



Pacific Symphony

YOUTH WIND ENSEMBLE

FOR THE PEOPLE

Monday, May 23, 2022 @ 7 p.m.

Dr. Gregory X. Whitmore, conductor
Damien Crutcher, guest conductor
Angela Woo, guest conductor
Peter Hanna, oud
Dr. Andrew Harrison, alto saxophone
Pacific Symphony Youth Wind Ensemble

This evening's performance
is generously sponsored by
The Lun Wang Family Foundation.

PROGRAM

- Johan Halvorsen *Entry March of the Boyars*
- Brian Balmages *Rippling Watercolors*
Angela Woo, guest conductor
- Giovanni Santos *I Dream Awake* - Concerto for
Winds & Alto Saxophone (World
Premiere)
Dr. Andrew Harrison,
alto saxophone
- Intermission—
- Steven Mahpar *Simurgh* (World Premiere)
Peter Hanna, oud
- Eric Whitacre *Lux Aurumque (Light and Gold)*
Damien Crutcher, guest conductor
- Eric Whitacre *Godzilla Eats Las Vegas!*

OFFICIAL
TV STATION



OFFICIAL
HOTEL

AVENUE OF THE ARTS
COSTA MESA

TRIBUTE PORTFOLIO

OFFICIAL
MUSIC STATION



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

PROGRAM NOTES



Norwegian composer Johan Halvorsen (1864-1935) began his musical career not as a composer at all, but rather as a violinist. One of the leading Scandinavian virtuosi of the late 19th century, he began his professional career as a professor of violin in Helsinki. While there, he became friends with fellow violinist and composer Ferruccio Busoni (1866-1924), one of the leading advocates of musical modernism in the early decades of the 20th century. Halvorsen also maintained a close friendship with famed composer and fellow Norwegian Edvard Grieg, orchestrating some of his piano music and marrying his niece. In addition to teaching and performing on the violin, Halvorsen also conducted theater orchestras in Bergen and Oslo.

Written in 1893, *Entry March of the Boyars* owes its existence to a job offer that was turned down. Earlier that year, the composer had been offered a teaching position at Bucharest Conservatory but turned it down in order to accept a conducting post at the Bergen Symphony Orchestra in Norway. Although he did not accept the position in Bucharest, he read a great deal about the city and became fascinated by its history. Today, the capital of Romania had been home to Count Vlad III ("The Impaler"), the inspiration for Bram Stoker's famous novel *Dracula*. Formerly a part of the Ottoman Empire, Russia occupied the city twice during the 18th century. The "boyars" referred to in the work's title had been members of the Russian and other Slavic aristocracies. Powerful rulers, boyars had formed the second aristocratic tier, one level down from princes.

Depicting faraway locales, the work's chromatic harmonies are tinged with exoticism. The stately yet lively music features a vivacious dance-like figure in the orchestral accompaniment, a figure that pervades the entire work and provides rhythmic excitement. The opening section is repeated in a more cheerful echo before a stately and jubilant grand march. The abrupt transition from middle section to recapitulation, with a jarringly sudden change in key, orchestration, texture, tempo and dynamics, serves to heighten the sense of exoticism. 🌿

Brian Balmages (b.1975) has enjoyed a prolific career. In addition to composing, he is also a conductor, performer and producer. He received his bachelor's degree from James Madison University and a master's degree from the University of Miami. Currently, he is serving as professor of instrumental conducting and as band director at Towson University, near Baltimore. In 2013, Balmages had the high honor of composing music for the inaugural prayer service during President Barack Obama's second term.

Excerpted notes from Brian Balmages: "Many often underestimate the extensive colors, harmonies and emotional range that are often achievable in younger ensembles. It is in this spirit that the musical lines of *Rippling Watercolors* were born. This was not meant to be a lyrical piece for younger ensembles; rather, it was written as a fully expressive lyrical work that happens to be playable by younger ensembles. I believe there is a significant difference. No phrases were truncated, no ranges were "limited" and no rhythms were watered down for the sake of playability. This piece just happens to be attainable by younger groups, yet the music exists exactly as it would even if I had written this for a college group."

"The idea for this piece came from a simple set of watercolors... When children get hold of these and use their imagination, the most amazing things can happen. Children can see things that adults never see. They open our minds while we help them grow and learn. With a little imagination, these watercolors can become a magnificent sunrise or sunset over the ocean, a gorgeous view from a mountaintop, or an image of a supernova in space. The smallest drop can change the pattern and create something entirely new, either with a brush or entirely within nature." 🌿

PROGRAM NOTES



Puerto Rican native Giovanni Santos (b. 1980) moved to California in 1990. The son of a Cuban father and Dominican mother, Santos received a Bachelor of Music from La Sierra University in Riverside and a masters degree in music from USC in 2007. Currently a professor of music and the director of wind and percussion studies at La Sierra University, Santos conducts several ensembles, including big band and wind ensembles. Among his many honors and accomplishments, he has had work premiered by the United States Naval Academy Brass Band Ensemble at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, with himself as conductor.

I Dream Awake, Concerto for Winds and Alto Saxophone was inspired by the poem "I Dream Awake" by Cuban poet José Martí (1853-1895), a politician and revolutionary. 🌙



Based in Los Angeles, Steven Mahpar has written music in a variety of genres for the concert hall, film and television. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from California State University Fullerton. Active as a performer as well as a composer, he plays and teaches French horn and conducts the Pacific Brass Ensemble. Many of his compositions have been inspired by his Persian heritage.

Simurgh was written as a celebration of Nowruz, the Iranian new year. The title of the work refers to the simurgh, a fabled bird in Persian mythology. An enormous creature, the animal combines the body of a peacock, the head of a dog and the claws of a lion. According to legend, it is large enough to carry away elephants. An ancient being, it has witnessed the destruction of the world three times and possesses almost limitless knowledge. Possessing magical qualities, the bird can heal any wound or disease. 🌙




Eric Whitacre (b. 1970), a native of Reno, Nevada, has made an international name for himself in music. Having won many national and international prizes in composition, Whitacre is one of today's rising stars of classical music. Particularly known for choral and wind ensemble music, he played synthesizer in a pop band as a high school student and originally sought to become a rock star. He received his master's degree in composition at Juilliard, where he studied with John Corigliano and David Diamond. Unlike many 20th-century composers, Whitacre aims for accessibility and audience appeal in his music. Like many others in this generation of composers, Whitacre's music truly speaks to today's audiences, combining a deceptive surface simplicity with a harmonic sophistication. Slow, drawn-out melodies and smooth textures create floating halos of sound, while at the same time, he uses tone clusters and draws his harmonic palate from extended triads, seconds, fourths, and fifths.

Whitacre's highly acclaimed *Lux Aurumque* was composed in 2009. Originally written for mixed choir, it was based on the poem "Light and Gold" written by Whitacre under the pseudonym Edward Esch. Whitacre based his setting on a translation of this text into Latin by Charles Anthony Silvestri. The piece was composed for a project entitled "Virtual Choir," a unique undertaking made possible by 21st-century technology: using video communication technology, Whitacre recorded the piece entirely in cyberspace. Instead of a traditional chorus with everyone physically present in the same room in front of a conductor, the Virtual Choir combined an assortment of individual recordings by 185 singers from twelve countries spanning five continents. Singers from all backgrounds, both amateur and professional, joined in on the project from professional recording studios or from their own homes. The completed project was uploaded onto the popular website YouTube and stands as a miraculous emergence of beauty through technology. The piece is in a beautifully accessible style, yet one that is deceptively simple. Its rich melodies and lush counterpoint are underlain by complex harmonic structures. Smooth rhythms, long, sustained textures, and quiet dynamics combine with harmonies enriched with seconds and other dissonances to create a glowing, shimmering halo

of sound that brings to mind the unity of humankind. The full text of Whitaker/Esch's poem is available in the online program notes via the QR code.

Whitacre wrote ***Godzilla Eats Las Vegas!*** after graduating from the University of Nevada Las Vegas, where he attended for seven years. He was asked by Tom Leslie (the university's director of wind band studies) to write a piece for the ensemble; the work that took shape represents Whitacre's ambiguous feelings after spending a perhaps longer period of time than he originally intended in pursuing his bachelor's degree. He wrote the piece during his first year at Juilliard, and it premiered in 1996 at UNLV. The piece was never intended as a serious piece of concert music. On the contrary, Whitacre deliberately wrote the most ridiculous music he could imagine. As he explains it, "The performers are encouraged to go crazy: wear showgirl costumes, Elvis costumes, act out scenes on stage, use video and lighting—anything to get a laugh."

The piece is accompanied by a script which is available in the online program notes via the QR code as well as at this link: <https://ericwhitacre.com/music-catalog/godzilla-eats-las-vegas>. 

Joshua Grayson Ph.D is an historical musicologist and graduate of the USC Thompton School of Music, and the program note annotator for Pacific Symphony Youth Ensembles

MEET THE CONDUCTORS



Dr. Gregory X. Whitmore is an assistant professor of instrumental music education at the California State University, Fullerton School of Music. In this capacity, he teaches in the Instrumental Music Education Program, supervises student teachers and conducts the CSUF Symphonic Winds. In addition to his work in higher education, Whitmore is in his eighth season as music director of Pacific Symphony Youth Wind Ensemble. This follows appointments as Director of Bands at Irvine Valley College (Irvine, CA), Mt. San Antonio College (Walnut, CA), and College of the Desert (Palm Desert, CA). Prior to his work in higher education, Whitmore spent 13 years as Director of Bands at Cathedral City High School (Cathedral City, CA). A native of Ypsilanti, Michigan Whitmore received his bachelor's degree in instrumental music education from the University of Michigan School of Music, Theater and Dance in Ann Arbor, Michigan. While a student at the University of Michigan, Whitmore performed in the University of Michigan Bands; and led the University of Michigan Marching Band as "Michigan's Man Up Front"—Drum Major—from 1999 to 2001. Whitmore received his master's degree in music with an emphasis in wind conducting from California State University, Fullerton studying under Dr. Mitchell Fennell. Whitmore also holds masters degree and a doctorate in music and music education from Columbia University (Teachers College) in New York City. Dr. Gregory Whitmore has conducted ensembles in notable concert venues as The Golden Hall of The Musikverein (Vienna), The Wiener Konzerthaus (Vienna), The MuTh (Vienna), Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, Symphony Hall (Chicago), The Kennedy Center (Washington, D.C.), Carnegie Hall (New York City), Walt Disney Concert Hall (Los Angeles), Meng Hall (Fullerton, California), Holy Trinity Church (Stratford, England), St. John's Smith Square (London), Chateau Vaux le Vicomte (Paris) and Heidelberg Castle (Germany). Under Dr. Whitmore's direction, the Cathedral City High School Symphony Band was selected to perform as the showcase ensemble during the 2008 California Band Directors Association Annual Convention. Whitmore is the Second Place Winner of the 2017 American Prize in Conducting. He belongs to professional organizations that include College Band Directors National Association, Kappa Kappa Psi Honorary Band Fraternity, Alpha Delta Phi Fraternity, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity, Pi Kappa Lambda Honor Society, The National Association for Music Education, Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association, and the California Music Educators Association. With a research interest in music educator values as operationalized into pedagogy, in addition to investigating the concert band as an artistic medium, Whitmore has presented research at music education symposia in the United States and abroad. His research has been published in *Visions of Research in Music Education*. He is

a recognized member of Academic Key's *Who's Who in Community College Education*, as well as four editions of *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*. Whitmore has been included in the 2005-06 Edition of the National Honor Roll's Outstanding American Teachers. Whitmore was selected to represent the State of California by *School Band and Orchestra Magazine* in the 2008 edition of 50 Band Directors Who Make A Difference. Learn more at GWhitmore.com



Angela Woo is the inaugural music director of Pacific Symphony Concert Band which makes its debut during the 2022-23 season. Woo is Director of Instrumental Music and Chair of the Department of Visual and Performing Arts at John Adams Middle School in Santa Monica, California where nearly 300 students comprise three concert bands and three string orchestras. The John Adams ensembles have consistently earned the highest possible ratings at performance festivals. In 2011, the John Adams Middle School Wind Ensemble was selected to perform at the inaugural California All-State Music Education Conference as the only middle school concert band in the state.

For over 25 years, Angela Woo has enjoyed an active schedule as a guest conductor, clinician and adjudicator with numerous honor groups, conducting symposia and music festivals throughout the United States and internationally. She was the first woman to conduct at the 1992 XIV New Music Forum in Mexico City; she premiered the music of Karel Husa, Vincent Persichetti, George Crumb and William Schuman. In 2018, Woo was guest conductor at the State Honours Ensemble Program at the Queensland Conservatorium (Griffith University) in Brisbane, Australia. At the national level, she has been invited by several universities to lead professional development workshops for music educators at the elementary and secondary levels. Her guest conducting invitations have included All-State honor bands and orchestras at the middle school and high school levels in Kentucky, Oregon, Michigan, Colorado, California and Georgia. Most recently, Woo was invited to join the WorldStrides Honors Performance Series to conduct the 2019 Middle School Orchestra and the 2020 High School Symphony Orchestra, both in Carnegie Hall.

An alumna of the University of California, Los Angeles, Angela Woo has a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education and Piano Performance, Master of Education, and Master of Fine Arts in Conducting. She also holds the Master of Arts in Educational Administration from California State University, Northridge. Prior to her appointment to John Adams Middle School in 1995, Woo was director of Music at Corona del Mar High School in Orange County,

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

California where she led the band, orchestra, choral and jazz ensembles. She also served as conductor of the Santa Monica College Wind Ensemble during the 1995-96 season.

Angela Woo is a staunch advocate for music education at all levels. She has been recognized and honored as the 2005 Santa Monica-Malibu District Teacher of the Year by the Santa Monica Rotary Club. In 2012, the John Philip Sousa National Foundation awarded her the Legion of Honor Laureate, honoring band directors with outstanding music programs. In 2019, the Education Through Music-Los Angeles Foundation presented her with its Shining Star Award which recognizes excellence in music education. In 2020, the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association honored Woo with its Gold Award in recognition of her long-time service to music education.



Dr. Andrew Harrison is acclaimed as “a technical virtuoso with singing musicality (Andrew Davis, Award Winning Composer),” and a “magician showing off his tricks (www.austin360.com).” He has emerged as one of today’s most unique and engaging musicians, which has led him to perform hundreds of concerts throughout the United States and Europe as both a chamber musician and soloist. He has placed in numerous national competitions, including the MTNA Competition, Frances Walton Competition, and the U.S. “Pershing’s Own” Collegiate Concerto Competition.

An advocate for contemporary saxophone music, Dr. Harrison has premiered over 30 new works by emerging and preeminent composers including Joel Love, Steven Bryant, Joel Puckett, and Jennifer Higdon, among others, which range from solo works to large ensemble premieres. This season, Dr. Harrison is performing world premiere performances of *Mobius Trip* by Jim Stephenson, and *Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Wind Ensemble* by Jules Pegram, which won the 2018 Fredrick Fennell prize.

Dr. Harrison has recorded on several decorated albums, including *Shadow of Sirius* and *Places in the West* with the University of Texas Wind Ensemble, and *Over the Rainbow* and *Bach Again* with the TexSax Saxophone Ensemble. As an engineer and producer, Dr. Harrison has worked on several albums as well, including *TC4*, and his debut solo album, *In the City: New Works for Saxophone and Piano*, featuring new works for saxophone and piano. Currently, he is producing two albums simultaneously, *Albatross*, featuring four works by living female composers by the Uproar Duo, and *Seul*, featuring works for saxophone alone.

Currently, Dr. Harrison serves on the faculty of Mt. San Antonio College, Cerritos College, and the French Conservatory of Music, and previously served as the Saxophone Mentor Artist at the Colburn School. Dr. Harrison holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts degree from the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, and a Masters degree from the University of Texas at Austin Butler School of Music. His teachers have included legendary saxophone soloist, Harvey Pittel, and LA Philharmonic Saxophonists James Rotter and Douglas Masek. Dr. Harrison is an endorsing artist with Eastman Winds, and performs exclusively on their 52nd Street Saxophones.



Damien Crutcher is a Detroit native and graduate of Cass Technical High School. He holds a bachelor’s degree in Music Education from Michigan State University and a master’s degree in Conducting from the University of Michigan. Damien studied horn with Bryan Kennedy and Doug Campbell and conducting with Dr. Ronnie Wooten and Professor H. Robert Reynolds.

After graduating from the University of Michigan, Crutcher served as director of bands and orchestra at Southfield-Lathrup High School. Under his direction, the Southfield-Lathrup ensembles, including the Lathrup Symphony Band, have performed in San Francisco, Chicago, the Bahamas, the White House, and Carnegie Hall. Many of his students from Southfield Lathrup are currently professional musicians, music teachers and artists across the country.

He is currently the co-founder and CEO of Crescendo Detroit. Crescendo Detroit is a nonprofit whose mission is to transform the lives of school-aged children ages 5-18 in Detroit by engaging kids in intense instrumental music, vocal music and dance programs that promote artistic excellence and character-building. It is the goal of Crescendo Detroit to create a neighborhood-to-college pipeline using the arts. Damien is a frequent guest conductor and clinician throughout Michigan and Ohio and also serves as the conductor of the Farmington Community Band and the Detroit Community Concert Band.



Oud player and composer Peter A. Hanna was born in Alexandria, Egypt. He started his music career when he first learned to play the oud at the age of 14. He was taught at "Arabic Oud House" in Cairo, founded by world-renowned oud player Naseer Shamma. He has participated in many festivals and performed with different bands in Egypt and the United States. He was a member of The Bibliotheca Alexandrina's choir. Hanna composes, produces and teaches Arabic music and also plays the piano. He is currently working on his music degree. 🌙

PACIFIC SYMPHONY YOUTH WIND ENSEMBLE

Dr. Gregory X. Whitmore, Music Director | Nicole Kroesen, Pacific Symphony Youth Wind Ensemble Manager

2021-22 Season

Sections listed alphabetically under principal

FLUTE

Emma McCanne, *principal*
Tiffany Chen
Ashley Lee
Dayoon (Jamie) Lee
Tammy Pao*
Xiaoka (Evelyn) Wu

OBOE

Allison Lee, *principal*
Alli Huang†

CLARINET

Andrew Chung, *principal*
Matthew Chandler
Allison Chang†
Samuel Choi
Luc Eldridge
Rachel Gima
Ian Kim
Andrew Lee
Daniel Lee
Nicholas Park
Ian Tam
Hina Tamaki†
John Yang
Erik Zarskus

BASS CLARINET

Ethan Huang†
Fernando Valencia†

BASSOON

Arim (Ariana) Kim, *principal*
Anika Regli
Elianna Ruacho

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Zachary Lin, *principal*
Noah Chang
Samuel Dishon†
Kyle Kato†
Andrew Vitt
Yifan (Ivan) Wang
William Xia

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Darren Qiu, *principal*
Jordan Li†
Jonathan Zepeda

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Luke Toner, *principal*

HORN

Aby Liebmann, *principal*
Andrew Fung
Yiyu (Ella) Huang
Ryan McGee†
Keilah Park
Julia Swanson

TRUMPET

Tim Healy, *principal*
Dhruv Kagatimath
Daniel Lee
Joseph Lewis
Ian Yoon

BASSOON

Arim (Ariana) Kim, *principal*
Anika Regli
Elianna Ruacho

TROMBONE

Cooper Randeem, *principal*
Caroline Hsu
Tobias Izenberg
Ernest Lopez†
Sophia Renger
Carlo Rabano†

BASS TROMBONE

Jase Gooden, *principal*

EUPHONIUM

Erin Miyahara, *co-principal*
Jillian Ran, *co-principal*
Elton Manchester
Richard Wise†

TUBA

Mason Miazga, *principal*
Samuel Gonzales
Vanessa Jimenez†

Ryan Klotz
Daniel Li
Brian Linares†
Alexander Tran†

PERCUSSION

Elliot Shiwota, *principal*
Eric Bae
Audrey Lee
Viraj Sonawala†
Savannah Tweed†
David Wong
Joshua Zepeda†

PIANO

Katie Velez, *principal*

DOUBLE BASS

Raymond Tsukada, *principal*

STAFF

Nicole Kroesen
Youth Wind Ensemble Manager

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Arnold O. Beckman High School
Capistrano Valley High School
Chino Hills High School
Crean Lutheran High School
Diamond Bar High School
Eleanor Roosevelt High School
Hope Christian PSP
Northwood High School
Orange County School of the Arts
Portola High School
Rancho San Joaquin Middle School
Redlands High School
Redondo Union High School
Sage Hill School
Santiago High School
South Pasadena High School
Troy High School
University High School
Valencia High School
Vista Verde
Walnut High School

*Piccolo
†PSYWE Alumni

PACIFIC SYMPHONY YOUTH ENSEMBLES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jerry Huang* *Board Chair*

Elizabeth Stahr* *Lifetime Director & Distinguished Counselor Emeritus to the Board*

Rosalind Britton

Wendy Hua Castille

Sherry Chen

David Dunford

Tony Ellis

Joyce Hanson

Hans Imhof †

Sheng Jiang

Kari Kerr

Sarah Koo

Katie (Chung Min) Lee

Suzy Lee

Michelle Li

Anyi Liu

Ian McKinnell

Dot Nelson

Herb Roth

Elaine Sarkaria

Janice Smith

Walter Stahr

Alan Terricciano

MarlaJoy Weisshaar

Larry Woody

David Yeung

PACIFIC SYMPHONY YOUTH ENSEMBLES EX-OFFICIO BOARD & STAFF

Carl St.Clair*

Music Director, Pacific Symphony

John Forsythe*

President, Pacific Symphony

Eileen Jeanette

*Senior Vice President of Artistic
Planning & Production, Pacific
Symphony*

Shawne Natalia Zarubica

*Managing Director, Pacific Symphony
Youth Ensembles, Pacific Symphony*

Joe Schillaci

*Director of Major Gifts, Pacific
Symphony*

Irene Kroesen

*Music Director, Pacific Symphony
Santiago Strings*

Jacob Sustaita

*Music Director, Pacific Symphony
Youth Orchestra & Assistant
Conductor of Pacific Symphony*

Gregory X. Whitmore

*Music Director, Pacific Symphony
Youth Wind Ensemble*

Angela Woo

*Music Director, Pacific Symphony
Youth Concert Band*

Nicole Kroesen

*Youth Wind Ensemble Manager &
PSYE Auditions Coordinator, Pacific
Symphony*

Jared Brown

*Youth Orchestra Manager,
Pacific Symphony*

Mel Domingo

*Santiago Strings Manager,
Pacific Symphony*

Haiyang Wang

*Youth Concert Band Manager,
Pacific Symphony*

Bridget Bow

*Santiago Strings String Coach,
Pacific Symphony*

Danielle Liu

*Youth Quartet Coordinator,
Pacific Symphony*

**Also member of Board of Directors for
Pacific Symphony*

† Pacific Symphony Life Director