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PRESENTS

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## WELCOME TO MUSICAL MOSAIC

Music is the language of the spirit. It opens the secret of life, bringing peace, abolishing strife.

*Kahlil Gibran*

In this challenging time of the pandemic, political unrest, turmoil, economic concerns, restrictions, repressions, sorrows and loss, we present to you our gift of love through the healing, consoling strains of music. We welcome you to share with us the unifying brotherhood, the love and hope of music's vast capacities to heal, comfort, inspire, uplift. We share the sentiment of Dietrich Bonhoeffer who wrote,

"Music... will help dissolve your perplexities and purify your character and sensibilities, and in time of care and sorrow, will keep a fountain of joy alive in you."

Our gift of love to you is presented by the members of the Palos Verdes/South Bay Alumni Chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon in anticipation that it will "keep a fountain of joy alive in you". We are immensely grateful and proud of the program we feel privileged to present to you today. Our highly celebrated, world-class musicians hail from various places around the globe, more recently from the east coast to the west coast and from places in between. We are very honored to present them in this virtual concert version, which otherwise would not be possible. Today's remarkable assemblage of talent is a uniquely wonderful musical experience designed to fill your heart, enrich your soul, inspire, and thrill you, our listeners. Thank you for attending our 2021 Musical Mosaic.

The Palos Verdes/South Bay Alumni Chapter is a chapter affiliate of Mu Phi Epsilon, an International Professional Music Fraternity founded in 1903. Among its goals are the advancement of music

through recognition and promotion of musicianship and scholarship, financial support of music education and service to the community.

The proceeds from today's concert will be used to fund grants to qualifying public school music programs in the South Bay area of Los Angeles County. Thanks to the generosity of our performers, the labors of our chapter members and the loyalty of our audiences, we have been able to contribute significantly to the success of hundreds of music programs for over 40 years.

In addition to the school grants, we have been able to give awards and donations to other worthy music programs and projects and, primarily through our loyal Patrons' contributions, we have awarded innumerable scholarships to deserving college students enrolled in our local colleges and university. Please see in this booklet the list of grants, awards, donations and scholarship recipients for the academic year 2019-2020.

We are grateful for your recognition of the value of excellent music in our society and the need to nurture the music education programs in our schools. Your generous donations to today's fundraising effort will have a positive impact on the lives of today's young musicians and tomorrow's performers and future audiences.

Please find a comfortable seat, sit back and enjoy our marvelous Mosaic of sublime and inspiring music performed by today's leading music celebrities!!

Thank you,  
**Darlene Vlasek, NCTM**  
*Musical Mosaic Chair*

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# SERVICE PROJECTS

Palos Verdes/South Bay Alumni Chapter  
Community Service Projects 2019-2020

## **Grants to School Music Programs (up to \$500 each)**

A total of \$8,425.00 was donated to support school music programs. The eighteen schools which received grants included local and inner city elementary, middle and high school levels. The various needs the grants supplied included acquisition of musical instruments, music stands, published music, sound equipment, online music teaching support programs, chorus accompanists and other important items, essential to the successful participation in, learning about, listening to, and appreciation of music of various genres.

- **Arnold Elementary School**, Torrance
- **Arts Alive**, South Central to San Pedro
- **Calle Mayor Middle School**, Torrance
- **Carson High School**, Carson
- **Cornerstone Elementary School**, Rancho Palos Verdes
- **Children of Promise Prep School**, Inglewood
- **Crestwood Elementary School**, San Pedro
- **Helen Wittmann Elementary School**, Cerritos
- **Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo High School**, Long Beach
- **LA Academy Middle School**, Los Angeles
- **Mira Catalina Elementary School**, Palos Verdes
- **Montemalaga Elementary School**, Palos Verdes Estates
- **Point Vicente Elementary School**, Rancho Palos Verdes

- **PVUSD Elementary Choral Festival**, Palos Verdes
- **Rancho Dominguez Prep School**, Los Angeles Unified School District
- **Ridgecrest Intermediate School**, Rancho Palos Verdes
- **Riviera Hickory Carr Elementary School**, Torrance
- **Watts Learning Center Middle School**, Los Angeles

## **Scholarships**

Although our annual Scholarship Auditions were greatly delayed due to the pandemic, finally they were held and six students were declared winners. A total of \$3,500 was awarded to two students receiving \$1000 each, two students receiving \$500 each and two students receiving \$250 each.

## **Other Grants and Philanthropy**

- **Campus Concerts** \$2,500.00 to provide live recitals in South Bay Schools
- **El Camino Orchestra Program** \$500.00
- **South Bay Children's Choir** \$100.00
- **Assistance to Delta Sigma Chapter, UC Irvine** \$488.12
- **Rolling Hills United Methodist Church Music Program** \$250.00
- **Assistance to Gamma Sigma, CSU Dominguez Hills,** \$200.00
- **Mu Phi Epsilon Foundation** \$475.00
- **Founders Day Donations to International MPE Office** \$75.00
- **Donation to the Mu Phi Epsilon General Fund** \$100.00

**Total Philanthropy in 2019-2020 fiscal year:** \$13,056.59

**Total Philanthropy in the pre-pandemic 2018-2019 fiscal year**  
\$15,461.24

**Total Grants and Scholarships awarded since 2011** \$153,019.09

*If you want to apply for funds for your organization or school, please request email [g.harpole@verizon.net](mailto:g.harpole@verizon.net) and request a grant application. Requests should be received by March 31st, 2021.*

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Any way you look at it, it's harmony.

harm<sup>o</sup>ny  
harm<sup>o</sup>ny  
harm<sup>o</sup>ny  
harm<sup>o</sup>ny

Four part harmony, by Scott Kim.

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*If you would like to support the Palos Verdes/South Bay Alumni Chapter and our mission, please consider becoming a Patron. Our Patrons' donations fund the Scholarships we award annually to worthy college students attending El Camino College, Harbor College and Cal State Dominguez Hills. The suggested annual donation levels are: \$25-49, Friend, \$50-99 Silver, \$100 plus Gold. Please visit our website at [www.muhipvsouthbay.org](http://www.muhipvsouthbay.org) for more information.*

### **Musical Mosaic Performers' Sponsors**

We are most grateful for the generous donations of the following Mu Phi members and patrons who have contributed the honorariums for today's performers: Sandy Behrens, Linda Cohen, Anne and Ray Destabelle, Teddy Greenwald, Shirley Ho, Tricia and Tom Paulsen. Additional sponsorship donations from John Cuccia, Virginia Heinrich, Jim and Darlene Vlasek.

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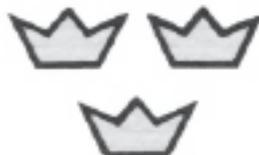
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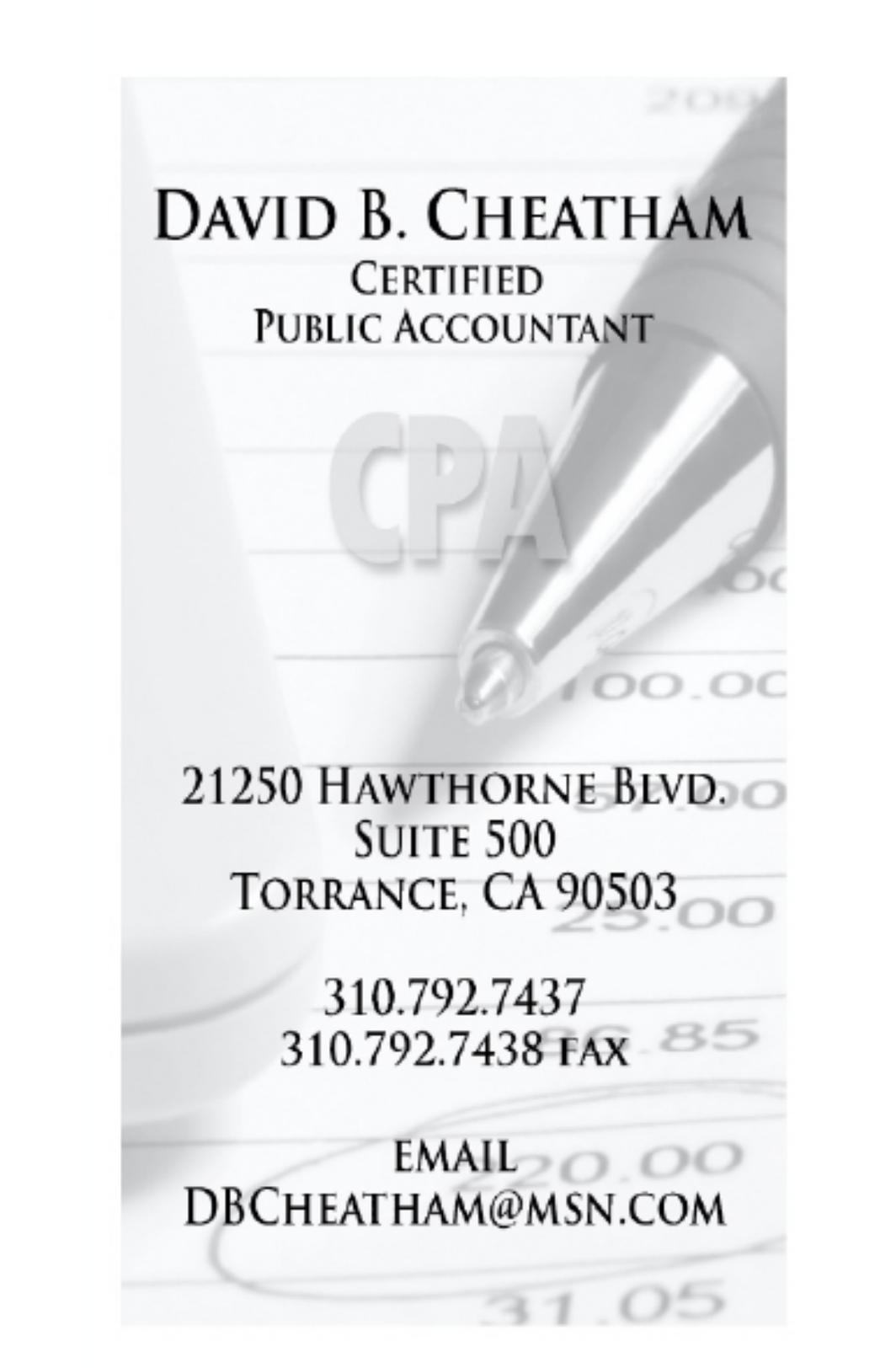
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Musical Mosaic  
and Mu Phi Epsilon*

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*Darlene Vlasek, NCTM*

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# PROGRAM

## The Angel City Chorale

Artistic Director and Founder: Sue Fink

**Sogno Di Volare** by Christopher Tin

**I Love You / What a Wonderful World** arr. by Craig Hella Johnson

*Sponsored by Anne and Ray Destabelle and Shirley Ho*

## Sean Chen, piano

Concert pianist, winner American Pianist Award, Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, Annenberg Fellow

**Impromptu Op. 90, No. 1, C Minor, D. 899** by Schubert

**Gaspard de la Nuit, No. 1, "Ondine", C sharp Major** by Ravel

*Sponsored by Theodora (Teddy) Greenwald*

## Anli and Friends, piano trio

Anli Lin Tong, piano. Concert pianist and chamber musician

Roberto Cani, violin. Concertmaster of Los Angeles Opera Orchestra

Udi Bar-David, cello. Member Philadelphia Orchestra, Founder and Director ARTolerance

**Nocturne No. 2 "Andante Quietto" for Piano, Violin and Cello** by Ernest Bloch

**"Spring" from Four Seasons of Buenos Aires** by Astor Piazzolla

*Sponsored by Tricia & Tom Paulsen, John Cuccia, Virginia Heinrich*

**Aaron Blake**, tenor **Cris Frisco**, piano

Star of Metropolitan Opera and New York City Opera

**Del cabello mas sutil** by Fernando Obradors

**No puede ser** by Pablo Sorozabal

**Granada** by Augustin Lara

*Sponsored by Sandy Behrens*

**Kenneth Dake**, organ

Organist, composer, arranger, director of New York's Historic Marble Church

**Fugue in E flat Major (St. Anne), BWV 552** by Johann Sebastian Bach

**Finale from Symphony No. 6, Op. 42, No. 2, G Minor** by Charles Marie Widor

*Sponsored by Linda Cohen*

### **Reception**

*Thank you for attending today's Musical Mosaic. Please join us in a live chat at the conclusion of the program. Please open up the Zoom link sent to you prior to this concert.*

# Program Notes

## The Angel City Chorale

The lyrics for **Sogno Di Volare**, by Christopher Tin, are from a poem by Leonardo Da Vinci. The song is also the theme to the video game *Civilization VI*. This was Angel City Chorale's first virtual video. We did it to express how we are dealing with the Covid-19 Shut down.

## Sean Chen

The first impromptu of **Schubert's Op. 90** set is not so much of a spur-of-the-moment composition, as the title might suggest - rather it is a masterful work of pacing, opening with a solemn march, whose melody undergoes a transformation throughout the piece, moving through various emotions and characters. The accompaniment under the melody shifts to support the melody in its various guises, but always has a sense of motion. And then out of nowhere comes one of the most poignant sequences in the repertoire. The piece ends with three satisfying C major chords, a relief from the minor modality of the rest of the piece.

Ravel's **Gaspard de la nuit** is based on poems by Aloysius Bertrand. *Ondine* is about the water spirit, who lures sailors overboard with her voice and promises of a magical life underwater, only for them to find out at the last minute that they are jumping to their deaths. Ravel is brilliant at utilizing the entire sonic range of the piano and the technical range of the pianist to achieve effects that we imagine visually - the shimmering of the water, the peaks of the waves, the rumbling of the undertow. But most difficult for the pianist is the emulation of a singing voice, and Ravel manages to interweave that amongst the watery effects. The piece ends with the water spirit plunging back down into the depths, and the surface of the water returning as if nothing had happened.

## Anli and Friends

Concert Pianist Anli Lin Tong is joined by Roberto Cani, violinist, and Udi Bar-David, cellist, in a virtual musical collaboration. They have chosen two contrasting works rich in poetic beauty and verve to share with our audience: **Nocturne No. 2** (1929) by Swiss-American composer Ernest Bloch, a quietly moving meditation of the night, and the delightfully vibrant **Spring** from Argentine composer Astor Piazzolla's popular **Four Seasons from Buenos Aires**, evocative of the Tango. With their diverse backgrounds – Anli from Taiwan, Roberto from Italy, and Udi from Israel – our three artists bring classical music filtered through their distinct musical sensibilities in showcasing these two captivating works.

## Ken Dake

**Fugue in E-flat Major, BWV 552 (St. Anne)** by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Bach's epic volume of sacred organ music, the *Clavierübung*, published in 1739, contains some of his most complex and technically demanding compositions for organ. Between the Prelude in E-flat, which opens the volume, and the Fugue, which is its culmination, are 21 chorale-preludes and settings of parts of the Lutheran mass and catechism. It is often referred to as the "German Organ Mass." The great triple fugue which closes the volume is nicknamed St. Anne because of its similarity to the hymn-tune by William Croft later set to the text "O God, Our Help in Ages Past." This triple fugue in the key of three flats is Bach's musical tribute to the doctrine of the Trinity. The number of measures in each fugue adds up to nine – or 3 threes (36-45-36), conferring perfect symmetry upon the Godhead. The first fugue is traditionally played on the Great division of the organ (God the Father), while the second fugue is played on the Positiv division, the division of the organ positioned behind the organ bench and closest to the congregation (Christ). The third fugue (the Holy Spirit) combines all the subjects together in a grand finale of unparalleled contrapuntal genius.

**Final from Symphony No. 6, Opus 42, No. 2** by Charles-Marie Widor  
(1844-1937)

Widor was born into a family of organists and organ builders. In January 1870, he was appointed organist of Saint-Sulpice in Paris, perhaps the most prominent position for any organist in France. Widor remained in that post for sixty-four years until he was succeeded by his former student Marcel Dupré. In the early 19th century Felix Mendelssohn had written sonatas for organ that presaged Widor in structural form; but the unusual title of **Symphony** for a non-orchestral work was borne mostly from the nature of the organ itself, which was a masterwork of the great reviver of the art of organ building, Aristide Cavallé-Coll. His was a groundbreaking symphonic organ that portrayed a broad orchestral range of timbre, coupled with the capability of smooth crescendi and diminuendi using expression pedals and enclosed divisions of pipes. Widor wrote ten massive symphonic works that showcased the magnificence of Cavallé-Coll's creation. This is the final, heraldic movement from his Sixth Symphony in G Minor, which draws upon the full capabilities of organ and organist alike.

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# PERFORMER BIOGRAPHIES

## THE ANGEL CITY CHORALE

*Sponsored by Anne and Ray Destabelle and Shirley Ho*

Now in its 27th year among the premier choral groups in Southern California, Angel City Chorale is proud to represent the spirit and diversity of Los Angeles in its membership, its music, and its outreach activities, thereby fulfilling its mission of “Building Community One Song at a Time.” Celebrated Artistic Director Sue Fink founded the Chorale at world-famous McCabe’s Guitar Shop in 1993 with 18 singers – which has now grown to over 180 talented and dedicated singers, presenting a broad and eclectic repertoire including classical, gospel, jazz, pop and world music.



Angel City Chorale is perhaps best known for its performances on NBC’s top-rated talent competition America’s Got Talent (2018), making it all the way to the Semi-Finals. Hailed by Simon Cowell as “one of the best choirs we’ve ever had,” the Chorale earned the

coveted Golden Buzzer, touching nearly 20 million viewers with their rich sound and compelling message of unity and diversity.

The video of Angel City Chorale's captivating performance of Toto's "Africa" has been viewed more than 80 million times by people around the world. True to their mission of community building, Angel City Chorale is collaborating with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Los Angeles County in forming the Angel City Youth Chorale, whose members currently rehearse virtually.

The Chorale is committed to resuming its Tour of Hope program, in which ACC takes its concert repertoire directly to underserved populations and service organizations in Los Angeles, once the safety of our members and community allow. Angel City Chorale is a California Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation and 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

## SEAN CHEN, Piano

*Sponsored by Theodora (Teddy) Greenwald*



A "thoughtful musician well beyond his years" (*The Republic*), pianist Sean Chen shares his "alluring, colorfully shaded renditions" (*New York Times*) and "genuinely sensitive" (*LA Times*) playing with audiences around the world in solo and chamber recitals, concerto performances, and masterclasses. After winning the 2013 American Pianists Awards, placing third at the 2013 Van Cliburn

International Piano Competition, and being named a 2015 Annenberg Fellow, Mr. Chen is now a Millsap Artist in Residence at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance.

Mr. Chen has performed with many prominent orchestras, including the Fort Worth, Indianapolis, Kansas City, San Diego, Knoxville,

Hartford, Louisiana Philharmonic, Milwaukee, North Carolina, Pasadena, Phoenix, Santa Fe, and New West Symphony Orchestras, as well as the Chamber Orchestras of Philadelphia, Indianapolis, and South Bay. He has collaborated with esteemed conductors Leonard Slatkin, Michael Stern, Gerard Schwarz, Nicholas McGegan, Miguel Harth-Bedoya, Marcelo Lehninger, and James Judd. Solo recitals have brought him to major venues worldwide, including Jordan Hall in Boston, Subculture in New York City, the American Art Museum at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., the National Concert Hall in Taipei, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, and the Salle Cortot in Paris.

Mr. Chen has served on the juries of notable piano competitions, including the Thailand International Piano Competition, West Virginia International Piano Competition, Cleveland International Piano Competition for Young Artists, and Steinway competitions around the country. Given his natural inclination for teaching and approachable personality, Mr. Chen is particularly in demand for residencies that combine performances with master classes, school concerts, and artist conversations, which have brought him to such institutions as the Cleveland School of Music, Indiana University, University of British Columbia, University of Houston Moores School, Spotlight Awards at the Los Angeles Music Center, Young Artist World Piano Festival, and several Music Teachers' Associations throughout the country.

Mr. Chen has been featured in both live and recorded performances on WQXR (New York), WFMT (Chicago), WGBH (Boston), WFYI (Indianapolis), KPR (Kansas), NPR's *From the Top*, and American Public Media's *Performance Today*. Additional media coverage includes a profile featured on the cover of *Clavier Companion* in May 2015, recognition as "One to Watch" by *International Piano Magazine* in March 2014, and inclusion in WFMT's "30 Under 30."

His CD releases include *La Valse*, a solo recording on the Steinway label, hailed for "penetrating artistic intellect" (*Audiophile Audition*); a live recording from the Cliburn Competition released by harmonia mundi, praised for his "ravishing tone and cogently contoured lines"

(*Gramophone*); an album of Michael Williams's solo piano works on the Parma label; and a recent album of Flute, Oboe, and Piano repertoire titled *KaleidosCoping* with colleagues Michael Gordon and Celeste Johnson. Mr. Chen has also contributed to the catalog of Steinway's new Spirio system.

A multifaceted musician, Mr. Chen also transcribes, composes, and improvises. His transcriptions of such orchestral works as Ravel's *La Valse*, Mozart's *Overture to the Marriage of Figaro*, and the Adagio movement of Rachmaninoff's Symphony No. 2, have been received with glowing acclaim and enthusiasm, and his encore improvisations are lauded as "genuinely brilliant" (*Dallas Morning News*). His Prelude in F# was commissioned by fellow pianist Eric Zuber, and subsequently performed in New York. An advocate of new music, he has also collaborated with several composers and performed their works, including Lisa Bielawa, Jennifer Higdon, Michael Williams, Nicco Athens, Michael Gilbertson, and Reinaldo Moya.

Born in Florida, Mr. Chen grew up in the Los Angeles area of Oak Park, California. His impressive achievements before college include the NFAA ARTSweek, Los Angeles Music Center's Spotlight, and 2006 Presidential Scholars awards. These honors combined with diligent schoolwork led to offers of acceptance by MIT, Harvard, and The Juilliard School. Choosing to study music, Mr. Chen earned his Bachelor and Master of Music from Juilliard, meanwhile garnering several awards, most notably the Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans. He received his Artist Diploma in 2014 at the Yale School of Music as a George W. Miles Fellow. His teachers include Hung-Kuan Chen, Tema Blackstone, Edward Francis, Jerome Lowenthal, and Matti Raekallio.

Mr. Chen resides in Kansas City, Missouri with his wife, Betty, a violinist in the Kansas City Symphony. When not at the piano, Mr. Chen enjoys tinkering with computers, and exploring math, science, and programming. Mr. Chen is a Steinway Artist.

## ANLI TONG, Piano

*Sponsored by Tricia and Tom Paulsen, John Cuccia, Virginia Heinrich*



Praised by critics for her “pointed grace” (Los Angeles Times) and “exquisite pianism” (Chinese American News), pianist Anli Lin Tong’s concerts have taken her to three continents on the stages of such halls as the Avery Fisher Hall in Lincoln Center, Taipei Symphony Hall in Taiwan, the Bordeaux Opera House in France, and the Getty Center in Los Angeles.

As a concerto soloist, she has appeared with the Taiwan Symphony Orchestra in the Taiwan National Arts Festival, the Chinese Fine Arts Orchestra, the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, the Bratislava Chamber Orchestra, the Civic Chamber Orchestra, the Burbank Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Beach Cities Symphony Orchestra.

Her passion for chamber music is brought to fruition by frequent collaborations with artists of the highest caliber, including members of the Los Angeles Philharmonic and, more recently, as the pianist of the newly inaugurated Orpheus Trio. Her performances as soloist and as a chamber musician continue to garner critical acclaim. Of her performance of the Chopin F-minor Piano Concerto, Anli Lin Tong was lauded for her “fluid power and stunning technique” and “crystalline beauty and sparkling dexterity” (Palos Verdes Peninsula News). Her performance of the award-winning Concertino for Piano and String Orchestra by Taiwanese composer Kuo Chi-Yuan was praised as “the best rendition of this work” by Taiwan Symphony Review. Her chamber music performances were noted for “her energy and elation” and singled out for mention by the Beverly Hills Outlook, which reported, “pianist Anli Tong was magnificent, with particular attention to tone....” Ms. Tong has appeared as a guest on WBEZ Chicago Public Radio and classical Radio Philharmonic Taipei. Recent highlights of her concert career include a

performance of George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" with the Burbank Philharmonic in a July 4th All-American program at the Starlight Bowl, and a concert tour of Taiwan that culminated in a reception by President of Taiwan Lee Teng-Hui.

Born in Taiwan, Ms. Tong began piano lessons at age five. At age nine, she entered her first piano competition and emerged out of 200 contestants to capture First Prize in the first nationally-televised piano competition on Taiwan Television. That same year she was invited by the celebrated Polish pianist and pedagogue Mieczyslaw Munz (teacher of pianist Emanuel Ax) to study at the Juilliard School in New York. Under the official sponsorship of Taiwan's Ministry of Education, Anli Lin Tong travelled to New York where she became the youngest pupil in Munz's class at the Juilliard. Tong received her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in Piano Performance at Juilliard where her major teacher after Munz's passing was Martin Canin, protégé of the legendary Rosina Lhevinne who was the teacher of Van Cliburn. From Munz to Canin, Tong traces her musical lineage to such musical giants as Ferruccio Busoni and Franz Liszt. Later studies include master classes with Jacob Lateiner, Earl Wild, Sergei Dorensky, and doctoral studies with full scholarship at UCLA under Vitaly Margulis.

Ms. Tong has distinguished herself as a teacher of prize-winning students who have received top prizes in prestigious competitions throughout the state and in national competitions, including the Los Angeles Philharmonic Bronislaw Kaper Award, the Los Angeles International Liszt Competition, the Young Musicians Foundation Debut Concerto Competition, the International Institute of Young Musicians Competition, the Los Angeles Music Center Spotlight Award auditions, the Miami International Music Festival Concerto Competition, and the Music Teachers National Association Performance Competitions. Her students have been featured as soloists in orchestras throughout the Los Angeles area, and her chamber music coaching has produced top winners in the state of California VOCE Competition and captured First Place in the 2015 MTNA National Chamber Music Competition. Ms. Tong was featured in teaching demonstrations at the 2005 World Piano

Pedagogy Conference, and she has served as Secretary and Vice-President of the International Rachmaninoff Piano Competition. She has been generous in giving of her time and talents to benefit many worthy causes, including giving concerts to benefit earthquake victims in Taiwan and raising funds for a free medical clinic in Mexico. The Beach Cities Symphony Association is grateful to have her on its board of directors, where she has spearheaded details for the BCSA Instrumentalists Scholarship program and inaugurated the Young Audience Pre-concert Lectures which ran for nine consecutive seasons at Beach Cities Symphony concerts.

A concert in October of 2015 marked Ms. Tong's fourth solo engagement with Beach Cities Symphony Orchestra. The featured work from the program, the Bartok Piano Concerto No. 3, brought special meaning to her personally. The Adagio Movement of the concerto contains a poignant musical quotation of a "Holy Song of Thanksgiving" by Beethoven. Ms. Tong's recent recovery from a debilitating health condition gives particular resonance to her appreciation of Bartok's final work which was written after the composer had just recovered from a serious illness. She dedicated this performance to her late parents to whom she is indebted for instilling in her the love of music at a young age. Ms. Tong credits her father, Dr. En-Kwei Lin, who passed away in May of 2015 for imparting his unshakable belief in the nobility of music and the arts as impetus for the good in humanity.

## ROBERTO CANI, Violin

*Sponsored by Tricia and Tom Paulsen, John Cuccia, Virginia Heinrich*



Acclaimed throughout the music world as not just a performer, but an “artiste”, violinist Roberto Cani has continued to bring his art to the highest of levels, captivating and delighting audiences in the United States and abroad, since his solo debut at the Gaveau Hall in Paris.

Beginning his studies at the age of seven, Mr. Cani has been a first and grand prize winner of numerous competitions, including the Paganini International Competition in Genoa, the Courcillon International Competition, and the Jeunesses Musicales International Competition in Belgrade, where he also captured a special award for the best performance of a contemporary work. In addition, he has been the winner of the Minetti Prize and received honors at the Tchaikovsky Competition.

Throughout his successful career as soloist, chamber musician and concertmaster, he has established himself as a versatile and respected artist worldwide.

Mr. Cani has performed throughout the United States as well as in Italy, Spain, Austria, Germany, Russia, Croatia, Belgium, Poland, Serbia, France, Taiwan, Japan and South Africa. He has appeared as soloist with the Moscow Philharmonic, the RAI Symphony (Italy), the Belgrade Philharmonic, Zagreb Soloists, Orchestra Haydn of Bolzano, the American Youth Symphony, the Oregon Symphony, the Missouri Chamber Orchestra and Symphony of the Americas.

His performances have been televised nationally for PBS, RAI in Italy, RB in Yugoslavia, NHK in Japan, ZDF in Germany and in Taiwan. He has been featured on several occasions in radio broadcasts on both KMZT and KKGQ in Los Angeles. Other notable

appearances include his widely acclaimed performance of the first concerti of Paganini and Szymanowski in Italy and his premiere of a piece by Polish composer, Gorecki, for violin and piano.

Mr. Cani has performed as guest concertmaster for the La Scala Philharmonic in Milan under the baton of Riccardo Muti. He was also invited by Vladimir Jurowski to be a guest concertmaster for the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

Mr. Cani has been appointed Concertmaster of the Los Angeles Opera Orchestra in May 2011. As concertmaster of Los Angeles Opera Orchestra, Mr. Cani is closely working with Placido Domingo and James Conlon among others.

Actively involved in chamber music, Mr. Cani has had the pleasure of touring with conductor and pianist Justus Frantz. He has also performed alongside Lynn Harrell, Jeffrey Swann, Jason Vieaux. Presently, he is the first violinist of the New Hollywood String Quartet and has an active presence in many west coast chamber music series. He has also participated in Chamber Music Festivals in Berlin, Hamburg, Vienna, and the Canary Islands.

Mr. Cani has given master classes at many California Universities, among them those at the University of Southern California (USC), the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA),s as well as playing and teaching at Summer Music Festivals in Positano, Italy and Hvar, Croatia, Music Festival in Prague.

Mr. Cani has recorded the Vivaldi "Four Seasons", sonatas by Respighi and Busoni with pianist Jeffrey Swann, and the solo sonatas of Bartok, Ysaye, Bloch, and Prokofiev under the Arkadia and Agora labels. His other recordings include the Tchaikovsky violin concerto, and a CD of favorite encores.

Mr. Cani is a graduate of the Milan Conservatory, the Gnessin Institute in Moscow, and the University of Southern California. He has studied with world-renowned violinists Viktor Tretiakov and Abrahm Shtern.

## UDI BAR-DAVID, Cello

*Sponsored by Tricia and Tom Paulsen, John Cuccia, Virginia Heinrich*



**ARTolerance Founder and Artistic Director and Cellist with the Philadelphia Orchestra,** Udi Bar-David is widely considered one of the most versatile cellists in the world, performing on international stages with both classical and ethnic musicians. Udi studied in Tel-Aviv, with Leonard Rose at the Juilliard School, and Orchestral Conducting at Curtis Institute of Music.

Udi won the International Villa Lobos Competition in Brazil, and appeared as a soloist with numerous orchestras, including the Jerusalem Symphony and Philly Pops. He was featured on the *TODAY* show, and was represented by Astral Artistic Services and the Center for Jewish Culture and Creativity. He has served as principal cellist with many orchestras, and has been a member of the Philadelphia Orchestra since the late 1980s.

As a chamber musician, Udi has collaborated with Christoph Eschenbach, Leon Fleisher, Jaime Laredo, Rudolph Buchbinder, Emanuel Ax and others. As Founder and Artistic Director of Intercultural Journeys, he produced numerous events world-wide. Udi has recently created Artolerance – an important new effort to expand the crucial role music and the arts play in fostering understanding and tolerance.

Udi has toured the US, Europe, Palestine, Israel, Cuba and Asia, with world-renowned artists, including Jie Bing Chen, Nawang Khechog, Hanna Khoury, Wu Man, Diane Monroe, R. Carlos Nakai, Mandy Patinkin, and Simon Shaheen.

## AARON BLAKE, Tenor

*Sponsored by Sandy Behrens*



The recipient of a 2017 George London Foundation Award, tenor Aaron Blake has earned international recognition for his creation of the role of Timothy Laughlin in Gregory Spears' *Fellow Travelers*. Mr. Blake recently made a critically acclaimed debut with the New York City Opera in Peter Eötvös' operatic adaptation of *Angels in America*. Praised by the *New York Times* for his "youthful fervor and endearing sweet sound" the tenor has found a musical home in a variety of repertoire.

2019/20 Season engagements for Mr. Blake include his German and European debut as Michel in Bohuslav Martinu's *JULIETTA* with Oper Frankfurt a return to the Metropolitan Opera as The High Priest of Amon in Philip Glass's *Akhnaten*. He will make his Walt Disney Concert Hall debut with the LA Symphony in a concert of Duets and Arias with soprano Stefania Dovhan and later in the season return with the LA Symphony to The Cerritos Performing Arts Center for a concert of Holiday Favorites and Arias. He will make his Israeli National Opera debut as Il conte Almaviva in *Barber of Seville* as well as his debut with Opéra de Montréal as Tamino. He will close his season by celebrating the Cincinnati Opera's 100th Anniversary with performances of *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* opposite mezzo soprano Isabel Leonard.

In 2018/19 the Tenor returned to the Metropolitan Opera for The Dialogues of the Carmelites and made his debut in the company's Summer Recital Series at Brooklyn Bridge Park with Nathan Gunn and Yin Fang. He made his role debut as Count Almaviva in *The Barber of Seville* with the Tulsa Opera. Mr. Blake created the Role of Mila in Andrea Clearfields *Mila, Great Sorcerer* with the Prototype Festival. He also reprised his role of Tamino with The Komische

Oper Berlin on tour in Australia and New Zealand and made his Mostly Mozart Festival debut at Lincoln Center in the same role in July of 2019. He made his Bangor Symphony debut as *Candide* and returned to Carnegie Hall with the American Symphony Orchestra as Michel in the US Premier Bohuslav Martinu's *The Key of Dreams* as well as for a concert of Sacred Music with John Rutter conducting and returns to the Cincinnati Opera for the company's season opening concert at Washinton Square Park.

He has performed leading roles with Cincinnati Opera as Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*, Pan in *La Calisto*, and Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte*; Komische Oper Berlin and Minnesota Opera as Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte*; Utah Opera as Rinuccio in *Gianni Schicchi*, Fenton in *Falstaff*, Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*, Ferrando in *Così fan tutte*, and Nemorino in *L'elisir d'amore*; Tulsa Opera as Nadir in *Les Pêcheurs de Perles*, as a guest on their 70th Anniversary Gala and Il conte Almaviva in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*; The Dallas Opera as Romeo in *Romeo et Juliette*; Opera Orchestra of New York as Ugo in Donizetti's *Parisina d'Este*; Washington National Opera in *Anna Bolena*; and the Metropolitan Opera where he debuted opposite Plácido Domingo in *La Traviata*.

Mr. Blake's recent engagements saw his return to the Metropolitan Opera for *Les contes d'Hoffmann* and *The Merry Widow*. He performed the role of Tamino with the Komische Oper Berlin on tour in Tokyo, Hiroshima and Osaka. He returned to the Utah Opera for the role of Rinuccio in *Gianni Schicchi* and made debuts with the American Symphony Orchestra singing Fleishman's *Rothschild's Violin* at Carnegie Hall, and as *Candide* with the Atlanta Symphony-Alliance Theater in a production celebrating the Leonard Bernstein centennial, a performance which garnered a nomination for a Suzi Bass Award for best actor.

Mr. Blake's portrayal of Timothy Laughlin can be heard on the commercial recording of *Fellow Travelers*, released this season on the Fanfare Label, and named by the New Yorker Magazine as one of the top 10 recordings of 2017.

## KENNETH DAKE, Organ

Sponsored by Linda Cohen



Kenneth Dake continues St. Ann & the Holy Trinity Church's **First Tuesday One O'Clock Concerts** with works by New York composers including Horatio Parker, Mark Miller, McNeil Robinson.

The series, curated by Dr. Gregory D'Agostino, St. Ann's Organist and Director of Music, features New York's finest musicians. The concerts take place on the first Tuesday of each month and are free, however St. Ann's welcomes donations in support of the restoration fund for our historic five-manual Skinner organ.

Conductor, composer and keyboardist Kenneth Dake, born 1961, assumed the position of Director of Music at New York City's [ Marble Collegiate Church in 1996, overseeing a multi-choir program known for extraordinary musical diversity. Under his direction the 23-voice professional Marble Sanctuary Choir recorded two acclaimed CDs: *With Many Voices (A Celebration of American Sacred Music)* and *Songs of Simple Faith*. Both recordings feature many of Kenneth Dake's imaginative arrangements of American folk hymns and spirituals. Mr. Dake's debut organ CD, *Prayers and Alleluias* was released in 2010 on the Dorian record label.

A native of Barrington, Illinois, Kenneth Dake holds degrees in piano performance from The Juilliard School where he was a student of the late Sascha Gorodnitzki. Following graduation he pursued organ studies under the private tutelage of John Weaver. For eight years Mr. Dake served as Organist/Choirmaster of New York City's St. George's Church Episcopal Church, directing the 100-voice St. George's Choral Society and presiding over the famed 95-rank Möller organ featured in recordings by E. Power Biggs.



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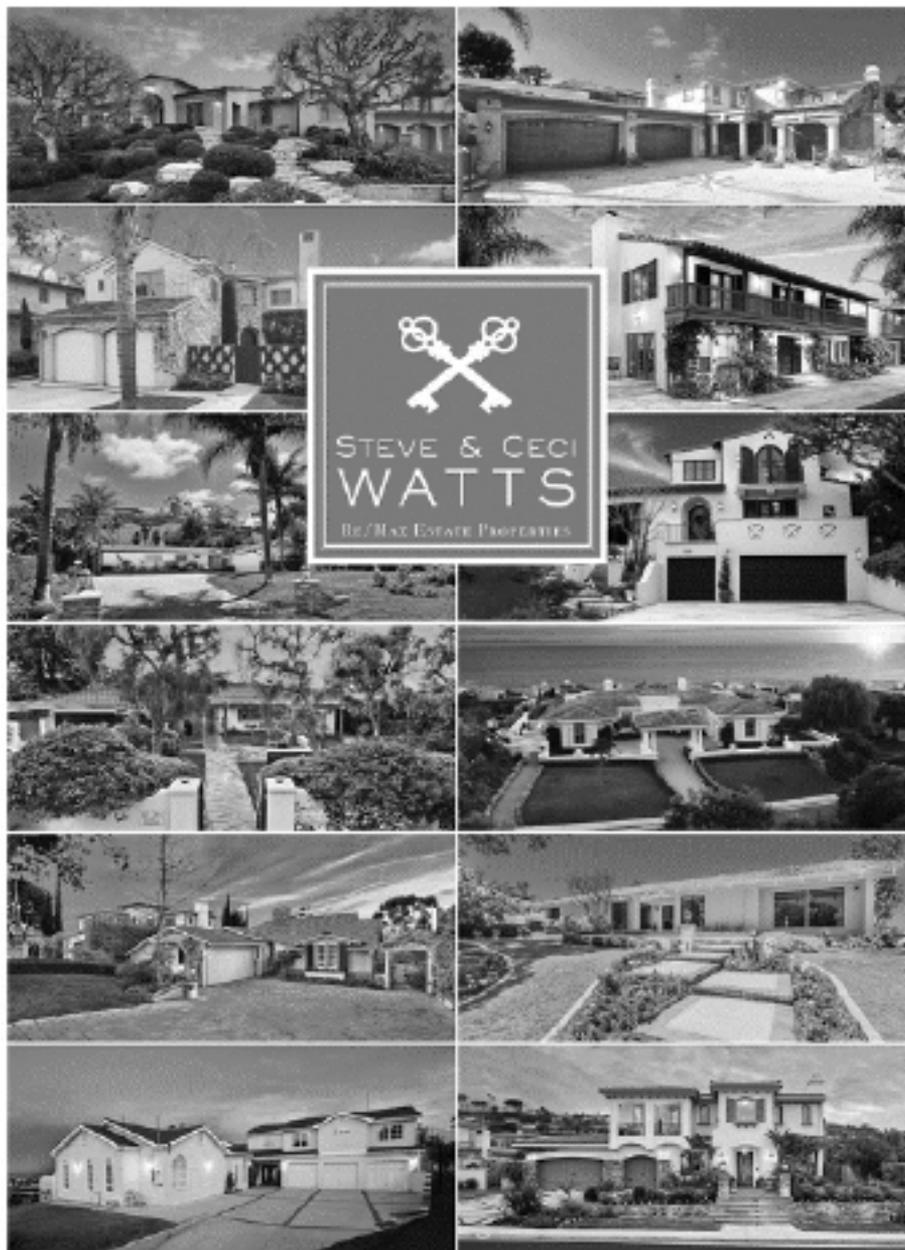
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