

LUNAR NEW YEAR

Carl St.Clair, conductor • Ronald Banks, emcee • Yunah Lee, lyric soprano • Fei-Fei Dong, piano • Bei Bei Monter, guzheng
Bich-Van Nguyen, vocalist • Nicholas Preston, tenor • Wendy Hua's Violin Studio at Orange County Music and Dance (OCMD)
Yaya Dance Academy, Yaya Zhang, artistic director • Bianca Bulle, guest dancer • Yana Zhao, guest dancer • Chinese Dance
Company of Southern California by the South Coast Chinese Cultural Center • American Feel Young Chorus – Sam Wei-Chi Sun,
conductor • Pacific Chorale – Robert Istad, artistic director • Sean Yu, video designer • Kathy Pryzgod, lighting designer

Li **Spring Festival Overture**
Yaya Dance Academy

Stary & Monter **Spring Awakens**
Arr. Chris Thomas
Bei Bei Monter

Stary & Monter **Fireworks**
Arr. Chris Thomas
Bei Bei Monter

David Byrne **Main Title from**
Arr. Breiner **The Last Emperor**
Yaya Dance Academy
Bianca Bulle, guest dancer

Cuong **Thu Dieu ("Fishing in Autumn")**
Bich-Van Nguyen

Gershwin **Rhapsody in Blue**
Fei-Fei Dong

Li **Jasmine Flower**

Zheng **I Love China**
Arr. Wang
Wendy Hua's Violin Studio at
OCMD

Dvorak **"Song to the Moon" from Rusalka**
Yunah Lee

Kim **Gapoga ("I Long to Go to My
Hometown")**
Yunah Lee

Verdi **"Brindisi" from La Traviata**
Yunah Lee
Nicholas Preston

Bernstein **"Make Our Garden Grow"
from Candide**
Yunah Lee
Nicholas Preston

Traditional **Swan Goose**
Arr. Thomas
Pacific Chorale
American Feel Young Chorus
Yaya Dance Academy
Yana Zhao, guest dancer

Ward **America the Beautiful**
Arr. Prechel
Chinese Dance Company of
Southern California by the South
Coast Chinese Cultural Center

Saturday, February 5, 2022 @ 8 p.m.

Performance at Segerstrom Center for the Arts
Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall

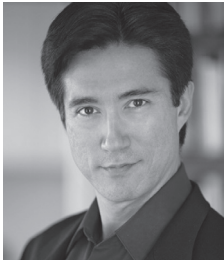
This concert is generously sponsored by
Charlie and Ling Zhang and the Jade Society.

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS



Ronald Banks, emcee and bass-baritone, is pleased to return to Pacific Symphony, having performed as the Percussionator in the Superheroes! Family concert and as Grandpa in the Class Act tribute concert to Leonard Bernstein. Banks has been seen on stages around the

world across a 30-year career. A versatile performer, his talents included work in musical theatre, opera, oratorio, voiceover and in recital. Operatic roles include Rigoletto, Sharpless in *Madame Butterfly*, Don Pasquale and many others. He has worked with Los Angeles Chamber Singers, La Jolla Symphony, San Diego Symphony and many other chorales and orchestras around the world. His solo credits include: Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, *Messiah*, *A German Requiem* and *The Creation*. In musical theater, Banks is best known for his portrayal of the King of Siam in *The King and I*, a role which he has performed more than 500 times, garnering awards and critical acclaim in productions across the nation. Other award-winning roles include King Arthur in *Camelot* and the title role in *Sweeney Todd*, for which he received a ReviewPlays.com nomination for Best Performance and a Garland Award Honorable Mention. Banks has been seen in *Pacific Overtures*, as Peron in *Evita*, Chao in the Broadway-bound revival of *Flower Drum Song*, Emile Debecque in *South Pacific* and recently finished an eight-year run as Jafar in *Aladdin: A Musical Spectacular* at the Disneyland Resort. Bank's distinctive speaking voice can be heard as multiple characters in the *World of Warcraft* and *Mortal Kombat* video games. 🎭



Lyric Soprano Yunah Lee is thrilling audiences in the U.S., Europe and Asia with her "handsomely colored full lyric sound" (*Opera News*) and "picture perfect" acting (*Berkshire Fine Arts*). "Lee deservedly earned the most vociferous ovation of the [Glimmerglass] festival as the

audience leapt to their feet as one to roar their approval at her curtain call" (*Opera Today*). "[Director Francesca Zambello's] ability to get the voices she wanted is abundantly clear, especially with Korean-born lyric soprano Yunah Lee in the title role" (*Syracuse New Times*). "Lee is one of the world's leading interpreters of the role. It's hard to imagine a more nuanced, yet powerful delivery of this music..." (*The Salt Lake Tribune*). 🎭



Tenor Nicholas Preston has been praised by the *Orange County Register* as being "resonant and warm" and by the classical music site *Bachtrack* as "a ringing stentorian tenor." This Hawai'i native is in demand as a soloist in Southern California and beyond, having performed

throughout California and touring as a soloist in France, Italy and Spain. He has been a member of Pacific Chorale since 2002 and has frequently appeared as a soloist with the ensemble. Preston has also performed as a soloist with the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, Claremont Chorale, Santa Maria Philharmonic Society, Cypress Masterworks Chorale and The Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra. He has worked under the batons of John Alexander, Carl St.Clair, Keith Lockhart, John Williams, Nicholas McGegan, Kent Nagano, John Mauceri, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Grant Gershon and Gustavo Dudamel. 🎭



Pianist Fei-Fei Dong is a winner of the Concert Artists Guild Competition and a top finalist at the 14th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. Praised for her "bountiful gifts and passionate immersion into the music she touches" (*The Plain Dealer*), she continues to build a reputation

for her poetic interpretations, charming audiences with her "passion, piquancy and tenderness" and "winning stage presence" (*Dallas Morning News*), both in the U.S. and internationally, including her native China. Career highlights include performances with the Fort Worth Symphony, Kansas City Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic, Calgary Philharmonic, Aspen Music Festival Orchestra, Spokane Symphony, Corpus Christi Symphony, Austin Symphony, Denver Philharmonic, Anchorage Symphony, Youngstown Symphony and the Juilliard Orchestra. Internationally, she has performed with Canada's Calgary Philharmonic, Germany's Rostock and Baden-Baden philharmonic orchestras, and in China with the Hong Kong Philharmonic, China National and Shenzhen Symphony orchestras. Fei-Fei was showcased prominently as a Cliburn finalist in the documentary film, *Virtuosity*, about the 2013 Cliburn Competition, which premiered on PBS in August 2015. 🎭



Guzheng Master Bei Bei Monter was born in Chengdu, China and trained at China Central Universities of Nationalities in Beijing and Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts under several Guzheng masters. As a recording

artist, her performances have been featured in Disney's live-action *Mulan* film in 2020, Sci-fi Channel's *Battlestar Galactica*, award-winning video game *Revelation*, and most recently, at the new Universal Studios Beijing theme park. In 2015, she was featured as one of "The Most Fascinating People of Los Angeles" by *LA Weekly Magazine*. Bei Bei has released four albums and was featured in many artists' songs such as *Loyal Brave True* by Christina Aguilera as well as *Yue Dao Tian Xin Chu* by Summer Jike Junyi. She has performed throughout the U.S. and Canada, and toured to Hong Kong, India, the U.K. and Italy. She was also featured as a guest soloist performing with UC Irvine Symphony orchestra, UCLA Game Music Ensemble and Pacific Symphony. Bei Bei's multiple performance videos on YouTube have been viewed over 12 million times in total. Her fans are all over the world. 🌐



Vocalist Bích-Vân Nguyen was trained at the National Music Conservatory in Vietnam and at Bob Cole Conservatory of Music, Cal State Long Beach. She recently graduated with a Masters in Musical Theater at New York University. One of the most sought-after Vietnamese

vocalists in her genre, she has performed as a soloist with Asia Entertainment, the Vietnamese-American Philharmonic, the Ngan Khoi Chorus and more. She has also performed in opera, musical theater and stage productions, concerts over the world at prestigious venues such as National Music Conservatory in Vietnam, Kennedy Center, the Rainbow Room at Rockefeller Center, Carpenter Performing Arts Center, La Mirada Theater, Rachel Schlesinger Concert Hall (Va.) and Marie Stéphanie Concert Hall (Montreal). Notable roles include the roles of Kim in *Miss Saigon*, Christine in *Phantom of the Opera*, Cleopatra in Handel's *Giulio Cesare* and Nannetta in *Falstaff*, among others. 🌐



Artistic Director of Yaya Dance Academy, Yaya Zhang is an accomplished multidisciplinary artist with 20 years of experience in stage performance, choreography, musical theatre and the creation of contemporary art. In 2014, she established Yaya

Dance Academy, which is focused on bringing Chinese dance arts to the United States. During these years,

her students have participated and won many awards in several national and international dance competitions. In 2014, *New Drum Rhythms*, the dance produced in her academy won the "All-Star" honor at China Central Television Dance World. In 2015, as an independent artist, she created and performed her contemporary work *Gravid* at the LATC Dance Festival. In 2018, Yaya Zhang became a founding member of International Music and Dance Festival, and worked together with Claire Trevor School of the Arts of UCI on an east-west cultural exchange project called *East Meets West*. 🌐



Guest Dancer Bianca Bulle began her ballet training on the Gold Coast at The Ransley Ballet & Performing Arts Studio. At the age of 16, she moved to New York City to train at The School of American Ballet. After two years of professional training,

her ballet career began when she started dancing with The Los Angeles Ballet. She was promoted to Principal Dancer in 2017, and during her career with LAB, she danced many of the classical works like *Odele/Odette* in *Swan Lake* and *The Sylph* in *La Sylphide* as well as many Balanchine ballets such as *Rubies*, *Concerto Barocco* and *Agon*. Bianca joined The Miami City Ballet in 2019 where she danced principal roles such as *Aria 1* in George Balanchine's *Stravinsky Violin Concerto*. She has since retired from dancing with a professional company to dance as a guest artist. 🌐



Guest Dancer Yana Zhao graduated from Beijing Dance Academy. She started dancing at age seven. She was professionally trained in ballet, Chinese classic dance, modern dance and jazz for 12 years at Guangdong Dance and Drama College and Beijing Dance

Academy. Zhao has been an actress and dancer of Beijing Guo Lun Novel Arts Center and China National Theatre for Children after she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. Since then, she focuses on dance education and choreography. 🌐



Sam Wei-Chih Sun, Director of American Feel Young Chorus, is a pianist, accompanist and music educator. His interest in music was encouraged by his mother at age 6, when he started playing the piano. He attended the Taipei Municipal Teachers College and majored in piano performance and minored in cello and vocal performance.

After graduation, Sun became an elementary school music teacher in Taipei and held many musical activities to inspire students' interests in music. In 2005, Sun received a master's degree in conducting from Azusa Pacific University. Sun is an adjunct professor of piano at Azusa Pacific University, Citrus Community College and Calvin Chao Theological Seminary. He is the music director at Good Shepherd Taiwanese Presbyterian Church in Monterey Park. He also conducts the Southern California Taiwanese Hakka Chorus, the Arcadia Chinese Chorus and the Irvine Chinese Chorus. 🌿



Robert Istad, who "fashions fluent and sumptuous readings" (*Voice of OC*) with his "phenomenal" artistry (*Los Angeles Times*), was appointed Pacific Chorale's artistic director in 2017. Under his leadership, the chorus

continues to expand its reputation for excellence for delivering fresh, thought-provoking interpretations of beloved masterworks, rarely performed gems and newly commissioned pieces. His artistic impact can be heard on two recent recordings featuring Pacific Chorale: "Mahler's Eighth Symphony" with the Los Angeles Philharmonic conducted by Gustavo Dudamel on Deutsche Grammophon (2021), for which he prepared the chorus, and "All Things Common: The Music of Tarik O'Regan," which he conducted, on Yarlung Records (2020). Istad has also prepared choruses for such renowned conductors as Esa-Pekka Salonen, John Williams, John Mauceri, Keith Lockhart, Nicholas McGegan, Vasily Sinaisky, Sir Andrew Davis, Bramwell Tovey, Carl St.Clair, Eugene Kohn, Giancarlo Guerrero, Marin Alsop, George Fenton, and Robert Moody. He regularly conducts and collaborates with Pacific Symphony, Musica Angelica Baroque Orchestra, Sony Classical Records, Yarlung Records, Berkshire Choral International and Long Beach Symphony. An esteemed educator, Istad is professor of music and director of choral studies at California State University, Fullerton, where he was recognized as CSUF's 2016 Outstanding Professor of the Year. He conducts the University Singers and manages a large graduate conducting program, in addition to teaching courses on conducting and performance practice. Istad, who is on the executive board of directors of Chorus America and serves as Dean of Chorus America's Conducting Academy, is in demand as guest conductor, lecturer and clinician. 🌿

Thank You

TO OUR SPONSORS CHARLIE AND LING ZHANG



Pacific Symphony is grateful to Charlie and Ling Zhang for their generous sponsorship of the Lunar New Year Gala dinner and concert. Charlie is a true example of someone who has achieved the American Dream: coming to the U.S. in 1980, diligently working hard to become a highly successful entrepreneur and business owner and bountifully giving back to his community.

Charlie is an esteemed Pacific Symphony Board member, and both he and Ling are subscribers and high-level donors. Recently, the Zhangs were honored as Philanthropists of the Year on National Philanthropy Day of the Association of Fundraising Professionals in Orange County. Charlie was honored as an Ellis Island Medal of Honor recipient and was integral in presenting the Symphony's concert *Ellis Island: The Dream of America* by Peter Boyer, which was later broadcast on PBS' *Great Performances*.

In 2018, the Zhangs generously sponsored the Pacific Symphony Tour to China. Charlie and Ling have sponsored the Zhang Challenge, an annual matching gift program, which has successfully inspired many others to support the orchestra. We are tremendously indebted to Charlie and Ling and extend our sincerest gratitude for all their many contributions to Pacific Symphony. 🌿

WENDY HUA'S VIOLIN STUDIO AT ORANGE COUNTY MUSIC AND DANCE

Nicole Zheng
Marcus Shih
Katelyn Xu
Vincent Lin
Brendan Chang
Andy Zhang
Anna Chen
Luke Chen
Jessica Wu
Ryan Geng
Amber Shi
Alex Li
Herman Hu
Grace Li
Claire Yuan
Melody Ye
Claudia Cheng
Oliver Dai
Winstone Lu
Tian Jin
Kevin Li
Angela Li
Lawrence Liu
Helen Zhang
MeWa Liao
MeJo Liao
William Ma
Chelsea Chen
Kaelyn Sun
Jack Yang
Syuan-Wei Lee
Rose Yang
Ella Yang
Gianna Iskandar
Brian Chang
Bentie Feng
Andrew Kao
Dora Yue Li

AMERICAN FEEL YOUNG CHORUS

Sam Wei-Chih Sun • Director

SOPRANO

Amy Weng
Bing Betty Sun
Feifei Li
Gigi Liu
Hanne Xian
Hao Yu
Hsiu Ling Liao
Jenny Du
Karen Xie
Kathy Zhao
Lihong Wang
Linda Ye
Linda Zou Lee
Lisa Huang
Lishia Wang
Liyang Lin
Nan Ding
Niya Deng
Sharon Shao
Shiping Jiang
Wei Wang
Wen Conklin
Wendy Wen
Xiaoqing Xie
Xuhong Li
Yedda Zhang
Zhaoli Huang

ALTO

Amy Guo
Annie Shan
Cathy Jing Kaiser
Dana Liu
Grace Gao
Heather Hu
Jane Li
Jenny Pu
Jun Wang
Krystal Yan
Lin Pu
Linda Du
Maggie Jiang
Manlin Zeng
Sunan Xing
Nancy Wang
Sherry Lundstedt
Shirley Chen
Shirong Wang
Shu Wang
Tao Chen
Theresa Liu
Wei Jing
Ying Li

BASS

George Yen
James Shi
Jim Nie
Xiaoxing Zhang

TENOR

Adam Lin
Guoxian Sun
Louis Zhu
Owen Yang
Xianhong Yang

DANCERS FOR "AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL" CHINESE DANCE COMPANY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Cheer Pan • Director

Xue Han • Choreographer & Instructor

GUEST DANCERS

Alec Guthrie
Siwei Hu

DANCERS

Aliyah Haorui He
Katelyn Hu
Celine Yun-Jung Huang
Keiley Huang
Skyla Jin
Fei Ma
Cindy Shengyu Mei
Jessica Miao
Susan Zeshan Li
Michelle Liu
Ella Xinran Liu
Angel Rulan Shen
Elina Tsai
Christy Wang
Annie Yang Xiao
Annie Yu
Cyrstal Jingyue Zhang
Linda Zixuan Zhang

PACIFIC CHORALE

PACIFIC CHORALE, an Orange County “treasure” with a “fresh viewpoint” that “can sing anything you put in front of it, with polish, poise and tonal splendor” (*Orange County Register*) has “risen to national prominence” (*Los Angeles Times*) since its inception in 1968. Hailed for delivering “thrilling entertainment” (*Voice of OC*), the resident choir at Segerstrom Center for the Arts is noted for its artistic innovation and commitment to expanding the choral repertoire. It has given world, U.S. and West Coast premieres of more than 35 works, including numerous commissions, by such lauded composers as John Adams, Jake Heggie, James Hopkins, David Lang, Morten Lauridsen, Ravel, Tarik O'Regan, Karen Thomas, Frank Ticheli, András Gábor Virág and Eric Whitacre. In addition to presenting its own concert series each season, Pacific Chorale enjoys a long-standing partnership with Pacific Symphony, with whom the choir made its highly anticipated Carnegie Hall debut in 2018. The chorus also regularly appears with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and has performed with such leading orchestras as the Boston Symphony, National Symphony, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, San Diego Symphony and Musica Angelica, among others. Pacific Chorale has garnered international acclaim as well, having toured extensively to more than 19 countries in Europe, South America, and Asia, and through collaborations with the London Symphony, Munich Symphony, L'Orchestre Lamoureux and L'Orchestre de St-Louis-en-Île of Paris, National Orchestra of Belgium, China National Symphony, Hong Kong Sinfonietta, Estonian National Symphony, and Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional of Argentina, among others. Deeply committed to making choral music accessible to people of all ages, the organization, which has a discography of 14 self-produced recordings and an extensive collection of exceptional free digital offerings, places a significant emphasis on choral music education, providing after-school vocal programs for elementary school students, a choral summer camp for high school students, and an annual community-wide singing event at Segerstrom Center for the Arts.

PacificChorale.org

Robert Istad • Artistic Director & Conductor
Phillip N. and Mary A. Lyons
Artistic Director Chair

Kibsaim Escarcega • Interim Assistant Conductor

Andrew Brown • President & CEO

SOPRANO

Rebecca Hasquet
Section Leader
Lauren Adaska
Alexandria Burdick
Chelsea Chaves
Karla V. Delgado
Sophia Do
Diana Farrell
Anastasia Glasheen
Adrien Gonzalez
Elizabeth Gross
Erika Jackson
Barbara Kingsbury, Rita
Major Memorial Chair
Grace J. Lee
Jenny Mancini
Shannon A. Miller
Maria Cristina Navarro
Deborah Pasarow
Jessica Pettygrove
Clarissa Shan
Ruthanne Walker
Victoria Wu

TENOR

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Section Leader, Roger W. Johnson Memorial Chair
Dongwhi Baek
Dr. Sheridan Ball
Christopher Brush
Chris Buttars
Craig Davis
Marius Evangelista
Alan Garcia
Craig S. Kistler
Jin Ming Liao
Zachary Lindquist
David López Alemán
Gerald McMillan
David Morales
Jesse Newby
Carl Porter
Singers Memorial Chair
Sammy Salvador
Emilio Sandoval
Joshua Tan Tessler
Conor Tibbs

ALTO

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Harriet Edwards
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I-Chin Betty Feinblatt
Marilyn Forsstrom
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Stacey Y. Kikkawa
Kaii Lee
Michele M. Mulidor
Kathleen Preston
Suzanne Rahn
Katherine Scholl Holisky
Alison Stickley
Emily Weinberg

BASS

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Section Leader, Ron Gray Legacy Chair
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Louis Ferland
Karl Forsstrom
Singers Memorial Chair
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Mark Hamilton
Jared Hughes
Jared Daniel Jones
Matthew Kellaway
Tom Mena
Martin Minnich
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Seth Peelle
Carl Pike
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Eric R. Soholt
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Joshua P. Stansfield
David Williams

YAYA DANCE ACADEMY

Yaya Zhang • Artistic
Director/Founder
Radhanath Thialan

• Associate Artistic
Director

GUEST ARTISTS

Bianca Bulle
Yana Zhao

SOLOISTS

Cheryl Ku
Claire Chang

KIDS

Alice Deng
Allison Lee
An Houteng
Angela Ma
Annabella Chou
Bella Chen
Crystal Cheng
Eugenie yuan
Hailey Shum
Jasmine Wong
Joann Lee
Mia Yuan
Penny Jen
Rainie Zhang
Stephanie Chen
Vicky Chen
Victoria Chong
Victoria Lai
Zoe Chen

ADULTS

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Eva Wang
Fenny Guifen Liu
Hongyan Kuehn
Ivy Lin
Jane Wan
Jessica Cai
Jessica Li
Josephine Yang
Judy Xiong
Judy Ying
Melody Lai
Ping Wang
Sharlyn Zhou
Shirley Meng
Vivian Kou
Wei Wang
Zhilei Shen

VOLUNTEERS

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