

PENINSULA *symphony*

Symphony Sounds

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Terri Zinkiewicz

The Peninsula Symphony Announces its Four Guest Conductors for the 2021-2022 Season

Music Director/Conductor Gary Berkson will be retiring on June 30, 2021, following the conclusion of the current season. The Symphony Association Board of Directors formed a search committee to select Maestro Berkson's successor. During the past several months, the committee has posted the position, reviewed submissions, interviewed candidates and selected four conductors to guest conduct during the 2021-2022 season. Each conductor will lead one concert, including all of the associated rehearsals. Following the final concert of the 2021-2022 season, one of them will be selected to be the new Music Director/Conductor, starting with the 2022-2023 season. The search committee will solicit feedback from orchestra and audience members after each concert and prior to making its final decision. Please turn the pages of this edition of *Symphony Sounds* to meet our four guest conductors.



Guido
Lamell

Anthony
Parnter

Andrew
Shulman

Jorge Luis
Uzcátegui

As soon as we have firm dates and programs, we will let you know when each of these individuals will be featured with the Peninsula Symphony.

News from the 2020-2021 Peninsula Symphony Season



Music Director Gary Berkson presented a preconcert talk at one of the prior Peninsula Symphony concerts.

As Peninsula Symphony Association President John Williams stated in his letter to members that is posted on the Peninsula Symphony website, all of our scheduled concert dates at Redondo Union High School Auditorium have been put on hold by the School Board, which, until further notice, is restricting usage of their facilities to school personnel only. The Peninsula Symphony Board of Directors continues to meet monthly to conduct our ongoing business, and we are also continuing to explore alternatives. We hope to present live performances, perhaps with smaller groups and ensembles, later in the season, and if we do, arrangements will be adjusted to keep our audience and performers safe. Our November 2020 concert has been cancelled. This is disappointing to our musicians as well as our audiences, but it is a necessary action, considering the current state of the coronavirus pandemic and restrictions on live performances and social distancing set by the State of California and Los Angeles County.

Guido Lamell

Conductor and violinist Guido Lamell has been hailed by the Beverly Hills Times as a brilliant master programmer who “keeps audiences thrilled season after season”. Having conducted numerous Southern California orchestras from the Topanga Philharmonic to the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Guido produced and conducted a performance of Beethoven’s 9th Symphony at Walt Disney Concert Hall in 2011 in a benefit concert that raised money for Japan earthquake and tsunami relief. An archival recording of that concert was submitted to “The American Prize” and was awarded the national Second Prize in 2012.

Guido received his Master’s degree in Violin Performance and Conducting from the University of Michigan. Early musical posts included Associate Concertmaster of the Louisville Orchestra and Concertmaster of the Mexico City Philharmonic before joining the Los Angeles Philharmonic under the baton of Carlo Maria Giulini in 1979.

Former conducting mentors have included Charles Bruck of the Monteux Conducting School, Leonard Bernstein and Michael Tilson Thomas at the Los Angeles Philharmonic Institute, Jorge Mester in his private conducting

Master Class, and Francisco Savin while Guido lived in Mexico City. However, Guido feels that his best conducting education comes from playing in the Los Angeles Philharmonic for many years under the batons of many of the world’s greatest conductors - too numerous to list here.

Guido became the Music Director of the Santa Monica Symphony in 2012 and has expanded the audience base for that orchestra, not only through exciting and innovative programming, but also through speaking to the audience in a way that draws them into the concert in a personal way. Additionally, Guido loves to conduct the great symphonic blockbusters like Berlioz’s *Symphonie Fantastique*, Rachmaninov’s 2nd, Mahler’s 1st and 5th Symphonies, and the Verdi Requiem – to name just a few favorites. He has also presented many of the area’s finest soloists, both established and emerging, and has performed local premieres of contemporary composers Hailstork, Schwantner, Boone, and others.

One of Guido’s special passions has been to showcase the orchestral works of Black composers. Having performed celebrated works of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, William Grant Still, and Florence Price, he has been excited to present less familiar works by George Walker, William Levi Dawson, and James Price Johnson. He also looks forward to introducing a new generation of young composers like Jessie Montgomery, who is a two time laureate of the Sphinx prize and who Guido believes is one of the truly great new talents in composition today.

Guido continues coaching the orchestras of Santa Monica High School and participates in the Los Angeles Philharmonic’s YOLA programs and other school partnerships. Guido has also conducted the National Symphony of Ukraine in celebrated recordings of violin concertos with Eugene Fodor and additional recordings of Tchaikovsky’s 5th and 6th symphonies. Guido travelled to Kazakhstan in September of 2017 to conduct the Karaganda Symphony in a program of diverse orchestral showpieces. As a result of those concerts, plans are in progress for Guido to return to Karaganda to conduct that orchestra in a major tour of former Soviet capitals.

Anthony Parnter



American conductor, Anthony Parnter, is the Music Director and Conductor of the San Bernardino Symphony in San Bernardino, California. The 2020/21 season marks Anthony's eleventh season as Music Director of the Southeast Symphony in Los Angeles. He has conducted luminaries spanning every musical genre including Joshua Bell, Jessye Norman, Yundi Li, Frederica von Stade, Roderick Williams, the Canadian Brass, Kanye West, Imagine Dragons, Jennifer Holliday, Lynn Harrell, and Alan Walker.

Over the last decade, Anthony has become a leading conductor of recording sessions for film, television, and video game scores as well as albums and jingles on all of Hollywood's historic scoring stages. Recent projects include *The Mandalorian*, *Tenet* (Ludwig Goransson, composer) *Ghostbusters: Afterlife*, *The Long Way Back* (Rob Simonsen, composer) *The House with Clocks on its Walls* and *The Hunt* (Nathan Barr, composer) *Little* (Germaine Franco, composer) and *American Gothic*, *Star Trek: Discovery*, *Legion*, *Fargo*, *Tut*, (Jeff Russo, composer). As a result of his work in the studios, Anthony has accepted invitations with orchestras internationally to conduct live film concerts, particularly the scores of John

Williams, Bernard Herrmann, Michael Giacchino, and Jerry Goldsmith.

Anthony has appeared as a guest conductor with orchestras and music festivals throughout the United States and in England, Spain, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, China, South Korea, and Australia. In 2018, he was honored with the invitation to conduct the reopening concert at London's eminent Queen Elizabeth Hall at Southbank Centre exactly fifty years after Benjamin Britten conducted the inaugural concert there. In 2020, the NMC label released "Spark Catchers" featuring the music of living British composers Errollyn Wallen, James Wilson, Philip Herbert, and Daniel Kidane conducted by Anthony Parnter, featuring the Chineke! Orchestra.

Recognized as a leading authority on orchestral works by minority and women composers, Anthony has restored and performed orchestral works by Florence Price, Zenobia Powell Perry, George Walker, Margaret Bonds, William Grant Still, Duke Ellington, and Samuel Coleridge Taylor. He has given premieres of works by John Wineglass, Gary Powell Nash, and Marian Harrison. He has commissioned, premiered, and recorded works by living composers such as Renee Baker, Chanda Dancy, and James Newton. He was profiled by Los Angeles' KCET/TV as a "Local Hero" in 2015 for his extensive community outreach and advocacy for the performance of works by minority and women artists.

An active bassoonist and contrabassoonist, Anthony has performed on a long list of film, television, and cartoon scores for composers including John Williams, Terrence Blanchard, Danny Elfman, Bruce Broughton, Michael Giacchino, Mychael Danna, John Debney, Henry Jackman, David Newman, John Powell, Joel McNeely, Harry Gregson-Williams, Junkie XL, Marco Beltrami, Mark Snow, Ramin Djawadi, Alan Silvestri, and Hans Zimmer.

Anthony studied Bassoon Performance and Psychology at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. He continued his studies at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut where he studied Orchestral Conducting with Lawrence Leighton Smith and Otto Werner-Mueller.

Andrew Shulman

Andrew Shulman, the first British musician to win the 'Piatigorsky Artist Award', held in Boston, USA, comes from London, England. He has performed extensively throughout Western and Eastern Europe, Scandinavia, North and South America, Asia, The Far East and Australasia. He has conducted the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, the Culver City Symphony Orchestra, the Haydn Chamber Orchestra (London), the Brandon Hill Chamber Orchestra (Bristol), the Saloman Orchestra (London), the Jonkoping Orchestra (Sweden), the Ambache Chamber Orchestra (London), the Leicester Symphony Orchestra (England) and the Hertfordshire Philharmonic Orchestra (England).

In his professorial role his talents as an orchestral trainer have been utilized by such institutions as the Royal College of Music Symphony Orchestra (London), the Royal College of Music Chamber Orchestra (London), the Royal College of Music String Ensemble (London), the USC Symphony and Chamber Orchestras (Los Angeles), the University of Leicester Symphony Orchestra, the Norfolk and Norwich Youth Orchestra, The Guildhall School of Music Symphony and Chamber Orchestras (London) and the Ulster Youth Orchestra (Ireland). "A wonderfully atmospheric

performance that caught changing moods splendidly, ending with a storm that was often frightening in its intensity (Britten's 'Four Sea Interludes' from Peter Grimes)...Andrew Shulman guided his forces with skill, and we heard sumptuous tone from the upper strings, colourful woodwinds, horns and brass all making very positive contributions to this often very moving performance" (The Daily Telegraph).

He has directed the Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields (in Rome, Italy) and the London Chamber Orchestra (in London) in concerto performances from the solo cello chair. In the field of opera, he has conducted Mozart's 'Marriage of Figaro' and 'Cosi Fan Tutte' in highly successful new productions at the Theatre Royal, Bristol, England. He has also conducted many successful concerto performances with artists such as Thomas Bowes, Roberto Cani, Colin Carr, Raphael Wallfisch, Bernard D'Ascoli, Tereza Stanislav and Elizabeth Layton. Shulman's immense experience as conductor, soloist, chamber musician, orchestra section leader, recording artist (over 40 CDs as soloist, conductor and chamber musician) and college professor is unique. As cellist, Shulman has performed all the major 'cello concertos with the Philharmonia Orchestra, the Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, the City of Birmingham Symphony, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and orchestras all over Europe and the Far East, as well as giving recitals in such places as the Wigmore Hall, London, The Royal Palace in Stockholm, and Buckingham Palace, London (performing 'The Swan' with the Prima Ballerina of the Bolshoi, in the presence of The Prince of Wales). He has also performed Strauss' great tone poem 'Don Quixote' twice at the Royal Festival Hall, London (with Sir Simon Rattle) and the Hollywood Bowl, Los Angeles (with Esa-Pekka Salonen).

Since coming to Los Angeles he has given many masterclasses, among them those at the University of Southern California, UCLA, the Corwin Awards Masterclasses at the Music Center, and at various summer music festivals, including Aspen, La Jolla, Mainly Mozart, Heifetz, Las Vegas and Blue Mountain. He is currently a professor at USC.

Jorge Luis Uzcátegui

Since his debut as a piano soloist with the Simón Bolívar Orchestra and the Venezuelan National Philharmonic at age 13, Jorge Luis Uzcátegui has performed concerts in North, Central, South America, Asia, and Europe, with orchestras such as the Valencia Symphony, where his concerts at the Palau de la Música have been broadcast live on Spanish National Television and Radio. His interpretation of Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* is the soundtrack in *El Cerrito*, an award-winning documentary for the History Channel.

Uzcátegui won top prizes at the Wise Conducting Competition in Los Angeles, the Debut Hamburg International Conducting Competition, and at the Paraná Symphony International Conducting Competition in Brazil, obtaining the unanimous vote from the jury and all orchestra members. He also received the Accademia Musicale Chigiana Conducting Prize, being selected to conduct the final concert of the festival. Other conductors that have received such an honor include Claudio Abbado, Zubin Mehta and Daniel Barenboim. Uzcátegui has conducted members from distinguished orchestras such as the Berlin Philharmonic, Leipzig Gewandhaus, Frankfurt Opera, Rotterdam Philharmonic, BBC Symphony, Boston Symphony, New York Philharmonic, and the LA Philharmonic. Jorge's engagements

during the 2018-19 season included performances in Finland, Hungary, Serbia, Paraguay and Germany, conducting orchestras such as the LA Chamber Orchestra and the German National Orchestra at the Berlin Philharmonie.

Uzcátegui is assistant conductor of the Spokane Symphony, conducting over 30 concerts per season. These include collaborations with Grammy Award-winning artists Judy Collins, Patti Austin, Indigo Girls, Steep Canyon Rangers, Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Ballet* with Santa Barbara's State Street Ballet, Labor Day concerts for audiences of over 8 thousand people, as well as conducting the original score live to movies like *Psycho*, *City Lights*, and *The Phantom of the Opera*. Community concerts include partnerships with local theater and breweries, indie-rock bands, the Spokane Tribe of Indians, and all education concerts including 4th Grade, Carnegie Hall's Link-Up, and MusicFest Northwest Young Artist concerts. In the LA area, Jorge is conductor of the Claremont Young Musicians Orchestra, and music director of the Pacific Academy Foundation Orchestra, leading his orchestras in concert tours to France, Austria, Germany, and Taiwan. He has also served as preparatory conductor for the Colburn Conservatory Orchestra. Jorge is artistic director of Music to Save Humanity, a non-profit organization that tangibly transforms communities through music, bringing world-renowned musicians to collaborate while providing high-level music education to underprivileged students.

Uzcátegui's teachers and mentors include conductors Gustavo Dudamel, Kurt Masur, Neal Stulberg, Donald Neuen, Daisuke Soga, Gianluigi Gelmetti; also pianists Alejandro Slobodianik, Marina Lomazov, György Sandor, Angela Hewitt, Benedetto Lupo, Ralph Votapek, Georges Pludermacher. Gustavo Dudamel said, "Maestro Uzcátegui is a young Venezuelan conductor with the highest academic education and artistic ability." Maestro José Antonio Abreu, founder and director of El Sistema said, "Jorge Luis Uzcátegui is one of the most outstanding figures of the new musical generation in our country." The President of Venezuela bestowed Uzcátegui with the José Felix Ribas Order and the General Juan Manuel Valdez Order for his achievements as an artist.

Knox Competition Winner Performed at First Fridays At First!

Pianist Mi-Hyun Suh, the 2020 Edith Knox Young Artists Performance Competition first-place winner, was the featured recitalist at First Fridays at First! on October 2. She performed Franz Liszt's Piano Sonata in B Minor, S.178. In a short introduction Suh said this composition is an extension from Beethoven's sonatas. It has a *leitmotif* (a short, recurring musical theme), and the composer completely changes it and presents a "contrast and conflict between good and evil." After receiving permission from the composer to post on YouTube, her second piece, Sonata No.3, "*Outcries*" by noted Israeli composer Ronn Yedidia is now also available for us to enjoy.

Classical Crossroads sponsors the noontime First Fridays at First! series at First Lutheran Church & School in Torrance. For the 2020-2021 season all concerts are freshly videotaped and presented at the regular concert times via YouTube "Premieres." The audience size for this YouTube performance was comparable to a typical in-person audience at the concert series. Plus, there was the additional benefit of being able to use the "chat" function to communicate with other listeners in real time.



Pianist Mi-Hyun Suh talked to the audience just prior to playing the Liszt sonata.



The performance was videotaped a few days before the October 2, 2020 YouTube "Premiere."

The Edith Knox Young Artists Performance Competition Will Not Be Held in 2021

Due to continuing concerns of COVID-19, including the availability of performance venues and the inability to guarantee the safety of our performers, volunteers and guests, the Peninsula Symphony Association has determined that we will not hold the Edith Knox Young Artists Performance Competition in 2021. We plan to resume the Competition in 2022, and for that year only we will increase the maximum age requirement by one year (must be under age 26 on June 1, 2022) so that no one should miss their final year of eligibility due to there not being a competition in 2021.

Membership Update

Thank you to the Peninsula Symphony Association members who renewed their memberships through this uncertain season. Like most organizations, we have ongoing expenses such as rent, utilities, and insurance. When we restart concerts, we want to offer the high quality that you are used to hearing.

We currently have only about half the members and membership income we had this time last year. Please consider renewing now, while you are reading about our future Music Director/Conductor candidates, so we can end the year in good financial condition.

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 2020-2021 season:

Ken and Anita Gash

Anna and Yuri Itkis

Dorothy and Allen Lay

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.

A Look Back...



John Williams spoke to the audience in October 2015.



June Sung and Bruce Erickson enjoyed the post-concert reception in October 2016.



Gary Berkson conducted the October 2017 concert.



Audience in the foyer prior to the November 2019 concert.



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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.

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The office is currently being staffed on an intermittent basis. You may call at any time (310-544-0320) and leave a message on our answering machine, You can also e-mail us at music.pensym@verizon.net. General information about the Symphony can be found on our website (www.pensym.org).

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