Marshall and David Rips Memorial Award. Yousef is a recent graduate of Peninsula High School. He was introduced to the bassoon in the 6th grade. Two years later he was playing tuba in the Peninsula High School Marching Band. Once in high school he played trombone in the Peninsula High School Advanced Band and bassoon in the Peninsula High School Symphonic Orchestra and The Orange County Youth Symphony Orchestra.

Yousef is now attending the School of Music at The University of Michigan. The annual Rips scholarship is awarded to an area high school woodwind player. The scholarship is funded through the generosity of Rips family members Kevin Floyd and Annamay Martin.



Rips Scholarship Chair Teddy Greenwald presented the 2017 Rips Scholarship Award to Yousef El-magharbel while Symphony Association President John Williams and the orchestra looked on.

The concert began with a short piece by the Swiss composer Arthur Honegger called *Pastorale d'été*. Next was Barber's Concerto for Violoncello and Orchestra in A minor, Opus 22 with 2017 Edith Knox Young Artists Performance competition winner Nicholas Mariscal as soloist. Although this piece is not necessarily related to the theme, "*An Idyllic Evening*," the Knox winner performs whatever piece was entered into the competition and there is very little advance notice of what that selection will be. Mariscal received a well deserved standing ovation following the performance.



Gary Berkson led the orchestra and soloist Nicholas Mariscal in Barber's cello concerto.

The second half of the concert began with Music Director Gary Berkson introducing the concert dates and music selections for the next season. Then the Peninsula Symphony performed Beethoven's lovely Symphony No. 6 in F major, Opus 68 ("Pastoral"). This forty-minute work, in five movements, is considered program music in that a story is being told. It is about Beethoven's experience of being in the woods near his home. A standard in the symphonic literature, many of the orchestra members were very excited to play it and consider the symphony to be one of those pieces they could play all day.

Post-Concert Meet the Performers



Symphony Association President John Williams presented cellist Nicholas Mariscal with his soloist's medal and the Knox first prize check.

Audience members met informally with Gary Berkson and Nicholas Mariscal after the concert to talk about preparing the difficult Barber Cello Concerto for the concert performance.

July 23 Pops Concert, "Around the World in 60 Minutes"

The Pops concert featured works that took us from New York to Chicago, to Gary, Indiana, San Francisco, Arabia, Warsaw and London before arriving in Los Angeles for the encore, "Hooray for Hollywood." The larger-than-usual audience was very enthusiastic about both the orchestra and Esther Keel, who was the piano soloist in Addinsell's *Warsaw Concerto*. However, the biggest applause was for guest conductor Michael Weinstock's "world debut" as a conductor, leading the orchestra in "76 Trombones." This guest conducting experience was a birthday present from his daughters when Danielle Weinstock was the winning bidder at last September's Gala live auction.

We do not have a Pops Concert scheduled for 2018 due to budgetary concerns. We need to keep working on memberships in order to keep our full-size symphony orchestra going strong.



Guest Conductor Michael Weinstock made his "world debut" as a conductor at the Pops Concert.



Pianist Esther Keel, Conductor Berkson and the Peninsula Symphony.

Comedy and Magic Club Fundraiser

A group of 75 fun-loving Symphony Association members and friends met at The Comedy & Magic Club in Hermosa Beach in June for a fundraising dinner and show. After dinner and/or dessert we saw acts from several comedians and magicians. It was a fun evening for all.



Symphony Association members Rosalind Lee, Faye Schwartz, Nancy Mahr and Carol Schamp enjoy some conversation prior to the comedy and magic show.

TOCA South Bay Festival of the Arts

The Torrance Cultural Arts Foundation hosted its first South Bay Festival of the Arts on June 24. It featured live music on four stages, booths/displays for local arts agencies, food and more. The Peninsula Symphony highlighted its programs for young musicians. The Peninsula Symphony/Los Angeles Harbor College Youth Orchestra was the first group to perform in the Armstrong Auditorium playing three selections under the direction of Richard Babcock. Then Nicholas Mariscal, 2017 winner of the Peninsula Symphony's Edith Knox Young Artists Performance Competition, also played three selections, assisted by his piano collaborator, Seonmi Lee. Symphony cellist Dr. Sophia Momand demonstrated her cello in the building foyer prior to and after the concert.

The Symphony had a booth at the entrance to the Torrance Cultural Arts Center campus, and the volunteers shared information on future concerts. The perfect summer weather contributed to a fun family-oriented day.



Dr. Sophia Momand, Mona Gifford, and Sumie Imada volunteered at the Peninsula Symphony's booth at the TOCA South Bay Festival of the Arts.



The Peninsula Symphony/Los Angeles Harbor College Youth Orchestra performed first in the Armstrong Theater.

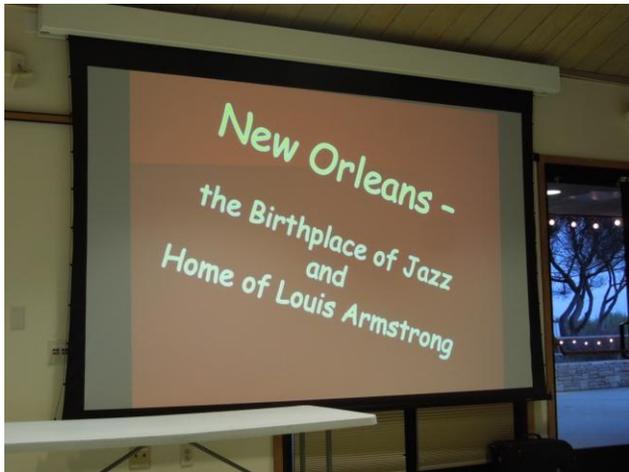


2017 Edith Knox Competition first place winner, cellist Nicholas Mariscal, and pianist Seonmi Lee performed at the TOCA festival.

Point Vicente Interpretive Center Fundraiser

The Point Vicente Interpretive Center served as the setting for The Peninsula Symphony Association's summer fundraiser. The program

was entitled “*The Birthplace of Jazz – New Orleans*” by Dr. Thom Mason, or “Dr. Jazz.” Symphony Association members and their guests enjoyed the sunset and dessert and listened to the Redondo Union High School Jazz Ensemble. Then we had the pleasure of hearing Dr. Mason talk about Louis Armstrong’s early years growing up in New Orleans along with the musicians who came together to create the music we know today. The first jazz recording was made 100 years ago in New Orleans. Dr. Mason shared his collection of rare photos, movie clips and original sound tracks. He brought his clarinet and charmed the audience with his playing.



One of the PowerPoint Slides in Dr. Mason’s presentation.



Attendees listened to the jazz presentation.

Board of Directors’ Installation Brunch

Board member Marion Ruth once again hosted the annual installation of the Peninsula Symphony Association Board. Roger Schamp

served as emcee as the new Board of Directors was officially installed. The officers are the same as last season:

President – John Williams
 Executive Vice President – Terri Zinkiewicz
 Secretary – Faye Schwartz
 Treasurer – D. Paul Nibarger

Although we have an experienced, loyal group of directors, we would love to welcome a few new ones at any time of the year. Please call the office (310-544-0320) to express interest.



Symphony Association president John Williams welcomed the Board members at the annual installation brunch.

Orchestra Potluck Party

Once again orchestra and Board member Dr. Sophia Momand organized a potluck party for orchestra and board members at the home of Marion Ruth.



Violinist Linnea Eades showed off her moves at the Hawaiian-themed party.

The Hawaiian-themed party included a competition for the best dessert, plenty of music-related games, a talent show and lots of fun conversation as we began to gear up for the 2017-2018 season.

Members, Members, Members!

Our individual members are vital to the success of the Peninsula Symphony and, collectively, provide the largest share of our annual operating budget. We want to thank those of you who have already renewed your membership for the 2017-2018 season - especially the roughly 30% who increased their dollar contributions or upgraded to the next higher membership level. We have several different membership levels, beginning with Contributors at \$75, extending to the Virtuoso level for contributions of \$5000 and above. All members are entitled to attend Music Director Berkson's pre-concert lectures. Some of the higher levels include a reception after the first concert and reserved, close-in parking at all

Thank you to our Sponsors!

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The Peninsula Symphony's concerts are also generously supported by the Recording Industry's Music Performance Trust Fund.

concerts. You may visit our website at www.pensym.org, stop by the membership table at any of our concerts or leave a telephone message at the Peninsula Symphony office at 310-544-0320 to request more information. This will be the last issue of ***Symphony Sounds*** sent to you unless this year's membership donation is received.

Thank you to our Virtuoso Level Members!

Our highest membership level, Virtuoso, is for individuals or couples who contribute at least \$5000 to the Peninsula Symphony Association in a single season. As of the end of September, we are proud to announce the Virtuoso contributors for the 2017-2018 season:

Ken and Anita Gash

Dorothy and Allen Lay

John and Sue Williams

Enjoy the First Concert!

WATER MUSIC

**Sunday, October 29, 2017 at 7:00 PM
Redondo Union High School Auditorium**



Post Office Box 2602
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Contact Information

Any questions or requests about the Peninsula Symphony, the Peninsula Symphony Association or ***Symphony Sounds*** should be sent to the Peninsula Symphony Association office. We will route your message to the appropriate person.

The Peninsula Symphony Association
Post Office Box 2602
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

The office is normally staffed from 9:00 AM to noon on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. You may call at any time (310-544-0320) and leave a message on our answering machine, but phone replies will usually be made only during normal staffing hours. You can also e-mail us at music.pensym@verizon.net. General information about the Symphony (current season schedule, maps and directions, etc.) can be found on our website (www.pensym.org).

Other contacts are:

Peninsula Symphony Association president, John Williams jwskrs@verizon.net

Music Director/Conductor, Gary Berkson conductor.pensym@verizon.net