



Community Newsletter of the Long Beach Symphony

Welcome, Maestro Eckart Preu!

The Long Beach Symphony Association Board of Directors is thrilled to announce the hiring of its 8th Music Director during its 82-year history, Maestro Eckart Preu (rhymes with joy!).

After an exciting, national, two-year search for our next artistic leader, and with input from our musicians, patrons, and donors, Maestro Preu was elected at a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors on August 2, 2016.

Maestro Preu led a brilliant concert on June 4 and wowed audiences, musicians, and donors alike with his expressive exhilarating and performance of Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4, along with the Brahms Hungarian Dance No. 5 and Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 1 with the virtuosic and passionate Natasha Paremeski. NEW Music Director, Eckart Preu



Currently serving as Music Director of the Spokane Symphony (WA), he will be stepping down from his post as Stamford Symphony's (CT) Music Director at the end of next season. Previously, he held the positions of Associate Conductor of the Richmond Symphony (2001– 2004), Resident Conductor of the American Symphony Orchestra (1997-2004) and of the American Russian Young Artists Orchestra (1999-2004). In Europe, he served as Music Director of the Orchestre International de Paris (1993-1995).

A native of Germany, Maestro Preu's early musical training was in piano and voice. At the age of 10, he became a member of the Boys Choir Dresdner Kreuzchor and went on to work with them as soloist, rehearsal pianist, and Assistant Conductor.

Maestro Preu will serve as Long Beach Symphony's Music Director Designate during the 2016–2017 season, conducting the Symphony Concerts for Young People on February 1 and 2 as well as the Classical concert on February 4 featuring Berlioz's magnificent Symphonie fantastique and including Saint-Saëns' Danse macabre, Debussy's Prelude to The Afternoon of a Faun, and Dukas' classic The Sorcerer's Apprentice.

Commencing in the 2017-2018 season as our full-time Music Director, Maestro Preu will program and conduct all six Classical series concerts, all Youth Concerts and one POPS! concert annually.

We look forward to welcoming Eckart Preu into our Long Beach family, along with his wife, Neeley, and two daughters, Sophia (age 8) and Victoria (age 5).

Fondly.

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Kelly Ruggirello **Executive Director**

Irv Miller President, Board of Directors

"I chose to become Music Director of the Long Beach Symphony because of the excellence. It's an excellence that applies not only to quality of

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the musicians, but also to how well the staff and volunteers take care of the organization."

-Eckart Preu, Music Director

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ECKART PREU – NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR DESIGNATE



Meet the Maestro, Eckart Preu!

As excitement brews at Long Beach Symphony about our new Music Director Designate, Eckart Preu (rhymes with "joy"), we thought you'd like to learn more about him!

A Childhood in Germany

Preu was born in Erfurt, a town that was, at that time, part of the German Democratic Republic (East Germany). Located 62 miles southwest of Leipzig, it has a population of 200,000 and boasts an Old Town that is one of the most intact medieval cities in Germany. It was against this backdrop that Eckart and his older brother, Hans-Peter, grew up with a musically inclined father who started them on music lessons early in life. For Eckart, that meant voice lessons at 4 and piano lessons at 5, lessons that were sometimes emotionally painful because of his shyness. He remembers crying when asked to sing publicly at the tender age of 7. But his father believed – as Preu himself now does – in the discipline imparted through regular hours of practice; a beneficial discipline that transfers to all facets of life, so the lessons continued, and in "like father, like son" form, Preu started his own two daughters, now 8 and 5 years old, on music early in life. "It also keeps them from spending too much time with electronic devices," he explains.

At age 10, Eckart was enrolled in the Dresdner Kreuzchor (Dresden Boys' Choir), a traditional, goal-oriented boarding school, where his brother was also in attendance. It is one of the world's oldest and most famous boys' choirs, dating back more than seven centuries. He studied there for 8 years, eventually becoming a soloist, rehearsal pianist and assistant conductor. According to Preu, more than 80% of this school's students go on to pursue careers in music, and so it was for Preu and his brother, as well. After completing his studies at the Dresden Boys' Choir, Preu earned a master's degree in conducting from the Hochschule fuer Musik in Weimar and went subsequently for two years to Paris to study at the Conservatoire National Superieur de Musique where he also served as Music Director of the Orchestre International de Paris from 1993–1995.

Professional Life

In 1996, Preu's life took a new direction: he won the National Conducting Competition of the German Academic Exchange Service, which afforded him the opportunity to come to the United States for graduate studies at the Hartt School of Music in Connecticut. Preu had always dreamed of living in New York, home to so many great

ECKART PREU – NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR DESIGNATE

orchestras and concert halls, so he took up residence in the Big Apple rather than in Hartford. After completing his studies at the Hartt School, some interesting conducting positions began to open up in the NY area, including that of Assistant Conductor for the American Symphony Orchestra, a position he held from 1997–2004. During these years, he also held posts as principal conductor of the New Amsterdam (NY) Symphony Orchestra and associate conductor of the Richmond Symphony, among others.

But in 2004, Preu decided to make a fresh start – musically and personally – by moving to the state of Washington to accept the position of Music Director with the Spokane Symphony Orchestra (a position he still holds today). To welcome him to the area, the Symphony put up billboards around town bearing Preu's image. As the story goes, a young woman drove by, took one look at his fetching visage and decided, "that's the man I'm going to marry." The rest, as they say, is history. Eckart and that same young woman, now his wife, Neeley, currently reside in Spokane with their two daughters.

When asked why he accepted the position with the Long Beach Symphony, Preu immediately replied, "because of the excellence." He went on to explain that this excellence applies not only to the quality of the musicians, but also to how well the staff takes care of the organization; everything from the goals, to the board, to the audience – "it's a family that's already set up," he added. There's a practical benefit, as well. He will give up his current post as conductor of the Stamford Symphony (CT) in favor of the Long Beach position, which means he won't have to travel through the time zones anymore. "I don't want to be an absentee father." Like many working people, Preu struggles with work/life balance. "You're married to a musical family, and then you have your own family at home," he explains.

As for what keeps him up at night, Preu says he grapples with the leadership responsibility that comes with his role as conductor. Regardless of how many hours he has spent in preparation for a concert, he never feels it is

enough. "I don't want to be the weak link...I want the orchestra to know they can count on me," he says.

Preu's philosophy on classical music is a good fit for the Long Beach Symphony. Paralleling the Symphony's efforts to reach out to diverse segments of the community with its Sounds and Spaces program, Preu believes that there is classical music for everyone, and he enjoys bringing music to unconventional venues. "The basic presentation of concerts has not changed much since the times of the late Josef Haydn, and I think it's really time to rip the wig off classical music."

Though his rigorous schedule, community involvement and young family do not leave much time for R&R, when he does manage to carve out some time for himself, Preu seeks quiet. "I am around music all day, so at the end of the day, I relish quiet. It is sacred to me." It is partly for this reason that he has recently taken up golf. He enjoys the peacefulness of the golf course and the opportunity to commune with nature. (Perhaps he's heard about our wonderful Long Beach municipal courses!) In seemingly diametric opposition to that, Preu also loves action movies!

For the Symphony's 2016–2017 season, Eckart Preu will serve as Music Director Designate and will conduct the classical concert on February 4, 2017, featuring Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique*. He will assume his duties as Music Director for the 2017–2018 season. For more information visit **LongBeachSymphony.org**.



Eckart with his wife, Neeley, and two daughters, Victoria (left) and Sophia (right).

Education and Community Engagement This Summer



Instrument Petting Zoo at Cesar Chavez Park for our July 9th Sounds & Spaces event

The Instrument Petting Zoo just wrapped up its annual summer tour at seven local libraries. This was the first year hitting the road in our new music van donated by Tom & Linda Croslin. We were also very lucky to sport some new percussion instruments donated by YAMAHA and championed by our own percussionist Dave Gerhart. Attendance at each event just about doubled since last year! The instrument Petting Zoo touched the lives of almost 700 children and adults from June through August.

A heartfelt **THANK YOU** goes out to the 30 volunteers and committee chairs, Ethel Sanford and Sally Boyne, who generously donated their time to help families explore the instruments of the orchestra and ignite their love of music.

The Instrument Petting Zoo made a big splash at our two summer Sounds & Spaces concerts. At Rainbow Harbor on June 11th and at Cesar Chavez Park on July 9th, concert goers and passerbys stopped to bang on the drums and fiddle around on the violins. There's nothing better than seeing an ear to ear smile on a child's face the first time he or she makes a bellowing sound on the trombone.

Upcoming Events

On Saturday, September 17th we will return to the Folk Revival Festival at Rainbow Lagoon Park for the third year in a row. It's an All American Music event for all ages. Sign up to volunteer for the Instrument Petting Zoo booth for a shift and receive free admission to enjoy the rest of the Festival. For more details about the event view their website at FolkRevivalFestival.com.

On Saturday, September 24th the Instrument Petting Zoo will be part of the Music Tastes Good Festival in Downtown Long Beach. Music Tastes Good will feature over fifty-five artists over three days. For more information about Music Tastes Good view their website at MTGLB.com

On Saturday, October 1st (Opening Night) and Sunday October 2nd, Long Beach Symphony will proudly take part in the Longines Masters, the grand slam indoor of show jumping. Our beloved Instrument Petting Zoo will be in the Kid's Village. For more information about Longines Masters view their website at LonginesMasters.com.

The Instrument Petting Zoo is made possible only with the help of our dedicated volunteers. If you are interested in joining in on the fun please contact Issy Roberts, Manager of Operations & Education at iroberts@LongBeachSymphony.org or (562) 436-3203 Ext 228.

Donor Recognition

Upcoming Concerts

October 1, 2016 **Opening Night** Terrace Theater

October 15, 2016 Monster Mash-Up! Long Beach Arena

November 19, 2016 Rachmaninoff with Joyce Yang Terrace Theater

December 10, 2016 A Broadway Holiday with Ana Gasteyer Long Beach Arena

February 4, 2017 Symphonie fantastique with Eckart Preu MEET THE MAESTRO! Terrace Theater

For a complete listing of concerts please visit LongBeachSymphony.org Single tickets on sale September 10th. Subscriptions are on sale now.

Upcoming Events

September 10, 2016 Sounds & Spaces Homeland Cultural Center

December 5, 2016 Long Beach Symphony Golf Classic Virginia Country Club

SAVE THE DATE April 1, 2017 Crescendo 2017: Moon River Ebell Club Long Beach

May 13, 2017 Lexus Opportunity Drawing Long Beach Arena

Thank you!

Long Beach Symphony is proud to recognize the awarding of the following grants this summer:

Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation - \$10,000 General Operating

Bank of America Charitable Foundation – \$10,000 General Operating

Bess J. Hodges Foundation - \$5,000 General Operating

County Board of Supervisors, 4th District – \$10,000 Education and Community Programs

Josephine S. Gumbiner Foundation – \$5,000 General Operation

Los Angeles County Arts Commission - \$26,000 Sounds & Spaces

Port of Long Beach – \$35,000 POPS! Concert Sponsor and Marketing Underwriter

Rudolph J. and Daphne A. Munzer Foundation – \$25,000 Education and Community Programs

Wells Fargo Foundation – \$5,000 Education and Community Programs

Will J. Reid Foundation - \$10,000 Education and Community Engagement

We also thank Farmers & Merchants Bank and LEXUS for the renewal of their Series Sponsorships for our 2016–2017 Season.

For more information on how you can support the Long Beach Symphony, please contact Genevieve Macias 562-436-3203 x226 or email at gmacias@longbeachsymphony.org.

Long Beach Symphony Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with tax ID# 95-6004958.

Financial Update

Treasurer Roger Goulette reported at our August 2nd meeting of the Board of Directors that we ended the fiscal year with a surplus for the third year in a row! This year's surplus of \$35,000 exceeded our budgeted surplus goal of \$17,000.

Revenues (Earned \$1,108,000, Contributed \$1,687,000)	\$2,	795,000
Expenses (Programs \$2,243,000, Supporting \$517,000)	<u>\$2,</u>	760,000
Net Revenue	\$	35,000

Thank you for your belief in and support of the Long Beach Symphony!

OVATION! Volunteers of the Long Beach Symphony



Ovation! Event Volunteer Opportunities

September 17, 2016 Instrument Petting Zoo at Folk Revival Festival Rainbow Lagoon Park

December 5, 2016 **19th Annual Long Beach Symphony Golf Classic** Virginia Country Club

April 1, 2016 **Crescendo 2017: Moon River** Ebell Club Long Beach

May 13, 2017 Lexus Opportunity Drawing Long Beach Arena

Contact Bobbie Cusato at info@LongBeachSymphony.org to volunteer.

Upcoming Score Issues

Fall (November) Winter (January) Spring (March) Summer (June)

Sign up for The Score on our website!

Ovation! 249 E. Ocean Blvd., Suite 200 Long Beach, CA 90802

Tel: (562) 436-3203 Fax: (562) 491-3599 Email: ovation@LongBeachSymphony.org Web: www.LongBeachSymphony.org

A Letter from the Ovation! President



How exciting to have our New Music Director, Eckart Preu! We can look forward to him conducting the February 4th concert and at the Symphony Concerts for Young People. It will be great for us all to experience his talents, and for him to see what a great volunteer group we all are! I hope that you all have the opportunity to meet him. A wonderful choice for the Symphony and my personal choice so I am really very happy!

We hope you like the new look of The Score! Robb Belmontez (Marketing & Systems Manager) has taken on the project of producing The Score with assistance from Renee Simon (Newsletter Consultant). There will be 4 issues a year. Two issues (Summer/Winter) will be organizational-wide that will include Ovation! information and the other two issues (Fall/Spring) will be Ovation! specific, that will be sent digitally with a print version available. Robb hopes to have lots of photos so be sure to capture all our great Ovation! moments to share in the next issue! Let us know how you like the new Score and the new Ovation! logo! Robb will give us the deadlines for submitting article for each issue, we welcome your contributions.

This fall visit the new Patron Engagement Table in the lobby of the Terrace Theater. This table will be staffed by trained volunteers and will be facilitated by the Long Beach Symphony staff. It will hold information about the Long Beach Symphony as well as Ovation! with concert brochures, community event flyers, promotion of our educational activities and encourage volunteer sign-ups. Steve Lang and Donna Hancock will be co-chairs of the Patron Engagement Table and look forward to the new changes!

This is an exciting time for the Long Beach Symphony and I am so happy to be a part of the changes with all of you!

Sincerely,

Pauline Eade-Sheppard Ovation! President

About Ovation!

The mission of this organization shall be to support the programs, policies and goals of the Long Beach Symphony through the coordination and facilitation of volunteer activities.

OVATION! Volunteers of the Long Beach Symphony

Ovation! Occasion by Cathryn Smyth

Following a holiday trip to Riverside Mission Inn and a full house for lunch at Elise's Tea Room, Ovation! Occasion closed the year with a hugely successful happy hour.

Long Beach Symphony bassist, Tom Peters composed a score to accompany "The Boat, a 1920s Buster Keaton film. The Regatta Room rocked with laughter as the audience enjoyed excellent entertainment, great appetizers, numerous prizes, and the waterfront ambience of the Boathouse. Tom said he had the best time performing for us and we are grateful to him for sharing his talent.

Happy Hour was a new venture for us thoroughly enjoyed by 48 Ovation! Members and friends-including many spouses which made a big hit! A similar event is planned for next spring when days grow long and mild. Plan to join us at Ovation! Occasion.



Reminder!

Membership dues are now past due! Please send your renewal to 249 East Ocean Blvd., Suite 200, Long Beach, CA 90802 and make checks payable to LBSA Ovation!. You can also renew online at www.LongBeachSymphony.org/support/ovation.

2016-2017 Ovation! Council

President: Pauline Eade-Sheppard President-Elect: Ethel Sanford Past President: Mary Hester Administrative Secretary: Judy Boland Treasurer: Patricia Salkowski Membership: Mary Hester, Joanne Irish Ovation! Occasion/Social: Cathryn Smyth, Doug Smyth, Peggy Lymburner, Vickie Sawtelle Coordinator of Volunteers: Bobbie Cusato, Shannon Taylor Marketing & Engagement Advisors: Steve Lang, Mary Lang **Education Programs** SCYP: Josepha Curtin, Mary McKinley, Marilyn North, Joanne Irish IPZ: Ethel Sanford. Sally Boyne Newsletter Editor Advisor: Renee Simon Nominating Committee: Mary Hester Parliamentarian: Miep van Tyen Personal Communications: Pat Mohler Rehearsal Receptions: Mary McKinley Tributes/Memorials: Joan Gustafson

10.1.16 | OPENING NIGHT

Benjamin Rous, conductor | Doug Tornquist, tuba

Tchaikovsky	Romeo and Juliet Overture-Fantasy
Vaughan Williams	Tuba Concerto
Prokofiev	Symphony No.5 in B-flat major

11.19.16 | RACHMANINOFF WITH JOYCE YANG

Mei-Ann Chen, conductor | Joyce Yang, piano

Glinka	Russlan and Ludmilla Overture
Rachmaninoff	Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini
Respighi	Fountains of Rome and Pines of Rome

2.4.17 | SYMPHONIE FANTASTIQUE

Eckart Preu, conductor | Meet our NEW Music Director!

Saint-Saëns	Danse macabre
Debussy	Prelude to The Afternoon of a Faun
Dukas	The Sorcerer's Apprentice
Berlioz	Symphonie fantastique

3.4.17 | BEETHOVEN & DVOŘÁK

Paul Polivnik, conductor | Rong-Huey Liu, oboe

Beethoven	Leonore Overture No. 3
Lebrun	Oboe Concerto No. 2 in G minor
Dvořák	Symphony No. 8 in G major

4.29.17 | AN EVENING OF MOZART

Robert Istad, conductor | Long Beach Camerata Singers

Mozart	Overture to The Magic Flute
Mozart	Symphony No. 25 in G minor
Mozart	Requiem

6.10.17 | A JOANN FALLETTA HOMECOMING

JoAnn Falletta, conductor | George Li, piano

Shostakovich	The Gadfly Suite (Overture, Fair, Gallop, Romance)
Prokofiev	Suite from Cinderella
Tchaikovsky	Piano Concerto No.1 in B-flat minor



10.15.16 | MONSTER MASH-UP! A HALLOWEEN DANCE PARTY

Matt Catingub, conductor | Steve Moretti, drums | Colby Benson, vocals

Join us for our Halloween Dance Party, costumes encouraged! Crafted exclusively for the Long Beach Symphony by fan favorite Matt Catingub, enjoy popular comic book themes, movie monster medleys, party anthems and other terrifying tunes!

12.10.16 | A BROADWAY HOLIDAY WITH ANA GASTEYER

Larry Blank, conductor | Ana Gasteyer, vocals

Broadway leading lady and *Saturday Night Live* alum, Ana Gasteyer, makes her Symphony debut with veteran Broadway conductor and arranger, Larry Blank. Spectacular Broadway songs and other holiday surprises!

2.18.17 | THE NAT KING COLE SONGBOOK

Stuart Malina, conductor | Denzal Sinclaire, vocals

With his velvety voice and silky-smooth style, Nat King Cole was a true legend of American music. Canadian jazz singer Denzal Sinclaire's caressing baritone voice will have you swooning to this classic songbook. A perfect concert for you and your Valentine!

3.11.17 | SYMPHONIC SPECTACULAR: SEE THE MUSIC! Michael Krajewski, conductor

This concert will feature some of the world's best known symphonic music enhanced with video imagery and stunning lighting effects. Known for his unique sense of humor, conductor and host Michael Krajewski provides the concert insights and commentary. Visual producer and designer, Elliott Forrest, provides vivid and imaginative imagery of Long Beach to enhance the listening experience.

5.13.17 | UP ALL NIGHT: MUSIC OF THE '80S

Stuart Chafetz, conductor | Nicole Parker, vocals | Aaron Finley, vocals

OMG, a finale of totally awesome '80s music! Stuart Chafetz leads the orchestra featuring mega-hits by Lionel Richie, Sting, Michael Jackson, John Williams and a special encore dedicated to Prince. Broadway stars Nicole Parker and Aaron Finley are featured in songs including "True Colors", "Boys of Summer" and "In the Air Tonight".

Subscriptions on Sale Now!

Join our community of subscribers by subscribing to the 2016–2017 season!

Visit LongBeachSymphony.org or call (562) 436-3203 ext. 1 to reserve

the best seats and to save up to 30% off of single ticket prices!

Single Tickets on Sale September 10!

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Administration

LONG BEACH SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Long Beach Symphony Association is to enrich our community by providing high quality traditional and contemporary symphonic music and educational experiences.



Coming Soon to the Streets of Long Beach!

Be on the lookout for this season's new pole banners going up in September! There will be 100 pole banners going up on Ocean Blvd., 7th Street, 2nd Street, and Pine Ave.! Thank you to the Port of Long Beach for sponsoring this season's banners! **Did You Know?** by Bobbie Cusato

Kris Sinclair, Executive Director of Association of California Symphony Orchestras is retiring after 31 years in that position?

The Instrument Petting Zoo nearly doubled in the 2015–2016 season serving approximately 900 children and adults?

In July, Manager of Operations & Education, Issy Roberts received her Advanced Diver Certification in the Caribbean?

19th Annual Long Beach Symphony Golf Classic Monday, December 5th, 2016 | Virginia Country Club Visit LongBeachSymphony.org/concerts-events/golf to sponsor and reserve your spot today!

