

PENINSULA *symphony*

Symphony Sounds

June 2022

55th Season, Number 4

Terri Zinkiewicz, Editor

Peninsula Symphony Concert

Sunday, June 26, at 7:00 PM

Redondo Union High School Auditorium

631 Vincent Street
Redondo Beach, CA 90277

David Cubek, Guest Conductor

Mi-Hyun Suh, Piano

Made in America Joan Tower
Concerto No. 2 for Piano and Frédéric Chopin
Orchestra in F minor, Opus 21

Intermission

Symphony No. 4 in F minor,
Opus 36 Pytor Ilyich Tchaikovsky

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 David Cubek 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, David Cubek, 2020 Knox Competition winner Mi-Hyun Suh 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 anxiously looking forward to Sunday, June 26, our fourth and final concert of the 2021-2022 season that featured the four guest conductors that are being considered for the next Music Director/Conductor position. Make sure that you attend the concert and complete your audience evaluation so that you will have some input into the final selection.

The Symphony Association held its Annual Meeting, and all the existing Board members chose to serve for another year. The Board of Directors recently elected a new member, Eve Ahlers. She joins Duane Conover (a returning member) and Janet Yamamoto (who joined recently) as the newest members of the Board.

The Third Concert of the Season

The third Peninsula Symphony concert of the 2021-2022 season was presented on April 24. For the first time in a long while, we were able to use the full auditorium for audience seating, although there were too many empty seats. Please help us fill those seats for the next concert!

Guest Conductor Johannes Müller-Stosch began with his preconcert lecture and shared the interesting story of his involvement in bringing the Coleridge Taylor *Hiawatha: Suite from the Ballet* back to the concert stage. This piece was featured in the first half of the concert. He also invited soprano soloist Diana Farrell to talk to the audience, which is unusual, especially for a soloist who is preparing for her performance. Both were interesting, and admission to the preconcert lectures is, in itself, a good reason to

become a member of the Peninsula Symphony Association.

Following intermission were two selections by American composers. First was Samuel Barber's *Adagio for Strings* that was originally written for string quartet. The second, *An American in Paris*, employed a very large orchestra including saxophones and "taxi horns."



Above: Guest Conductor Johannes Stosch addressed the audience prior to the concert. He indicated he programmed the concert to start and end with American composers.



Above: Soprano soloist Diana Farrell delivered a beautiful rendition of four Strauss songs and followed that with two well-known Puccini arias – *Vissi d'arte* and *O mio babbino*.

Reception to Meet the Guest Conductor

Symphony Association Board Member Marion Ruth once again hosted a reception that included a wonderful Mediterranean dinner at her home for our guest conductor and higher-level donors. Johannes Stosch shared some interesting anecdotes about his personal life: weekly plane trips to rehearsals with the Holland Symphony in Michigan; working with the Orange County Youth Symphony and his tenure with CSULB Bob Cole Conservatory.



Left: Johannes Stosch talked to the audience at the post-concert reception.

Middle: some of the Symphony Association members who attended the reception.

Below: Another look at Stosch during his talk and Q&A session.



Calling All Volunteers!

Would you like to greet people at the door and hand out programs on concert day? Perhaps you would like to be part of the membership committee that is charged with increasing our loyal base of supporters. There are many volunteer opportunities with the Peninsula Symphony. Many require only an hour or two on concert days. Others may involve calling a few of your neighbors to invite them to concerts. If you want deeper involvement, consider becoming a member of a committee. If you would like to have your voice heard and get more involved with the Symphony Association, please contact our office at 310-544-0320 and leave a message; your call will be returned, and we will see if we have something that you would be interested in doing.

The 2022 Edith Knox Young Artists Performance Competition

We announced the winner of the 2022 Knox Competition in our last edition of *Symphony Sounds* and indicated one of the prizes for winner Mei Hotta is a solo recital at First Fridays at First!. That recital was filmed in front of a small, live audience in Torrance on May 30 and livestreamed on the normal First Fridays at First! date of June 3. Hotta and collaborative pianist Eloise Kim performed works by Bach, Casad , Glazunov, and Schumann.

Hotta's solo performance with the Peninsula Symphony will be at the first concert of the 2022-2023 season.

This June's concert will feature the **2020** Knox Competition winner, pianist Mi-Hyun Suh. The timing for Mi-Hyun's performance is unusual, as she had to wait two full years due to concerts being cancelled because of COVID. Since winning the competition, the now eighteen-year-old has recently completed her first year as a music major at USC.



Above, Mei Hotta, winner of the 2022 Edith Knox Competition, began her recital with three movements from a Bach suite for solo cello.

Below, cellist Mei Hotta and collaborative pianist Eloise Kim.



Summer Pops Concert

The Peninsula Symphony will continue to celebrate its return to live music by presenting a summer Pops Concert. It will be at our regular Redondo Union High School Auditorium on Sunday, July 31, but at a special time of 5:00 PM. Gary Berkson will return to the podium as Guest Conductor for this special presentation called Masters of Movie Music, featuring selections from over ten movies. Most should be familiar to you. This concert should provide an opportunity for musicians and audience members to say a proper farewell to Berkson, since we didn't have an opportunity to do so when half of the 2019-2020 and all of the 2020-2021 season concerts had to be cancelled due to COVID.



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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 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