

Symphony Sounds

Aug 2022

56th Season, Special Edition

Terri Zinkiewicz, Editor

The Peninsula Symphony Announced its New Music Director/Conductor – David Cubek



After a search process lasting over two years, including guest conducting appearances by four outstanding conductors during the 2021-2022 concert season, the Peninsula Symphony's Board of Directors selected David Cubek to be Music Director/Conductor for the next three seasons.

Venezuelan conductor David Cubek is equally at home leading professional, college, community, and youth orchestras. He is the Director of the orchestra of Claremont McKenna, Harvey Mudd, Pitzer, and Scripps Colleges and Conductor of new music ensemble Fonema Consort. He was also the Assistant Conductor of the Pasadena Symphony and Conductor of the PYSO Philharmonic (2016-2022).

Mr. Cubek sustains an active international career. Highlights of his work in Venezuela include concerts with the Teresa Carreño and Simón Bolívar orchestras. He has led ensembles in Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, Italy, Mexico, and Ukraine. Local appearances include concerts with the San Bernardino and the Eastern Sierra symphonies.

Mr. Cubek began piano and composition lessons at age 7, earned degrees from McGill University and the Conservatory of Montreal, and received his doctorate from Northwestern University.

Pops Concert - Masters of Movie Music

The Peninsula Symphony presented a summer Pops Concert, under the baton of Guest Conductor Gary Berkson, on Sunday, July 31 in our usual Redondo Union High School Auditorium location. Berkson stepped down from his Music Director/Conductor duties a year ago, but he was invited back to be Guest Conductor for this concert.

The audience was the largest all season, and the lighter fare that was largely familiar to the public made for a very enjoyable late summer afternoon. Berkson interspersed interesting narratives between over a dozen memorable movie musical selections that ranged from older classics such as *Lawrence of Arabia* and *Gone with the Wind* to 21st century movie music such as *The Avengers* and *Thor*. At one point, he even had the audience clapping to the beat and yelling out GHOST BUSTERS at appropriate points in the *Ghostbusters* music. Not to be outdone, the orchestra also had its opportunities to yell out the famous words at various times.

It was a very enjoyable afternoon and a wonderful bridge between our 2021-2022 transition season and our upcoming 2022-2023 season.

Gary Berkson shared the applause with his musicians



Photos from the July 2022 Peninsula Symphony Association Board of Directors meeting in which the Search Committee reviewed its 2+-year long process and its recommendation of David Cubek for the new Music Director/Conductor.



Ken Gash, Marion Ruth, Janet Yamamoto, Eve Ahlers, and Sophia Momand



Terri Zinkiewicz, Chair of the Conductor's Search Committee, prepares to announce the name of our new Conductor/ Music Director at the special Board of Director's meeting held on July 13th. Larry Zinkiewicz also pictured.

Photos by Helene Reid



Jack Trost, Carol Schamp, June Sung, Bruce Erickson, Faye Schwartz (Secretary) and John Williams (President)

Below, many of the community players posed with Maestro Berkson at one of the rehearsals for the Pops Concert



Photos by Larry Zinkiewicz



Gary Berkson talked to the audience several times between the selections during the *Masters of Movie Music* Pops Concert.

Programs for the 2022-2023 Season

Performance Venue

Redondo High School Auditorium
222 N. Pacific Coast Highway (at Diamond St.)
Redondo Beach, CA

Sunday, October 30, 2022 – 7:00 PM Opening Concert!

Rimsky-Korsakov, *The Tsar's Bride* Overture
Shostakovich, Cello Concerto No. 1 in E \flat M.
Mei Hotta, Soloist
Beethoven, Symphony No. 8 in F, Op. 93

Sunday, February 19, 2023 – 7:00 PM French Rêveries

Debussy, *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune*
Ravel, *Ma mère l'oye (Mother Goose)*
Bizet, *Carmen Suites* Nos. 1 and 2

Edith Knox Performance Competition Finals - Sunday, Feb. 26th SPECIAL TIME 2:00 PM

Sunday, April 23, 2023 – 7:00 PM Austro-German Gems

Fanny Mendelssohn, Overture in C
Mozart, Clarinet Concerto in A, K.622
David Nicholson, Soloist
Schumann, Symphony No. 4 in D m, Op. 120

Sunday, June 25, 2023 – 7:00 PM Transatlantic Symphonic Dances

Dvořák, Selected Slavonic Dances
TBA, Concerto by the 2023 Knox Winner
Coleridge-Taylor, *The Bamboula*
Ginastera, Dances from the ballet *Estancia*
Piazzolla, *Libertango*
Márquez, *Conga del fuego nuevo*

All concerts and parking are free to the public.
Preconcert lectures for Symphony Association
members begin at 6:15 PM.

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 renew your membership in the Association if you have not already done so. Even though nearly all 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 are available in the office, and you may request one by calling 310-544-0320 and leaving a message. We are very grateful for your contribution, which enables us to offer delightful symphonic music in the Palos Verdes Peninsula and South Bay area.



Above, many of the well-wishers who gathered at the Cheesecake Factory following the Pops concert to honor Gary and Annika Berkson.

Below, Gary and Annika talked to Marion Ruth at the party.





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