



LOS ANGELES YOUTH ORCHESTRA  
SPRING 2024 CONCERTS

# A PASTORAL CELEBRATION

*Russell Steinberg and Jorge Padrón, conductors*

Sunday, April 14 at 7:30pm  
Barnum Hall

Monday, April 15 at 7:30pm  
Ambassador Auditorium

[www.losangelesyouthorchestra.org](http://www.losangelesyouthorchestra.org)

*the future of culture*



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## NOTES FROM RUSSELL A PASTORAL CELEBRATION

***“Nature is a glorious school for the heart!”***  
**(Beethoven quoting a sermon by Cristian Sturm)**

### OUR ORCHESTRAS

We feel it in rehearsals—a different intensity and focus in our students. Pencils come out a bit more quickly to mark the music. Less casual talking. Better preparation. Perhaps that’s because nearly eighty of them will be joining our concert tour to Vienna and Prague this June. This is the largest group we’ve taken on an overseas tour. And it will grow! When we arrive, a dozen talented students from Vienna’s **JSBach Musikschule** join us for our three concerts. We’ll perform together in Esterhazy Castle, where Haydn premiered many of his works. Then on to the elegant modern MuTh Hall, home for the Vienna Boys Choir. We’ll travel to Heiligenstadt and walk the path that inspired Beethoven to compose his *Pastoral Symphony*. Yes, the same piece we’ll be playing tonight. We’ll conclude our tour in Prague, with a concert in the magnificent **Dvorak** Hall at the Rudolfinum.

This unforgettable tour serves as prelude to LAYO’s 25th anniversary next season. A generation. That’s huge for a youth orchestra that exists independent of a supporting school or religious organization. We’re planning special music and events that will include many of our outstanding alumni. The contributions they have already made in the world are our most powerful testimonials. Our graduating seniors this year join their ranks. You’ll notice that our program features their stories, a window into the hearts and minds behind the beautiful music you’re hearing tonight. This best explains the WHY for the Los Angeles Youth Orchestra. May it inspire your continuing support for the next 25 years.

### THE MUSIC

**Ludwig van Beethoven Symphony No. 6 in F Major, *Sinfonia Pastorale***  
Our spring concerts celebrate nature. Beethoven was a nature-lover. His love for nature was deeply spiritual. He wrote, *“Nature is a glorious school*



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## PROGRAM NOTES (CONT.)

*for the heart! ...I shall be a scholar of this school and bring an eager heart to her instruction. Here I shall learn wisdom, the only wisdom which is free from disgust; here I shall learn to know God and find a foretaste of heaven in His knowledge.*” He was actually paraphrasing from a book of sermons he had dog-eared and underlined, Christian Sturm’s essay “Nature as a School for the Heart.”

The *Sinfonia Pastorale* was Beethoven’s musical response to Sturm’s essay. He was nervous that listeners might discount the piece as what today we might consider film music, a musical painting of nature rather than a serious concert work. So underneath the title, he wrote “More an expression of feeling than tone painting.” And indeed, some reviewers of the time mocked the passages that imitated birds and thunderstorms. Today, it’s universally recognized as one of Beethoven’s supreme masterworks and arguably the most profound musical evocation of nature in the repertoire. It might surprise you to know that Beethoven composed it at the same time as his dramatic and even more famous fifth symphony. What a study in contrast! The fifth symphony shakes a fist at the heavens and fate. The sixth symphony breathes the serenity of nature’s beauty and perfection.

It also has an original narrative structure, with five movements instead of the usual four. Further, each movement has a programmatic title and the last three movements blend together without pause. We begin with cheerful feelings on arriving in the country. This first movement literally seems to breathe the fresh air of rural Austria with pauses at the end of its opening phrases. A unique feature to listen for is a new spatial sense of near and far that Beethoven creates with repeated rhythms that grow louder (coming closer) and then softer (receding to the distance). It’s aural 3D! For us in our time, we can recognize the roots of rock music as we find ourselves nodding our heads to Beethoven’s repeated riffs.

The second movement is the Scene at the Brook. This is the piece that ends with the evocation of the cuckoo bird, nightingale, and quail. That’s the ending. But the entire movement is one of Beethoven’s crowning achievements, with an accompaniment in the strings that evokes the

## PROGRAM NOTES (CONT.)

gentle swirling stream, trills that evoke birds, and one his most compelling melodies. For the accompaniment, Beethoven asks the two front cellists to play with mutes. Originally, though, he wanted all the strings to play with mutes. That’s how we’re doing it tonight. It lends a special glow to the movement and lets the woodwinds project over the orchestra.

The third movement is the dance movement, a fast scherzo depicting a merry village dance. Beethoven has fun here imitating some of the village bands he heard in Austria. He would notice how players would nod off to sleep, then wake with a start and blow a few notes before getting back on track or falling back asleep! Listen for that effect in the trio. Instead of a triumphant ending chord, the scherzo just abruptly cuts off as the basses softly portend the coming thunderstorm. The second violins play raindrops and the whole orchestra eventually moves in with the full-on storm. Even today, we’re taken by surprise with the raw sound and fury of the basses and cellos furiously bowing the lowest notes of their instruments. Beethoven transitions from the end of this storm to his final movement, a shepherd’s tune of thanksgiving. The orchestra takes up this tune in a flowing and emotional dance that culminates in an evocation of a full rainbow, not of literal colors, but of sound colors, going through the harmonies of the circle of fifths. The emotional satisfaction hearing this passage—that’s what classical music is all about! Master cellist and conductor Pablo Casals called the *Pastoral Symphony* one of the great gifts of mankind.

### Russell Steinberg *Cirrus Nimbus* (World Premiere)

Last year I spent a lot of time looking at clouds while I was driving to innumerable doctor appointments for my mom. The sun illuminates high wispy cirrus clouds in a way that stirs a sense of the sublime, a heavenly bliss. With their infinite variety of patterns, texture, and movement, the lower dark nimbus clouds with their terrific foreboding are equally compelling. To borrow from Beethoven’s terminology, this piece was inspired by the *feeling* I have watching the textures and movements of cirrus and nimbus clouds. To create the feeling of this dimensionality, you’ll notice that I divide the strings into many parts. The first violins and

## PROGRAM NOTES (CONT.)

second violins each play three different parts. The violas and cellos have two separate parts, the basses just one.

The piece is nine minutes long in four continuous sections. It begins high with the light cirrus clouds. Then the entire orchestra plays swirling scales that descend into the nimbus region. The texture gets dark and rather complex. A swelling transition section leads to the heart of the piece, an expressive and intense string lament that astute listeners might notice refers to the feel of Tchaikovsky's exquisite *Pathétique Symphony*, only with my own harmonic language. A transition with more cloud movement leads to a final section that strives back up to the light and culminates in joyous fanfares.

*Cirrus Nimbus* was written in memory of my mother, Sandi Steinberg.

### Bela Bartok *Pieces for Children*

When I began playing piano, Bartok's arrangements of Romanian and Hungarian folksongs titled *Pieces for Children* were some of my favorites. The stomping accents in the Sailor's Dance, the exquisitely sad harmonies in the Lament, the humor and pure joy in the Grasshopper's Wedding—these are pieces you want to play over and over. They are much more than arrangements, as Bartok's harmonies provide emotional energy equal to the marvelous melodies themselves. I've orchestrated nine of these gems to form a complete suite.

The orchestra unleashes the wide spectrum of sonic color I've always imagined in these piano pieces. Muted strings, harmonics, and wind chimes bring out the haunting quality of the Love Song. Tambourine, xylophone, and snare drum add rhythmic spice in A Magic Game. Alternating strings and winds brings out the fun "tug-of-war" in the Folk Dance. The full blend of winds, brass, strings, and percussion conveys the full cast of characters celebrating the Grasshopper's Wedding.

## PROGRAM NOTES (CONT.)

### Johannes Brahms Hungarian Dance No. 2 in D Minor

Like the Bartok Pieces for Children, the Brahms Hungarian Dance is an arrangement of tunes that he had probably performed with Hungarian violin virtuoso Ede Reményi in concert tours during his youth. He described his arrangements to his publisher Simrock as "'genuine children of the Pusta and Gypsies. Not begot by me, merely nourished by me on milk and bread.' Despite their lighthearted character, the *Hungarian Dances* are hardly trifles. Performance requires virtuoso technique and exquisite flexibility and command of changing tempo. This second dance is a case in point. Its mirth comes from each phrase exploding with an almost manic energy that quickly dissipates and becomes lyrical and sentimental, only to explode once again in rhythmic fury. Just a lot of fun to play and a lot of fun to hear.

### Franz Joseph Haydn, Symphony No. 104 "London"

Haydn composed his last symphony on his second tour to London and its premiere was an instant success. With its open tonic and dominant fanfares, the introduction is unforgettable. So too is the finale's jaunty folk tune sounding over a drone. You'll hear both these movements—the first and fourth—tonight.

After the dramatic introduction in the first movement, the Allegro has a decidedly Mozartean grace. It even has a tune with repeated notes that sounds like a hearty laugh, very similar to Mozart's own 'laugh' motive at the end of his last symphony, the "Jupiter." As for the finale, if you listen carefully to its main theme, you'll notice its shape is an upside down reflection of the first theme of Beethoven's *Pastoral* symphony, which also plays over a drone. We can't know if Beethoven was consciously aware of this connection, but he was Haydn's student. And the London symphony was composed ten years before Beethoven's *Pastoral Symphony*.

# LOS ANGELES YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Russell Steinberg, Founder & Artistic Director

Sunday, April 14, 2023 at 7:30pm

Barnum Hall

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## SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Russell Steinberg, Conductor

Cirrus Nimbus (World Premiere) Russell Steinberg

Symphony No. 6 in F Major ("Pastoral"), op. 68 Ludwig van Beethoven  
"More an expression of feeling than painting"

I. Awakening of cheerful feelings on arriving

in the country - Allegro ma non troppo

II. Scene by the brook - Andante molto mosso

III. Merry Assembly of Countryfolk - Allegro

IV. Lightning, thunderstorm - Allegro

Intermission

## RUTH BORUN CONCERT ORCHESTRA

Jorge Padrón, Assistant Conductor

London Symphony (No. 104) Joseph Haydn

I. Adagio - Allegro

IV. Allegro spiritoso

Pieces for Children Bela Bartok  
(arr. Russell Steinberg)

Sailor's Dance, Folk Song, Wedding Dance, Love Song,

A Magic Game, Folk Dance, Lament, Country Dance,

The Grasshopper's Wedding

Hungarian Dance No. 2 Johannes Brahms  
(arr. Andreas Hallén)

# LOS ANGELES YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Russell Steinberg, Founder & Artistic Director

Monday, April 15, 2023 at 7:30pm

Ambassador Auditorium

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Jorge Padrón, Assistant Conductor

London Symphony (No. 104) Joseph Haydn

I. Adagio - Allegro

IV. Allegro spiritoso

Pieces for Children Bela Bartok  
(arr. Russell Steinberg)

Sailor's Dance, Folk Song, Wedding Dance, Love Song,

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Alex Zhang

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Kyler Chu  
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Haoran Xu

### VIOLIN I, CONT.

Anna Lu  
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Daniel Yang

### VIOLIN II

Athena Baylon  
*Principal*  
Jason Foronda  
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Joel Zaldivar  
*Principal*  
Daniella Traum

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*Principal*  
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Luke Newman  
Apollo Rob  
Isaiah Dorado  
Cooper Rieke  
Kate Anderson

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Addison Ma  
*Principal*

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Abigail Brendza  
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*Bassoon*  
Stephen Pfeifer  
*Double Bass*  
Daniel Ward  
*French Horn 1*  
Patrick Williams  
*French Horn 2*  
Bennett Imai  
*Oboe*  
Jeim Zhao  
*Oboe*  
Stephen Hannan  
*Trombone*  
Bryan Gonzalez  
*Viola*  
David Sage  
*Viola*

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*Principal*

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Jasmine Kao

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Jason Yang  
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Audrey Li  
Justin Kim  
Sean Yeh  
Leena Adeli  
Maegan Daley  
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*Principal*  
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Kyle Henderson  
Rebecca Lee  
Jadyn Escobar

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*Principal*  
Stella Hanscom  
Samira Shokrian

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Isabella Chiang  
Jillana Yeh  
Franco Lee  
Shaowen (YoYo) Yi

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Joia Masee  
*Principal*  
Ari Cosato

### GUESTS

Abigail Brendza  
*Bassoon*  
Matthew Rasmussen  
*Bassoon*  
Stephen Pfeifer  
*Double Bass*  
Stephen Hannan  
*Trombone*



Photo: Beatrice Riley



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](http://www.russellsteinberg.com)

**JORGE PADRÓN**, CONDUCTOR OF RUTH BORUN  
CONCERT ORCHESTRA

**Jorge Padrón** 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, was a site conductor for the Los Angeles Philharmonic's YOLA program, and directed 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 *Action, Criticism, and Theory* 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 and Jacob Sustaita.



**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 Woodjetts. 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](http://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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*the future of culture*

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on an outstanding 2024-2025 season!*

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 Maria Fernanda Baserga-Rudd &  
 David Rudd  
 Linda Lee Beaven  
 Benning Violins  
 Meghan and Randall Bishop  
 Joshua Blacker and Sheila Murphy  
 Margaret and Tim Brady  
 Katie Brennan and Albert Gasser  
 Phillipe Brochu and Ana Santos  
 Sean and Amy Bruggar

**SUPPORTERS (CONT.)**

Nora Castillo  
 Eun Chang and Huang Yi  
 Richard and Esther Chen  
 Chris Chen and Casey Wu  
 Jay and Charlene Cheng  
 Eunice Choi and Charles Lee  
 William Chu and Xiaochen Shen  
 Tova and Kaveh Cohen  
 Jeanne Cotton  
 Stephen Cox  
 Ana Dominique Cristobal and Syed Rob  
 Caroline Critchlow  
 Yabing Dai and Helen Ma  
 James and Adelaide Daughtry  
 Ana and Slobodan Davidovic  
 Matt and Melissa Dinolfo  
 Marc and Sunny Ellis  
 Ray Fang  
 Myra Feffer  
 Robert Fields  
 Hugh Fitzpatrick and Amy Teplin  
 Nicholas Fok and Julie Liu  
 Dale Foronda and Jane Matusovskaya  
 Barbara and Frederick Frey  
 Don Galias  
 Tengfu Gao and Liping Ye  
 Ruth Getachew  
 Michael Gibbons  
 Jane and Glenn Gibson  
 Karen Giles  
 Tom and Dianne Gire  
 Rosanne and Christopher Giza  
 Nina Golden and Jason Rosenbaum  
 Peyman and Lisa Golshani  
 Peter Gratzinger and Christina von der Ohe  
 Barbara L. and Mark H. Gutman  
 Hamid Hajmomenian and Mary Sehl  
 Ann Haker  
 Suzanne Hertzberg and Ray Ingersoll  
 Bing Hou and Fang Liao  
 Mao Hua and Min Luo  
 Wei Huang and Zheng Wen  
 Ray Huang and Yu Chin Chiu  
 Lynn Hutchinson and David Sheldon

**SUPPORTERS (CONT.)**

Kate and Steve Je  
 Annie and Jackson Jeng  
 Pauline and Terence Jenkins  
 Lijun Jiang and Tao Wang  
 Younhee Ji and Eunghan Kwak  
 Dr. Royce Johnson  
 Alexander and Jeany Jun  
 Austin Kang and Su Hyun Park  
 John Kao and Li Dai  
 Marc Kaye  
 Aaron Kik  
 Do Hyun Kim and Jin Hae Park  
 Jennifer Kim and Jay Lee  
 Yongho and Esther Kim  
 Barbara Kissane  
 Hannah and Marshall Kramer  
 Mary and Roger Kumble  
 Brent Kuszyk  
 Eunghan Kwak and Younhee Ji  
 Joyce LaBriola  
 Molly Lague and Darren Domingue  
 Angus Lai and Wendy Lee  
 Marjorie Lawrence  
 Jae Lee and Jung Ji  
 Jany Lee and Jonathan Yeh  
 Min and Jin Sup Lee  
 Thomas and Yen Li  
 Hongqiang Li and Huisu Liu  
 Hsin Chun Lin and Sabrina Chen  
 Rhea and Tim Lin  
 Robert Lloyd  
 Robin Low  
 Ashley and Tom Ma  
 Fred Manaster  
 Eran Marcus and Amy Martin  
 Leo Marcus  
 Miles Mizzie and Jennifer Lee  
 Michael McErlean  
 Eric Miller and Lan Nguyen  
 Dan and Margie Mintz  
 Dianma Morgan  
 Marla Morgan  
 In Memory of Cecil and Karen Morris  
 Jay M. Nagdimon and Mark R. Leong

**SUPPORTERS (CONT.)**

Craig W. and Amy Spector Nickoloff  
 Charles Norton and Fei Chen  
 O'Donnell Family  
 Joyce Osborn  
 John Palmerton  
 Stanley and Roselynn Ann Pappelbaum  
 Mia and Patrick Pardo  
 Rose and Edwin Pastrana  
 Heather Patay  
 Claudio Pellegrini  
 Diana and William Putzer  
 Resta Family  
 Carlos Rodriguez and Imogen Rogers  
 Danielle Samulon and Jesse Shapiro  
 Kara and Yves Sergile  
 Timothy and Rosalie Sheridan  
 Bruce Shragg and Robyn Samuels  
 Sixteen Ounce Films  
 Southern California Piano Academy  
 Russell Steinberg  
 Jeff Summers  
 Natalie Sun and Jun Yang  
 Jared and Johanna Tobel  
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 Henry and Janet Waxman  
 Rev. Priscilla Felisky Whitehead  
 Woodland Hills Woman's Club  
 Gregory Wright  
 Shuai Xu and Zhenzhen Yang  
 Jianlin Xue and Fang Wang  
 Jianmin Yang and Helen Guo  
 Emma Yang & Jesse Lee  
 Sally Yamashita  
 Kathy and Sam Yang  
 Pansy and C.K. Ken Yang  
 Kay Yasuda  
 Haitao Yi and Na Li  
 Gary Zhang and Yantao Zeng  
 Eric and Ming Zee  
 Yantao Zeng and Jin Zhang  
 Yan Zhang  
 You Zhang and Pingping Shu

**SUPPORTERS (CONT.)**

Xin Zhuang  
Yosef and Lilit Zibari  
Yingfeng Zong and Fang Xia

**FRIENDS (GIFTS UP TO \$99)**

Adriana Avelar  
Elaine Barkin  
Veronica Baylon  
Sarah Brennan  
Sara Brum  
Rina Carmel  
Cammie and Bob Cohen  
Rita Eagle  
Elizabeth Erenberg  
Alan Feinstein  
Sandey and Delman Fields  
Carina Gavino  
Brian and Celine Gietzen  
Joan Gordon  
Randall Gross Jr.  
Penny Haberman  
Stephen Jelso  
Debra Kray  
Vitaly and Susan Kresin  
Jessica and Seth Kurzban  
Kirk Lawrence  
Karen Macarah  
Sierra Marcks-O'Neill  
Joy McMahan  
Ken Meyer and Chia Yen  
Jay and Jill Michtom  
Rachel Payne  
Elizabeth Petty  
Geri Rios  
Rosalba Rodriguez  
Jason Rosenbaum  
Marian Sloan

The Los Angeles Youth Orchestra is supported, in part, by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Department of Arts and Culture and the California Arts Council, a state agency.



**CALIFORNIA  
ARTS COUNCIL**  
A STATE AGENCY



Los Angeles Youth Orchestra is grateful to the following funders for their unwavering support:

Nancy E Barton Foundation  
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Anna and Harry Borun Foundation  
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Susan Lynn Gesundheit Charitable Fund  
Milken Family Foundation  
Ruby Family Foundation  
Universal Music Group



**Congratulations to the  
Los Angeles Youth Orchestra  
Graduating Seniors, Class of 2024**

Emi Affeld  
Rose Domzalski  
Serena Eaton  
Riley Golds  
Stella Hanscom  
Marc Hua

Hanwen Huang  
Annette Je  
Joyce Lai  
Franco Lee  
Julia Marcus  
Joia Masee

Eli Pastrana  
Francesca Rodriguez  
Benjamin Wainwright  
Lidya Yirgu

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**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO OUR GRADUATING SENIORS**

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We asked our Graduating Seniors  
the following questions:

**How long have you been in LAYO?**

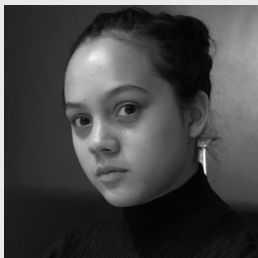
**Why did you want to join LAYO?**

**What are your favorite moments?**

**What's next?**

Please enjoy their stories over the next  
few pages and join them as we wish  
them luck as they continue on beyond LAYO

*Wishing you every success in your future endeavors.  
May music always be part of your lives!*



**EMI AFFELD  
(SO VIOLIN 1)**

**How long have you been in LAYO?**

Since 7th grade, starting fall 2018

**Why did you want to be a part of LAYO?**

The spirit of music in our home inspired me from an early age. LAYO plays great repertoire and I really enjoyed playing with so many talented musicians.

**What are some of your best memories?**

Going to Carnegie Hall in New York, playing Sibelius 2nd, the Beethoven symphonies, and Russell's compositions.

**What's next?**

Going to college and playing in the school orchestra



**SERENA EATON  
(SO CELLO)**

**How long have you been in LAYO?**

I'm pretty sure I've been in LAYO since 2016, so around 8 years now.

**Why did you want to be a part of LAYO?**

When I started getting good at the cello, it made sense to seek out opportunities to put my talent to use. My reason for being in the orchestra has changed as I've grown up. Now, I am a part of LAYO because playing as an ensemble can often feel much more powerful and meaningful than playing solo.

**What are some of your best memories?**

The Carnegie Hall tour was a really amazing experience that helped show me the importance of what we were doing. I like that LAYO is a place where young people can get together and express profound ideas through art without getting handed a simplified version of the music or being treated like children rather than musicians.

**What's next?**

Still waiting on admissions decisions to see where I'll be going in the fall, but wherever it is I plan on becoming involved in the music community as an extracurricular or a music minor.



**ROSE DOMZALSKI  
(SO CLARINET)**

**How long have you been in LAYO?**

Been in LAYO for about three years

**Why did you want to be a part of LAYO?**

Wanted to experience playing music as part of a group, as my school lacks an orchestra

**What are some of your best memories?**

Favorite thing is concert days—I love all the backstage excitement and the truly awe-inspiring experience of playing as part of a full orchestra. I have fond memories of the New York trip.

**What's next?**

I'll be on the upcoming Vienna-Prague tour, so I'm looking forward to that. I will also be taking a gap year before college, so I may continue playing as a member of the orchestra during that time.



**RILEY GOLDS  
(SO OBOE)**

**How long have you been in LAYO?**

I have been in LAYO for four semesters now.

**Why did you want to be a part of LAYO?**

I wanted to be a part of LAYO because I wanted the opportunity to play high level music with advanced players my age.

**What are some of your best memories?**

One of my favorite memories at LAYO would be playing cards with the woodwind section before playing our concert. My favorite thing about LAYO are the friends that I have made during my time here. I feel like we have really bonded over our time together.

**What's next?**

After my senior year, I am going to the University of Michigan, and majoring in Oboe Performance. I hope there I can further my education, and my love for music as well.



**STELLA HANSCOM  
(SO CELLO)**

**How long have you been in LAYO?**

I've been in LAYO since 7th grade, about 6 years.

**Why did you want to be a part of LAYO?**

I wanted to be a part of LAYO to practice music in a group setting and explore new types of music.

**What are some of your best memories?**

My best memories are concerts and my favorite thing about LAYO is playing music with friends that I don't usually get to spend time with during the week.

**What's next?**

I'm not sure what comes next but I am expecting to continue school in college.



**MARC HUA  
(SO VIOLIN 1)**

**How long have you been in LAYO?**

Less than two seasons.

**Why did you want to be a part of LAYO?**

In 6th grade, I joined my middle school orchestra as a violinist. Over time, my passion for classical music grew, and I aspired to perform it myself.

**What are some of your best memories?**

My first rehearsal with LAYO will be unforgettable. We delved into Brahms' Symphony No. 3—a piece I had eagerly anticipated since first laying eyes on the audition music. What I cherish most about LAYO is the opportunity to bring life to the music I adore. Mr. Steinberg's unwavering passion permeates through the orchestra, lifting us to great standards.

**What's next?**

I hope to get accepted into UCLA as an actuarial science major.

*Graduating Seniors Celebration, made possible through the support of LAYO's Board of Directors*



**HANWEN HUANG  
(SO FLUTE)**

**How long have you been in LAYO?**

I have been in LAYO since 7th grade, or for 7 years now.

**Why did you want to be a part of LAYO?**

My friends and classmates were in LAYO for years before me, and they convinced me to join.

**What are some of your best memories?**

My best memories from LAYO include my first performance at Ambassador Auditorium and our tour to Carnegie Hall in 2022.

**What's next?**

I plan to travel around Europe before and after the tour, and then study International Relations to eventually go into diplomacy.



**ANNETTE JE  
(SO FLUTE)**

**How long have you been in LAYO?**

I have been in LAYO since 2021

**Why did you want to be a part of LAYO?**

Before LAYO I had joined multiple youth orchestras around Torrance but I wasn't able to find one I really liked. From then on I started searching on Google for different youth orchestras that were further and I happened to come across LAYO's website. When I first joined LAYO I was really scared that this would be another orchestra that didn't fit me but I was really lucky to meet people who were serious about playing music and also enjoyed it like I did.

**What are some of your best memories?**

My favorite memory about LAYO is going on our New York Trip and performing at Carnegie Hall. I still remember the excitement I felt performing in Carnegie, the large echo of the hall, and also the NY pizza we got after. My favorite part of LAYO is the friends and teachers that I have met over the past 3 years. The opportunity to surround myself with peers who share my passion for music and to learn from hardworking musicians has been immensely helpful and inspiring. I believe that these experiences within the LAYO community have really played a significant role in shaping me into a better musician.

**What's next?**

In the fall I will be attending Brandeis University in Massachusetts as a Business Major with a minor in music. During the summer I plan to attend a few music programs out of state while also traveling with my friends and family. For college music plans, other than minoring in music I don't have a set plan yet of what I am going to do but I'm really lucky that Boston, Massachusetts is filled with a bunch of music opportunities. So I'm looking forward to exploring those. Joining another orchestra is definitely at the top of my list :)))

*Graduating Seniors Celebration, made possible through the support of LAYO's Board of Directors*





**JOYCE LAI  
(SO VIOLIN 2)**

**How long have you been in LAYO?**

I've been a part of LAYO for about 2 years now.

**Why did you want to be a part of LAYO?**

I joined LAYO because my best friend and I wanted to attend the Carnegie Hall tour, and in the process, I've met some of my closest friends while growing musically.

**What are some of your best memories?**

My best memories of LAYO have to be the Carnegie Hall tour and hanging out with my friends during rehearsals and concerts. I love coming to LAYO for the sense of community yet strong musical training here.

**What's next?**

After high school, I plan to go to college and pursue Chemistry on a Pre-medical track but I'll definitely be bringing my violin with me. Additionally, I'll be attending the LAYO Vienna/Prague Tour :)



**JULIA MARCUS  
(SO VIOLIN 1)**

**How long have you been in LAYO?**

I've been in LAYO since fall 2020, my freshman year.

**Why did you want to be a part of LAYO?**

I had never been in a real full orchestra before, and I wanted to join after seeing LAYO concerts when my brother was in it - it looked so fun!

**What are some of your best memories?**

My favorite memory is the New York trip two years ago. We played Sibelius 2, which is now one of my favorite pieces, and playing at Carnegie Hall was a pretty unique experience. I also had a ton of fun with my friends who've now graduated.

**What's next?**

After the LAYO Europe tour, I'm spending the rest of the summer at Kinhaven Music School in Vermont! And I'm going to college in the fall but not sure where yet.



**FRANCO LEE  
(SO CELLO)**

**How long have you been in LAYO?**

I have been in LAYO since the 2021 Fall Semester as a sophomore.

**Why did you want to be a part of LAYO?**

I wanted to be part of LAYO originally for the Extracurricular Credit. But as I slowly got to immerse myself in such a dedicated and kind group, my reasons increased by a ton. I continued to stay in the orchestra because I would gain the wonderful opportunity to work alongside wonderful people to play the most beautiful of classical pieces. To talk and interact with other individuals of similar interests is amazing.

**What are some of your best memories?**

Some of my favorite memories would most definitely be the concerts. From watching the other orchestras practice and hard work be shown at the concert. Seeing the audience's reaction during our orchestra inspired me to continue in this orchestra. There is no favorite to LAYO since every aspect of it is very exciting and entertaining for me.

**What's next?**

I will be heading to the United States Naval Academy next year and will continue in the orchestra at the Academy. I hope to continue pursuing music in the future and travel over the world through the navy spreading my love for classical music.



**JOIA MASSEE  
(SO BASS)**

**How long have you been in LAYO?**

I am honored to have been in LAYO Symphony for 2 years.

**Why did you want to be a part of LAYO?**

I auditioned for LAYO at the advice of my bass teacher because I wanted to learn more advanced music with a professional orchestra.

**What are some of your best memories?**

My favorite thing about LAYO is how committed the teachers are to helping me grow as a bassist.

**What's next?**

This summer I'm looking forward to the LAYO Vienna & Prague tour and The Idyllwild Summer Instrumental Musicians Intensive.

After graduation I plan to continue studying classical bass performance and will be attending Idyllwild Arts Academy for a post-graduate year where I will prepare for conservatory auditions.



**ELI PASTRANA  
(SO VIOLIN 1)**

**How long have you been in LAYO?**

I have been in LAYO for almost 3 years.

**Why did you want to be a part of LAYO?**

I wanted to be a part of LAYO because I wanted something more challenging from orchestra. My experiences with my school orchestra were very beginner-level and I wanted to play with a

more advanced group.

**What are some of your best memories?**

My best memories from LAYO are definitely from the Carnegie Hall tour and getting to make many new friends on that trip.

**What's next?**

After I graduate, I plan to go to school for mechanical engineering. I plan to continue playing my instrument, too.



**BENJAMIN WAINWRIGHT  
(SO HORN)**

**How long have you been in LAYO?**

Hi, I'm Ben and I have been in LAYO since fall of 2022!

**Why did you want to be a part of LAYO?**

I wanted to be a part of LAYO because my schools music program unfortunately does not have a full symphony orchestra. Plus, I love music and it is one of my many passions.

**What are some of your best memories?**

Some of my best memories at LAYO are during the concerts and hanging out with my friends and hearing about their lives...we're all from very different backgrounds.

**What's next?**

I'm pursuing a Music Major in French Horn Performance this coming fall but ultimately plan on becoming an airline pilot. I love to fly and have obtained my private pilot's license. Feel free to say hello or keep up with my adventures on instagram at: @ben\_the\_giraffe



**FRANCESCA RODRIGUEZ  
(SO OBOE)**

**How long have you been in LAYO?**

I'm Francesca and this is my second year as an oboist in LAYO.

**Why did you want to be a part of LAYO?**

I joined the orchestra to grow as a musician and explore my love of music with new friends!

**What are some of your best memories?**

My favorite part of LAYO (which includes some of my best memories) is the pre-concert energy backstage. We're all excited to perform, and everyone warms up and plays card games together.

**What's next?**

Though I'm not yet sure where I'll be heading to school, I plan to double-major in International Relations and Economics with a minor in Environmental Studies.



**LIDYA YIRGU  
(PERCUSSION)**

**How long have you been in LAYO?**

I've been in LAYO for two years now, since Fall 2022.

**Why did you want to be a part of LAYO?**

I've always wanted to be a part of an orchestra. I had been playing the piano and percussion by myself, but I wanted to play classical music with other people. A friend in LAYO (who's also a senior,

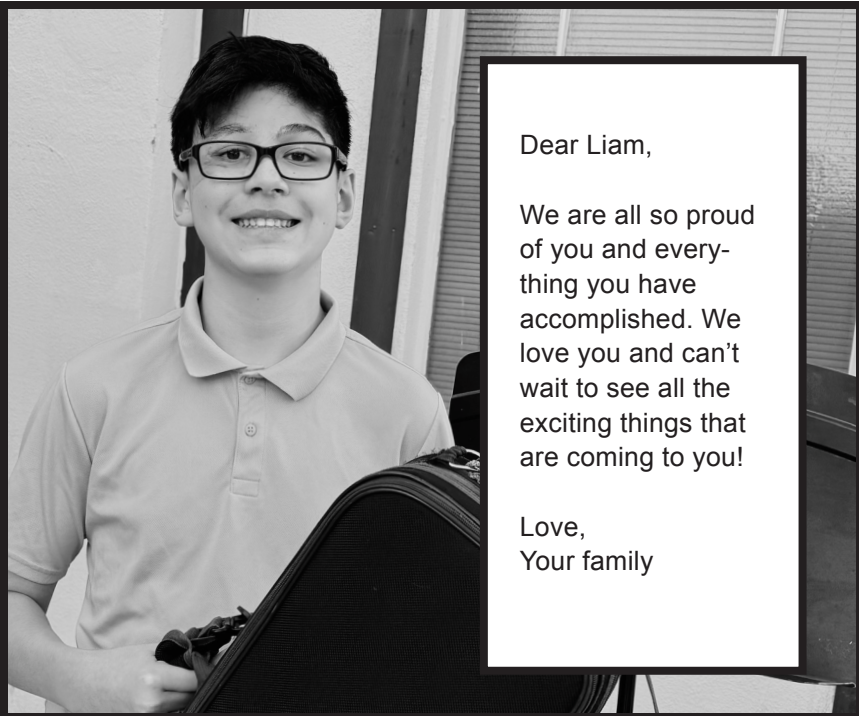
shoutout Joyce Lai) suggested that I join, and here I am.

**What are some of your best memories?**

I love the concerts that we do. Especially hanging out backstage right before we perform. Everyone's buzzing, everyone's also kind of nervous. It's a good feeling.

**What's next?**

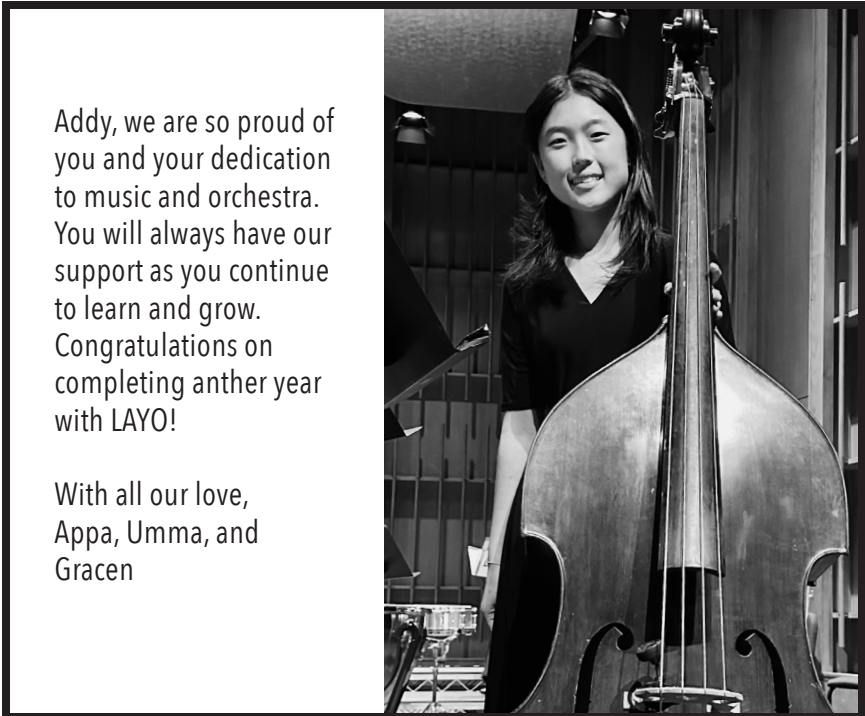
Next up is college. I'll be studying Economics, and I'll be graduating with my Associate's Degree from Pierce College this spring. I have no clue what college I'm going to yet. But I'll go somewhere. :)



Dear Liam,

We are all so proud of you and everything you have accomplished. We love you and can't wait to see all the exciting things that are coming to you!

Love,  
Your family



Addy, we are so proud of you and your dedication to music and orchestra. You will always have our support as you continue to learn and grow. Congratulations on completing another year with LAYO!

With all our love,  
Appa, Umma, and Gracen



**LUKAS,**

*Keep finding the music  
in everything you do!  
You make us proud every  
day.*

*We love you,  
Mama, Papa and Julian*

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American Federation of Musicians Local 47  
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*Stephanie O'Keefe*  
Stephanie O'Keefe  
President

*Marc Sazer*  
Marc Sazer  
Vice President

*Gail Kruvand*  
Gail Kruvand  
Secretary/Treasurer



Congratulations Ben Wainwright, class of 2024! We are so proud of your hard work and passion for music! Love from Mom, Dad, Nick, and Grandma





Photo: Beatrice Riley



Photo: Beatrice Riley

## THANKS TO THE PRIVATE TEACHERS

The Los Angeles Youth Orchestra requires all of its members to work weekly with private instrumental teachers. We express gratitude to these teachers for developing the technique of our students, taking the time in lessons to practice our orchestra music, and for understanding the value of orchestral experience for young musicians.

### FLUTE

William Alvarado  
Caitlin Boruch  
Jennifer Jo  
Cathy Larson  
Yoona Lee  
Chang Lu  
Serena Nguyen  
Tina Yoo

### OBOE

Bom An  
Bennett Lopez

### CLARINET

Melissa Frisch  
Gabriel Melendez  
Geoff Nudell  
Steve Park  
William Wellwood  
Bin Zhao

### 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

## THANKS TO THE SCHOOLS

LAYO student musicians hail from over 70 different public and private schools throughout the greater Los Angeles area. We acknowledge these schools, their music directors and their ongoing partnership with LAYO.

### **AC STELLE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Michael Siegel

### **AE WRIGHT MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Daniel Pracher

### **AGOURA HIGH SCHOOL**

Chad Bloom, Robert Hackett

### **ARNOLD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Amy Wolff

### **BEVERLY HILLS HIGH SCHOOL**

Bill Bradbury

### **BRENTWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Jonah Blumstein

### **BRENTWOOD SCHOOL**

Charlie Kim

### **BUCKLEY HIGH SCHOOL**

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**

Jordan Lewis

### **CHAMPS CHARTER HS**

Jeff Byrd

### **CLEVELAND CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL**

Cameron Yassaman

### **CROSSROADS SCHOOL**

Ramsey Castaneda

### **CULVER CITY HIGH SCHOOL**

Tony Spano

### **DA VINCI CONNECT**

Toby Harwell

### **DAY CREEK INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

Susana Quinteros

### **EL CAMINO REAL CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL**

Kevin Thurow

### **FAITH BAPTIST SCHOOLS**

Rica Silbol

### **FOOTHILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Karl Morton

### **GEFFEN ACADEMY AT UCLA**

Michael Albertson

### **GOLDEN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL**

### **GRANADA HILLS CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL**

Joseph Cooper

### **GROVER CLEVELAND CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL**

### **HARVARD WESTLAKE MIDDLE**

Emily Reola

### **HERBERT HOOVER HIGH SCHOOL**

Dylan Koester

### **HILLEL HEBREW ACADEMY**

### **I LEAD EXPLORATION**

### **IMMACULATE HEART HIGH SCHOOL**

Daniella Binzak

### **JOHN BURROUGHS HIGH SCHOOL**

### **JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL**

### **LOS ANGELES CENTER FOR ENRICHED STUDIES**

Leroy Lubin

### **LOS ANGELES COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS**

Michael Powers

### **LUTHER BURBANK MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Amy Belhumeur

### **LYCEE FRANCAIS DE LOS ANGELES**

### **MARENGO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Ashley Diggs

### **MARK TWAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

### **MAYFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL**

David Brown

### **MEADOW PARK ELEMENTARY**

### **MEDEA CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Elayne Roesner

### **NEW WEST CHARTER**

Rebekah Leithart

### **NORTH HOLLYWOOD HIGH SCHOOL**

Robin Sharp

### **OAK AVENUE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

Jack Taylor

### **OAK PARK HIGH SCHOOL**

Zachary Borquez

### **OAKS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

Naomi Mandojana

### **OCEAN CHARTER SCHOOL**

Bray Ghiglia

### **PALISADES CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL**

Elizabeth Stoyanovich, Peter Ye

## THANKS TO THE SCHOOLS (cont.)

### PALOS VERDES PENINSULA HIGH SCHOOL

Michael Lloyd

### PAUL REVERE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Gregory Samuel

### POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL

Megan Foley

### PORTER RANCH COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Jay Cheng

### RANCHO PICO JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Peggi Stoffel

### REDONDO UNION HIGH SCHOOL

Raymond Vizcarra

### REVO ACADEMY

### RIDGECREST MIDDLE SCHOOL

Michael Llyod

### ROBERT FROST MIDDLE SCHOOL MAGNET CONSERVATORY

Tina Curtis

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### SANTA MONICA HIGH SCHOOL

Jason Aiello, Jim Wang

### SIERRA CANYON HIGH SCHOOL

Michael Davis

### SOUTH PASADENA HIGH SCHOOL

Howard Crawford

### THE SCIENCE ACADEMY STEM MAGNET

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