

PENINSULA  
*symphony*

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# Symphony Sounds

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February 2022

55<sup>th</sup> Season, Number 2

Terri Zinkiewicz

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## Peninsula Symphony Concert

Sunday, February 20, at 7:00 PM

Redondo Union High School Auditorium

222 North Pacific Coast  
Highway Redondo Beach,  
CA 90277

**Andrew Shulman, Guest Conductor**

**Quenton Blache, Cello**

Concerto for Cello and Orchestra Antonín Dvořák  
in B minor, Opus 104, B. 191

*Intermission*

Symphony No. 1 in C minor, Johannes Brahms  
Opus 68

### Concert Details

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

The pre-concert lecture by Guest Conductor Andrew Shulman begins at 6:15 PM for Symphony Association members. The general public will be admitted at approximately 6:50 PM.

### Post-concert — Meet the Performers

After the concert, the audience is invited to remain in the auditorium and meet informally with our guest conductor, Andrew Shulman, soloist Quenton Blache and Symphony Association President John Williams. There may be a few remarks about the performance, and the audience will have an opportunity to ask questions.

Please check our website at [www.pensym.org](http://www.pensym.org) for the latest updates.

## Peninsula Symphony's Edith Knox Young Artists Performance Competition Finals

Sunday, February 27, at 2:00 PM

Redondo Union High School Auditorium

222 North Pacific Coast  
Highway Redondo Beach,  
CA 90277

Concerto for Cello and Orchestra Robert Schumann  
in A minor, Opus 129  
Eiline Tai, cello (age 13; Irvine)

Concerto No. 1 for Piano and Orchestra Franz Liszt  
in E-flat major, S. 124  
David Choi, piano (age 14; Los Angeles)

Concerto No. 1 for Cello and Dimitri Shostakovich  
Orchestra in E-flat Major, Opus 107  
Mei Hotta, cello (age 19; Torrance)

*Intermission*

Variations on a Rococo Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky  
Theme, Opus 33  
Natalie Kwok, cello (age 15; Fullerton)

Concerto for Violin and Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky  
Orchestra in D major, Opus 35  
Rachael Kim, violin (age 16; Santa Monica)

### Post-concert — Judges' Decisions

After the concert, the judges will meet to determine the winner and 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> placements, and as soon as they have made their decisions, the results will be announced, and the performers will receive their cash prizes onstage.

**News from The Peninsula Symphony**

As you know, following the retirement of Music Director/Conductor Gary Berkson, this season we selected four guest conductors to lead our concerts, with the intention that one of those individuals would be selected to be the next Music Director/Conductor beginning with the 2022-2023 season. Due to a scheduling conflict for the third concert (Anthony Parnter will be conducting at Carnegie Hall!), we have selected Johannes Müller-Stosch to guest conduct the April 24 concert. *Symphony Sounds* introduces him via a photo and biography.

COVID has impacted preparations for the February concert. Guest Conductor Andrew Shulman originally programmed the difficult Shostakovich 10<sup>th</sup> Symphony. However, we had to cancel the first few rehearsals and Shulman has substituted the Brahms 1<sup>st</sup> Symphony. The Brahms was last performed in October 2015, and it is an audience and a musicians' favorite.

**Annual Meeting is March 23 at 8:30 PM**

The primary item of business is the election of new board members for the 2022-2023 season that begins in July 2022. Association members attending this meeting may nominate additional candidates and may also vote. Please call the symphony office (310-544-0320) if you plan to attend, so that we can accommodate everyone.

**The Edith Knox Young Artists Performance Competition**

We resumed the Knox competition in 2022, and the preliminary round was held on January 29 at Harbor College. For the first time, all applicants were born in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The five finalists, ranging in age from 13 to 19, will be featured in the final round of competition, which is a free, public performance at the special time of 2:00 PM on Sunday, February 27 (see front page). Please plan to join us for an exciting afternoon of wonderful young musicians who will play their full concertos with piano accompaniment.

**The first concert of the season**

Sunday, November 7, 2021, marked the restart of live Peninsula Symphony concerts. Guest

Conductor Jorge Luis Uzcátegui led the group in Beethoven's 7<sup>th</sup> Symphony, Mendelssohn's beautiful violin concerto, and three Latin American selections. He characterized the program as a reflection of his Latin heritage and his experience in Los Angeles. For example, the first selection, Danzon Nr. 2, was written by Arturo Márquez, with whom Uzcátegui worked at UCLA. It is considered the most popular classical piece in Mexico. The violin concerto is Uzcátegui's favorite concerto of all time, and the soloist was his wife, Erica UzCa. The large, socially-distanced audience loved the concert and the return to live performances.



Guest Conductor Jorge Luis Uzcátegui gave a lecture to Peninsula Association members prior to the concert.

**Fundraisers**

Recently retired Music Director Gary Berkson returned to the Peninsula in December to partner with John Hagen, a member of the Texas Tenors, in a fundraiser for the Peninsula Symphony at the Palos Verdes Estates home of Carolyn Elliot. Hagen and Berkson performed selections from Puccini, Tchaikovsky, Giordano, Sorozábel, Cardillo, de Crescenzo, and others. Thank you to Mr. Hagen, Mr. Berkson, and Ms. Elliot!

The next fundraiser will also feature Gary Berkson, this time collaborating with flutist Beth Pflueger at 4:00 PM on March 24. They plan to perform selections for flute and piano by CPE Bach, Caplet, Hindemith, Messiaen and Doppler. Miss Pflueger is a Professor at Glendale College, and she is principal flutist of the Peninsula Symphony and Burbank

Philharmonic. More information will be forthcoming on this fundraiser.



Hostess Carolyn Elliot, tenor John Hagen, pianist Gary Berkson and Annika Berkson converse at the December 5, 2021, fundraiser.

### **Meet Johannes Müller-Stosch, Guest Conductor for the April 24, 2022, Concert**



German-born conductor, Johannes Müller-Stosch, serves as Music Director and Conductor of Holland Symphony in West Michigan. During his tenure the orchestra has seen unprecedented growth in size and quality of performances, as well as record numbers of season subscriptions. Maestro Stosch also serves as Director of Orchestral Activities at the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at California State University, Long Beach. He grew the orchestra to one of largest and finest in Southern California. In 2017 the Bob Cole Conservatory Symphony played in Germany and the Czech Republic for sold-out audiences and toured in South Korea in 2013. After a national search, in 2019 Stosch was also named Music Director and Conductor of the Philharmonic

Society's Orange County Youth Symphony, celebrating their 50th anniversary as the oldest and most comprehensive Youth Orchestra in Southern California.

He keeps an active guest-conducting schedule both internationally and nationally. Most recent engagements included concerts with Eastman Symphony Orchestra, Long Beach Symphony, Kunming Philharmonic in China, Karelia Symphony in Russia, University Symphonies in Vancouver, Canada, and at the University of Oregon in Eugene. In 2009, Stosch was a featured guest conductor with the Busan Sinfonietta in Korea broadcast on national TV (KBS).

He has held conducting positions with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, the Brockport Symphony in New York, Tri-State Players in Ohio, and served repeatedly on the conducting and coaching staff at the Opera Theatre Festival in Lucca, Italy. A concert tour with the Eastman String Orchestra brought him to Japan, where he conducted concerts as part of Hiroshima's 2006 Peace Festival. He has been a frequent guest conductor for new opera productions at Cincinnati's famous College-Conservatory of Music (CCM), including the main-stage production of Britten's *Owen Wingrave*. Previous engagements include Mozart's *Così fan Tutte*, the world premier of Joel Hoffman's *The Memory Game*, Dvořák's *Rusalka*, and Virgil Thomson's *The Mother Of Us All*. He worked repeatedly as visiting opera conductor at the Opera Theater at Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri. During his doctoral studies he served as Assistant Conductor of the Eastman Philharmonia Orchestra, and won Eastman's prestigious Walter Hagen Conducting Prize.

Stosch received his Doctorate of Musical Arts in Conducting from the Eastman School of Music. After winning the coveted Strader Organ Competition in Cincinnati, Ohio, he received two Master of Music degrees in organ performance and orchestral conducting from the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.



Post Office Box 2602  
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

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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.

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

The office is normally staffed from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Leave a message on our answering machine (310-544-0320), and phone replies will usually be made during normal staffing hours. You can also e-mail us at [music.pensym@verizon.net](mailto:music.pensym@verizon.net). General information about the Symphony can be found on our website ([www.pensym.org](http://www.pensym.org)).

You may also contact:

Peninsula Symphony Association president, John Williams [jwskrs@verizon.net](mailto:jwskrs@verizon.net)