

Stars of Tomorrow: Palisades Symphony Orchestra Showcases Rising Talent Under New Leadership

Join us on June 16, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. at the Palisades Lutheran Church, 15905 Sunset Blvd, for a memorable evening at the Palisades Symphony Orchestra's annual Young Artists Concert. This year's concert is particularly significant as it marks the first under the leadership of Dr. Maxim Kuzin, the newly appointed Music Director, who succeeds Joel Lish after his remarkable six-decade tenure. Dr. Kuzin, renowned for his vibrant approach to music education and performance, brings a fresh dynamic to the orchestra.

Founded in 1966 by Joel Lish, the Palisades Symphony Orchestra has become a cornerstone of the Pacific Palisades community, offering free concerts and fostering a love for classical music for nearly six decades. Under Lish's visionary leadership, the orchestra expanded its repertoire and reach, presenting seven concerts a year, including collaborations with the Brentwood Palisades Chorale, a summer concert featuring concert opera performances, and a Young Artists showcase concert. These efforts have significantly enriched the local cultural fabric, making classical music accessible to all. The Symphony has played a crucial role in nurturing young talent through its educational outreach and community engagement programs, inspiring countless individuals to appreciate and participate in orchestral music. The orchestra's commitment to excellence continues under the new direction of Dr. Maxim Kuzin, promising a vibrant future of artistic growth and community connection.

Celebrating Our 2024 Young Artist Winners:

Elementary School Category:

Noelle Spencer (1st place, Eva Holberg Award) from The Archer School for Girls showcases her exceptional violin skills with J.B. Accolay's Concerto No. 1. Noelle has been studying violin for seven years and has performed in festivals and recitals sponsored by the Hollywood Music Teachers Association. This is her first competition.

Nathaniel Shpigelmacher (2nd place) from New World Montessori School performs Charles de Beriot's Concerto No. 7, Movement I. With nine years of violin study, Nathaniel has received scholarships from the Westside Committee of the Los Angeles Philharmonic and participated in master classes and international festivals.

Middle School Category:

Volodymyr Sopotnyak (1st place), a 9th-grade pianist from Venice High School, brings his international accolades to the stage with Yuri Polunin's Concertino in A minor. A native of Ukraine, Volodymyr has won many international competitions in his homeland, France, and the United Kingdom and currently studies under Scott Sutherland.

Vivienne Shiao (2nd place), performing Édouard Lalo's Symphonie Espagnole, Movement I, attends Crossroads School for Arts and Sciences. She has performed at Carnegie Hall with the

Honors Performance Series Middle School Orchestra and is a member of the California Association of Independent Schools Honors Music Festival.

Ian-Rhie Kim (3rd place), a cellist from Santa Monica High School, presents Luigi Boccherini's Concerto No. 9 in Bb Major. Ian-Rhie has toured Berlin with his school orchestra and has been a Junior Division winner at the Kiwanis Society.

High School Category:

Andrew Huang (1st place) from Venice High School performs Edward Elgar's Cello Concerto, Movement I. Andrew has been a principal cellist of the Pasadena Youth Orchestra and received scholarships through the Music Teachers' Association of California.

Margaryta Kuzina (2nd place) from the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts sings "In My Dreams" from Anastasia, The Musical. Margaryta started singing since the age of 3 and has performed leading roles in musical theater and opera productions and has been involved in concerts raising funds for Ukraine.

Lauryn Varnell (3rd place, David M. Meyer Memorial Award) from Campbell Hall impresses with Julius Conus' Violin Concerto, Movement I. Lauryn is the Concert Master of the Colburn Youth Orchestra and has won numerous awards, including 1st prize at the Golden Classical Music Awards International Competition.

Timotee Allouch Chantipie (Music Director's Award) from Lycée Français de Los Angeles performs Sergei Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2, Movement I. Timotee has won several 1st place awards in competitions and performed as a soloist with the Los Angeles Doctors' Symphony and the Culver City Chamber Orchestra.

A New Chapter in Musical Excellence

This year's Young Artists Concert does more than just showcase the astonishing abilities of its young performers; it also ushers in a transformative era for the Palisades Symphony Orchestra under the new leadership. Taking up the baton from Joel Lish, who masterfully guided the orchestra for nearly sixty years, Dr. Kuzin is poised to infuse the ensemble with his innovative spirit and dedication to musical excellence. As we celebrate these young musicians and their achievements, we also look forward to the fresh artistic horizons and enhanced community ties that Dr. Kuzin's leadership is set to bring. This event not only marks a continuation of the orchestra's celebrated tradition but also a step towards new creative explorations and accomplishments in the world of classical music.

Denisa Hanna, President of the Palisades Symphony Orchestra and Music Director of the Palisades Lutheran Church, played a crucial role in organizing and supporting this event. Additionally, the competition was expertly coordinated by Sandy Sonderling, ensuring a seamless and fair selection process for all participants. We warmly invite you to witness the blossoming of these young musicians' careers and join us in celebrating a landmark moment in

the history of the Palisades Symphony Orchestra. Experience the future of classical music, shaped by a legacy of excellence and a renewed vision of artistic growth and innovation.