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presents

Pacific Symphony Family Musical Mornings



ANNIVERSARY
— A SEASON OF DISCOVERY —
CARL ST. CLAIR MUSIC DIRECTOR



Halloween and Fabulous Fall Festivals

Saturday, Oct. 21 @ 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, Oct. 21 @ 11:30 a.m.

A celebration of the traditions, the magic and the fun that take place around the world during the fall: **Halloween, Día de los Muertos, Mid-Autumn Festival, Diwali**, and more. Dress in costume. Light a candle. Dance to the beat. Whatever your background, join the festivities and make memories to last a lifetime.

Lobby Activities: Enjoy special activities for kids in the concert hall lobby featuring traditions from our partner organizations and featuring games, educational and cultural activities, coloring, and photo ops. Activities start at 9 a.m. for 10 a.m. concertgoers, and 12:15 p.m. for 11:30 a.m. concertgoers. Audience members are invited to dress up in attire representing their cultural traditions or in their Halloween costume.



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F&M Farmers & Merchants Bank®
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Presents Pacific Symphony Family Musical Mornings

Jacob Sustaita, conductor
Joy Regullano, scriptwriter
Nick Luciano, stage director
Pacific Symphony

Joy Regullano, Tori
Vince Yap, Sam
Jesse Esparaza, Tony
Amita Batra, Diya
Rachel Oliveros-Catalano, La Catrina
Moises Vazquez, guitar
Israel Medina, bass
Alen Hansen, percussion
Chinese Dance Company of Southern California-
Cheer Pan, co-founder and executive director
Ella He, guzheng
Members of Arpana Dance Company-
Ramya Harishanker, artistic director
Nandini Kannan, Yashna Nandan &
Amrithabala Janahan, dancers

Aashray Harishankar, keyboard
Ravi Deo, tabla
Nikhita Kaushik, violin
Satvik Subbaraman, mridangam
Visalini Sundaram, vocalist

La Catrina costume, Gina Davidson

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

PROGRAM

JOHN WILLIAMS *"Hedwig's Theme" from Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone Suite*

SAINT-SAËNS *Danse macabre, Op. 40*

GRIEG *In the Hall of the Mountain King from Peer Gynt Suite No. 1*

LI WENPING *Jasmine Flower*
Chinese Dance Company of Southern California

TRADITIONAL *Yi Dance*
Arr. B. He
Ella He, guzheng
Chinese Dance Company of Southern California

LI HUANZHI *Spring Festival Overture*
Chinese Dance Company of Southern California



AMPARO OCHOA *"La Llorona"*
Arr. J. Roach
Rachel Oliveros-Catalano, vocalist

TRADITIONAL *"La Calaca"*
"La Bruja"
Rachel Oliveros-Catalano, vocalist
Moises Vazquez, guitar
Israel Medina, bass
Alen Hansen, percussion



AASHRAY
HARISHANKAR *Kalpataru*
Aashray Harishankar, keyboard
Ravi Deo, tabla
Kiran Athreya, violin
Sattvik, mridangam
Vini Sundaram, vocalist



JOHN WILLIAMS *Harry's Wondrous World*

Thank you to our community partners and their amazing organizations!
Their collaboration has been central to the creation of this special concert, and to the interactive activities in our lobby.

Sara Guerrero, Founding Artistic Director, Breath of Fire Latina Theater Ensemble

Viva La Vida

Harish Murthy, Executive Director, Ektaa Center

Rachel Wang, Director Community Engagement, South Coast Chinese Cultural Association/Irvine Chinese School

WELCOME TO THE 2023-24 SEASON!

Dear Friends,

Good morning and welcome! We have an awesome new season of **Family Musical Mornings Concerts** created just for you, and I am looking forward to sharing some thrilling musical adventures with you this year.

I am your conductor, **Jacob Sustaita**, and I am honored to share the stage with the fantastic **musicians** of **Pacific Symphony** and some wonderful guests who are here to help us present our first concert of the season—**HALLOWEEN AND FABULOUS FALL FESTIVALS**.



This morning, we are going to do something we have never done before—our concert is a celebration of all types of Fall traditions and festivities like **Halloween**, **Día de los Muertos**, **Mid-Autumn Festival**, and **Diwali**. Whatever your background, everyone will enjoy and be moved by the music, songs, instruments, and magic of today's concert.

This morning we **spotlight** our **GUEST MUSICIANS** and the **INSTRUMENTS** they play. I wonder what instrument you like the most. What is it about that instrument that you like so much? Since I'm a conductor, my favorite instrument is the **ORCHESTRA** (ALL THE INSTRUMENTS).

I hope you came dressed up and ready to have a great time! I hope to see you all at our next concert—**NUTCRACKER for KIDS!** This is going to be a great season, and I am so happy that you are joining us! From all of us at Pacific Symphony—**thank you** for your support and **we hope you enjoy!**

Always,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Jacob Sustaita". The signature is fluid and somewhat abstract, with overlapping loops and lines.

Dr. Jacob Sustaita
Assistant Conductor



ABOUT THE CONDUCTOR

Jacob Sustaita
Assistant Conductor for Pacific Symphony
Music Director for Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra
Mary E. Moore Family Assistant Conductor Chair

Dr. Jacob Sustaita serves as the Assistant Conductor for Pacific Symphony and Music Director Carl St.Clair, a position he has held since the fall of 2020. Dr. Sustaita also serves as Music Director and Conductor for Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra (PSYO), the premier training orchestra of Orange County, recognized as one of the most outstanding youth orchestras in the country.

Dr. Sustaita is the newly appointed Orchestra Director for the Orange County School of the Arts Symphony Orchestra. In the fall of 2021 and 2022, Sustaita served as Acting Director of Orchestras at the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at California State University Long Beach (CSULB). From 2015-20, he led the Sam Houston State University Symphony, Chamber, Ballet, and Opera Orchestras as Director of Orchestral Studies. In 2016, Sustaita and the Symphony Orchestra performed the American premiere of Anton Bruckner's Symphony No. 1 (original Linz version) with high praise from the American and European Bruckner Societies.

Dr. Sustaita is a frequent guest conductor and clinician across the country. In 2015, Sustaita was selected by Carnegie Hall's Weill Institute to serve as Assistant Conductor for Charles Dutoit and the National Youth Orchestra of America (NYO). Sustaita regularly conducted and coached the orchestra during its New York residency and on their seven-city tour of China and Hong Kong.

A native of Texas, Sustaita completed his Doctorate and Bachelor of Music degrees at the University of Houston, where he served as Assistant Conductor for the Moores Opera Center for three seasons. He also earned a Master of Music degree from both Penn State University and Rice University.

His honors include: Schissler Conducting Fellowship, Rice University Prize and Provost Fellowship, and American Prize semi-finalist and finalist. His teachers and mentors include Carl St.Clair, Charles Dutoit, Franz Krager, Brett Mitchell, Gerardo Edelstein, and Paavo Järvi.



ABOUT THE ARTISTS



JOY REGULLANO is a writer/actor/comedian based in LA who most recently wrote on the animated show *Monsters at Work* (based on *Monsters, Inc.*) on Disney Plus.

Previously, she

wrote on *Jelly, Ben, and Pogo* (a PBS Kids web series), *Kung Fu Panda: Dragon Knight* (Netflix/Dreamworks), the Netflix show *Healing Powers of Dude*, several Sesame Workshop digital shorts, and she was a Sesame Street writing fellow. TV acting credits include *Barry*, *Lincoln Lawyer*, *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*, *Modern Family*, *Speechless*, and *Supernatural*. She has performed improv and sketch around Los Angeles at UCB and Second City Hollywood. Her YouTube sketch *White Fetish* went viral with 1M+ views and has been featured in the *Huffington Post*, *Upworthy*, and more. Check out the concept album for her Asian American comedy musical *Supportive White Parents*, now available on all streaming platforms!



VINCE YAP is an actor, writer, and improviser hailing from Los Angeles. He has been featured in television shows such as *The Rookie*, *General Hospital*, and *American Horror Stories*. In

comedy, he has performed at the Upright Citizen's Brigade Theatre and in festivals such as San Francisco Sketch Fest and the Second Best Fest in Richmond, Virginia.



JESSE ESPARZA is a writer and comedian from Sacramento, Calif. After moving to Los Angeles in 2009, he began studying improv and sketch

comedy at the Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre where he put up the sold-out show *Tonya Harding The Musical*. While on a sketch team at the theater, he began writing pilots and was chosen for the NHMC writers' program and the Disney Writers program in 2019, which led to being staffed on *Mixed-ish* and *Maggie*.



AMITA BATRA is a story-driven choreographer, dancer, and actress who aims to be a testament to the fact that art is as boundless as the human spirit

that embodies it. Having formally trained in Kathak, the Indian classical art of storytelling, and contemporary dance, she brings a unique perspective to the world of stories. Notable credits include Aditya Chopra's Broadway-bound *DDLJ Musical* at the Old Globe Theater (Hardipa/Ensemble), Amit Patel & Ishika Seth's *Unguarded - Untold Stories of the Ramayana* (Sita), NBC-Universal's *Outfest* (Choreographer/Dancer), New York Black Arts Festival's *Aladdin* (Choreographer), and she's currently a Diversity Scholar at the Groundlings School for Improv.

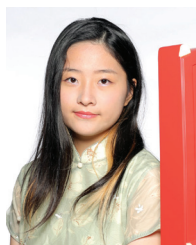


NICK LUCIANO is a Los Angeles-based director, writer, producer and video editor. His short film *Lunch Tattoo* was an official selection of Dances With Films and DC Shorts and

screened at film festivals throughout the country in 2023. Luciano is an improv and sketch comedian at the Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre and videos he's made with his 72-year-old father reenacting emotes from Super Smash Bros and Overwatch have been

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

featured in *GO*, *Mashable*, *Huffington Post*, and *NowThis News*. Nick is also a mentor at Young Storytellers, a non-profit that brings kids' stories to life by professional actors on stage.



ELLA HE is a 14-year-old multi-instrumentalist who was born in California and is raised in a musical family. She started her Guzheng studies with her mother,

master Jiangli Yu, at age 6 and has been featured in various performances, including concerts at Disneyland, Pacific Symphony 2023 Lunar New Year, and the television show *Prodigy Kids*.

CHINESE DANCE COMPANY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



Established in 2019 through a partnership between the South Coast Chinese Cultural Center (SCCCC) and the Pan America Chinese Dance Alliance (PACDA), the Chinese Dance Company of Southern California CDCSC is dedicated to celebrating and promoting Chinese dance traditions. With a focus on traditional Chinese dance forms and original choreographies, CDCSC shares captivating stories and preserves cultural heritage. It has earned its reputation as the premier Chinese performance company in Southern California, celebrated for its commitment to artistic excellence and cultural enrichment.



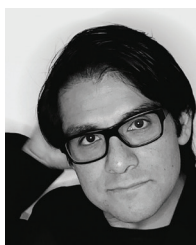
RACHEL OLIVEROS CATALANO is thrilled to be returning as a soloist with Pacific Symphony, reprising her role as La Catrina Calavera. You can also currently see Rachel playing the

role of Shioban in the critically acclaimed play, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* running through October 2023 at Chance Theater in Anaheim, CA, which Rachel considers her artistic home. (www.chancetheater.com). Rachel received her MFA in Musical Theater Performance from the Chicago College of the Performing Arts, and her B.A. from California Lutheran University.



MOISES VÁZQUEZ is a composer and musician/songwriter based in Santa Ana. His music has its roots in traditional Mexican music, Contemporary Mexican and

Latin Grooves, Rock and Hip Hop. He has composed, produced and performed original music for South Coast Repertory, San Diego Repertory, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Chapman University and Breath Of Fire Latina Theater Ensemble.



ISRAEL MEDINA is a Santa Ana College Liberal Arts graduate, Israel is a musician, actor, and writer. His theatrical experience includes four years performing improvisational

comedy. His popular radio show *Galactic Soup* ran for over five years on the UCI college public radio station KUCI 88.9 FM. Israel joins his long-time band mate and

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

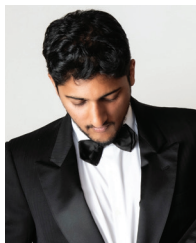
music collaborator Moises Vazquez as a member of today's onstage band.



ALEN MORALES SANTILLANO HANSEN

is a multi-instrumental musician and artist from Santa Ana, who plays in several musical groups with various genres. He graduated from

Hollywood's Musician's Institute with a Percussion/Recording Artist degree and has performed in thousands of events with dozens of groups as well as solo projects ranging from folk, cumbia, classical, hiphop, EDM, metal, and beyond in various settings for more than 20 years. Hansen specializes in fusing world rhythms with unique percussion instrumentations, unique electronic instrumentation, and neo-classical Latin inspired guitar but he also explores other art forms including drawing, painting, sculpting, audio/video production, animation, and live event production among other interests.



AASHRAY HARISHANKAR

is a Los Angeles-based composer, audio engineer, and keyboardist. He is a pioneer of performance and production on the ROLI Seaboard

(a keyless keyboard), and is a collaborator of many multi-disciplinary projects, including film, animation, dance, and other media.



RAVINDRA DEO

is an award-winning tabla artist and music composer. He apprenticed in Hindustani music with late Pandit Rameshji Kumar for over 25 years, is

well-regarded as a tabla soloist in the Pandit Bansilalji Parampara, and is appreciated for his collaborative versatility and sensitive accompaniment across several genres. Deo's informed experiences in ethnomusicology, intercultural performance, and contemporary Hindustani music led him to work as consultant master artist for Nickelodeon Television, record on several music albums, create original music for a variety of performance and video game platforms, guest lecture at universities and symphony orchestras, and provide musical support with artists from musical cultures across the globe.



VISALINI SUNDARAM

is a Carnatic vocalist, trained by Gurus Padma Kutty, Palai Ramachandran, and Palakkad Seshamani Iyer. A trained Bharatanatyam dancer as well, she

has performed internationally as a soloist and a senior member of the Irvine-based Arpana Dance Company, founded, and directed by her Guru Ramya Harishankar. In 2022, Sundaram was awarded the Alliance for California Traditional Arts grant to further hone her musical and dance skills. She is also the Assistant Director of the Arpana School of Dance where she has been teaching for the past seven years.



SATVIK SUBBARAMAN

has been studying the mridangam under the tutelage of Vid. Arjun Narayanan from the age of seven and has been accompanying various artists around Southern California

since the age of nine. He has won multiple awards at the Cleveland Thyagaraja Festival, Saptami Music Competition, and Samaa Arts, and has also qualified and participated in the Indian Fine Arts Academy of San Diego's music festival. Subbaraman is currently

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

in his first year of studying Mechanical Engineering at UC Santa Barbara.



NIKHITA KAUSHIK has been learning Carnatic violin from Vid. Rajeev Mukundan since 2018. She has given several solo performances as well as accompanied many concerts in

the Southern California community. She has also performed for organizations in India and has won awards in national and international competitions. Kaushik is a freshman at UC Irvine, studying Cognitive Sciences.



NANDINI KANNAN is a versatile movement artist that creates and performs intentional movements with the goal of inspiring communities to honor and heal

their mind, bodies, and spirits. Born and raised in Los Angeles County, Kannan has predominantly trained in the South Indian hereditary art form of Bharatanatyam for the last 24 years under Ramya Harishankar of Arpana Dance Company. She has actively performed in both traditional performances as well as cross-art collaborations and experimental works. She also trains in other dance styles to expand her artistry and movement vocabulary.



YASHNA NANDAN began learning Bharatanatyam at the age of seven at Arpana and had her solo debut (arangetram) in 2013. Since then, she has participated in

several ADC productions, including a tour of Germany and Croatia (2013), Sharad (2015), and Celluloid Classics 2 (2017). Yashna is currently pursuing a PhD in economics at the UC, San Diego.



AMRITABALA JANAHAN

grew up in the Arpana dance classes and had her debut (arangetram) at age eight in 2013. Currently studying business, dance has

always been a passion as well as a creative outlet. She has performed extensively with the Arpana Dance Company. Her love for Carnatic music, choreography, and learning abhinaya has been nurtured, thanks to the support of her teacher, Ramya Harishankar.

OUR PARTNER'S FALL TRADITIONS



MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL

The Mid-Autumn Festival falls on the fifteenth day of the eighth month of the lunar calendar. This is also the middle of the second month of autumn, which is where it gets its name. The moon on this day is usually bright and round, so it also gives the Mid-Autumn Festival the meaning of "reunion" and "completeness." Many celebrate this holiday by gathering with family members, eating round pastries called mooncakes, reciting poems, and worshipping ancestors.



OUR PARTNER'S FALL TRADITIONS



DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

Día de los Muertos is an ancient traditional Mexican holiday observed on November 1. This holiday celebrates the lives of loved ones who have passed away by remembering them. Many people put out items as reminders of the deceased, like a favorite photo or favorite foods, often on *ofrendas* (altars) made especially for this purpose. Today, we welcome Viva La Vida Santa Ana and the special *ofrenda* they have built in the lobby just for this concert!



DIWALI

Diwali is a joyous festival all about family, great food (especially sweet treats), fun playing with friends and firecrackers, and new beginnings. Families decorate their homes with lamps or lights called *diya*, and gather together with cousins, neighbors, or parents and grandparents. Some communities consider it the beginning of a new year, with new clothes to match. Although it's primarily a designated Hindu festival, it's celebrated by other faiths as well with the themes of kindness, empathy, and celebration of life.



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR GUEST MUSICIANS AND THEIR INSTRUMENTS

SPOTLIGHT ON THE GUZHENG

*"I was really intrigued by the sound of the **GUZHENG** after hearing my mother perform it, and started playing it not long after. I was exposed to traditional Chinese music early in my life because both my parents teach a variety of instruments in that category. The guzheng specifically is very unique because it requires fake nails on four fingers to pluck it, creating a beautiful sound."*

-Ella He



The origins of the **guzheng** (or **zheng**) stretch back to over 2,000 years ago in what is now known as China. The oldest writing about it comes from 237 BCE in the Qin era! With such a long history, the guzheng is a popular instrument all around the world, especially in Chinese and Taiwanese communities.

The guzheng is a type of instrument called a **zither**, or a **string instrument** that rests on the floor or a stand and is played **horizontally**. Guzheng musicians often play while sitting on the floor, but sometimes they rest their instruments higher so they can stand or sit in a chair instead.

The **21 strings** of the guzheng are usually made from **nylon or steel**, while the body is made from **wood**. Another important part of the guzheng is the **bridge**, which helps support the strings on the body. Unlike the bridges on violins, violas, or cellos, the bridge on the guzheng is **movable**, so moving the bridge changes **tuning**, or the **set of pitches** the strings play!

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR GUEST MUSICIANS AND THEIR INSTRUMENTS

SPOTLIGHT ON THE GUITAR

*“Growing up there was always a **GUITAR** at home. Seeing my father play his guitar for an audience made me want to play. The guitar I’m playing in this show belonged to my beloved father and I borrowed his instrument the first time we did the Día de los Muertos Family Concert a few years ago. He got to see me perform with his guitar and it was also the last show he saw me play in before he passed. I love playing this guitar because it connects me with him.”*

-Moises Vazquez



Guitars can be seen almost everywhere you look—maybe even in your own home. That’s partly because this **six-string instrument** is so easy to carry wherever musicians want to play! **Acoustic** guitars are especially lightweight because their **wooden bodies** are **hollow**, which allows the strings to **resonate**, or **sound louder**.

Today’s concert features the guitar in our celebration of Día de los Muertos. The guitar was first introduced to what is now Mexico by Spanish **conquistadores**, or colonizers, to play European style dance music. Over time, Mexican musicians adapted the guitar for their own music traditions, like **mariachi**.

Mariachi was first developed in **Jalisco** by the 1850s, mixing local music traditions with European music. Today, Mexican guitarists can be found playing all kinds of music, from mariachi to corridos, classical music to rock, and beyond!

SPOTLIGHT ON THE TABLA

*“**TABLA** expresses rhythm with a unique clarity that draws inspiration from several drumming forms. A tabla set consists of two drums that are played together with different techniques for each hand and each finger. One of the things I most enjoy about playing tabla is the readiness to perform and learn in a myriad of musical styles with the many sounds they make.”*

-Ravindra Deo



The **tabla** featured in today’s concert is a pair of drums found in **Hindustani music**, a tradition of classical music from northern India. Each of the drums has its own role to play, so they look and sound different from each other! The **dahina** or **tabla** is the right-hand drum, made of wood, while the **bayan** on the left is usually made from metal. The drums are also different sizes. The smaller dahina is higher-pitched, contrasting the larger bayan with its deep sound.

Tabla musicians sit on the floor, cross-legged, to play their instrument. They can use their hands and fingertips in many ways to get a variety of sounds from the drums, and can change the pitch of the bayan with the heel of their hand while still playing with the fingers of the same hand!

Tabla musicians can perform solo, or as part of a **trio** with **sitar** and **tambura** providing the rhythmic accompaniment.

FABULOUS FALL FESTIVALS

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across	Down
<p>5. La _____ Calavera is a popular female figure associated with Day of the Dead</p> <p>6. A pair of hand drums used in traditional Indian Music</p> <p>8. A _____ cake is a Chinese pastry traditionally eaten during the Mid Autumn Festival</p> <p>9. A popular six-string instrument used in mariachi</p> <p>11. Eight-legged creature who lives in a web</p> <p>12. A skeleton is just a bunch of these</p>	<p>1. During the Diwali celebrations, great fun is had with family, friends, food, and explosive displays in the sky called _____</p> <p>2. The Guzheng is a Chinese plucked _____ instrument</p> <p>3. A type of oil lamp that represent the triumph of light over dark used during Diwali</p> <p>4. Mr. O'Lantern</p> <p>7. During Día de los Muertos, loved ones who have passed away are honored by placing items to remember them by on ofrendas or _____</p> <p>10. The Jade _____ is a companion to the Chinese Moon Goddess Chang'e</p>

ACROSS
1]Fireworks, 2]String, 3]Diya, 4]Jack, 7]Altars, 10]Rabbit
5]Catrina, 6]Tabla, 8]Moon, 9]Guitar, 11]Spider, 12]Bones

DOWN
1]Fireworks, 2]String, 3]Diya, 4]Jack, 7]Altars, 10]Rabbit

Thank You!

Pacific Symphony thanks the following for their generous contributions of time to Family Musical Mornings and Heartstrings: Pacific Symphony League, arts-X-press alumni, volunteers in education.

If you would like to volunteer for Pacific Symphony events, please contact Director of Volunteer Services, Abby Edmunds at aedmunds@pacificsymphony.org or (714) 876-2353 for more information.