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 exhilarating and expressive 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 Paremski.

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,

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

-Eckart Preu, Music Director
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
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.
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.
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) $2,760,000
- Net Revenue $ 35,000

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

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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

PRESENTED BY
LEXUS
CLASSICAL SERIES SPONSOR
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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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.
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?

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!

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!