



LOS ANGELES YOUTH ORCHESTRA
FALL 2023 CONCERTS

BEETHOVEN & BRAHMS

Russell Steinberg and Jorge Padrón, conductors

Sunday, November 19 at 7:30pm
Barnum Hall

Monday, November 20 at 7:30pm
Ambassador Auditorium

www.losangelesyouthorchestra.org

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NOTES FROM RUSSELL

This season opens a new chapter in LAYO's history. First, we are thrilled to introduce to you our new Executive Director, Joyce LaBriola, who brings deep experience in orchestral marketing, development, and branding. Second, we are equally thrilled to introduce to you our new Orchestra Manager Elise Dewsberry, who has done a fabulous job organizing and running our auditions and rehearsals. Third, we are fortunate that former LAYO Executive Director Laura Kay Swanson is working remotely as our Director of Tours. For June 2024, we are planning our most ambitious orchestra tour yet, with performances in Vienna and Prague that collaborate with music students from the Johann Sebastian Bach Musikschule in Vienna. Plus we are hosting a parallel Music Enrichment Tour just for parents and classical music lovers that will shadow the orchestra and then go on to Leipzig to explore the music and lives of Bach and Mendelssohn.

The playing levels of our orchestras continue to rise. These concerts mark the first Ruth Borun Concert Orchestra performance of an unarranged Beethoven symphony, performing the first movement of Beethoven's *Symphony No. 1*. In Beethoven's time, people noticed the beginning was unusual; Beethoven began "in the wrong key." Its opening chord leads to F major instead of C major. It tries to correct, but "fails," leading to A minor and then G major. Only several measures later do we at last hear a strong C major. After the slow introduction, the movement sparkles in an exciting Allegro tempo that combines the energy of Haydn with the lyricism of Mozart in a way that seems to summarize the achievements of both of these masters. Today we think of all three—Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven—as the pillars of "the Classical Style."

The Ruth Borun Concert Orchestra also performs the "hit tune," the Overture from Rossini's "William Tell" and an arrangement of Smetana's "The Moldau", with its stirring melody that helped propel the urge for a national music identity in composers from various European countries during the later Romantic era. You may even notice that Smetana's melody directly inspired Israel's national anthem "Hatikva (The Hope)". The RBCO program concludes with music from the film *Pirates of the Caribbean*. This piece is a collaboration by various assistant composers

PROGRAM NOTES (CONT.)

in Hans Zimmer's studio. It is a rare success fusing together rock and classical styles in a brilliant orchestral setting.

The world premiere of my short "Fanfare for Brass and Percussion" opens the Symphony Orchestra program. I composed this specifically at the behest of our LAYO brass and percussion students. That explains the unusual scoring: 3 trumpets, 2 horns, 1 trombone plus percussion.

The fanfare sets the table for us to perform one of the finest works in the orchestral repertoire—Brahms' *Symphony No. 3*. Brahms composed four symphonies, all masterworks of the highest order. His third symphony is the shortest of the four—just 40-45 minutes—but perhaps the most difficult. And unlike his other symphonies, the third symphony's fiery first and last movements don't end with a bang, but instead subside in a luminous glow.

Brahms composed in layers and codes. His third symphony hearkens back to two other "third" symphonies, those of Beethoven and Schumann. Complex rhythmic syncopations that obscure the downbeat evoke Beethoven's revolutionary third symphony "Eroica". The heroic theme that begins the Brahms symphony is unmistakably similar to his friend and mentor Robert Schumann's "Rhenish" third symphony. Then there is the "code"—the motto F-A-F, an acronym for *frei aber froh* (free but happy). This is an "in" joke. Brahms' friend, the great violinist Joseph Joachim, had a personal motto: F-A-E *frei aber einsam* (free but lonely). It meant that to fully dedicate one's life to art meant a life of loneliness, i.e. not being married. Brahms and Schumann actually wrote a violin sonata for Joachim based on the F-A-E motive. However, eventually, Joachim did marry and it was Brahms who remained single! The notes F-A-F provide a deep structure for a dramatic first movement, much like a leitmotif in a Wagner opera. Similar to the conflicting idea of the motto itself, the music continually shifts from major to minor, minor to major, from light to dark, dark to light.

In place of a slow second movement, Brahms composes a gentle pastorale. A solo clarinet and woodwinds intone a tender theme in

PROGRAM NOTES (CONT.)

the style of a German folksong. As it develops, strings give it a breadth and passion that reminds me of the feeling of fresh air in Beethoven's own "Pastoral Symphony". Then comes the third movement, a jewel of sweet melancholy. Not the light-hearted minuet or a vigorous scherzo we might have expected. Instead, Brahms spins out one of his most haunting melodies, first with the cellos, then violins, then woodwinds, and finally a noble French horn. The magic comes from the shimmering string accompaniment, wisps of arpeggios cascading around the theme.

After these calmer inner movements, the finale unleashes a demonic energy. At first it is subdued with only sudden flashes. Then in the development it bellows with frightening energy that combines its two themes between the winds and the strings. That energy continues into the recapitulation, until it surprisingly calms in a coda that ultimately recalls the F-A-F motto that began the symphony.

The depth and bitter-sweetness in Brahms resonates for me particularly at this time. My mother Sandi Steinberg passed away just two months ago. In addition to her careers as a prolific playwright/screenwriter and fashion designer, she worked with LAYO as Director of Parent and Media Relations for nearly ten years. She had a gift for connecting strongly with our parents and students. The outpouring of sympathy I have received from many parent and student alums provides ample evidence of this, as do the many donations LAYO has received in her memory. My family and I appreciate your warmth and love as we go through the heartache of missing her so terribly.

I also write these notes on the eve of Israel's invasion of Gaza, after Israel suffered unspeakable and inexcusable horror by the terrorist organization Hamas. We all realize this situation defies simple or simplistic solutions. And no one should have to live with the threat of terrorism, neither Israelis or Palestinians. Music does not offer solutions. It does lift us into the energy of love and compassion for all people. May it do that for all of us tonight.

Thank you for joining us tonight.

LOS ANGELES YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Russell Steinberg, Founder & Artistic Director

Sunday, November 19, 2023 at 7:30pm

Barnum Hall

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Russell Steinberg, Conductor

Fanfare for Brass and Percussion (World Premiere) Russell Steinberg

Symphony No. 3 in F major, Op. 90 Johannes Brahms

I. Allegro con brio

II. Andante

III. Poco allegretto

IV. Allegro

Intermission

RUTH BORUN CONCERT ORCHESTRA

Jorge Padrón, Assistant Conductor

"William Tell" Overture (Finale) Gioachino Rossini
(arr. Richard Meyer)

"The Moldau" Bedrich Smetana
(arr. Richard Meyer)

Symphony No. 1 in C major, Op. 21 Ludwig van Beethoven
I. Adagio molto – Allegro con brio

Pirates of the Caribbean Klaus Badelt (arr. Ted Ricketts)

LOS ANGELES YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Russell Steinberg, Founder & Artistic Director

Monday, November 20, 2023 at 7:30pm

Ambassador Auditorium

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Jorge Padrón, Assistant Conductor

"William Tell" Overture (Finale) Gioachino Rossini
(arr. Richard Meyer)

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Intermission

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Russell Steinberg, Conductor

Fanfare for Brass and Percussion (World Premiere) Russell Steinberg

Symphony No. 3 in F major, Op. 90 Johannes Brahms
I. Allegro con brio
II. Andante
III. Poco allegretto
IV. Allegro

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Sophia Li

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YuChen Xue
Alex Zhang

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HORN

Hannah Jeong Lee
Guest
Josh Olson
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Caleb Chen
Principal
Bella Lee
Sam Mintz
Caster Teoh
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Pablo Castro
Guest
Ethan Holmes
Guest

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Andre Huaman
Lilith Humphrey
Nicolas Levin
Lidya Yirgu

VIOLIN I

Kayla Timmons
Concertmaster
Kyler Chu
Inah Chang
Jordan Lin
April Kang
Claire Ha
Grace Jenkins
Haoran Xu
Kayden Chu
Annika McWhirter
Monica Lee
Auriana Gharibshahi
Celine Daye Chung
Anna Lu
Jaelen Lee
Linus Zhang
Isabel Hurd
Joshua Golshani

VIOLIN II

Lina Kwak
Principal
Rogelio Raya
Jason Foronda

VIOLIN II (CONT.)

Daniel Yang
Sky Timmons
Jonathan Zibari
Athena Baylon
Iva Davidovic
Verina Cheng
Ethan Pastrana
Lucas Peng
Lyla Brugger
Chloe Chen
Sophy Yang
Cassia Taw

VIOLA

Kwanghyun (Joseph) Kim
Principal
JadyN Escobar
Daniella Traum
Alisa Luera
Guest

CELLO

Aya Hildreth
Principal
Isabella Chiang
Sarah Hajmomenian
Micah Lee
Luke Newman
Apollo Rob
Cooper Rieke

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Addison Ma
Principal

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Principal

Victoria Zong

Hanwen Huang

Daniel Guzman

TROMBONE

Noah Chen

Principal

Pablo Castro

Guest

Ethan Holmes

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VIOLA

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Principal

Katie Lee

Cynthia Lee

Rebecca Lee

Ellie Yoo

OBOE

Riley Golds

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Francesca Rodriguez

Co-Principal

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VIOLIN I

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Principal

Connor Riley

Joia Masee

Ilan Shapiro

HORN

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Principal

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Guest

Hannah Jeong Lee

Guest

Josh Olson

Guest

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Principal

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Audrey Li

Sean Yeh

Lucille Jahng

Annalisa Hurd

Maegan Daley

Milana Resta

Joyce Lai

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Photo: Beatrice Riley



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RUSSELL STEINBERG, FOUNDER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, CONDUCTOR OF SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Russell Steinberg is a Los Angeles-based composer, conductor, pianist, and educator. *Fanfare* magazine described Trio Accento's recording of his American contemporary piano trio PALEFACE on Albany Records as "galloping cowboys to folksongs and hymns, film noir and pulp fiction...it all coheres beautifully; and it is fun, too." The Los Angeles Youth Orchestra recently premiered his new dramatic overture *Diminished Resistance*. Three commissioning orchestras—the New West Symphony in Los Angeles, the Bay Atlantic Symphony in New Jersey, and the Hopkins Symphony Orchestra in Baltimore—premiered Steinberg's orchestral tone poem *Cosmic Dust*, a musical work featured in *Science News Magazine* for the 25th anniversary of the Hubble Space Telescope. His Daniel Pearl Foundation commission *Stories From My Favorite Planet* based on Pearl's Wall Street Journal articles, has received numerous performances and the Bay Atlantic Symphony in New Jersey annually programs Steinberg's Hanukkah fantasy *Lights On!*

Steinberg is the Founder and Artistic Director of the Los Angeles Youth Orchestra, an ensemble that attracts students from over 70 LA-area schools and recently (June 2022) performed the *Sibelius Symphony No. 2* in Carnegie Hall. Steinberg is passionate about music education. He is a popular preconcert speaker for the Los Angeles Philharmonic and offers lecture series virtually on Zoom. In 2022 as a response to the pandemic, he created *Russell's Classical Consortium*, a unique Patreon fan base community of classical music lovers who learn together and participate in online concerts, lectures, and Monday *Classical Listening Hangouts*.

Steinberg holds a Ph.D. from Harvard University with Pulitzer prize-winning composer Leon Kirchner, an M.M. from the New England Conservatory with Arthur Berger, and a B.A. summa cum laude from UCLA with Elaine Barkin, Roy Travis, and Paul Reale. His early instrumental and composition teachers were Dorothy Compinsky (piano, classical guitar, violin), Kenneth Klauss (composition), Earle C. Voorhies (piano), Salome Arkatov (piano), and Ron Purcell (classical guitar).

Information about Steinberg's music, lectures, and Patreon is available at www.russellsteinberg.com

JORGE PADRÓN, CONDUCTOR OF RUTH BORUN CONCERT ORCHESTRA

Jorge Padrón is a doctoral student at the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music where he is working toward his DMA in music teaching and learning with emphases in instrumental conducting, musical theory, and arts leadership. He has taught teacher preparation courses at USC and Pepperdine, is a site conductor for the Los Angeles Philharmonic's YOLA program, and directs the district-wide honors orchestra for The Harmony Project.

Prior to moving to Los Angeles, Jorge was the orchestra director at Miami Palmetto Senior High School. He taught orchestra classes along with elective guitar courses, AP Music Theory, and sponsored the high school's chapter of Mu Alpha Theta (the national mathematics honor society). As a result of his work in the educational community, he was recognized by the Village of Palmetto Bay and the Miami-Dade County School District for his "exemplary public service." He has also served on the editorial committee of the *American String Teacher Journal* and is preparing publications for both AST and the *Music Educator Journal*.

Jorge has worked in various educational settings, including starting after-school strings classes at local elementary schools in South Florida, beginning a band program at Camino Nuevo High School near downtown Los Angeles, and assisting with mentoring and training music teachers through USC's Thornton Community Engagement Program. Jorge is also an active clinician and adjudicator for the Florida Orchestra Association, as well as a few other district music festivals in South Florida.

Jorge holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Miami's Frost School of Music and a master's degree from Carnegie Mellon University. While at the Frost School, he studied clarinet with Margaret Donaghue, violin with Scott Flavin, and harpsichord with Frank Cooper. At USC Thornton, he currently studies conducting with Larry Livingston.

JOYCE LABRIOLA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Joyce LaBriola is an arts advocate, community builder, and experienced leader, joining Los Angeles Youth Orchestra from 18th Street Arts Center in Santa Monica. Joyce's career spans two decades with leadership roles in the sports industry (the NHL's Edmonton Oilers, the CFL's Edmonton Elks, the ECHL's Phoenix RoadRunners, and the ECHL League Office), the arts world (Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, the Winspear Centre for Music, 18th Street Arts Centre, and the Citadel Theatre), and the non-profit sector (HIV Edmonton, Unusual Suspects Theatre Company).

Joyce founded the Artists for Life Foundation of Alberta in 2009, a volunteer-run non-profit organization with the mission of advocating for those affected by HIV/AIDS, those who identify as LGBTQIA2S+, and marginalized, vulnerable and at-risk populations while celebrating the philanthropic spirit of the arts. She was selected as one of Avenue Magazine's "Top 40 Under 40" and has been celebrated for her work in community engagement in *Edmonton Woman Magazine* and MUSE Music. Joyce has been awarded many honors, such as the National Philanthropy Day Award by the Association for Fundraising Professionals (AFP) and won the Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose's Jean Lawson Award for her advocacy work. In addition, Joyce was nominated for the John Poole Promotion of the Arts Award and the YWCA Women of Distinction Award in the Arts and Culture category. As a leader in her field, Joyce was appointed to the City of Edmonton's WAVE (Women's Advocacy Voice of Edmonton) Committee and was named as a You Can Play Ambassador representing Western Canada.

Joyce is a graduate of Rider University/Westminster Choir College and spent her entire life on the musical theatre stage. She is a professional musician, writing and performing her own work, as well as singing with Edmonton Opera and the South Pasadena Arts and Music Academy.

ELISE DEWSBERRY GREEN
ORCHESTRA MANAGER

Elise Dewsberry Green has had a varied career as a singer, actor, and director in the musical theatre world; as well as bookkeeper, retail store manager, legal secretary, and website designer in the business world. She is currently also the Artistic Director of New Musicals Inc. in North Hollywood, a non-profit organization that works with bookwriters, lyricists, and composers in developing new musicals. Elise is also the wife of LAYO Cello Coach, Stephen Green.

While living in Toronto, Elise served as the Assistant Artistic Director of the Muskoka Festival; the Co-Ordinator of the festival's annual Musical Theatre Writer's Colony, the Associate Dramaturge of the Canadian Stage Company; the Resident Dramaturge of the Smile Theatre Company; and was the co-founder of Toronto's Script Lab. Elise spent many years touring Canada with *Nine Months* – a one-woman musical which she commissioned from writers Carl Ritchie and Stephen Woodjett. Elise and Carl also co-wrote *Any Body Home?*, which was produced by the Cordova Bay Theatre in Victoria, British Columbia, and published by Dramatic Publishing. Elise is also the author and evaluator of the Book Lab and the Outlining Lab, offered online through www.writingmusicaltheatre.com, and publishes a monthly vlog on the craft of musical theatre available at <https://nmi.org/elises-video-blog/>.



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SANDI STEINBERG

1934-2023

The Los Angeles Youth Orchestra lost a beloved member of our family in August 2023. Sandi Steinberg served as Director of Parent and Media Relations for many years, securing our first concert program ads by soliciting music schools across the country and working with local media resulting in countless stories about LAYO published in local papers. Above all, her warmth and communication skills built the foundation for our current model of parent involvement and engagement that makes LAYO so unique.

That's how we knew her in LAYO. But Sandi Steinberg was an accomplished writer, screenwriter, playwright, actor, singer, and fashion designer. And she is Russell Steinberg's mother.

We are so grateful to Russell for sharing part of her life with LAYO and we join the entire LA Arts Community in remembering this incredible woman.

Thank you to the following generous donors for their support:

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Photo: Beatrice Riley

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HORN

Dylan Skye Hart
Lisa McCormick

TRUMPET

Dave Etterbeek
Caster Teoh

TROMBONE

Paul Nelson
Caster Teoh

PERCUSSION

Tina Curtis
Roger Eshelman
Brahm Genzlinger
Enrique Lara

VIOLIN

Jiyoung An
Armando Anto
Niv Ashkenazi
Benjamin Bartelt
Sherry Cadow
Lauren Deutsch
Kirsten Fife
Sharon Jackson
Hanna Jin
Sara Jin
Michelle Kim
Victoria Lanier
Hui-Ping Lee
Paul Lee
Xiaoshan Liu
Shuwei Liue
Constance Meyer
Angelito Molina
Madalyn Parnas Möller
Johnny Nam
Neli Nikolaeva
Corinne Olsen
Joyce Osborn
Audrey Solomon
Hillary Thomas
Julia Varady
Lila Wade

VIOLIN (CONT.)

John Wang
Edmund Wu
Chan Ho Yun
Stephan Zarikyan

VIOLA

Will Alvarado
Gina Coletti
Diane Gilbert
Hayfield Music LA
Michael Mclean
Johnny Nam
Hillary Thomas

CELLO

Diane Chaplin
Jennifer Goss
Stephen Green
Victor Lawrence
Ej Lin
Diana Parmeter
Alexa Ramirez
Rudolph Stein
Nancy Yamagata
Rebecca Yeh

DOUBLE BASS

Aaron Blick
Phoebe Cohen
Karl Mccomas-Reichl
Adrian Rosen
Eric Shetzen

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Jonah Blumstein

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Charlie Kim

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Thomas Morino, Vincent Hauser

BURBANK HIGH SCHOOL

Annie Cavanaugh
William Molineaux

CALABASAS HIGH SCHOOL

Aaron Kohen

CALLE MAYOR MIDDLE SCHOOL

Gabriel Perez

CARPENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Caster Teoh

CHAMINADE COLLEGE PREPARATORY

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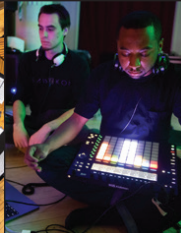
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