

Palisades Symphony celebrates Joel Lish's legacy and welcomes Dr. Maxim Kuzin as its new Music Director

February 28, 2024

The Palisades Symphony is delighted to announce the appointment of **Dr. Maxim Kuzin** as its next Music Director, succeeding Joel Lish, who has served as the founder and Music Director of the orchestra for nearly six decades. This change in leadership marks a historic moment for the orchestra, celebrating the legacy of Joel Lish while embracing a new era under the guidance of Dr. Kuzin.

Joel Lish's tenure as the founder and Music Director of the Palisades Symphony has been marked by extraordinary achievements and visionary leadership. Under his baton, the Symphony has blossomed into a beacon of classical music for the Pacific Palisades community and beyond. Lish's efforts have expanded the orchestra's repertoire and reach, offering seven concerts a year that include collaborations with the Brentwood Palisades Chorale, a summer concert version opera, and a Young Artists showcase concert. This showcase recognizes the immense talent of local students, highlighting Lish's commitment to fostering new generations of musicians. His dedication has made the Symphony a cultural pillar, enriching the community's cultural fabric and making classical music accessible to all.

Furthermore, Joel Lish's focus on excellence, education, and community engagement has left an indelible mark on the Symphony and its members. Through innovative educational programs and outreach initiatives, he has introduced countless individuals to the joys of orchestral music. His leadership has not only elevated the Symphony's performances but also nurtured a supportive environment for musicians at every stage of their journey. The Symphony's achievements under Lish's guidance—ranging from its annual concert series to the impactful Young Artists showcase—demonstrate his belief in music's power to inspire and unite. As he passes the baton, the Palisades Symphony and its community extend their deepest gratitude for his decades of service and the enduring legacy he has created.

Dr. Maxim Kuzin, an esteemed conductor and scholar, brings a wealth of experience and a fresh perspective to the Palisades Symphony. His debut with the orchestra in October 2023 was met with widespread acclaim from musicians, board members, and audiences alike, signaling a promising future for the ensemble under his direction. Over the 2023-2024 concert season, the Palisades Symphony explored collaborations with various conductors, but it was Dr. Kuzin who emerged as the clear choice, meeting the expectations of all stakeholders with his exceptional musicianship, leadership, and vision.

Dr. Maxim Kuzin brings a wealth of experience and achievement to his new role as Music Director of the Palisades Symphony. In addition to his current faculty position at the University of California, Santa Barbara, Dr. Kuzin serves as the Music Director of the Thousand Oaks Philharmonic, Conductor of the Irvine Classical Players, and leads the Hankuk University of Foreign Affairs Chorale. His distinguished career has been characterized by significant accomplishments across a broad spectrum of musical leadership. Dr. Kuzin's tenure in these varied roles underscores his versatility as a conductor and his ability to inspire excellence in diverse musical ensembles. His expertise and dedication make him an ideal successor to lead the Palisades Symphony into its next chapter, promising a future filled with inspiring performances and a continued dedication to the orchestra's mission and values.

In the spirit of embracing new beginnings and celebrating the legacy of classical music, we warmly invite you to an unforgettable evening with the Palisades Symphony, led by Maestro Kuzin. This special event takes place on Sunday, April 4, 2024, 7:30 p.m., at Palisades Lutheran Church. The night features a captivating program that includes Rossini's exhilarating "Il barbiere di Siviglia" Overture, Fauré's elegant "Pavane," Sarasate's vibrant "Zigeunerweisen" with esteemed violinist Niv Ashkenazi (<https://www.nivashkenazi.com/>), and Brahms' majestic Symphony No.3. The evening will conclude with a reception, offering a wonderful opportunity to mingle and celebrate the music. Don't miss this blend of classical masterpieces and the chance to welcome Dr. Kuzin to our community.

For more information about the Palisades Symphony and our upcoming concerts please visit our website at www.palisadessymphony.org. You can find more information about our new Music Director, Dr. Maxim Kuzin, at <https://www.palisadessymphony.org/podium.htm>.

About the Palisades Symphony

Founded by Joel Lish in 1966, the Palisades Symphony has been a cornerstone of the Pacific Palisades community for nearly 60 years, offering free concerts and fostering a love for classical music. The orchestra comprises talented volunteer musicians who share a passion for performance and education, embodying the Symphony's commitment to accessibility and community engagement.

Denisa Hanna

*President of the Board of Directors
Palisades Symphony*