



LOS ANGELES YOUTH ORCHESTRA
FALL 2024 CONCERT

25TH ANNIVERSARY

Los Angeles Youth Orchestra
joined by Alumni from across the country
Russell Steinberg and Jorge Padrón, conductors

Featuring

Shostakovich Symphony No. 5

Monday, November 25 at 7:30pm
Ambassador Auditorium

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LOS ANGELES YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Russell Steinberg, Founder & Artistic Director

Monday, November 25, 2024 at 7:30pm

Ambassador Auditorium

RUTH BORUN CONCERT ORCHESTRA

Jorge Padrón, Assistant Conductor

Ruby Overture Russell Steinberg

405:8AM Russell Steinberg

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring Johann Sebastian Bach
(arr. Merle J. Isaac)

Selections from Harry Potter and the
Chamber of Secrets John Williams
(arr. John Whitney)

Overture to the Magic Flute Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Danse Infernale from the Firebird Suite Igor Stravinsky
(arr. Merle J. Isaac)

Intermission

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Russell Steinberg, Conductor

Symphony No. 5 in D Minor Dmitri Shostakovich
I. Moderato
II. Allegretto
III. Largo
IV. Allegro non troppo

LAYO'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Disbelief and awe!

Disbelief—can it possibly be 25 years ago that we started this youth orchestra? And awe... LAYO alums have discovered such creative, inspiring, and unpredictable pathways going forward. Physicists, fashion editors, novelists, psychologists, school teachers, early music specialists, lawyers, biologists, business entrepreneurs, performing arts administrators, and on and on! Approximately 1,400 of them so far are helping to make a better world.

More LAYO Alum than I ever imagined are now highly regarded professional musicians. They perform and teach all over the U.S., Canada, and Europe. They play in professional symphony orchestras, early music ensembles, and chamber ensembles. They teach in public schools, private schools, and universities. Many compose and conduct. Tigran Arakeylan has conducted two youth orchestras and is now Music Director of Northwest Mahler Festival, ORS of Tacoma, and the Port Townsend Symphony. Dorian Bandy is a highly regarded musicologist and performer at McGill University. Benjy Fox-Rosen lives in Vienna where he has built a reputation as an expert in Klezmer and Yiddish music. He still performs double bass and also sings and composes. Professional violinists Niv Ashkenazi and Ben Bartelt have returned to us and become expert coaches to our current students.

The best part of reaching out to alums this fall has been getting emails and phone calls nearly every day. Jaya Nataraj has 20 publications in scientific research on neural stimulation treating children with movement disorders. Yunchao Zhang is finishing his doctorate in theoretical physics at MIT. Not far from MIT, two alums are finishing doctorates at Harvard—Clara Ross in astrophysics studying exo-planets and Katherine Norton studying biological and biomedical sciences. Kate Perry is completing her doctorate in history at Vanderbilt University. Julia Winokur is in Chicago working at a marketing firm while she finishes her graduate degree in psychology. She just had a baby girl—Myla—on her first wedding anniversary with her wife. Thaïs Miller is now an accomplished novelist, poet, and playwright who recently received her Ph.D. from UC Santa Cruz and is now on the faculty at the University of Central Arkansas.

I heard recently that the great mission of a non-profit organization is to be a ladder, a ladder that helps take people from where they are to a higher place. LAYO can't take credit for the accomplishments of our alums, but we have been that ladder. The alums let us know. The discipline, the experience working in a coordinated ensemble, the study of deep musical ideas, and above all, cultivating a love for music that lasts a lifetime—every LAYO student absorbs these skills. And I believe they provide an invaluable emotional and intellectual anchor in our increasingly unstable world.

To all of you who have given your time, money, and energy to our orchestra over the years, I hope you can feel a great deal of pride and fulfillment knowing that your support has really made a difference in the world.

NOTES FROM RUSSELL

Shostakovich Symphony No. 5

The story behind this symphony is nearly as powerful as the music itself. It's a lesson of survival under the terror of a dictatorship. In 1936 Shostakovich was a famous and highly regarded composer in the Soviet Union. And then, Stalin attended a performance of Shostakovich's opera *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*. He clearly didn't like it! A review was published a few days later in Pravda titled "*Muddle Instead of Music*." It accused Shostakovich of being a formalist and a musical charlatan who "ignored the demands of Soviet culture." Shostakovich was instantly an "enemy of the people."

Colleagues distanced themselves. His opera was banned. He withdrew his fourth symphony from its upcoming premiere. He feared he could be arrested at any moment. To survive, he began composing a new symphony to answer his critics. He simplified his style, reduced the level of dissonance, and ended with a triumphant D major chord, just like the classics. He even reverted to a traditional four movement structure not dissimilar to Tchaikovsky's—a first movement in sonata form, a second movement scherzo, a third slow movement, and a brilliant brassy finale.

The premiere in 1937 is the stuff of legend. People were seen literally weeping during the slow movement. The ovation at the end went on for almost as long as the symphony itself. Shostakovich himself described the symphony as "a Soviet artist's no-nonsense response to well-deserved criticism." Soviet authorities were placated. Shostakovich was resurrected.

But here's the thing: the audience heard the symphony not as a Soviet triumph, but as an expression of the suffering they were experiencing during Stalin's reign. Many had relatives killed or imprisoned in the gulags. This symphony contained hidden messages. In the slow movement, the strings sound strikingly like human wailing. Later, the strings movingly imitate a choir singing a Russian Orthodox hymn. This when communism specifically forbade religious expression.

PROGRAM NOTES (CONT.)

Then there is the controversy of the finale, one that rages even today. The brass indeed end the symphony with a triumphant fanfare. But that fanfare is imprisoned by a bizarre accompaniment in the rest of the orchestra obsessively focused on the single note 'A,' repeated nearly 300 times in succession. Like a jackhammer pounding into your head. In the last measures, a bass drum pounds out 8 strokes as loud as possible, obliterating the rest of the orchestra. Is the ending then triumphant, or bestial and violent? Conductors continue to ponder this question. Some take the final section almost twice as fast as Shostakovich indicates and end in a blaze of glory. Others take Shostakovich's slower tempo and make it terrifying. In Solomon Volkov's *Testimony: The Memoirs of Dmitri Shostakovich* (a work whose authenticity remains under question), he reports Shostakovich's unofficial explanation of the ending: "The rejoicing is forced, created under threat, as in [Mussorgsky's opera] *Boris Godunov*. It's as if someone were beating you with a stick and saying, "Your business is rejoicing, your business is rejoicing", and you rise, shaky, and go marching off, muttering, "Our business is rejoicing, our business is rejoicing."

Ruby Overture

I composed the Ruby Overture originally as a tribute to Ken and Wendy Ruby who built the fourth classroom annex at Milken Community High School. I later revised the piece for full orchestra and LAYO performed it as an effective encore during its 2015 Vienna-Prague tour.

This performance is dedicated in memory of Ken Ruby, who passed away just last summer. Ken was simply a remarkable person, a successful real estate developer and a passionate philanthropist. Ken and Wendy believed in the importance of LAYO since the beginning. Their warm enthusiasm and support have been a vital ingredient in LAYO's success.

PROGRAM NOTES (CONT.)

405:8am

If you've driven it, you know it. This short piece is an ode to the snarling, idling mess that is the world's most heavily trafficked freeway, the San Diego "405" Freeway — at 8am. For youth orchestra students, it is a chance to play all the crazy sounds that teachers try to keep them from doing! Woodwinds and brass make air sounds and key clicks. Strings tap their instruments with their fingers. Clarinets and bassoons play multiphonics (fuzzy complex sounds). Trumpets detach their mouthpiece and blow into the bell of their instruments. Violins bow behind the bridge. Lower strings play on the bridge (sul ponticello). All strings and brass play an upwards glissando at the end. Not much you can do about the traffic. But this piece has fun snarling back.

Mozart Overture to the Magic Flute

Mozart completed this famous overture to his opera *The Magic Flute* just days before the premiere, and at a home not far from where LAYO stayed in Prague on tour this last summer! Mozart was a member of the Freemasons, and the solemn opening chords of the overture have Masonic symbolism for knocking on the door to enlightenment. The rest of the overture is famous for its fugal writing, with an energetic theme tossed around all the instruments of the orchestra. It has some of the mastery and feel of Mozart's Jupiter Symphony No. 41 written a few years earlier. *The Magic Flute* was a sensational success and scholars lament that had Mozart not died two months after the premiere, his career and success would have catapulted to new heights.

Stravinsky Danse Infernale

The Infernal Dance is the climax to Stravinsky's ballet *The Firebird* where Prince Ivan summons the Firebird, who bewitches the evil sorcerer King Kashchei and his subjects to dance and then puts them to sleep. Stravinsky's brilliant orchestration requires virtuoso playing. One section has the orchestra divide into two different meters, creating an original rhythmic burst of texture.

RUTH BORUN CONCERT ORCHESTRA

FLUTE

Ellen Su
Co-Principal
Lukas Jammy
Co-Principal
Calista Rodriguez

OBOE

Julia Cunningham
Alum

CLARINET

Ethan Blacker
Principal
Isabel Noble
YuChen Xue
Alex Zhang
Jaden Steiglitz
Hudson Stange
Bass Clarinet

BASSOON

Davis Lerner
Guest
Daniella Santana
Guest

HORN

Avin Zang
Vincent Jurado
Guest
Will Grace
Guest
Julian Dohi
Alum

TRUMPET

Caleb Chen
Principal
Bella Lee
Joseph Rosenbaum
Alum

TROMBONE

Jack McGinty
Alum
Marc Ahn
Alum

PERCUSSION

Taidyn Hernandez
Andre Huaman
Lilith Humphrey
Amanda Ikino
Esther Lin

VIOLIN I

Jordan Lin
Principal
Inah Chang
Lucy Harris
Kayden Chu
Annika McWhirter
Daniel Yang
Monica Lee
Auriana Gharibshahi
Celine Daye Chung
Isabel Hurd
Verina Cheng
Joshua Golshani

GRACE JENKINS

Jason Foronda
Clara Ross
Alum

VIOLIN II

Ethan Pastrana
Co-Principal
Nicholas Campillo-Clark
Co-Principal

Liam Chao
Sophy Yang
Lyla Brugger
Eloise Morovati
Lucas Peng

VIOLIN II (CONT.)

Jonathan Zibari
Cassia Taw
Heather Daughtry
Ranya Stover

VIOLA

Joel Zaldivar
Daniella Traum
Elysia Han
Alum
Sophia O'Brien
Alum
David Sage
Alum Parent

CELLO

Bono Stevens
Principal
Kate Cheung
Apollo Rob
Isaiah Dorado
Cooper Rieke
Ziqian (Ryan) Zhou
Kate Anderson
Elia Braunlich

DOUBLE BASS

Abigail Baum
Principal
Julian Perez
Guest
Stephen Pfeifer
Guest

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

FLUTE

Victoria Zong
Alma Miller
Sophia Li
Skylar Roberts
Amber French
Piccolo

OBOE

Qizhen (Jenny) Guo
Julia Cunningham
Alum

CLARINET

Matteo Mazzie
Principal
Matheus Koo
Rose Domzalski
Skylar Steiglitz
Richard Dobek
Eb Clarinet Guest

BASSOON

Davis Lerner
Guest
Daniela Santana

HORN

Julian Dohi
Alum
Mika Judge
Alum
Vincent Jurado
Guest
Will Grace
Guest

TRUMPET

James Ball
Principal
Peter Dai
Graham Lemos
Jacky Li

TROMBONE

Noah Chen
Principal
Allen Gonzalez
Guest
John Pisaro
Alum
Jack McGinty
Alum

TUBA

Jeffrey Gonzalez
Guest

PERCUSSION

Taidyn Hernandez
Andre Huaman
Lilith Humphrey
Amanda Ikino
Esther Lin

VIOLIN I

Donghee (Danny) Kim
Concertmaster
Beatrice Jiang
Daniel Kim
Payton Lin
Maegan Daley
Jason Yang
Milana Resta
Jasmine Kao
Audrey Li
Clara Ross
Alum
Rebecca Kyo
Alum
Vincent Giza
Alum
Amber Daughtry
Alum
Mica Erin
Alum

VIOLIN II

Annalisa Hurd
Principal
Justin Kim
Ella Weber-Small
Linus Zhang
Kyler Chu
Lucille Jahng
Jaelen Lee
Tong Saralamba
Haoran Xu
Jerimiah Youngblood
Alum
Ranya Stover
Alum
Adam Jeng
Alum

VIOLA

Marcos Ikino
Principal
Cynthia Lee
Kyle Henderson
Rebecca Lee
Elysia Han
Alum
Sophia O'Brien
Alum
David Sage
Alum Parent

CELLO

Samira Shokrian
Principal
Reanna Lee
Nathaniel Kim
Isabella Chiang
Luke Newman
Sarah Hajmomenian
Shaowen (YoYo) Yi
William Ellzey
Alum

DOUBLE

BASS
Ari Cosato
Principal
Julian Perez
Guest
Phoebe Cohen
Alum
Stephen Pfeifer
Guest

PIANO/ CELESTE

Isabel Noble

SPECIAL THANKS 25TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

As we celebrate our 25th Anniversary, we want to take a moment to celebrate the people that have made LAYO possible:

Dr. Noreen Green Noreen, with the LA Jewish Symphony, the Founding Artistic Director of the LA Jewish Symphony founded and administered the Los Angeles Jewish Youth Symphony with a semester grant from the Jewish Federation.

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Dr. Metuka Benjamin formerly Director of Education for the Stephen Wise Temple Schools</p> | <p>Rabbi Isaiah Zeldin (in memoriam), former Rabbi of the Stephen Wise Temple</p> | <p>Dr. Rennie Wrubel formerly Head of School, Milken Community High School</p> |
|--|--|---|

Metuka, Rennie, and Rabbi Zeldin had the vision to continue the orchestra as a special program supported by the Stephen Wise Temple and directed by Russell from year 2000 to 2015

Dr. Raymond and Ruth Borun Original Founders and continuous supporters since the founding of the orchestra, naming grant for the Ruth Borun Concert Orchestra

Lowell Milken Original Founder and continuous supporter since the founding of the orchestra
Chairman of the Milken Family Foundation,

Ken and Wendy Ruby Continuous supporters since the founding of the orchestra

Andy Katz Continuous supporter since the founding of the orchestra
CPA

And our significant staff members:

Leslie Luciani, first Program Director of the Stephen Wise Youth Orchestra, (2000-2005)

Sandi Steinberg (in memoriam), Director Parent and Media Relations (2003-2015)

Eve Cohen (in memoriam), Program Director of the Los Angeles Youth Orchestra (2005-2012)

Laura Kay Swanson, Executive Director, Los Angeles Youth Orchestra (2015-2023)

Joyce LaBriola, Executive Director, Los Angeles Youth Orchestra (2023-2024)



Dr. Noreen Green



Ken and Wendy Ruby,
Russell & Metuka Benjamin



Rabbi Isaiah Zeldin



Dr. Rennie Wrubel



Dr. Raymond and Ruth Borun



Lowell Milken



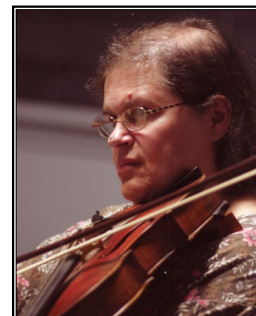
Andy Katz



Leslie Luciani



Sandi Steinberg



Eve Cohen



Laura Kay Swanson



Joyce LaBriola

ALUM SPOTLIGHT



NIV ASHKENAZI

When were you at LAYO?

I joined in the 2nd year of the orchestra, so 2000.

What instrument/orchestra?

I played violin and was concertmaster in what is now the Ruth Borun Concert Orchestra and worked my way into Symphony Orchestra.

What are some of your best memories from your time in LAYO?

Making some great friends while I was there and creating memories that have lasted for years.

What are you doing now?

In addition to being a coach at LAYO, I work as a soloist and chamber musician. I also run the Oak Hill Music Festival each summer, teach violin at CSUN, have a few other projects like using slow motion technology in teaching with Eye for Technique, and I do a lot of work with Violins of Hope.

ALUM SPOTLIGHT



ALISA LUERA

When were you at LAYO?

2013-2017

What instrument/orchestra?

Violin

What are some of your best memories from your time in LAYO?

2017 Italy tour, performing new music that later inspired my current collaboration with local composers, and performing in the house salons! I was glad I had chamber music experience too in the orchestra as a student :)

What are you doing now?

I recently received my Masters Degree in Violin Performance in UCLA's Herb Alpert School of Music, freelancing in Los Angeles as a hired performer for classical, modern, pop, and historical performances, and I teach in several schools in the Los Angeles area in violin, viola, and piano.



BENJAMIN BARTELT

When were you at LAYO?

Circa early 2000s

What instrument/orchestra?

Violin in Symphony Orchestra

What are some of your best memories from your time in LAYO?

Learning all sorts of wonderful compositions ranging all the way from Haydn to contemporary music, including the premiere of Russell's 2nd Symphony! Also, getting to know some wonderful friends, some of whom I am still in touch with today.

What are you doing now?

I make my living doing a combination of performing, recording, and teaching. Every day is different from the next!



JAYA NATARAJ

When were you at LAYO?

2007-2015

What instrument/orchestra?

Violin

What are some of your best memories from your time in LAYO?

After being in LAYO for almost a decade, I can safely say that LAYO was a huge part of my life growing up! As an early entrant to university, LAYO provided me with a sense of community that wouldn't have been available to me anywhere else. Dr. Steinberg and the rest of the LAYO team are unique in that they encourage their students to explore, engage, and be creative. I have fond memories of discussing artistic ideas with my section, pitching those ideas to the coaches and Dr. Steinberg, and enjoying the journey of us interpreting the music as a team each season.

What are you doing now?

Since my time in LAYO, I have earned a master's degree in biomedical engineering. I'm currently working in pediatric neuroscience research: exploring novel deep brain stimulation targets to treat movement disorders. Although I did not choose to pursue music professionally, I feel that my time in the orchestra and everything I was able to learn from educators and peers has been integral to my current research, and my life.

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

Composer Russell Steinberg's music has been described as “floating, luminous” (Boston Globe), “freshly lyrical, pulsating, edgy, infectious” (New York Concert Review), and “deeper while maintaining a descriptive surface” (Fanfare Magazine). The Los Angeles Youth Orchestra recently premiered *Cirrus Nimbus* and performed it in Vienna and Prague. His piano trio Paleface is available on Albany records, recorded by Trio Accento. Three orchestras—the New West Symphony in Los Angeles, the Bay Atlantic Symphony in New Jersey, and the Hopkins Symphony Orchestra in Baltimore—commissioned and premiered *Cosmic Dust*, a work that Science News Magazine featured in its issue celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Hubble Space Telescope. A Daniel Pearl Foundation commission, *Stories From My Favorite Planet*, tells the story of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl, alternating music with readings of Pearl's own brilliant tragi-comic articles. Steinberg's Hanukkah fantasy *Lights On!* is being performed this year by the Bay Atlantic Symphony in New Jersey, the Hopkins Symphony in Baltimore, the Lakeview Orchestra in Chicago, and the Southeast Kansas Symphony in Pittsburg, Kansas.

Steinberg's music has received awards and grants from ASCAP (Young Composers Grant and ASCAPLUS), Composers Inc., NACUSA, MacDowell Colony, Aspen Composer Fellowships, First Prize in the New World String Quartet competition, the HEAR NOW Festival, a Gold Medal Jury's Choice at the Park City Film Music Festival, the California Association of Professional Music Teachers (CAPMT), Illumine, and the Jewish Center for Culture and Creativity. Works from his catalog of nearly one hundred works of solo, chamber, vocal, and orchestral music have been performed in the United States—Los Angeles, Pasadena, San Francisco, San Diego, San Bernardino, Park City, Boulder, Aspen, Colorado Springs, Appleton, Madison, Eau Claire, Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago, Cummington, Boscawen, New York, Baltimore, Stamford, San Francisco, Stockton, New Cumberland, Atlantic City—and abroad, in Austria, Czech Republic, Mexico, Chile, Australia, New Zealand, and Israel.

Steinberg is the Founder and Artistic Director of the Los Angeles Youth Orchestra, as well as a popular pre-concert lecturer for the Los Angeles Philharmonic. An enthusiastic fan base from around the world participates in his Zoom music lecture series on various musical topics and composers, as well as his Classical Listening Hangouts.

Steinberg holds a Ph.D. from Harvard University, studying with Pulitzer prize-winning composer Leon Kirchner, an M.M. from the New England Conservatory studying 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 and music lectures is available at www.russellsteinberg.com

JORGE PADRÓN, CONDUCTOR OF RUTH BORUN
CONCERT ORCHESTRA

Jorge Padrón is currently the orchestra director at South Pasadena Middle and High School and a doctoral student at the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music. His doctoral work is 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 competitive mathematics teams. 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. He 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.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. RAYMOND AND RUTH BORUN



Ray and Ruth Borun have been LAYO's most significant contributors and supporters since the beginning, in 2000 when it was the Stephen Wise Youth Orchestra. They have celebrated our successes and provided encouragement and ideas when times have been tough. Ruth especially believed in the importance of diverse students from across the city coming together to perform with discipline, pride, and excellence. Ruth passed away in 2018. Our intermediate ensemble—the Ruth Borun Concert Orchestra—proudly bears her name. Ray continues to support LAYO and is a vital 106 years old. We proudly salute them both.

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 married to LAYO Cello Coach, Stephen Green and they are the proud parents of social activist Rebecca 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, and publishes a monthly vlog on the craft of musical theatre available at <https://nmi.org/elises-video-blog/>.

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LOS ANGELES YOUTH ORCHESTRA
the future of culture

*Congratulations to our LAYO
students, parents, coaches and staff
on an outstanding 2024-2025 season!*

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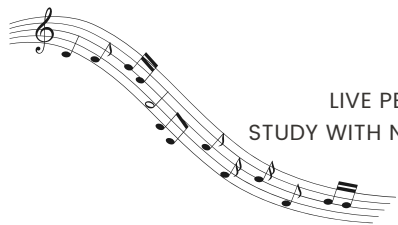
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"LAYO will always have a special place in my heart for helping me grow as a musician."

-Nadia Cetinyan, Percussion, 2018-2022

"I loved my time with LAYO and traveled with the orchestra to Vienna and Prague, a life-changing trip that I reflect back on often."

-William Ellzey, Cello, 2013-2016

"Being part of LAYO and learning classical performance under Russell has allowed me to truly appreciate the emotions and intricacies in music, and I hope to carry that influence with me wherever I end up in the future."

-Renee Lee, Violin, 2019-2023

"Even though I don't pursue music as a career, I still love to play music. I still occasionally play some of the solos I learned on clarinet at LAYO. I hope to continue to incorporate music into my life during college and after."

-Theophilus Pan, Clarinet, 2018-2020

"Music has continued to be an integral part of my life. My experiences with LAYO have helped me succeed. Music brings people together, it makes the world a better place and I am so thankful to the people who make LAYO possible."

-Andrew Specht, Oboe, 2005-2008

"Even as a college student now, I am proud to say that I am a LAYO alum and know that all LAYO musicians have promising futures ahead of them!"

-Andi Yi, Flute, 2021-2023

"I am so grateful for your mentorship and the time I had at LAYO!"

-Yunchao Zhang, Basson, 2013-2017

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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.

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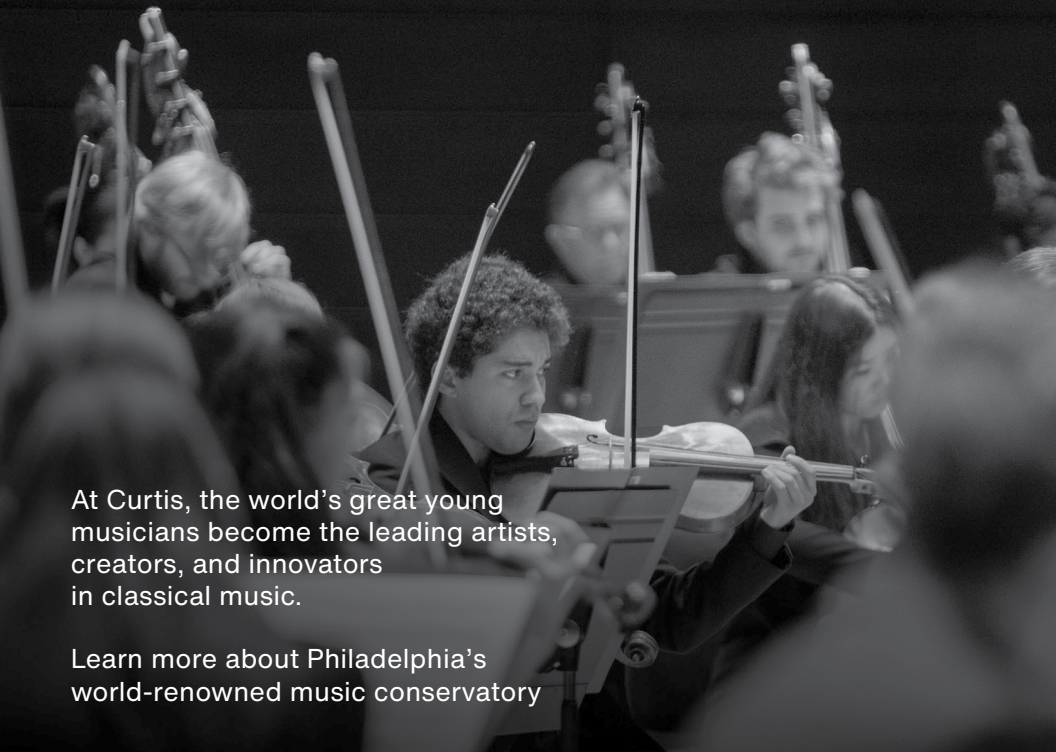
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