



Pacific Symphony

YOUTH CONCERT BAND

SIMPLE GIFTS: NEW BEGINNINGS

Sunday, Nov. 20, 2022 @ 1 p.m.

Angela Woo, conductor

PSYWE percussionists, guest artists:

Audrey Lee

Savannah Tweedt

Lyric Khan

Elliot Shiwota, guest conductor & PSYCB
percussion coach

Pacific Symphony Youth Concert Band

The afternoon's performance is generously
sponsored by **Hans and Valerie Imhof.**

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

PROGRAM

TODD STALTER

Clouds That Sail In Heaven

JODIE BLACKSHAW

Whirlwind

PATRICK SPERANZA

In the Sky

Pacific Symphony Youth Wind
Ensemble Percussionists
Elliot Shiwota, guest conductor

FRANK TICHELI

Simple Gifts:

Four Shaker Songs

I: *In Yonder Valley*

II: *Dance*

III: *Here Take this Lovely Flower*

IV: *Simple Gifts*

BRIAN BALMAGES

Marche Diabolique

TRADITIONAL,

Arr. by Robert Sheldon

Black is the Color...

RICHARD MEYER

The Ayres of Agincourt



Scan here for full
program notes.

Pacific Symphony Youth Concert Band

Angela Woo • Music Director

Jonathan Bergeron • Youth Concert Band Manager

2022-23 Concert Season. Sections listed alphabetically.

FLUTE

Kaya Baird
Jocelyn Huang
Nethra Iyer
Siyu (Chelsea) Jiang
Euna Kim
Jia Kim
Claire Liu
Jacqueline Tseng
Chloe Yang
Emily Zhao

OBOE

Connor Shim
Ahri Shin

CLARINET

Mason Ahn
Ethan Choo
Daniel Chung
Chloe Jang
Seongwon (Wonny) Jang
Doyoon Lee
Anthony Park
Eric Wong
Isabelle Yang
Gemma Yun

BASS CLARINET

Courtney Lee

BASSOON

Ryan Crawford
Sohrab Zarin

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Renaldo Chang
Brandon Chien
Jayden Lee
Nolan Nelson

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Armaan Diwan
Conner Hearron

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Megan Chou
Kota Watanabe

FRENCH HORN

Ethan Crawford
Yujia (Aurora) Li
Rico Xu

TRUMPET

Joonseo (Alvin) Chung
Kaitlyn Chung
Minseo (Leon) Chung
Yuheng (Larry) Li
Eric Zhu
*Jayden Peng
*Rudy Xool

TROMBONE

Brian Berchtold
Sierra Greany
Jaden Jung
Kaden Kwak
Ada Mjolsness
Adrian Perez
Owen Ramos

EUPHONIUM

Tehmina Zarin
*Hsin-Ju (Lucy) Wu

TUBA

Victor Muro

PERCUSSION

Vivienne Hsi
Alexander Liu
Talon Lu
Elonzo Motus
Jungwoo (Ian) Park
Rohan Shah
Oliver Shiwota

STAFF

Tatiana Giesler
Brass Coach
Jasmine Jauregui
Woodwinds Coach
Elliot Shiwota
Percussion Coach

SCHOOLS REPRESENTED

Arnold O. Beckman High School
Beacon Park School
Brea Junior High School
Brea Olinda High School
Cadence Park School
Canyon View Elementary School
Chaparral Middle School
Citrus Hills Intermediate School
D. Russell Parks Jr. High School
El Rancho Charter Middle School
Irvine High School
Jeffrey Trail Middle School
John Adams Middle School
Lakeside Middle School
LePort Montessori School
Irvine Spectrum
Northwood High School
Orange County School of the Arts
Orchard Hills Middle School
Oxford Academy
Plaza Vista School
Portola High School
Rancho San Joaquin Middle School
Sage Hill School
Santa Margarita Catholic High School
Santa Monica High School
Sierra Vista Middle School
South Pointe Middle School
St. Margaret's Episcopal School
University High School
Valencia High School
Villa Park High School
Vista Verde
Yorba Linda High School

*PSYWE Mentor

The Pacific Symphony Youth Wind Ensemble Mentorship Program is a new collaborative opportunity for members of both PSYWE and PSYCB. As musicians who are committed to the art of performance, PSYWE Mentors participate in PSYCB rehearsals and performances, offering musical guidance while enhancing the artistry of young musicians. Through the Mentorship Program, PSYWE musicians gain invaluable experience in developing leadership skills while establishing lasting connections with PSYCB students.

ABOUT THE MUSIC DIRECTOR



Angela Woo is the inaugural Music Director of Pacific Symphony Youth Concert Band (PSYCB), which makes its debut during the 2022-23 season. Ms. Woo is Director of Instrumental Music and Chair of the Department of Visual and Performing Arts at John Adams Middle School in Santa

Monica, CA 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 to be so honored.

For over 25 years, Ms. 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. Angela Woo 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, Ms. Woo was guest conductor at the State Honours Ensemble Program at the Queensland Conservatorium (Griffith University) in Brisbane, Australia. At the national level, Ms. Woo 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, Ms. Woo was invited to join the WorldStrides Honors Performance Series to conduct the 2019 and 2022 Middle School Orchestra as well as the 2020 High School Symphony Orchestra in Carnegie Hall (New York).

An alumna of the University of California, Los Angeles, Ms. Woo holds the degrees 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, Ms. Woo was Director of Music at Corona del Mar High School in Orange County, CA 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.

Ms. 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 Ms. Woo the Legion of Honor Laureate, honoring band directors with outstanding music programs. In 2019, the Education Through Music - Los Angeles Foundation presented Ms. Woo with its Shining Star Award which recognizes excellence in music education. In 2020, the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association honored Ms. Woo with its Gold Award in recognition of her long-time service to music education.

ABOUT PACIFIC SYMPHONY YOUTH CONCERT BAND

In this their inaugural season, Pacific Symphony Youth Concert Band (PSYCB) is our newest addition to the PSYE family of ensembles. Founded in 2022 through the generous sponsorship and advocacy of Hans and Valerie Imhof, PSYCB is led by renowned music educator Angela Woo, and benefits from the artistic guidance of Pacific Symphony Music Director Carl St.Clair.

Representing middle schools throughout the SoCal region, PSYCB provides an experience that nurtures the confidence, poise, and musical sensitivity of young musicians through the study and performance of outstanding concert band literature. PSYCB serves instrumentalists in grades six through nine and is one of four Youth Ensemble programs offered by Pacific Symphony.

Each season, students enjoy rehearsal time with Maestro Carl St.Clair as well as interactions with guest artists and Pacific Symphony musicians. Students also engage in an annual weekend retreat and are offered free and discounted tickets to Pacific Symphony performances throughout the season.

PSYCB presents a two-concert series each season at the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts. Rehearsals for PSYCB take place on Sundays from 5-7 p.m. at the University of California, Irvine. The ensemble season begins in August and ends in May of each season.

Members are selected through annual auditions which take place each Spring.

PROGRAM NOTES



Todd Stalter (b. 1966) serves as the director of bands in Eureka High School in Eureka, Illinois. He also teaches general music to elementary school students from kindergarten through fourth grade and is the chair of the high school fine arts department. An active performer, Stalter has served

as the principal trumpeter and arranger for brass band at Grace Presbyterian Church in Peoria, Illinois. As a composer, he has won many awards and captured critical esteem. His music has been performed widely in the United States, Great Britain, Ireland, Australia, Japan, and in other countries.

Clouds that Sail in Heaven was commissioned by the Washington High School Symphonic Winds ensemble. The piece premiered in 2005 at the Illinois Music Educators Association All-State Conference and was published in 2007. A musical fanfare, the work is based on "All Creatures of Our God and King," a hymn whose text was written in 1225 by St. Francis of Assisi. The hymn was set to music in the early 20th century by William Henry Draper (1855-1933), an English clergyman who composed approximately sixty hymns during his career.

Text:

1. All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
[Chorus]
Alleluia! Oh, praise Him! Alleluia!

2. Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice;
Ye light of evening, find a voice,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

3. Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
Make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
That gives to man both warmth and light,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

4. Dear Mother Earth, who day by day
Unfoldest blessings on our way,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
The flow'rs and fruits that in thee grow,
Let them his glory also show,
Alleluia! Alleluia!



A native of rural southeastern Australia, **Jodie Blackshaw** (b. 1971) has been highly active in the field of early childhood music education. In her own words, she aims "to offer every child who participates in a school music ensemble the opportunity to voice, share and explore their creative

spirit in a safe and nurturing environment." She aspires to foster in her students "a strong sense of self love, self-worth and self-awareness that they carry with them throughout their life." Blackshaw received a PhD in composition from Australian National University in 2020.

Blackshaw is devoted to the ideals of equality and inclusion and is a particularly strong advocate of composers from Indigenous and underrepresented nationalities. In addition, she frequently uses her music to advocate for environmentalism and endangered species.



Published in 2006, *Whirlwind* is based on a single melody repeated in unison and in canon. The piece is notable for using only four notes. The composition uses several unusual percussion instruments, including handmade waterglass and whirling tubes. The work won

First Prize in the Frank Ticheli Composition Contest in 2006.

A professor of composition at the USC Thornton School of Music since 1991, **Frank Ticheli** (b.1958) has composed music in a wide variety of forms and genres. Having spent the earliest part of his childhood in Louisiana, Ticheli now lists Cajun, Creole, New Orleans jazz, and Southern Folk music as some of his most important influences. A native of Monroe, Louisiana, his initial exposure to music was New Orleans jazz. After relocating to suburban Dallas at the age of thirteen,

he became exposed to band music at his high school's award-winning music program. These two early influences can be heard in many of his award-winning compositions.

Through the public school system, Ticheli gained an appreciation for the inherent potentials of this ensemble. Ever since then, he has been fascinated by instrumental colors. He often utilizes transparent, pure colors, carefully avoiding the overuse of tutti. In nearly all of his music, Ticheli aims for transparency of texture and pureness of tone color, saving full tutti for rare occasions. Explaining his philosophy of orchestration, he has remarked:

To be certain, carefully written color combinations can produce unique and beautiful results, and well-mixed colors are usually a necessity during a strong climax. But constant doubling weighs down a piece and reduces its expressive potential. Unfortunately, this sound is so prevalent in band music that many listeners accept it as "the band sound." I certainly understand one reason for the practice. Music educators, seeking ways to encourage greater confidence in their students, have been drawn to thick doublings as a kind of musical insurance policy. But ironically, this leads to a dependency-based relationship that ultimately keeps students down. I try to provide an alternative for young musicians by writing somewhat leaner, more transparent textures. When students are expected to carry the ball from time to time, they ultimately become more confident, more self-aware, and more sensitive.

Ticheli composed **Simple Gifts: Four Shaker Songs** in 2002. In his program notes on the piece, Ticheli explained that "In setting these songs, I sought subtle ways to preserve their simple, straightforward beauty."

Founded in eighteenth-century England by Ann Lee (1736-1784), the Shakers are a religious community which emigrated to the American colonies in 1774, on the eve of the Revolutionary War. Formally named "Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing," the Shakers are devoted to simple living and worship of God through vigorous dancing in order to achieving "Christian perfection" in this world. At their height in the 1840s there were approximately twenty Shaker communities in the United States, from Maine to Indiana. Although their numbers declined significantly after the Civil War, in fact the group still exists—a single Shaker community survives to the present day in Maine, with a population of three (recently expanded from two). The Shakers produced approximately 10,000 melodies for their worship and community devotions.

The piece's first movement, "In Yonder Valley," is based on the oldest surviving Shaker song. Written by Father James Whittaker (1751-1787), who came to America with the first group of Shakers in 1774, its text and music are a celebration of nature. The second

movement, "Dance," is based on a melody from the 1830s. The third movement, "Here Take This Lovely Flower," is based on a Shaker lullaby which, in Ticheli's words, "embodies the Shakers' ideal of childlike simplicity." The final movement is based on the song "Simple Gifts," a "dancing song" composed in 1848 by Joseph Brackett (1797-1882) for use in the Shaker community of Alfred, Maine. By far the most famous of the Shakers' songs, it was published in the book *The Gift to Be Simple: Songs, Dances and Rituals of the American Shakers* by Edward Deming Andrews. The song was famously used in the climax of Aaron Copland's ballet *Appalachian Spring* (1944).

Texts:

In Yonder Valley

In yonder valley there flows sweet union;
Let us arise and drink our fill.
The winter's past and the spring appears;
The turtle dove is in our land.
In yonder valley there flows sweet union;
Let us arise, and drink our fill.

Dance

Virgins cloth'd in a clean white garment,
How they move in a band of love,
Comforts flow in a mighty current,
We shall drink at the fountains above.

Yea, we will rejoice with freedom,
In this straight little narrow way,
Here is the fold and the lambs all feeding,
On this green we'll skip and play.

Here Take this Lovely Flower
Here take this lovely flower
Thy mother sent to thee,
Cull'd from her lovely bower
Of sweet simplicity.

O place it near thy bosom
And keep it pure and bright,
For in such lovely flowers
The angels take delight.

Simple Gifts

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.
When true simplicity is gained,
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,
To turn, turn will be our delight,
Till by turning, turning we come 'round right.



A composer and devoted music educator, **Robert Sheldon** (b. 1954) received a Bachelor of Music in music education from the University of Miami and a Master of Fine Arts in instrumental conducting from the University of Florida. He received an honorary doctorate in music education from VanderCook College of Music.

Sheldon has taught music in public schools in both Florida and Illinois. He has also taught music education and conducting and led concert bands at Florida State University. In addition to his educational duties, Sheldon served as director of concert band publications at Alfred Music for seventeen years. Active as a composer and conductor, his music has been performed worldwide.

Black Is the Color... is an arrangement of the traditional folk song "Black Is the Color of My True Love's Hair." The song is known as a folk song from the Appalachian Mountains in the eastern United States, but probably originated in Scotland. In some versions, the lyrics refer to the river Clyde, the third-longest river in Scotland.

Text:

Black is the color of my true love's hair,
Her lips are something rosy fair.
The prettiest face and the daintiest hands,
I love the grass whereon she stands.

I love my love, and well she knows,
I love the grass whereon she goes.
If she on earth no more I see,
My life will quickly heed ye.

I'll go to troublesome to mourn, to weep,
But satisfied, I ne'er shall sleep.
I'll write her a note in a few little lines,
And suffer death ten thousand times.

Black is the color of my true love's hair,
Her lips are something rosy fair.
The prettiest face and the daintiest hands,
I love the grass whereon she stands.



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 at President Barack Obama's second term.

Marche Diabolique was commissioned by the North Carolina Bandmasters Association Eastern District for the 2014 All-District Middle School Symphonic Band. The piece uses a melody based on the *Dies Irae*, a thirteenth-century Latin chant describing the Last Judgment which is traditionally used in Catholic masses in memory of deceased individuals. One of the most famous chant melodies in the repertoire, it has been used by composers for hundreds of years to represent death, the unwholesome, and the grotesque. In his program notes on the work, Balmages explained that "I often like to take traditional styles of music and rework them in a completely new way."



Richard Meyer has led an active musical career in the Southern California area. Extremely involved in middle and high school music education, he was until recently the conductor of the Pasadena Youth Orchestra. He has composed over 170 musical works.

Ayres of Agincourt was inspired by the Battle of Agincourt (1415), the decisive English victory in the Hundred Years' War (1337-1453) which was famously depicted in Shakespeare's play *Henry V* (1599). Its music was inspired by late medieval English folk songs. The piece was commissioned in 1993 by the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association All-Southern Junior High School Band.

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