

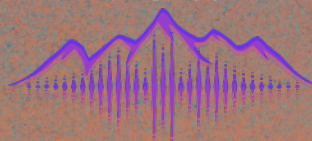


SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

FEATURING

SYNESTHESIA
SINFONIETTA

SONORA
CHORUS



DECEMBER 16TH, 2023

7:30 PM

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOS ANGELES
540 S COMMONWEALTH AVE
LOS ANGELES, CA 90020

CONDUCTORS:

ISAIAH CASTRO
SYNESTHESIA SINFONIETTA
ARTISTIC & MUSIC DIRECTOR

MICHAEL HUYNH
SYNESTHESIA SINFONIETTA
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

JONATHAN FRIAS
SONORA CHORUS
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

WWW.SYNESTHESIASINFONIETTA.COM

PROGRAM

MERRY CHRISTMAS. MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM "HOME ALONE 2"JOHN WILLIAMS (B. 1932)
Isaiah Castro, conductor

SPIRIT OF THE SEASONS FROM "THE POLAR EXPRESS"ALAN SILVESTRI (B. 1950)
Isaiah Castro, conductor

WHITE CHRISTMASIRVING BERLIN (1888-1989)
ARR. CARMEN DRAGON (1914-1984)
Michael Huynh, conductor

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTERGUSTAV HOLST (1874-1934)
Sonora Chorus
Jonathan Frias, conductor

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SINGMACK WILBERG (B. 1955)
Jonathan Frias, conductor

SOMEWHERE IN MY MEMORY FROM "HOME ALONE"JOHN WILLIAMS (B. 1932)
Michael Huynh, conductor

CAROL OF THE BELLSMYKOLA LEONTOVYCH (1877-1921)
Sonora Chorus
Jonathan Frias, conductor

CHRISTMAS TIME IS HEREVINCE GUARALDI (1928-1976)
ARR. BILL CUNLIFFE (B. 1956)
Synesthesia Sinfonietta
Isaiah Castro, conductor

GOD BLESS US EVERYONE FROM "A CHRISTMAS CAROL"ALAN SILVESTRI (B. 1950)
Jonathan Frias, tenor solo
Isaiah Castro, conductor

INTERMISSION

CHRISTMAS FANFARE **ISAIAH CASTRO (B. 1994)**

Synesthesia Sinfonietta
Isaiah Castro, conductor

SILENT NIGHT **FRANZ XAVER GRUBER (1787-1863)**
ARR. JOHN RUTTER (B. 1945)

Jonathan Frias, conductor

FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN **GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL (1685-1759)**

Jonathan Frias, conductor

SLEIGH RIDE **LEROY ANDERSON (B. 1908-1975)**

Synesthesia Sinfonietta
Michael Huynh, conductor

AWAY IN A MANGER **WILLIAM J. KIRKPATRICK (1838-1921)**
ARR. JOHN RUTTER (B. 1945)

Sonora Chorus
Jonathan Frias, conductor

DECK THE HALL **CARMEN DRAGON (1914-1984)**

Jonathan Frias, conductor

HODIE **LEE R KESSELMAN (B. 1951)**

Sonora Chorus
Jonathan Frias, conductor

JOY TO THE WORLD **MACK WILBERG (B. 1955)**

Isaiah Castro, conductor

O HOLY NIGHT **BRADLEY KNIGHT**

Isaiah Castro, conductor

ABOUT THE DIRECTORS

ISIAH CASTRO, ARTISTIC & MUSIC DIRECTOR

SYNESTHESIA SINFONIETTA

Responsible for overseeing all programs and events, Isaiah Castro is an award-winning conductor, composer, and founding member of the Synesthesia Sinfonietta. Based in the Southern California area, Castro studied instrumental conducting with Kimo Furumoto, and composition at California State University, Fullerton's School of Music.

His passion for music began at the age of 10 with piano and bass trombone, inspiring him to express interest in conducting and composing at the age of 12. His most recent accomplishments feature: being commissioned by the San Jose Youth Symphony, compositional recognition from the American Harp Society, scoring original music for Embark Dance Theatre, achieving status on the Grammy Awards ballot, and much more.

Castro enjoys collaborating with solo artists and ensembles around the globe creating new music one work at a time. As both a composer and conductor, he is in high demand by several organizations throughout California as well as the nation. Presently, he is dedicated to the development and success of the Synesthesia Sinfonietta through the production of orchestral concerts that are accessible to the public at little to no cost.



MICHAEL HUYNH, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

SYNESTHESIA SINFONIETTA

Responsible for overseeing chamber programs, Michael Huynh, conductor and clarinetist, is a recent graduate of Azusa Pacific University where he studied orchestral conducting with Christopher Russell.

As a conductor, Huynh has an interest in the orchestral and operatic repertoire. In 2018, he was selected to appear at the College Orchestra Directors Association National Conference with Alan McMurray in a master class setting. Recent conducting engagements include assistant conducting Opera UCI's 2019 production of *Die Fledermaus*, where he also served as the chorus master, leading the California Solisti in collaboration with the Arts at St. Margaret's, and performances with the Community Youth Orchestra of Southern California.

Huynh holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Clarinet Performance from the University of California, Irvine and a Master of Music degree in Orchestral Conducting from Azusa Pacific University where he studied with Christopher Russell. He also holds professional affiliations with College Orchestra Directors Association and Mu Phi Epsilon Professional Music Fraternity.

MARANDA LI, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

SYNESTHESIA SINFONIETTA

Trained as a cellist, Maranda Li received her B.A. in Music from the University of California, Irvine, where she studied with Dr. Margaret Parkins. She has been deeply engaged with classical music from a young age and has performed both solo and in ensembles of varying size, but her first love is the Symphony Orchestra.

From 2016-2019, Li lived in Amami, Japan where she served as conductor of the Amami Orchestra. There, she oversaw the development of the orchestra through its early formative period, prepared them for performances under guest conductors, created and taught classes for beginner string players, and frequently collaborated with local soloists as both a conductor and a cellist. She also expanded the scope of Amami Orchestra's educational outreach efforts through a series of side-by-side performances with local high school wind bands that continued even after her return to the US.

Li currently studies conducting with Dr. Stephen Tucker. When not on the podium or playing in the orchestra as a cellist, Li enjoys performing chamber music, teaching, and arranging. She currently holds a position as community program coordinator for OC Music & Dance, Orange County's premier non-profit music school, which is dedicated to making performing arts accessible to every child.



JONATHAN FRIAS, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

SONORA CHORUS

Jonathan Frias, is the founding member and artistic director of Sonora Chorus. Founded in March of 2023, Sonora Chorus has given three concerts including one at The Richard Nixon Library in Yorba Linda. Jonathan received his Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from California State University Los Angeles in 2015 where he studied conducting under Donald Brinegar and Sebastian Valleé, and received two Bachelor of Arts degrees from California State University San Bernardino (CSUSB) in Music Education and Music Technology, with a minor in Jazz Studies, in 2010.



In June 2010, Jonathan had the opportunity as the tenor soloist for the world premiere of Manuel Garcia's Mass in D Major and Salve Regina, performing in the composer's hometown of Seville, Spain. He also represented CSUSB and the United States of America playing string bass in a jazz combo at the Surin International Folklore Festival and the Thailand International Jazz Conference in 2010, 2011, and 2012. In April 2015, Jonathan presented the modern world premiere of Manuel Garcia's "Messa 3a (1818)" which featured four vocal soloists, a full choir, and an organist; this was the first time the piece had been performed in the Western Hemisphere and the second time it was performed since it's original premiere in 1818 in England.

Along with performing in professional vocal and choral ensembles, Jonathan is a touring professional instrumentalist performing with The Jazz Cartel, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, and many other ensembles. He is also currently an Associate Faculty member at Mt. San Jacinto College where he teaches private lessons in string bass and voice and is the director of the MSJC Jazz Ensemble I and Golden Eagles Jazz Ensemble.



JESSICA GUBATON, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

SONORA CHORUS

Jessica Gubaton, soprano, earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from California State University of San Bernardino, where she received vocal training from esteemed instructors Dr. Stacey Fraser, Dr. Andrew Crane, and Kosta Popovic.

With a foundation in classical training, Jessica has showcased her talent in various opera productions, including notable performances in Mozart's Die Zauberflöte, Offenbach's The Tales of Hoffman, Mozart's Impresario, and Mozart's Cosi fan Tutte. Beyond her classical repertoire, she has demonstrated her versatility in jazz voice, sharing the stage with renowned artists like BB King, Manhattan Transfer, and Bob Mintzer. Her exceptional abilities were recognized at the Reno Jazz Festival in 2011 and 2012, where she received awards.

Jessica's musical journey began early, participating in choirs since the age of 8, fueling her enduring passion for choral music. Over the years, she has lent her vocal talents to performances across Italy, Spain, and California. Her leadership roles include Choral Director positions at The Corona Civic Light Opera House and Richardson Prep Hi Middle School, as well as Assistant Choral Director roles at Rancho Verde High School and her current position with the Sonora Chorus.

Although there was a hiatus in Jessica's musical pursuits from 2013 to 2023, she has joyously returned to the scene. Singing with the Sonora Chorus and serving as the Assistant Choral Director for this ensemble has been a profound honor and privilege for her, marking a triumphant comeback to the world of music.



THE ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN I

NOAH CISNEROS
CHUJIAN LI
CARMEN MARQUEZ
MERI SHEEGOG
AARON TAM+

VIOLIN II

AVA BRACKETT*
ARIANA MARES
KAREN MARTINS
BELLE SUOT

VIOLA

SYDNEY AARON
IOANA ISTRATE
ANDY PARK
DANI TAM*

CELLO

EMILY BALDERRAMA
CHAD CUADRO
JOSIE HOLMQUIST
MARANDA LI*
ANNABELLE MILLER
IRENE PARK
AARON ZAMARRON

BASS

ANDREW DE STACKELBERG*
AIDEN NEUMAN
TARA REGALADO

FLUTE

LUIS ALVARADO
MARLON ARRIAZA*
JOE DI FIORE
EYANA FOMBY

PICCOLO

JOE DI FIORE
EYANA FOMBY

OBOE

KAREN HERNANDEZ*
BENNETT KAI IMAI
ROHAN RAMANAN

ENGLISH HORN

BENNETT KAI IMAI
ROHAN RAMANAN

CLARINET

CARLOS HERRERA
DAVID SANCHEZ
JENNA TATIYATRAIRONG*

BASS CLARINET

CARLOS HERRERA

CONTRABASS CLARINET

JOE DI FIORE

BASSOON

KYRA HARRIS
INGRID HERNANDEZ*
EMILY LAZERNIK

HORN

GABBY BANIQUED
ALEX DELPERDANG
IAN DUTRA*
ANDREW FONG
TIM MOY
TED NUGENT
DANNY WARD
PATRICK WILLIAMS

TRUMPET

JULIE MORIMOTO
TROY SARGENT*
CAMERON SMITH
ZACH SPIESS

TROMBONE

LUIS GRACIA ALONSO*
TOBY HUNG

BASS TROMBONE

NATHAN FULMIZI

TUBA

DAVID JIMENEZ*

TIMPANI

JARED DAVENPORT*

PERCUSSION

TAYLOR ESTEP
BEN MALEY
ELEANOR NÚÑEZ
HIRAM RIVERA*
EVANGELINE YIP

BULLWHIP

TRAVIS STONE

HARP

JILLIAN LOPEZ*
ANNA REYNOLDS

PIANO | CELESTA

JULIA WEINER

HARPSICHORD

ELEANOR NÚÑEZ

ORGAN

ADÁN ALEJÁNDR O FERNÁNDEZ

+concertmaster

*principal

THE CHOIR

SOPRANOS

DANIELLE CARLSON
ANNABELLA FULMIZI
BIANCA GALICIA
MYUNGSEO KENZIE KIM
LESLIE GONZALEZ-MARTINEZ
JESSICA GUBATON
PRISCILLA LOPEZ
VAIGafa Tanielu-Edward

TENORS

JONATHAN FRIAS
ELIAS MARTINEZ
KEITH MORTON
RHONERT PASCUAL
BRANDON WHITEKER

ALTOS

MIRIAM ADHANON
ANDY LACEFIELD
BRIANA MORALES
KIMBERLY RUPPERT

BASSES

JOSHUA BILL
JORDAN CEYELI
JOSE LUIS MALDONADO
STEVEN RAZO
ISAIAS SIFUENTES

STAFF

CHESTER McCURRY
SAMMI SMITH
BRITT ROGERS
CAMERON JOHNSTN
ISAAC CASTRO
DAVID M LA JOVEL
STEVEN RAZO

FCCLA EVENT COORDINATOR
FCCLA PERFORMING ARTS COORDINATOR
RECORDING ENGINEER
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SONORA CHORUS

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Website: [WWW.SYNESTHESIASINFONIETTA.COM](http://www.synesthesiasinfonietta.com)

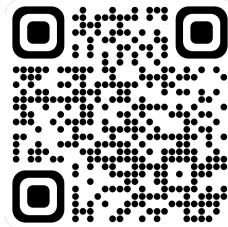
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THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING OUR PERFORMANCE OF "SOUNDS OF THE SEASON". WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED OUR PROGRAM. IT HAS TAKEN A MONUMENTAL EFFORT FROM MANY GENEROUS PEOPLE TO MAKE THIS CONCERT POSSIBLE, AND WE THANK EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM. IN ORDER TO MAKE FUTURE ENDEAVORS FOR THIS ORGANIZATION POSSIBLE, DONATIONS ARE VITAL. SYNESTHESIA SINFONIETTA IS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA WITH 501(C)3 TAX-EXEMPT STATUS, STRIVING TO BRING LOCAL ARTISTS INTO THE SPOTLIGHT AND IN ORDER TO CONTINUE, WE ASK THAT YOU CONSIDER DONATING WHAT YOU CAN TONIGHT.

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THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE ARTS!

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