SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PHILHARMONIC

Branden Muresan, Music Director/Conductor

Portraits of America: Pioneers and Passions

Friday, October 9th at 7:30 pm
Saturday, October 10th at 7:30 pm

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1221 Wass Street, Tustin, CA 92780

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PHILHARMONIC

Portraits of America: Pioneers and Passions

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Tango "Por Una Cabeza"……Carlos Gardel, arr. John Williams
featuring Jessica Haddy, Violin

Lincoln Portrait……Aaron Copland
narrated by Jonathan Fohrman

Intermission

Symphony No. 1 in E Minor……Florence Price

I. Allegro ma non troppo
II. Largo, maestoso
III. Juba Dance: Allegro
IV. Finale: Presto

Meet our Featured Artists

Jessica Haddy has served as concertmaster of the Southern California Philharmonic since 2016, appearing as a featured soloist in works by Bruch, Beethoven, and Rimsky-Korsakov. She is now honored to perform as soloist in John Williams's arrangement of Carlos Gardel's Por una cabeza, featured in the film Scent of a Woman. She has also performed at Laguna Beach Sunset Serenades and the Western White House in San Clemente.

Her career has taken her throughout Southern California, performing with chamber groups, jazz ensembles, and artists including Elton John, Sheryl Crow, Sting, Il Divo, and Randy Travis.

Jessica is a brand ambassador for Krutz Strings and founder of Haddy Music, an event music company featured in Riviera Magazine's Best of OC.

A dedicated educator, Jessica directs strings at the Waldorf School of Orange County and teaches violin and viola online and in person. In 2025, she founded Haddy Music Strings Hub to help adults grow as violinists and violists. The program is growing exponentially, with more than 70 members across the nation learning through online violin and viola education and in-person experiences.

Jessica is grateful for the support of her husband, Ryan, and daughter, Ravelle. Learn more at www.haddymusic.com.

Jonathan Fohrman has served as the Dean of Arts, International Languages & Ethnic Studies at MiraCosta College in Oceanside since 2013, and has previously served in similar higher education arts leadership roles at San Diego Mesa College, and at Te Wānanga o Aotearoa (a Māori serving university) in New Zealand. Fohrman holds a Master's in ethnomusicology from the University of Washington. He is committed to community access to meaningful arts and cultural experiences. He is a member and former chair of the Arts Commission for the City of Oceanside, and has served recent terms on the board of directors for the National Council of Arts Administrators; the Oceanside Museum of Art; the Center for World Music; the contemporary nonprofit company, LITVAK dance; and on the advisory board for the San Diego Asian Film Festival/Pacific Arts Movement. He also served in an advisory capacity to the San Diego Symphony and the celebrated composer, Bill Conti, for a 2013 community project entitled Your Song, Your Story, which shared the stories, voices, music and dance of San Diegans in a unique, co-created performance piece.

About Tonight's Program

Carlos Gardel (1890–1935) was one of the most famous tango singers, composers, and actors in history. He is widely regarded as one of the greatest figures in the development and international popularity of tango. Gardel was born in Toulouse, France, in 1890 and moved with his mother to Buenos Aires, Argentina, when he was a child.

Growing up in Buenos Aires, Gardel developed a passion for music and began performing in cafés and theaters. He initially sang folk music before becoming closely associated with tango. His rich voice, emotional style, and charismatic personality made him extremely popular throughout Argentina and other parts of Latin America.

Gardel recorded hundreds of songs during his career. Some of his best-known works include "Mi Noche Triste," "Volver," and "El Día Que Me Quieras." He also appeared in several films, helping introduce tango and his music to international audiences.

Gardel became an international celebrity, performing and making films in countries including Argentina, Uruguay, Spain, and the United States. His career was cut short in 1935 when he died in an airplane crash in Medellín, Colombia, at the age of 44.

Carlos Gardel remains a cultural icon of tango. His recordings continue to be heard around the world, and his influence on Latin American music and culture remains significant.

John Williams (1932 -) is an American composer and conductor best known for creating some of the most memorable film music in history. He was born in New York City and studied music at the Juilliard School and began his professional career as a jazz pianist and studio musician.

He became one of Hollywood's most successful composers, writing music for films directed by Steven Spielberg and George Lucas. His best-known scores include *Star Wars*, *Jaws*, *Jurassic Park*, *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*, *Indiana Jones*, and *Harry Potter*. His music is known for powerful melodies, dramatic orchestration, and memorable themes.

Williams has received numerous honors throughout his career, including five Academy Awards, several Grammy Awards, and multiple Golden Globe Awards. He has also composed music for the Olympic Games and concert halls. Williams remains an important figure in modern film music, inspiring generations of composers and audiences around the world.

Arranged and performed by The Tango Trio, Gardel's "Por Una Cabeza" Tango was featured in the 1992 movie *Scent of a Woman*. Williams later created a lush orchestral arrangement for Gardel's tango which was recorded by violinist Itzhak Perlman, performing with the Pittsburg Symphony under William's baton, and featured on their 1997 album *Cinema Serenade.*

Aaron Copland (1900–1990) was an influential American composer, conductor, pianist, and teacher who helped create a distinctive American style of classical music. He was born on November 14, 1900, in Brooklyn, New York, to Jewish immigrant parents from Lithuania. From an early age, Copland showed a strong interest in music and began studying piano and composition.

In the 1920s, Copland traveled to Paris, where he studied with the famous teacher Nadia Boulanger. After returning to the United States, he experimented with jazz, modernist techniques, and American folk music. These influences became important parts of his musical style.

Copland is best known for works such as Appalachian Spring, Billy the Kid, Rodeo, and Fanfare for the Common Man. His music often used open harmonies, folk-like melodies, and rhythms inspired by American life. Fanfare for the Common Man, written during World War II, became one of his most recognizable compositions.

Copland also wrote music for films, including Of Mice and Men, Our Town, and The Heiress. He received an Academy Award for the score of The Heiress in 1950.

Throughout his career, Copland taught and encouraged younger American composers. He received numerous honors, including the Pulitzer Prize for Music for Appalachian Spring in 1945.

Aaron Copland died on December 2, 1990, in North Tarrytown, New York. He remains an important figure in American music, widely remembered for helping define the sound of twentieth-century American classical music.

Florence Price (1887–1953) was an important American composer, pianist, organist, and teacher. She is remembered as the first African American woman to have a symphony performed by a major American orchestra.

Price was born on April 9, 1887, in Little Rock, Arkansas. She showed musical talent at an early age and studied music at the New England Conservatory in Boston, where she received training in piano, organ, and composition.

After returning to Arkansas, Price worked as a teacher and musician. In 1927, she moved with her family to Chicago, where she became part of the city's active African American musical community. She continued composing and gained recognition for her work.

One of Price's most important achievements came in 1933, when the Chicago Symphony Orchestra performed her Symphony No. 1 in E Minor. This was a historic event because Price became the first African American woman to have a symphony performed by a major U.S. orchestra. Her music combined European classical traditions with African American musical influences, including spirituals, folk melodies, and elements of jazz.

Price composed many works, including symphonies, concertos, chamber music, songs, and music for piano and organ. Although her work received recognition during her lifetime, much of it was later overlooked for decades.

Interest in Price's music grew significantly in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. Her compositions are now performed and recorded more frequently, helping establish her as an important figure in American classical music. Florence Price died in Chicago on June 3, 1953, leaving a lasting musical legacy.

-all program notes were developed using Wikipedia

Meet the SoCalPhil

Maestro Branden Muresan is a native of San Juan Capistrano, California, where he continues to reside and teach. He began studying violin at age six under Merillee Walker and Noumi Fischer, later studying under Igor and Vesna Gruppman at San Diego State University. He earned his Bachelor of Music in Violin Performance and completed his Master of Music in Instrumental and Orchestral Conducting in 2000.

A professional violinist since age 16, Muresan is a well-known orchestral musician performing from Baja California to Los Angeles. High-profile performances include appearances with Luciano Pavarotti during his final tour, Dionne Warwick, Il Divo, and The Irish Tenors. He currently serves as assistant conductor for the Long Beach Ballet Orchestra.

An active educator, Professor Muresan has served on the music faculties of Grossmont College, the University of San Diego, MiraCosta College, and his alma mater, Saddleback College. Over his decades of teaching, many of his private students have gone on to pursue advanced music degrees at top conservatories and universities.

As a conductor, Muresan founded the East San Diego County Civic Youth Orchestra in 2003. He has served as artistic leader for the Four Seasons Youth Orchestra, the Poway Adult Orchestra, and the MiraCosta College Symphony Orchestra.

This season marks Maestro Muresan's 13th season as Conductor and Music Director of the Southern California Philharmonic, an ensemble that is thriving under his leadership.

Southern California Philharmonic Musicians

First Violin
Jessica Haddy***
Simeon Brown**
Jadon Ark
Vanessa Ark
Daphne Artis
Terry Blalock
Manami "Mimi" Fisher
Cole Grace
Karen Harms
Andrew Hsu
Daniel Martinez
Lixing Min+
Kenneth Park
Kim Stephens-Doll

Second Violin
Stefano Stefan*
Marjorie Criddle+
Elliot Rice Epstein
Chris Esser
Jenny Kriakov+
Lee Hong
Beth McCormick
Kristina Morse
Katrina Orevillo
Miles Park
Jamie Rosario
Pamela Samuel
Avi Schwartz+
Susan Teitelbaum+
Ana Varela+

Viola
Tobin Gomez*
Aydin Safabakhsh**
Eric Chang
Megan Eng
Jon Goldman+
Linda Jin+
Liz Porter

Cello
Nancy Korb*
W. P. Harvey*
Alex Boddy-Drum
Sarah Chaney
Emily Chien+
Jasmine Cordón
Catherine Croisette+
Priscila Forbes+
Jason Greenberg
Vivien Ide
Jessie Keller+
Cara Lam+
Janice Lee
Daniel Louie
Alysha Madon
Mike Malouf
Pauline Merry+
Joanne Noh+
David Pendergrast
Kathleen Robinson+
John Wilkerson
Natalie Wong

Bass
Nathaniel Gaber*
Easton Siedel
Bob Stephens-Doll

Flute/Piccolo
Betty Whyte*
Charla DelaCuadra
Ann Goldman+
Randy Smith

Oboe
Ann Ludwig *
Amelia Russo-Neustadt *
Lisa Chattler+
Melissa McElroy

English Horn
Melissa Mc Elroy

Clarinet
Ethan Blankfeld *
Oma Skyrus*

Bass Clarinet
Daryl Golden

Bassoon
Theresa Harvey*
Michael Tassos
Stan Tyler

Contrabassoon
Stan Tyler

Horn
Tod Beckett-Frank *+
Kathy Lowe*
Michael Clausen
Frank Fox
Roger Gottfried

Trumpet
Timothy Shevlin*
Stephen Farkas+
Charles Heiden
Carl Privette

Trombone
Craig Chorbagian*
Matthew McGraw*
John Lowe
David Ludwig+

Bass Trombone
Jason Trimble

Tuba
Ruben Puebla

Percussion
Greg Ozment*+
Andrea D. Avazian*
Andrew Alvidrez
Ziqi Chen
Haley Jean MacKay
Taylor Sims

Harp
Chiara Solar

Piano/Celesta
Melissa X. Marius*

*** Concertmaster * Principal/Co-principals **Assistant Principal +Leave of Absence

In Memoriam - Tributes

Karen Harms, in memory of Dr. Richard Harms
Rich's favorite piece: *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* by Rachmaninoff

Tricia & Rich Matzinger, in memory of Barbara & John Echternach
The Echternachs' favorite song: *What a Wonderful World* by Louis Armstrong

Karen Asahino Selleck, in memory of Myrtle & Steve Asahino
The Asahinos' favorite song: *Hawaiian Wedding Song*

K. Richard Tait, in memory of Kenneth Tait
Kenneth's favorite piece: *Symphony No. 7* by Beethoven

The Southern California Philharmonic would like to thank the following patrons for their generous support:

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St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Tustin - our beloved concert home
Tustin Area Council for Fine Arts (TACFA) - patron of the SCP Young Artists Solo Competition
Waldorf School of OC - SCP's rehearsal home
Watson Piano Studio in Fullerton - host for SCP Young Artists Auditions

YouTube

Find our past performances on YouTube!
Scan the QR code or search "Southern California Philharmonic"
More information at www.socalphil.org

The Annual SCP Young Artists Solo Competition is underway!

The SoCalPhil Young Artists Solo Competition is now open and accepting applications until 11:59 pm, Friday, October 16th

For detailed information on competition requirements, please visit out website at https://www.socalphil.org/young-artists

Nine winners will be announced and have the opportunity to perform their solo with the SoCalPhil in one of the spring concerts this season

Special thanks to the
Tustin Area Council for Fine Arts
for their support of the
SCP Young Artists Solo Competition!

TACFA TUSTIN AREA COUNCIL FOR FINE ARTS

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