



LOS ANGELES YOUTH ORCHESTRA  
FALL 2025 CONCERTS

# BRIDGING LOS ANGELES

*Russell Steinberg and Jorge Padrón, conductors*

Featuring

**Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 2**

**Sunday, November 16, 6:00pm**  
**Barnum Hall**

**Monday, November 17, 7:30pm**  
**Ambassador Auditorium**

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## LOS ANGELES YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Russell Steinberg, Founder & Artistic Director

Sunday, November 16, 2025 at 6:00pm

Barnum Hall

### SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Russell Steinberg, Conductor

Symphony No. 2 ("Little Russian") by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

*I. Andante sostenuto—Allegro vivo*

*II. Andantino marziale, quasi moderato*

*III. Scherzo. Allegro molto vivace*

*IV. Finale. Moderato assai—Allegro vivo*

Intermission

### RUTH BORUN CONCERT ORCHESTRA

Jorge Padrón, Assistant Conductor

Folksong and Hunter's Chorus (from Der Freischutz) by Carl Maria von Weber (arr. Clark McAlister)

Symphony No. 5 in A Major by Franz Joseph Haydn (transcription by Russell Steinberg)  
*II. Allegro*

Rhosymedre (Prelude on a Welsh Hymn Tune) by Ralph Vaughan Williams (orch. Arnold Foster)

Capriccio Italien, Op. 45 by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (arr. Merle J. Isaac)

## LOS ANGELES YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Russell Steinberg, Founder & Artistic Director

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## BRIDGING LOS ANGELES

It's magical on Sundays to see a small vibrant village suddenly materialize at the Encino Community Center. Well over a hundred students come from all over Los Angeles County and Southern California to rehearse together as an orchestra. Look in this concert program and you'll see a pretty dramatic Google Map showing dots all over LA County and beyond that show where our students live. They are so geographically dispersed, it's not likely they would ever meet each other if not for LAYO. Yet they share much in common: their musical talent, their interest in classical music, their intelligence, and their artistic curiosity. The entire afternoon these students work hard playing music in the orchestra with me and Jorge, and in sectional rehearsals with our professional music coaches. They develop a lifetime passion for music and many of them form lifetime friendships.

We learned that was the case last year when we reconnected with so many LAYO alums for our 25th anniversary. To continue building this bridge, we've now created a LAYO Alum Fund specifically to continue using our alums going forward. Several, indeed, are playing with us in these concerts, helping and inspiring our current students. I want to give special thanks to the first donors who believed in this idea and contributed to the fund: Elaine Albert, Louise Bahar, Barbara Glazer, Rosanne Giza, Penny Haberman, Victoria & Michael Morrison, Regina Neuman, Shirley Wargon.

That's not all. We wanted to give alums themselves a voice in LAYO going forward. So we established a LAYO Alum Advisory Board. I congratulate the first members of this Board and look forward to their ideas and enthusiasm: Amber Daughtry, Alisa Luera, Mila Santos-Brochu, Kris Rahamad, Cassie Leybovich, Daniel Simantob, Andie Yi.

These bridges strengthen the orchestra musically and socially, all as we prepare for our upcoming Carnegie Hall Tour next summer.

## PROGRAM NOTES

### Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 2 (“Little Russian”)

This is one of Tchaikovsky’s sunniest and most jubilant works, with none of the heavy tragedy in Symphonies 4, 5, and 6. The nickname “Little Russian” comes from the Ukrainian folk tunes Tchaikovsky incorporated in every movement. Ukraine in the 19th century was often called “Little Russia.”

This symphony created a sensation at its premiere. Russian nationalism was a hot topic for composers and the “Mighty Five” Russian composers—Rimsky-Korsakov, Mussorgsky, Borodin, Balakirev, and Cui—were eager for Russian music to free itself of European influence. They previously were suspicious of Tchaikovsky, because his music was clearly influenced by European music, especially the French Romantics. But this second symphony with its Ukrainian folk tunes won them over. Not just for the tunes, but for the way Tchaikovsky figured out how to transform folk tunes into a symphonic texture.

The first movement begins with the Ukrainian melody of “Mother Volga,” but after an introduction with variations of the tune, Tchaikovsky creates just fragments from the tune to create material for the first and second themes. Then in the development section, he alternates and layers the full folk tune along with the thematic fragments. That was something very new.

The second movement is a delightful march that uses two other folk tunes. The third movement is an energetic scherzo with glistening arabesques in the woodwinds and strings. The middle section Trio uses yet another Ukrainian folk tune.

The real fireworks are in the Finale, with variations on a tune called “The Crane.” Tchaikovsky heard his sister’s butler hum this tune while he was staying with her and he later joked that the credit for the piece should go to the butler! This finale has two musical structures that unfold simultaneously: sonata form plus theme and variations. The first theme is the beginning of “The Crane” that the butler apparently kept whistling. The second theme is Tchaikovsky’s, and it is quite unique. Its lyricism and tenderness contrasts with the fanfare quality of the first theme, but something seems “off.” Namely, its syncopated rhythm and the way its accompaniment rises by chromatic step. That gives it a “blurry” quality. Well, in the development section, Tchaikovsky plays up both these two oddities and the piece becomes increasingly chaotic. The second theme slips and slides harmonically. The syncopation becomes manic, as if the piece is about to fall off the rails. This instability continues in the recapitulation and just goes wild in the coda. The tempo increases dramatically, the drums and cymbals beat and crash wildly, and “The Crane” tune plunges forward like an out-of-control locomotive to a brilliant and frenzied end.

### Weber Folksong and Hunter’s Chorus from *Der Freischutz* (The Marksman)

Considered the first German Romantic opera, *Der Freischutz* was premiered in 1821—still in the time of Beethoven. Weber composed this opera about a hunter who must win a shooting contest to marry his love. His rival pretends to be his friend and works with him to create magic bullets to make his shooting perfectly accurate. Except the last of the bullets will be guided by the devil! This arrangement begins with the bridal song and then the exciting Hunter’s Chorus that precedes the actual shooting contest.

### Haydn Symphony No. 5 Mvt. 2

Haydn was the “father” of the symphony. He composed 104 of them! And even the early symphonies are wonderful pieces. He wrote them when he was first employed by Prince Esterhazy as an assistant Kapellmeister. Because they were written for a small orchestra, they are not as well-known as his later symphonies. But they have a similar majesty, elegance, wit, and delight. This fifth symphony was originally scored for just oboes, horns, and strings, but I have transcribed it for full symphony orchestra. The jumping octaves and rushing scales impart tremendous vitality and joy.

### Vaughan Williams *Rhosymedre*

*Rhosymedre* was originally one of three organ pieces Vaughan Williams composed on Welsh hymns. Arnold Foster, a student of Vaughan Williams, later orchestrated this second piece that has become so well loved. The hymn itself is nice, but it’s Vaughan Williams’ gorgeous counterpoint with its elegant melodic arches that make the piece so profound and beautiful.

### Tchaikovsky *Capriccio Italien*

While this piece is just as sunny as Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 2, it came out of a dark experience. Tchaikovsky married a young student to quell suspicions that he was homosexual. Just as in Putin’s Russia today, homosexuality in Tsarist Russia was a serious crime. However, Tchaikovsky knew his bride, a younger student, only slightly. Once married, things immediately soured. He couldn’t compose and went into deep depression. He finally fled to Italy. Once there, Italian folk tunes he heard captivated him and he was soon composing this delightful piece. It weaves together several of those Italian folk tunes, all colored with Tchaikovsky’s brilliant orchestration.



## RUTH BORUN CONCERT ORCHESTRA

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Adriana Assadourian  
*Principal*  
Calista Rodriguez  
Renee Li  
*Principal 2nd/  
Piccolo*  
Noa Eisenberg  
*Assistant 2nd  
Flute*  
Leonard Zeithammer

### OBOE

Oliver Shon  
*Principal*  
Gracie Fung

### CLARINET

Ethan Blacker  
*Principal*  
Alex Zhang  
Jaden Steiglitz  
Richard Dobeck  
*Guest*

### BASSOON

Elizabeth Leonhardt  
Daniela Santana  
*Guest*  
Aaron Colon  
*Guest*

### HORN

Naomi Chen  
Julian Dohi  
*Alum*

### TRUMPET

Caleb Chen  
*Principal*  
Atticus King  
Leo Dai

### TROMBONE

Noah Chen  
Eva Galstyan  
John Pisaro  
*Alum*

### TUBA

Jeffrey Gonzalez  
*Guest*

### PERCUSSION

Keyuan (Tom) Cheng  
Taidyn Hernandez  
Esther Lin  
Alex Zhou

### VIOLIN I

Lyla Brugger  
*Concertmaster*  
Verina Cheng  
Sophy Yang  
Jonathan Zibari  
Liam Chao  
Matthew Ma  
Sheldon Young  
Lucas Peng  
Madeline Eng  
Nicholas Campillo-Clark  
Iva Davidovic  
Grace Jenkins

### VIOLIN II

Ethan Pastrana  
*Principal*  
Elaine Peng  
Anika Nettare  
Harper Cox  
Amelia Cao  
Valerie Cheng  
Veronica Simonyan

### VIOLIN III

Dempsey Palmer  
*Principal*  
Ethan Chen  
Andrew Walker  
Celestine Xu  
Avery Yang  
Joelle Park

### CELLO

Nicholas Brown  
*Principal*  
Chiara Hildreth  
Ziqian (Ryan) Zhou  
Mason Eng  
Danyal Beken  
Esther Yen  
Yiyu Wang  
Spencer Sweeney  
Preston Shieh  
Kate Anderson  
Elliott Shieh

### DOUBLE BASS

Camellia Ghorbanzadeh  
*Principal*  
Stephen Pfeifer  
*Guest*

## SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

### FLUTE

Alma Miller  
*Co-Principal*  
Skylar Roberts  
*Co-Principal*  
Sophia Apeta  
Stephanie (Siyi) Huang  
Hanwen Huang  
*(Piccolo), Alum*

### OBOE

Qizhen (Jenny) Guo  
*Principal*  
Julia Cunningham  
*Alum*

### CLARINET

Matteo Mazzie  
*Co-Principal*  
Brandon Hobley  
*Co-Principal*  
Brooklyn Stange  
Richard Dobeck  
*Guest*

### BASSOON

Daniela Santana  
*Guest*  
Aaron Colon  
*Guest*

### HORN

Sofia Madrid  
Mila Santos-Brochu  
*Alum*  
Julian Dohi  
*Alum*  
Jorge Padrón  
*Guest*

### TRUMPET

Graham Lemos  
*Principal*

### TRUMPET (CONT.)

Jacky Li  
Peter Dai  
Bella Lee

### TROMBONE

Noah Chen  
*Principal*  
Eva Galstyan  
John Pisaro  
*Alum*

### TUBA

Jeffrey Gonzalez  
*Guest*

### PERCUSSION

Keyuan (Tom)  
Cheng  
Taidyn Hernandez  
Esther Lin  
Alex Zhou

### VIOLIN I

Linus Zhang  
*Concertmaster*  
Jason Yang  
Payton Lin  
Maegan Daley  
Milana Resta  
Kyler Chu  
Monica Lee  
Maya Kim

### VIOLIN II

Inah Chang  
*Principal*  
Justin Kim  
Daniel Yang  
Jason Foronda

### VIOLIN II (CONT.)

Annika McWhirter  
Kayden Chu  
Jaelen Lee  
Haoran Xu  
Aubrey Kutash  
Henry Fitzgerald  
Ryan Walker  
Annie Wang  
Joshua Golshani  
*Alum*

### VIOLA

Cynthia Lee  
*Principal*  
Kyle Henderson  
Rebecca Lee  
Joel Zaldivar  
Bryan Gonzalez  
*Guest*  
Sophia O'Brien  
*Alum*

### CELLO

Reanna Lee  
*Principal*  
Nathaniel Kim  
Isabella Chiang  
Sarah Hajmomenian  
Kate Cheung  
Luke Newman  
Aya Hildreth  
Bono Stevens  
Cooper Riecke  
Xierni (Zerric) Ma

### DOUBLE BASS

Abigail Baum  
*Principal*  
Addison Ma  
Stephen Pfeifer  
*Guest*

## STAFF, BOARD & COACHES

### STAFF

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Amanda Walker  
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Stephen Green

**BASS**  
Stephen Pfeifer

**BRASS**  
Caster Teoh

**PERCUSSION**  
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**VIOLIN**  
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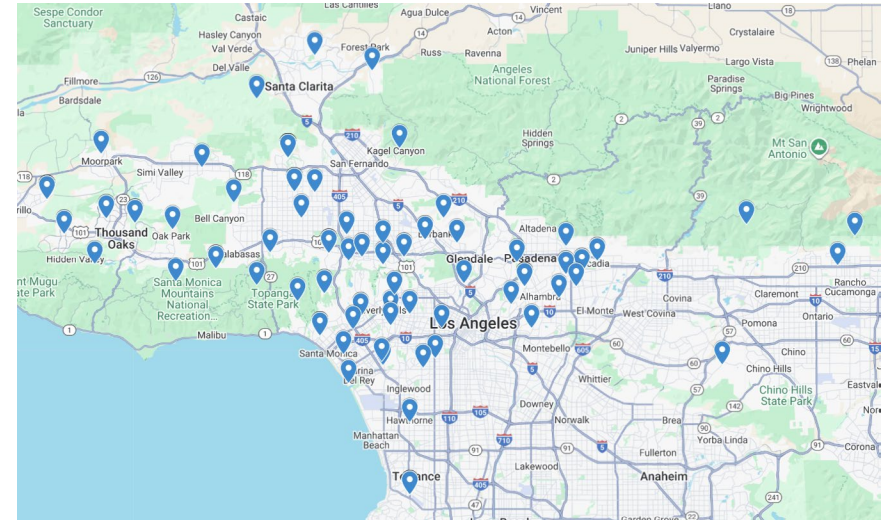
**VIOLA**  
Bryan Gonzalez

### WE CONGRATULATE OUR VERY FIRST ALUM ADVISORY BOARD!

Amber Daughtry  
Alisa Luera  
Mila Santos-Brochu  
Kris Rahamad  
Cassie Leybovich  
Daniel Simantob  
Andie Yi

## WHERE OUR STUDENTS LIVE

This Google Map tells a dramatic story, LAYO attracts music students from all over the Southland to study and perform serious classical music. Our vibrant orchestra truly "Bridges Los Angeles."



Agoura Hills

Arcadia

Beverly Hills

Burbank

Calabasas

Camarillo

Culver City

Diamond Bar

Encino

Glendale

Hawthorne

La Verne

Los Angeles

Marina Del Rey

Monterey Park

Moorpark

Newbury Park

North Hollywood

Northridge

Oak Park

Pasadena

Porter Ranch

Rancho Cucamonga

Reseda

San Gabriel

Santa Clarita

Santa Monica

Sherman Oaks

Simi Valley

South Pasadena

Studio City

Sylmar

Temple City

Thousand Oaks

Topanga

Torrance

Valencia

Valley Village

View Park

West Hills

Westlake Village

Woodland Hills

## ALUM SPOTLIGHT



### AUDREY PARK

VIOLIN  
2017-2019

**GRAND PRIZEWINNER OF 2025  
AMADEUS FESTIVAL SOLO VIOLIN  
COMPETITION IN VIENNA  
WINS 1709 STRADIVARI VIOLIN**

A current student at The Juilliard School, LAYO Alum Audrey Park has claimed prizes and/or been a semi-finalist at several international competitions. This year she received the Grand Prize of 5,000 Euro at the Amadeus Festival, Vienna Solo Violin Competition– along with a two-year loan of the 1709 Stradivari Violin from the Goh Family Collection. She also recently won Third Prize at the 6th Annual Alice and Eleonore Schoenfeld International String Competition – Harbin, China.

*"Throughout my musical journey, I've been fortunate to earn prizes in international competitions such as the Schoenfeld and Chicago International Violin Competitions. Each experience has taught me something new about perseverance, focus, and finding authenticity in performance—reminding me that the real reward lies in sharing music with others. After winning the Violin and Souls Competition in Vienna this summer, I have the opportunity to play on a Stradivarius violin for the next two years which has also been a humbling experience; its history and sound continually inspire me to play with greater honesty and depth."*

*My years with the Los Angeles Youth Orchestra were especially formative. Growing up in Los Angeles, surrounded by talented and driven young musicians, I discovered the joy of collaboration and the sense of belonging that comes from creating something beautiful together. Those early experiences laid the foundation for everything I love about music today."*



### ANNALISA HURD

VIOLIN  
2022- 2025

(Annalisa recalled her strong desire to return to LAYO just after losing her home in the 2025 Palisades fire – her violin was the only thing that was saved):

*"I realized LAYO was almost the only thing in my life not destroyed by fire. I missed the rehearsals, music, and the familiar rhythm of an activity I cherished. Orchestra has been my community for the past few years, and I knew that returning would give me a sense of normalcy in a life that suddenly felt so surreal. Over the 3 years I've been a member of LAYO, I found a community of friends, mentors and amazing people as passionate about classical music as I am. I'll never forget the incredible memories I made playing difficult pieces like Shostakovich last semester, visiting Vienna and Prague and getting to play in the Rudolfinum. I'll miss the community dearly, but I'll always carry the music, the friendships, and the strength I found with me."*



### MAXWELL BECK

DOUBLE BASS  
2017 - 2023

*"While touring Austria and the Czech Republic with LAYO in 2015, we stopped at Theresienstadt, a former concentration camp on the outskirts of Prague. Thousands of Jews were imprisoned here; many of them famous musicians. The musicians were gone but their music remains. A theme on that trip was music's phenomenal ability to sustain through history. Longfellow said, 'Music is the universal language of mankind.' In the turbulent world we live in, music is one of the few facets of life that can unite us and even give hope. The lessons learned on that trip, and throughout my two years with LAYO shaped much of my career trajectory and was a powerful motivator for studying music through a global perspective."*

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

**Composer Russell Steinberg** was selected for Musical America's Top 30 Professionals of 2024. His 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 his composition *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 *The Wall Street Journal* writer Daniel Pearl, alternating music with readings of Pearl's own brilliant tragicomic 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 100 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, the 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, where he studied with Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Leon Kirchner; an M.M. from the New England Conservatory, where he studied with Arthur Berger; and a B.A. summa cum laude from UCLA, where he studied 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](http://www.russellsteinberg.com)

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

**Jorge Padrón** is the orchestra director at South Pasadena Middle and High School and a doctoral student in Music Teaching and Learning at the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music. His research interests are teacher preparation, school equity, and Schenkerian analysis in non-classical contexts. He has taught teacher preparation courses at USC and Pepperdine, served as a site conductor for the Los Angeles Philharmonic's YOLA program, and directed the Harmony Project's district-wide honors orchestra.

Before moving to Los Angeles, Padrón led the orchestra program at Miami Palmetto Senior High School, where he also taught AP Music Theory, guitar, and advised the school's competitive mathematics teams. His work earned recognition from the Village of Palmetto Bay and the Miami-Dade County School District for "exemplary public service." He has also served on the editorial committee of the *American String Teacher* journal and is preparing publications for both *Philosophy of Music Education Review* and the *Music Educators Journal*.

Padrón has worked across diverse educational settings, from starting after-school string programs in South Florida to founding a band program at Camino Nuevo High School. He holds degrees from the University of Miami's Frost School of Music and Carnegie Mellon University and currently studies conducting at USC with Larry Livingston.



**ELISE DEWSBERRY GREEN**  
ORCHESTRA MANAGER

**Elise Dewsberry Green** has had a varied career as a singer, actor, and director in the musical theater 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., a nonprofit organization that works with bookwriters, lyricists, and composers in developing new musicals. Elise is married to LAYO Cello Coach Stephen Green, and they are very proud of their daughter, social activist Rebecca Green, and brand new son-in-law, grade school teacher Ihab Gabra. While living in Toronto, Elise served as the Assistant Artistic Director of the Muskoka Festival, the Coordinator of the festival's annual Musical Theatre Writer's Colony, the Associate Dramaturge of the Canadian Stage Company, and the Resident Dramaturge of the Smile Theatre Company; and she 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.nmi.org](http://www.nmi.org), and she 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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 Natalie Stevens  
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## ALUM QUOTES

*"Being a part of LAYO for seven years nurtured my growth as a musician and as a human being... it was one of my first experiences in an orchestra setting as I joined when I was only eight years old.. LAYO provided me with a strong orchestral and educational foundation, all culminating in performing high quality concerts at prestigious venues with other musicians in my age group. Now that I am teaching and working with various musical organizations, I carry the values and standards that were set during my time at LAYO and instill them into my own students."*

—Amber Daughtry, Violin, 2006-2013

*"Huge thanks to Russell (Steinberg) and all of LAYO for some of the fondest memories of my musical career. My experience with LAYO is one of the biggest reasons why I am and will continue to be as involved in music as much as I can. Most importantly, thank you to my coach Stephen Green for being an amazing mentor and recognizing my potential and encouraging me to continue cello."*

—Cory Chen, Cello, 2021-2023

*"Participating in LAYO from a young age has enriched my life to a level that I cannot emphasize, challenging me to reach great heights intellectually, technically, and emotionally. Playing in LAYO has deeply endowed in me a love of classical music that is experienced beyond the role of a listener, showing me the beauty of engaging and embodying emotions that cannot be explained by mere words alone. I wouldn't be the person that I am today without Dr. Russell Steinberg's inspiring approach to classical music."*

—Arnav Dave, Double Bass, 2006-2023

*"Some of my fondest memories took place throughout my time at LAYO. I never thought I would have the opportunity to perform at Carnegie Hall, be featured on a Foo Fighters record, or embark on a tour in Vienna and Prague at such a young age. All the while, we were guided by some of the city's top notch players (and coaches), and my technique as a violinist grew tremendously. For that, I am eternally grateful."*

—Mica Nafshun-Bone, Violin, 2011-2015

*"LAYO was my first real introduction into the wider world of orchestral music. I was only able to participate in wind bands while growing up since none of the schools I attended had an orchestral program. Being in LAYO is one of the many reasons I wanted to pursue music as my career. The level of musicality and devotion to music stayed with me all these years later."*

—Sebastian Martinez, Bass Trombone, 2017-2018

*"LAYO was my first serious ensemble opportunity outside of school band/orchestra. Having sectional coaches, seating auditions, and a conductor who attempted to get the most out of us was an incredibly important and inspiring part of my musical development. Currently, with the youth orchestra infrastructure in the LA area in a period of transition, LAYO's role in our community is more important than ever."*

—Michael Turkell, Violin, 2005-2008



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## NEW LAYO ALUM FUND

Last year during our 25th anniversary season, we invited LAYO Alumni to play with the orchestra. It was a tremendous success. The students were inspired and worked harder to impress the alumni. The alumni had the thrill of reliving memories of their time in LAYO, plus being compensated as the professional musicians they have become. Closing the circle, so to speak, is the reason we created this new LAYO Alum Fund. It will allow us to continue to bring back LAYO Alums each semester to mentor and inspire our current students in rehearsals and concerts.

We want to give very special thanks to our first donors who believe in this idea and contributed to the fund:

### OUR FIRST LAYO ALUM FUND DONORS

**Louise Bahar**  
**Penny Haberman**  
**Regina Neuman**  
**Elaine Albert**  
**Rosanne Giza**  
**Shirley Wargon**  
**Barbara Glazer**  
**Victoria & Michael Morrison**

And congratulations to these LAYO alumni participating in our fall concerts:

**John Pisaro, Trombone**  
**Mila Santos-Brochu, French Horn**  
**Julian Dohi, French Horn**  
**Julia Cunningham, Oboe**  
**Hanwen Huang, Piccolo**  
**Sophia O'Brien, Viola**  
**Joshua Golshani, Violin 2**



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## 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

Michelle Huang  
Jennifer Jo  
Weina Chen  
Gretchen Lindeman  
Amy Martens  
Sierra Schmeltzer  
Melody Wan

### OBOE

Bom An  
Fredric Beerstein  
Jason Kennedy

### CLARINET

Johnny Stange  
Amanda Walker  
William Wellwood

### BASSOON

David Crozier

### FRENCH HORN

Angie Baca  
Caster Teoh

### TRUMPET

Caster Teoh  
Cameron Wilkins  
Tianzhen Zhang

### TROMBONE

Caster Teoh  
Spencer Schaffer

### PERCUSSION

Kai Gu  
Yang Xu

### VIOLIN

Armando Anto  
Niv Ashkenazi  
Benjamin Bartelt  
Sherry Cadow  
Dr. Keum Hwa Cha  
Lauren Deutsch  
Elise Goodman  
Nelly Guevera  
Rachel Vetter Huang  
Sharon Jackson  
Hanna Jin  
Michelle Kim  
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Paul Lee  
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Marisol Rutkowski  
Lina Saleh  
Audrey Solomon  
Hillary Thomas  
Dr. Hailey Walterman  
Edmund Wu  
Lauren Deutsch Wu  
An Ji Young

### VIOLA

Beth Elliott  
Diane Gilbert  
Xenia Deviatkina-Loh

### CELLO

Henry Chen  
Mauricio Lopez Chollett  
Mahsa Ghassemi  
Stephen Green  
Sohyun Jang  
Michael Kaufman  
Joseph Kim  
Daniel Lim  
Rachael Loneragan  
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Stephen Reiss  
Amanda Shokrian  
Garik Terzian  
John Redfield  
Wendy Velasco  
Nancy Yamagata  
Rebecca Yeh

### BASS

Nick Klingenberg  
Stephen Pfeifer  
Adrian Rosen

## THANKS TO THE SCHOOLS

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

### **AGOURA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL**

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## LAYO T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

The winner of the Fall 2025 T-Shirt Design Contest is Eva Galstyan, Symphony Trombone, who is currently a 9th grader at Burbank High School.

*"My name is Eva, and I play trombone in the Los Angeles Youth Orchestra. I started music when I was eight, studying theory and violin, and discovered my love for the trombone at ten. I moved from Armenia to Los Angeles in 2024, where I've continued to grow as both a soloist and an ensemble player. Back home, I performed with the Yerevan Youth Orchestra and took part in many national and international competitions that shaped who I am as a musician. Being part of LAYO has given me a new sense of inspiration and community, reminding me why I fell in love with music in the first place. My dream is to become a classical and jazz musician, study at Juilliard, and one day share my passion by teaching others."*

T-shirts with Eva's winning design are available for sale in the lobby!



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Friday, January 23, 2026 @ 7:30 PM - Lake Forest

Saturday, January 24, 2026 @ 3 PM - Palos Verdes

Sunday, January 25, 2026 @ 3 PM - West LA

Saturday, January 31, 2026 @ 3 PM - Pasadena + Livestream

#### Main Series No. 4: Beethoven and Schubert

Saturday, February 21, 2026 @ 7:30 PM - OC

Sunday, February 22, 2026 @ 3 PM - West LA

Friday, February 27, 2026 @ 7:30 PM - Santa Barbara

Sunday, March 1, 2026 @ 3 PM - Pasadena + Livestream

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Dear Tom,

We still remember you as a little kid behind the drums—confident and radiant. Over more than ten years of steady practice, we’ve watched your progress and your love for music grow, and we are truly happy for you. After coming to the United States, you quickly found the Los Angeles Youth Orchestra. Even in your first year here, while you were still adjusting to the language, you showed up for every rehearsal and saw each one through. On the day of the performance, seeing you on stage filled us with pride and joy.

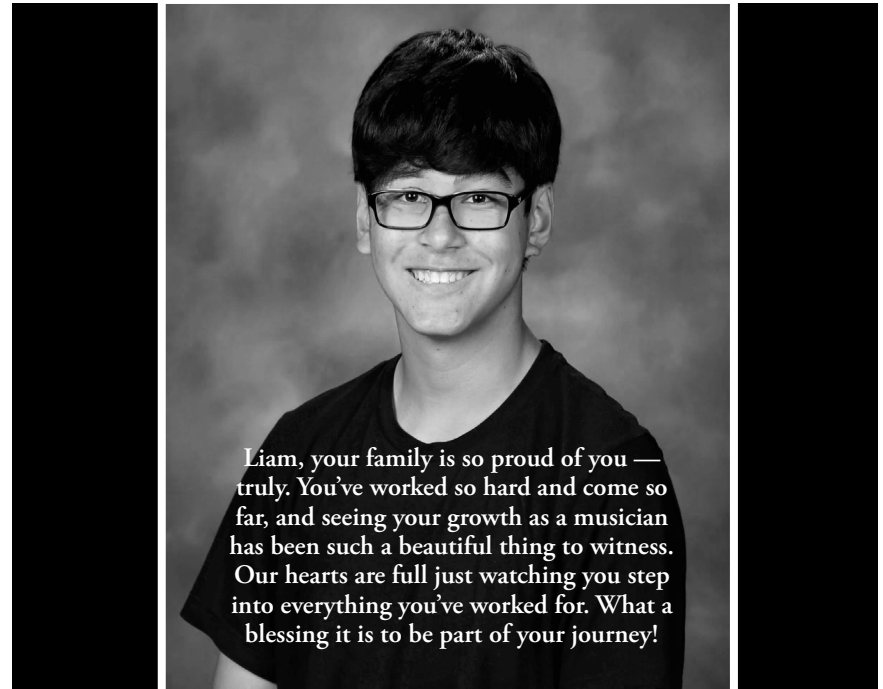
We hope you’ll keep that passion, bringing your own voice to every percussion piece you play. We also hope you’ll gain richly from your time in the ensemble. Our heartfelt thanks go to every patient, dedicated teacher for their hard work. We wish the Los Angeles Youth Orchestra continued growth and the success of many outstanding young musicians.

With all our love,  
Mom and Dad



Congratulations, Addy! We are so proud of the incredible musician you have become and for being a part of LAYO for the last four years. As you take your final bow with the orchestra and graduate this year, may your journey continue to be filled with music, memories and new adventures.

With all our love,  
Appa, Umma, and Gracen



Liam, your family is so proud of you — truly. You’ve worked so hard and come so far, and seeing your growth as a musician has been such a beautiful thing to witness. Our hearts are full just watching you step into everything you’ve worked for. What a blessing it is to be part of your journey!





Dear Ethan,

Congratulations on your first season with LAYO. This is an incredible milestone and you deserve the spotlight to celebrate the moment. Your whole family is very proud of you. We all love you very much.

Mom, Dad, Theodore & Elliot



Dear Annie,

Congratulations on being accepted into LAYO! This is the best reward for your years of dedication to practicing the violin — for every repetition, every moment of fatigue you've overcome, and every challenge you've faced. The path of music is never easy, but with perseverance, focus, and passion, you've made it this far. We are incredibly proud of you. May you continue to express the world within your heart through your music, letting more people hear the light of your unique soul and the brilliance of your hard work.

Love you so much!  
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LOS ANGELES YOUTH ORCHESTRA SALUTES ALL OF OUR PARENTS FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR REHEARSALS AND CONCERTS.  
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*Jane Matusovskaya, Concert Program Graphic Design*

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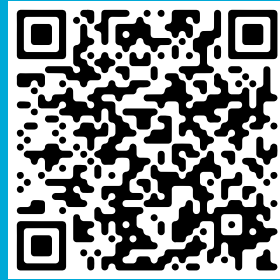


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