

PENINSULA *symphony*

Symphony Sounds

July 2022

55th Season, Number 5

Terri Zinkiewicz

Peninsula Symphony Concert

Sunday, July 31, at special time of 5:00 PM

Redondo Union High School Auditorium

631 Vincent Street
Redondo Beach, CA 90277

Gary Berkson, Guest Conductor

Masters of Movie Music

Featuring music from older and newer films,
such as:

*The Avengers, Star Wars, Lawrence of
Arabia, Ghostbusters, Jurassic
Park...and many more*

Concert Details

This concert is being held at a special time – 5:00 PM. There will be no intermission. Bring the family for a fun afternoon of music. Doors open at 4:30 PM. Center-section seating is reserved for members at the Patron level and above. Facemasks and social distancing are not currently required, but guidance may change.

News from The Peninsula Symphony

The summer Pops concert is just around the corner! The guest conductor is our recently retired Music Director/Conductor, Gary Berkson. Musicians and audience members didn't really get a chance to say farewell to Berkson, as his last two scheduled concerts of the 2019-2020 season and all the 2020-2021 season needed to be cancelled due to COVID.

The concert will feature selections from over ten movies. You will recognize many of them, but a couple may be less familiar. Immediately prior to the first downbeat of the concert, we hope to be able to announce the new Peninsula Symphony Music Director/Conductor.

The Fourth Concert of the Season

The fourth Peninsula Symphony concert of the 2021-2022 season was presented on June 26. We had the largest audience so far this season, which was an encouraging sign for the future. We hope to be back to our pre-COVID numbers next season and begin building our audiences and memberships from that point.

Guest Conductor David Cubek demonstrated from the piano during his preconcert lecture. He indicated that this appeared to be the first time that the Peninsula Symphony performed any work by a female composer. Joan Tower's "Made in America" led off the concert. Tower wrote this piece for orchestras such as ours rather than the large professional groups like the Los Angeles or New York Philharmonics. Nevertheless, it presented many technical challenges to the musicians.

Next was the Chopin Piano Concerto No. 2 with 2020 Knox Winner Mi-Hyun Suh at the keyboard. She played on a brand new, rented Steinway piano that looked beautiful on the stage, and her performance matched the shiny instrument. The crowd rewarded Suh with an extended standing ovation. Following intermission, the full orchestra played the Tchaikovsky 4th Symphony. The first movement was very long – in fact, Cubek indicated it was Tchaikovsky's longest symphonic movement. The third movement was unique in that the

strings played *pizzicato* the entire time. That means they plucked the strings and kept their bows in their laps for the full movement. The fourth movement was an extremely fast, technically demanding finale that brought the music to a rousing conclusion.



David Cubek presented his preconcert lecture and demonstrated some of the themes at the piano keyboard.



Above: Piano soloist Mi-Hyun Suh performed with the Symphony. Suh was the 2020 Edith Knox Young Artists Competition first prize winner.

Reception to Meet the Guest Conductor

Symphony Association Board Member Marion Ruth has hosted the full set of receptions for the four guest conductors being considered for the Music Director/Conductor position. During the reception for Mr. Cubek, he was asked for ideas to increase the size of our audiences. He had several ideas including potential collaboration with one or more of the local high schools with excellent musical ensembles and also with local choruses, because the choral works are usually best sellers with audiences and involve more local performers who invite their families and friends. Cubek also said much could be gained by increased use of social media.



Symphony Association President John Williams thanked David Cubek for his comments to the reception attendees.



Above: Hostess Marion Ruth, Conductor Search Committee Chair Terri Zinkiewicz and President John Williams posed for a photo at the reception.

Below: Symphony Association higher-level donors



Put These Concert Dates for the 2022-2023 Season on Your Calendars So You Don't Miss Anything

The Peninsula Symphony's concert dates for next season at Redondo Union High School have been confirmed, so why don't you record them now so that you won't miss any of the exciting "notes?"

Sunday, October 30 at 7:00 pm. The soloist will be cellist Mei Hotta, 2022 Knox winner

Sunday, February 19 at 7:00 pm

Sunday, February 26 at 2:00pm – Knox Competition Finals

Sunday, April 23 at 7:00 pm

Sunday, June 25 at 7:00 pm. The soloist will be the 2023 Knox winner

Membership Options for the 2022-2023 Season

July 1 marked the beginning of the new fiscal year for the Peninsula Symphony Association. That means it is time to consider renewing your membership in the Association. Even though nearly all of our expenses have increased, some rather dramatically, we made the decision to keep the membership levels and dollar amounts the same for the 2022-2023 season. A Contributor membership starts at \$75, and there are varying levels up to the Virtuoso level of \$5000+. Each level has its own set of membership benefits, such as reserved seats in the auditorium and a reserved parking area near the main entrance. Membership brochures should be available at the July 31 Pops concert or shortly thereafter. You may call the Symphony office at any time to leave a message about membership and/or mail a check to the office at PO Box 2602, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274. We also take credit cards, and you can sign up for automatic monthly payments if you prefer. Call 310-544-0320 for more information on those options.

Additional Photos from the June Concert



Symphony Association President John Williams welcomed the audience just prior to the concert.



There is typically a Q&A session following the concerts that includes the Peninsula Symphony Association president, the soloist and the conductor. From left: John Williams, Mi-Hyun Suh and David Cubek.



Maestro Cubek during his pre-concert lecture.



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 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