

PENINSULA *symphony*

Symphony Sounds

April 2022

55th Season, Number 3

Terri Zinkiewicz

Peninsula Symphony Concert

Sunday, April 24, at 7:00 PM

Redondo Union High School Auditorium

222 North Pacific Coast
Highway Redondo Beach,
CA 90277

Johannes Müller-Stosch, Guest Conductor

Diana Farrell, Soprano

“Mambo” from *West Side Story* Leonard Bernstein
Hiawatha: Suite from the Ballet Samuel Coleridge-
Music Taylor
Four Songs, Op. 27 Richard Strauss

Intermission

Adagio for Strings, Op. 11 Samuel Barber
An American in Paris George Gershwin

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 Johannes Müller-Stosch begins at 6:15 PM for Symphony Association members. The public will be admitted at approximately 6:50 PM. Facemasks and social distancing are not currently required.

Post-concert — Meet the Performers

After the concert, the audience is invited to remain in the auditorium and meet informally with our guest conductor, Johannes Müller-Stosch, soloist Diana Farrell 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 for the latest updates.

News from The Peninsula Symphony

We are more than halfway into our 2021-2022 season, and although there have been many challenges and workarounds, we presented both of our first two concerts on schedule to very appreciative musicians and audiences. We have also featured two of our four guest conductors. Please join us for our third concert and guest conductor on Sunday, April 24, at Redondo Union High School Auditorium.

We have other news besides our main concerts. The Symphony's Edith Knox Young Artists Performance Competition finals were completed, so we already have our soloist for the first concert next season. See photos of the top two performers inside. We also held a successful fundraiser featuring the Peninsula Symphony's principal flutist Beth Pflueger and our retired music director Gary Berkson. Finally, there is some information on how the Peninsula Symphony can receive small donations every time you purchase something from Amazon, at no extra cost to you.

The Second Concert of the Season

The second Peninsula Symphony concert of the 2021-2022 season was presented on February 20. There were many COVID-related challenges in preparing for and producing this concert, including cancellation of all rehearsals during the month of January. Due to the reduced rehearsal time, Maestro Shulman changed the second half of the concert to the Brahms first symphony. Despite the challenges, the concert was beautiful, and the socially-distanced audience was appreciative with their extended standing ovations at the end of both the first half and the second half.



Guest Conductor Andrew Shulman at his “pre-concert ramble.” He described what it was like as a cellist playing both the Dvořák concerto and the Brahms symphony.



Cellist Quenton Blache was soloist in the Dvořák concerto, which Shulman characterized as “like a symphony with solo cello cast as the hero of the piece.”

We were all surprised to hear that this was Mr. Blache’s first solo performance with orchestra.

Reception to Meet the Guest Conductor

Symphony Association Board Member Marion Ruth is hosting individual receptions for each of our four guest conductors within a week or two following their concert performances. Higher-level Association donors are invited to these informal get-togethers at Ruth’s home in Rolling Hills to engage in an extended Q&A session with the maestros. The second session, with Andrew Shulman, was held in early March with nearly a full house of music lovers eager to hear what Shulman had to say about our orchestra and his musical background.



Andrew Shulman addressed the audience at the reception.

Amazon Smile

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<https://www.aboutamazon.com/news/community/how-to-sign-up-for-amazonsmile>

The Edith Knox Young Artists Performance Competition

The final round of the Edith Knox Young Artists Performance Competition was held on February 27 in the Redondo Union High School Auditorium. Five musicians, all born in the 21st century, competed for the top prize of being the soloist with the Peninsula Symphony at its first concert of the 2022-2023 season plus \$1600 cash and a solo recital at First Fridays at First! on June 3. The judging panel consisted of all four of this season’s guest conductors plus concertmaster Rebecca Rutkowski. Cellist Mei Hotta, 19, of Torrance was the first place winner, and pianist David Choi, 14, of Los Angeles was second, winning a cash prize of \$850.



Above, cellist Mei Hotta, winner of the 2022 Edith Knox Competition.

Below, pianist David Choi and accompanist Hannah Yi.



Fundraiser on March 24

Retired Music Director Gary Berkson and Peninsula Symphony's Principal Flutist Beth Pflueger performed an hour-long recital of flute and piano selections by CPE Bach, Caplet, Hindemith, Messiaen and Doppler on a beautiful, warm afternoon at the lovely Rolling Hills home of Ann-Merelie Murrell. Marion Ruth provided a wonderful Mediterranean sit-down dinner that was enjoyed in different areas of the extensive grounds following the music performance.

Photos in the next column:

Performers Gary Berkson and Beth Pflueger, with Hostess Ann-Merelie Murrell in the center of the photo.

Orchestra members Helene Reid, Janet Yamamoto, Terri Zinkiewicz and Beth Pflueger, along with Retired Music Director Gary Berkson.

A group of fundraiser attendees getting snacks and a light dinner following the musical performance.

Beth Pflueger and Gary Berkson perform while page-turner Terri Zinkiewicz looks on intently.





Post Office Box 2602
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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. General information about the Symphony can be found on our website (www.pensym.org).

You may also contact:

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