

# Clef Notes

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
THE BEACH CITIES SYMPHONY

## Welcome to the 70th Season of The Beach Cities Symphony Featuring Four New Conductors

Marsee Auditorium at El Camino College

The Beach Cities Symphony's first rehearsals began in 1949 with less than 25 instrumentalists, and in the early 1950s the orchestra performed at Redondo Beach High School's old auditorium. After Mira Costa High School came into being, our performances took place in their new auditorium. The orchestra has now been rehearsing in the Redondo Union High School for many years. In 1968, our concerts moved to the newly-built Marsee Auditorium and have been performed



there ever since. In the 1960s, under the direction of then Music Director and Conductor Louis J. Palange, the orchestra performed at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. The orchestra has had several conductors in these past 69 years; Louis J. Palange and Barry Brisk, led the orchestra for the longest times by far. For our 70th season, we are featuring a new conductor for each of our four concerts. One of these four will be the conductor for our 71st season.

### WINNERS OF THE ANNUAL MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

The annual competition for middle school music students was held in September, 2019, and the two winners will each be awarded a \$500 scholarship at our November 8, 2019, concert. You will be entertained by their performances in the lobby before the concert.

#### WINNER OF THE JO WISNIEWSKI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Rebecca Hsu, flute,  
Calle Mayor Middle School.  
Teacher: Weili Kong.



#### WINNER OF THE ALFRED CHAVEZ MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Annie Hyunbin Su,  
Ridgecrest Intermediate  
School.  
Teacher: In Kyu Lee.

**FIRST CONCERT**  
**NOVEMBER 8, 2019**  
**"A NEW BEGINNING"**

Conductor, Geoffrey Pope  
 Overture to *La gazza ladra* .... Gioachino Rossini  
 Piano Concerto No. 1.....Johannes Brahms  
**Georgi Slavchev**, piano soloist  
 Suite from *The Firebird* ..... Igor Stravinsky



"I'm very excited to be conducting the opening concert of the Beach Cities Symphony's 70th Season! We have a fantastic program of Rossini, Brahms, and Stravinsky, and

welcome back renowned pianist Georgi Slavchev to perform the monumental Brahms Piano Concerto No. 1 with us. I'm particularly looking forward to bringing that piece to life with the orchestra, as it is almost a symphony in its own right, and gives us great opportunities as an orchestra to develop a nuanced core sound together. It's an honor to be working with musicians and board members so dedicated to the organization and the community, and I think the Symphony's longevity is testament to this. I look forward to seeing you in November for this unforgettable concert!" — **Dr. Geoffrey Pope**

"A truly international pianist," "fascinatingly versatile," "among the piano elite,"—these are some of the ways in which the press has extolled the musicianship of **Georgi Slavchev**. Winner of national, international, and concerto piano competitions, Dr. Slavchev has performed at the Weille Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall and has been a soloist with orchestras in Europe, Asia, and the United States. In recognition of his sustained international acclaim, the U.S. government acknowledged his "extraordinary ability in the arts." He is the composer of the city anthem of his native Plovdiv, Bulgaria. This is his third concerto appearance with our orchestra.



*Georgi Slavchev,*  
*Piano Soloist*

**SECOND CONCERT, JANUARY 31, 2020**  
**"SONGS OF HEARTBREAK AND HOMELAND"**

Conductor, Paul Piazza  
*Somerset Rhapsody* ..... Gustav Holst  
*A! Perfido*, Opus 65 ..... Ludwig van Beethoven  
*Visi D'Arte* from *Tosca* ..... Giacomo Puccini  
**Erin Wood**, soprano soloist  
 Symphony No. 8 in G Major ..... Antonín Dvořák



**Paul Piazza** is a native of Southern California with a full schedule as a conductor, vocalist, trumpeter, and music educator. He earned his Bachelor of Music degree

from the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami. He has shared the stage with some of the world's greatest musical artists, including conductor Michael Tilson Thomas, pianist Jeremy Denk, and soprano Laura Aiken. Mr. Piazza has guest conducted prestigious ensembles including the Riverside Philharmonic and the Grammy-nominated Diamond Bar High School Symphony Orchestra. He currently holds the positions of Music Director with the Westlake Village Symphony and Assistant Conductor with the Riverside Philharmonic.

California native **Erin Wood**'s portrayals of Verdi and Wagner heroines have received praise for her "soaring soprano" and "volcanic outpouring of sound." For The Lyric Opera of Chicago, Ms. Wood has portrayed Sieglinda in *Die Walküre*, Lisa in *Queen of Spades*, Guttrune/Third Norn in *Götterdämmerung* as well as nine other roles since her tenure with their Ryan Opera Center. She has been seen as Amelia in *Un Ballo in Maschera* with the San Francisco Opera and Opera Colorado, and proudly joined the roster of the Metropolitan Opera for *Die Walküre*. Locally, Ms. Wood sings weekly on Hour of Power. She is an alumna of UCLA and is a member of the voice faculty at El Camino College.

*Erin Wood,*  
*Soprano Soloist*



**THIRD CONCERT  
MARCH 27, 2020  
"ROMANTIC WIZARDRY"**

Conductor, Dean Anderson  
*Hebrides Overture* ..... Felix Mendelssohn  
 Violin Concerto No. 1 ..... Nicolò Paganini  
**Roberto Cani**, violin soloist  
 Symphony No. 3 "Rhenish" ..... Robert Schumann



**Dean Anderson** has actively engaged communities near and far with his passion for music. He recently completed his seventh season as the Music Director and Artistic

Director for the Dana Point Symphony. He continually strives to champion a diverse blend of repertoire, ranging from the beloved works of Beethoven and Brahms, to newly commissioned works by local and international composers. His international engagements include concerts with professional orchestras in Brazil, Argentina, Hong Kong, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Mr. Anderson's performances include major ballet works and numerous operas. He was the first American citizen to conduct the Ho Chi Minh city Ballet Orchestra in 2011.

**Roberto Cani** is acclaimed throughout the music world as not just a performer, but an "artiste," and has been hailed by critics as "a violinist of high caliber following a great Italian tradition of the virtuoso Paganini." In addition to his native Italy, Roberto Cani concertizes throughout the United States as well as Germany, Belgium, Austria, Spain,

Russia, Croatia, Poland, Serbia, France, Taiwan, Japan, and South Africa. He is a frequent soloist with orchestras and has performed, most notably, with the Moscow Philharmonic, La Scala Orchestra, RAI Symphony (Italy), Belgrade Orchestra, Zagreb Orchestra, and Missouri Chamber Orchestra.



*Roberto Cani,  
Violin Soloist*

**FOURTH CONCERT, MAY 22, 2020  
"ARTISTS OF THE FUTURE"**

Conductor, Michael Stanley  
*Academic Festival Overture* ..... Johann Brahms  
 Artists of the Future Competition Winners  
*Capriccio Italien* ..... Pyotr Illyich Tchaikovsky

The Symphony welcomes back conductor **Michael Stanley** for the final concert of the 70th season. Mr.



Stanley conducted part of one concert for the Beach Cities Symphony during our 68th season. He is Principal Conductor for Pipe Dream Flutes (Los Angeles), and assistant conductor for the Burbank Philharmonic and has been the conductor or

the assistant conductor for many musical groups, including the New Valley Symphony in Los Angeles, Cal State University Long Beach Symphony Orchestra and Stanley Wind Ensemble in Thousand Oaks.

**TIME TO JOIN OR RENEW TO  
BE A PART OF OUR 70TH SEASON**

Thank you to those of you who have been members of the Beach Cities Symphony Association for the 69th season, which has been successful in large part because of your contributions. Our 70th season is now planned, and funding is, as usual, needed. We hope you will renew (or join) the Beach Cities Symphony Association and support our 2019-2020 season. With your membership payment, you are entitled to purchase a season parking permit for \$12. It's much more convenient to have the permit in your glove box than to have to put \$3 (for each concert) in a machine and walk back to your car to place it on the dashboard.

**HELP THE BEACH CITIES SYMPHONY  
AT NO COST TO YOU**

1. Go to our website: [BeachCitiesSymphony.org](http://BeachCitiesSymphony.org) and click on Amazon.com. Almost anything you need or want to buy is available at Amazon.com. We get a small percentage of your total purchases without adding to your costs.
2. Register your Ralphs Rewards card, either online or in the store. Ralphs donates a portion of your purchases to us. Registration must be repeated every year by Sept. 1st.
3. Register your credit card(s) with eScrip.com and a percentage of your purchases at certain retailers, restaurants, and other businesses will be donated to the Symphony.





Beach Cities Symphony Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 3019  
Torrance, CA 90510  
**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



STARTING WITH OUR 71ST SEASON,  
CLEF NOTES WILL BE SENT ONLY TO  
PAID MEMBERS AND ADVERTISERS  
of the Beach Cities Symphony Association.  
Become a member or renew your membership  
between now and May, 2020.

**TIME TO RENEW OR JOIN**  
*for the*  
**2019-2020 Season**

**SAVE THE DATE AND  
SUPPORT THE BEACH CITIES SYMPHONY  
"SUMMER IN FEBRUARY"**  
CELEBRATE WITH US ON  
**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2020**  
AS WE LEAP INTO OUR 70TH YEAR  
LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED

**SUPPORT THE BEACH CITIES SYMPHONY BY ATTENDING  
PENNYROYAL PLAYERS**

**"PIECIN' IT TOGETHER" –Songs & Stories of the American West**  
**ROTARY CLUB, 2521 VALLEY DRIVE, HERMOSA BEACH**  
**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2019 • 7:00 PM**  
**ADMISSION: \$25.00 • FREE PARKING**

**Meet the Cast and Enjoy FREE REFRESHMENTS after the Performance**

The Pennyroyal Players travel from Vermont to California, bringing lively and touching musical portraits about those who settled the American West. Through story and song, "Piecin' It Together" reveals the humor and hardships of pioneering life—endured by men, women and children. Pennyroyal has been awarded the City of Torrance's "Excellence in Music Award for 2017." They have performed over 1100 times since 2003 and they have donated over \$160,000 to benefit non-profit organizations.

PLEASE MAIL YOUR CHECK TO:

**Beach Cities Symphony**  
**P.O. Box 3910**  
**Torrance, CA 90510**

Or pay for admission by check or cash in the lobby  
at the November 8, 2019 Concert.

All proceeds go to the Beach Cities Symphony.



Beach Cities Symphony News information: 310-379-9725, 310-539-4649, [www.BeachCitiesSymphony.org](http://www.BeachCitiesSymphony.org) or [inquiry@BeachCitiesSymphony.org](mailto:inquiry@BeachCitiesSymphony.org)  
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