

LONG BEACH SYMPHONY

ECKART PREU, MUSIC DIRECTOR

2022-2023

POPS series



Eckart Preu
conductor

REMEMBER WHEN ROCK WAS YOUNG

THE ELTON JOHN TRIBUTE

Starring Craig A. Meyer

Saturday, October 29, 2022

In Partnership with:



Schulman-Neri Foundation
Investing today for a better tomorrow

Concert Sponsors:

Dr. Allen and Charlotte Ginsburg

Pops Series Sponsor



FMB.com

Member FDIC



Our VISION

The vision of the Long Beach Symphony is to inspire and unite people through the transformative power of music.

Our MISSION

Long Beach Symphony engages audiences of all ages and cultures through exceptional orchestral performances, community partnerships, and meaningful educational experiences.

ABOUT Us

The Symphony presents more than 100 concerts and events annually along with a rich array of education and community engagement programs that reach more than 300,000 residents from school children to senior citizens. Core to its offerings is a five-concert Classical series performed at the Beverly O'Neill Performing Arts Center's Terrace Theater as well as a five-concert Pops series in the Long Beach Arena's Pacific Ballroom. The Symphony has received international stature through its dedication to presenting both classical masterworks and contemporary music as well as multicultural work through unique collaborations.

For over 40 years, the Long Beach Symphony has focused on providing free education programs to youth. The Elementary Ensembles annually present concerts to 15,000 2nd and 3rd graders in 40 schools in Long Beach and surrounding communities. Additionally, the Toyota Youth Concerts - fun, interactive and educational live symphony performances, serve 12,000 4th and 5th graders each year. The annual RuMBa Foundation Family Concert provides a kid-friendly, engaging concert experience combined with fun and interactive activities on the plaza, all of which are designed to create lifelong memories for families to share. To date, nearly 1,000,000 children have enjoyed hearing and seeing concerts of accessible music performed by the Symphony's world-class musicians.

The Long Beach Symphony is committed to developing artistic alliances and unique and innovative musical performances which unite and celebrate our diverse communities. The Musical Bridges initiative embodies both of these important goals, allowing the Symphony to serve our community more broadly and deeply and to strengthen the orchestra's connection and relevance with existing and new audiences.

Long Beach Symphony was awarded the Long Beach Heritage Preservation Award in 2012, the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce Award for Outstanding Nonprofit Organization and the City of Long Beach in 2015 and in 2017 honored by the Arts Council for Long Beach and the Long Beach NAACP for its commitment and dedication to fighting for civil rights and social justice.

We are proud to support the
Long Beach Symphony.

Join us.

Online & Mobile Banking
Checking & Savings Accounts
CDs & IRAs | Home Loans | Credit Cards

Member
FDIC



NMLS #537388



Music Director Eckart Preu



Maestro Eckart Preu (Eck-art Proy) began his tenure as Music Director of Long Beach Symphony in 2017. Critics, the orchestra, and audiences alike have celebrated his ability to combine well-loved

masterworks with rare or newer works in programs offering dimension, sophistication, and spirit.

Preu also currently serves as Music Director of the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra (OH) and Portland Symphony Orchestra (ME). Previously, he held the positions of Music Director of the Spokane Symphony (2004–2019) and Stamford Symphony (2005–2017), 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). Other former posts include Music Director of the Norwalk (CT) Youth Symphony and Principal Conductor of the New Amsterdam Symphony (NY). He was associated with the Bard Music Festival from 1997 to 2004 as both Assistant and Guest Conductor. In Europe, Maestro Preu served as Music Director of the Orchestre International de Paris (1993–1995).

As a guest conductor, he has appeared with the Jerusalem Symphony (Israel), Symphony Orchestra of Chile, Auckland Philharmonia (New Zealand), Radio Philharmonic of Slovenia, Pecs Philharmonic (Hungary), Varna Philharmonic (Bulgaria), and in Germany with the Jenaer Philharmoniker. Guest conducting engagements include the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, the Delaware Symphony, the Duluth Superior Symphony, the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, and the Wichita Symphony. Recent international appearances also include the Philharmonie Baden-Baden in Germany.

Career highlights include performances at Carnegie Hall, the Sorbonne in Paris, a live broadcast with the Jerusalem Symphony, and his first commercial recording of the world premiere of Letters from Lincoln – a work commissioned by the Spokane Symphony from Michael Daugherty featuring baritone soloist Thomas Hampson. 2012 also saw a live CD recording featuring Paganini's Violin Concerto No. 2 with Sergey Malov and the New Zealand Philharmonia. His concerts have been aired from coast to coast and on Jerusalem Radio.

Apostolia Nikouli Assistant Conductor



Apostolia Nikouli moved to the States in 2021 to start her masters in Orchestral Conducting after finishing her masters in Systematic Musicology in Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. A native of Greece,

Nikouli was assistant conductor with the Thessaloniki City Symphony Orchestra (2018–2020), the New Thessaloniki State Orchestra (2017–2018), the North College Choir (2019–2020), and was guest conductor with the Athens Symphony Orchestra, Contemporary Music Lab of Aristotle University and Youth Orchestra and Youth Choir in Catholic Church of Thessaloniki. Her great interest in contemporary music motivated her to make numerous first performances of contemporary pieces with the Contemporary Music Lab and the Thessaloniki City Symphony Orchestra. Currently, at California State University, Long Beach she is conductor for the Orchestra at the Beach, and graduate conductor for the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music Symphony Orchestra and the Opera Institute. Her research as a musicologist specializes in 19th and 20th century analysis.

Saturday, October 29, 2022

REMEMBER WHEN
ROCK WAS YOUNG

THE ELTON JOHN TRIBUTE

Eckart Preu, conductor

Starring Craig A. Meyer, vocals and piano

Bitch is Back (1974) Elton John & Bernie Taupin

Philadelphia Freedom (1975) Elton John & Bernie Taupin

Goodbye Yellow Brick Road (1973) Elton John & Bernie Taupin

Bennie and the Jets (1973) Elton John & Bernie Taupin

Broadway Suite

Circle of Life – The Lion King (1994) Elton John & Tim Rice

Written in the Stars – Aida (1997) Elton John & Tim Rice

Electricity - Billy Elliot: The Musical (2005) Elton John & Lee Hall

*Can you feel the Love Tonight –
The Lion King* (1994) Elton John & Tim Rice

Circle of Life (Reprise)

Tiny Dancer (1971) Elton John & Bernie Taupin

Honky Cat (1972) Elton John & Bernie Taupin

Take me to the Pilot (1970) Elton John & Bernie Taupin

.... 20 min. Intermission

*Funeral for a Friend/
Love Lies Bleeding* (1973) Elton John & Bernie Taupin

Don't Go Breaking my Heart (1976) Elton John & Bernie Taupin as
Ann Orson & Carte Blanche

Candle in the Wind (1997) Elton John & Bernie Taupin

Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds (1974) John Lennon & Paul McCartney
/ *Pinball Wizard* (1975) / Pete Townshend

Your Song (1970) Elton John & Bernie Taupin

Crocodile Rock (1973) Elton John & Bernie Taupin

*Saturday Night's Alright for
Fighting* (1973) Elton John & Bernie Taupin

*Don't Let the Sun go
Down on Me* (1974) Elton John & Bernie Taupin



Please take a moment to
silence your cell phone
before the performance.

Tonight's concert
is sponsored by
**Dr. Allen and
Charlotte Ginsburg.**

In Partnership with



Schulman-Neri Foundation
investing today for a better tomorrow

Program and artists subject to change.

Long Beach Symphony Musicians

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Eckart Preu, conductor

ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR

Apostolia Nikouli

VIOLIN I

Roger Wilkie, concertmaster

Agnes Gottschewski
assistant concertmaster

Chyi-Yau Lee

Reina Inui

Valerie Geller

Chloe Chiu

Carrie Kennedy

Alwyn Wright

Sarkis Gyurgchyan

Dynell Weber

Julie Metz

Linda Stone

Mei Chang

*

VIOLIN II

Chloé Tardif, principal

Carolyn Osborn
assistant principal

*

Ellen Jung

Jacqueline Suzuki

Cynthia Moussas

Sakura Tsai

*

*

Ann Brenton

*

Richard Clark

VIOLA

Andrew Duckles, principal

Jonah Sirota, assistant principal

*

Colleen Sugata

Carole Castillo

Hyeree Yu

Alexander Knecht

Craig Gibson

Alex Granger

Kira Blumberg

CELLO

Cécilia Tsan, principal

Allan Hon, assistant principal

Trevor Handy

Andrew Honea

Jonathan Flaksman

Victoria Bacon

Kyle Champion

Youna Choi

Jake Saunders

Ji Sun Jung

BASS

Geoffrey Osika, principal

Sam Miller, assistant principal

Thomas Peters

Zach Hislop

*

Sukyung Chun

Thomas Harte

+Frank Marino

FLUTE

Heather Clark, principal

Jennifer Olson

Diane Alanraiga

PICCOLO

Diane Alanraiga

OBOE

Rong-Huey Liu, principal

Joseph Stone

ENGLISH HORN

+Lelie Resnick

CLARINET

Gary Bovyer, principal

Paul Castillo

*

BASS CLARINET

*

BASSOON

Julie Feves, principal

Leslie Lashinsky

Judith Farmer

CONTRABASSOON

Leslie Lashinsky

FRENCH HORN

Melia Badalian, principal

Stephanie Thomas

Teag Reaves

*

TRUMPET

Miles McAllister, principal

*

*

TROMBONE

Alexander Iles, principal

Alvin Veeh, associate principal

BASS TROMBONE

Phillip Keen

TUBA

Douglas Tornquist, principal

TIMPANI

Gary Long, principal

PERCUSSION

+David Riccobono, principal

+Jeffrey Grant

Brian Cannady

HARP

* principal

KEYBOARD

* principal

*Audition Pending + On Leave



CRAIG A. MEYER

vocals and piano

Craig A Meyer has traversed all four corners of the entertainment industry, making strong impressions in theatre, film, television, and music. On Broadway, Meyer created the role of Clinton Badger in MGM's classic *Meet Me In St. Louis* and toured nationally in *Cats* as Skimbleshanks, The Red Caboose in *Starlight Express*, and Mike Nulty in Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*. Atlanta performances include appearances at the Tony Award winning Alliance Theatre in the critically acclaimed *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well* and *Living in Paris* for which he also served as the choreographer. The production was honored with a Suzi Bass Award for Best Musical Production in 2008. Meyer was thrilled to win the Suzi Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Musical. His creative contribution to the original production of *Brel...* was recognized with a Suzi nomination for Outstanding Choreography. Regionally, he has starred in *Forever Plaid* (Frankie), *A Class Act* (Lehman Engel), *Crazy For You* (Bobby Child), *42nd Street* (Billy Lawlor), *The All Night Strut*, and the West Coast Premiere of the *Thing About Men* (Man). Television and film appearances include guest-starring roles on "Necessary Roughness", "Will & Grace", "Good Morning Miami", "Family Law", "General Hospital", and "Fernwood 2nite," as well as working with Alan Menken on Disney's *Aladdin*, and with Tim Rice and Elton John on *The Lion King*.

Film credits include *Leatherheads* with George Clooney and Renee Zellweger, *Joyful Noise* with Dolly Parton and Queen Latifah, and *Identity Thief* with Jason Bateman and Melissa McCarthy.

In music, Meyer has toured internationally and recorded with music legends Barry Manilow and Frankie Valli, and has headlined for Princess Cruises around the world. Throughout Meyer's busy career, he was repeatedly approached about his striking resemblance to Elton John and his uncanny ability to sound like the rock and roll legend. Meyer was eventually persuaded to expand his repertoire and began impersonating Sir Elton John. Today, he is considered to be the best Elton John tribute artist in the market whose strong vocals, striking resemblance and amazing talent on the piano has audiences everywhere remembering when rock was young.

Visit www.almosteltonjohn.com and www.facebook.com/almosteltonjohn

2022 LEXUS Champions for Charity Opportunity Drawing

TONIGHT! Last Chance to Enter.

Winning ticket will be drawn Monday, 10/31/22.

\$100 per ticket*
ONLY 150 tickets sold!

**Win a Once-In-A-Lifetime
\$10,000** Golf Experience**

Win the chance to play a two-some in the exclusive **2022 LEXUS Champions for Charity National Championship**, a 54-hole, 3-day event at three of the country's best golf courses:

**PEBBLE BEACH GOLF LINKS
THE LINKS AT SPANISH BAY
SPYGLASS HILL GOLF COURSE**

***Each ticket: \$100; 6 for \$500; 15 for \$1,000**

Includes all meals, carts, green fees, a high end gift bag and daily tee-prizes for each golfer

**Championship dates:
Dec. 7 - Dec. 11, 2022**

**A two-some in the Champions for Charity tournament (\$6,500 value) including all meals, carts, green fees gift bag and daily tee-prizes, plus the Long Beach Symphony will pay the federal withholding tax on the winner's behalf, approximately \$2,500.





LONG BEACH
*S*YMPHONY

ECKART PREU, MUSIC DIRECTOR

extends our gratitude to



WatersEdgeWineries.com

Official Florist



562.433.1342

5918 Naples Plaza Dr. Long Beach
sweetpeasflowerslb.com

LONG BEACH SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS and ADMINISTRATION

OFFICERS

Roger Goulette, *Chairman*
Sandor X. Mayuga,
Vice Chairman
David Hancock, *Treasurer*
Nanette Salley, *Secretary*

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Rob Bellevue
Barbara Blackwell
John Blumberg
Becky Cool
Cindy Costello
Bobbie Cusato
John Di Carlo
Debra Fults
Charlotte Ginsburg
Mark Guillen
Tyler Leshney
Margie Masterson
Henry Matson
Paulette Matson
Sean Miller
Mark Mitzenmacher
Chris Pinckney
Lyn Pohlmann
Barbara Richards
Anna Salusky
Lee Shoag
Margaret Farwell Smith
Brissa Sotelo-Vargas
W.H. Walker
Keyla Whitenhill
Susan E. A. Wise

ORCHESTRA LIAISONS

Heather Clark
Andrew Duckles
Cécilia Tsan

EMERITUS MEMBERS

Mr. Ronald A. Belkin
Dr. Darrell Cannon
Mrs. Sue Cannon
Ms. Diane C. Creel
Mrs. Bobbie Cusato
Mr. Daniel S. Dunlap
Mr. John W. Hancock, III
Mrs. Laura C. Killingsworth*
Mr. Steven Lang
Mr. Irv Miller
Mr. Randy Mizer
Mr. George M. Murchison
Dr. Michael A. Stugin*
Mr. Morton Stuhlberg*
Mr. Robert J. Trunek
Mrs. Sheila Watson*
Mrs. Susan Weir
Ms. Mary Newkirk

ADMINISTRATION

Kelly Ruggirello, *President*
Samuel Balimbin,
Vice President of Finance
Christina Hall,
Vice President of Development
Issy Farris,
*Vice President of Operations
& Education*
John Cross,
Director of Donor Relations
Florita Davis, *Manager of Sales*
Allison Mamann,
*Manager of Operations
& Education*
Petrina Walker,
Administrative Assistant
Brent Anderson,
Orchestra Librarian
Carrie Holzman-Little,
Orchestra Personnel Manager
Jenna Jacobson,
House Manager
Simone Glines,
Production Assistant
Mario Flores, *Stage Manager*
Jessica Rivera, *Stage Manager*
Joanna Reyes,
Assistant Stage Manager
Denny Bui, *Video Cues*

* Deceased



**The perfect coda to your magical night.
Join us for pre or post Symphony dinner and drinks!**

Now Open at The Westin Long Beach
333 E Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90802



2022-2023 Upcoming Concerts

Sampler Packs Available: Any 3 concerts, \$99

Classical SERIES Long Beach Terrace Theater | 8PM

11/19/22 Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff

Natasha Paremski, piano

Natasha Paremski
piano

2/4/23 The Four Seasons Roger Wilkie, Agnes Gottschewski,
Chloé Tardiff, Chyi-Yau Lee, solo violins

3/11/23 Carmina Burana Anna Schubert, soprano
Ashley Faatoalia, tenor | James Martin Schaefer, baritone
Long Beach Camerata Singers | South Bay
Children's Choir, Silver-Garburg Piano Duo

6/3/23 An American in Paris
Michelle Cann, piano

Michelle Cann
piano

Pops Series Sponsor

POPS SERIES Long Beach Arena | 8PM

12/17/22 HOLIDAY POPS Morihiko Nakahara, conductor
Long Beach Camerata Singers, choir

2/25/23 ARRIVAL FROM SWEDEN: THE MUSIC OF ABBA
Anthony Parnter, conductor

3/25/23 BRAVO! **BROADWAY** Dr. James Bass, conductor
Scarlett Strallen, LaKisha Jones and Hugh Panaro, vocalists

5/20/23 A NIGHT OF SYMPHONIC ROCK DANCE PARTY
Susie Seiter, conductor

All Classical concerts conducted by Music Director Eckart Preu
Programming and artists subject to change.

