

**JOEL B. LISH** enrolled in the Los Angeles Conservatory of Music as a violist after graduating from Verdugo Hills High School at 16. Later he enlisted in the United States Air Force for four years. While stationed in Okinawa for much of that time, he was asked by a few local musicians for lessons, and soon he started a small ensemble of string players. This was his very first experience in conducting. He was quite surprised years later when he was told that he was credited with starting the Okinawa Symphony!

After Joel's discharge from the Air Force he studied at Cal State Northridge and earned a Masters Degree in Music Education. In 1965 he became head of the music department of Palisades High School, just three years after the school opened. He remained in that position until his retirement in 1995.

Finding that he had some very good music students at Palisades High, in 1966 Joel started the Palisades Symphony as an LAUSD adult education class in order to provide these students with an additional opportunity to play orchestral music. In this endeavor, Joel was incredibly fortunate to meet Eva Holberg, a Pacific Palisades music-lover and volunteer, who became the President of the orchestra and ran it successfully for more than 50 years until her death at 91 in 2022.

Joel's retirement from Pali High allowed him to devote more time to his other work as a professional violist. He performed casual, strolling, chamber, and orchestral music with a large number of ensembles throughout the Los Angeles area. For many years he was an entertainer at the Jewish Home for the Aged in Reseda. He sometimes worked on cruise ships as a solo violist, taking requests from passengers as they were enjoying their dinner. He especially enjoyed his work with Murray Korda's "Monseigneur Strings" – a group of musicians who were renowned in the Los Angeles area for playing for high-end society functions for presidents and Hollywood royalty. Joel was an expert at hearing the harmony and creating his own inner lines on the viola, weaving in and out of the music as the other string players played the melody. He also participated in many studio recordings and films for motion pictures and television.

Joel's teaching and conducting led him to work with performing organizations of all age groups. For several years he conducted the Los Angeles Mandolin Orchestra. He also mentored some student groups at the Crossroads School. In 2011 Joel was asked to become the conductor of the Casa Italiana Opera Company. He remained there for about three years, conducting several major operas. Before Covid, Joel loved conducting the Floating Strings - a group of musicians, both amateur and professional, who enjoyed the chance to gather in various locations during the summers to read through music for string orchestra.

In addition to his love of conducting, Joel also enjoyed arranging and publishing chamber music for string players - duets, trios and quartets. He greatly enjoyed playing chamber music with his friends, and we were happy that he was still able to do this until early this year.

*In lieu of flowers, contributions in Joel's honor may be sent to the Palisades Symphony, P.O. Box 214, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272  
palisadessymphony.org*

## PROGRAM

**Meditation from the opera Thaïs.....Jules Massenet**  
*Arr. by Daniel Kelley*

**Debra Price, Violin**  
**Gary Nesteruk, Piano**  
*Rehearsal pianist, Brentwood Palisades Chorale*

**Welcome and Opening Remarks.....Pastor Ken Frese**

**Widmung .....Robert Schumann**

**Megan Gillespie, Contralto**  
*Winner of 2004 Young Artists Competition*  
*Soloist in many oratorios and operas, including Carmen,*  
*performed with the Palisades Symphony*  
**Gary Nesteruk, Piano**

**Remarks.....Denisa Hanna**  
*Bassist and President, Palisades Symphony*

**Remarks.....Alan Medak**  
*Conductor, Palisades Symphony*

**Remarks.....Dr. Maxim Kuzin**  
*Music Director, Palisades Symphony*

**Largo from Viola Concerto in G Major.....Georg Philipp Telemann**  
*Arr. by Joel Lish*

**Cary Belling, Viola**  
*Composer of compositions performed by Palisades Symphony*  
**Roger Lebow, Cello**  
*Former student of Joel's at Palisades High School*  
*2-time soloist with Palisades Symphony*

*Remarks by Jan Kelley-Lish, Michael Lish and Dr. Benjamin Lish*

**Allegro from Trumpet Concerto in Bb Major.....Tomaso Albinoni**

**David Washburn, Trumpet**  
*2-time soloist with Palisades Symphony*  
**Gary Nesteruk, Piano**

**Kadish.....Cantor Susan S. Rosenstein**  
*Conductor, Brentwood Palisades Chorale*

**RECEPTION**  
*in Luther Hall (next door)*

**CELEBRATION of LIFE**  
**JOEL B. LISH**

March 11, 1935 - March 5, 2024



*Photo from 2006, courtesy of Dave Adelstein*



**Saturday, June 29, 2024 2:00 P.M.**  
**PALISADES LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**15905 Sunset Blvd., Pacific Palisades, CA 90272**