

LONG BEACH  
SYMPHONY

ECKART PREU, MUSIC DIRECTOR

2022-2023

Classical series

Eckart Preu  
conductor

Natasha Paremski  
piano

Tchaikovsky &  
Rachmaninoff

Saturday, November 19, 2022

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## **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.

# 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.

# 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

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Allan Hon, assistant principal

Trevor Handy

Andrew Honea

Jonathan Flaksman

Victoria Bacon

Kyle Champion

Youna Choi

Jake Saunders

Ji Sun Jung

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Thomas Peters

Zach Hislop

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+Frank Marino

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Jennifer Olson

Diane Alanraig

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+Lelie Resnick

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Paul Castillo

\*

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\*

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Judith Farmer

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Leslie Lashinsky

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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

Saturday, November 19, 2022

# Tchaikovsky & Rachmaninoff

Eckart Preu, conductor

Natasha Paremski, piano



**Enrico Chapela (Born 1974)**

*Rotor* (Approx. 10 mins)

**Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873 – 1943)**

*Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Op. 43*  
(Approx. 22 mins)

Natasha Paremski, piano

•••• 20 min. Intermission ••••

**Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840 – 1893)**

*Swan Lake: Suite, Op. 20a*  
(Approx. 31 mins)

1812 Overture, Op. 49  
(Approx. 16 mins)

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Program and artists  
subject to change.

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# Natasha Paremski, piano

Born in Moscow, Natasha moved to the United-States at the age of 8 and became a US citizen shortly thereafter. She is now based in New York.

Even at a young age, she was awarded several prestigious awards, including the Gilmore Young Artists prize (2006), the Prix Montblanc (2007), and the Orpheum Stiftung Prize in Switzerland. In September 2010, she was awarded the Classical Recording Foundation's Young Artist of the Year. Her first recital album was released in 2011 and it debuted at No. 9 on the Billboard Traditional Classical chart. In 2012 she recorded Tchaikovsky's first concerto and Rachmaninoff's Paganini Rhapsody with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Fabien Gabel on the orchestra's label distributed by Naxos.

Natasha has performed with major orchestras in North America including Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony Orchestra, San Diego Symphony, Toronto Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, Houston Symphony, NAC Orchestra in Ottawa, Nashville Symphony, Virginia Symphony, Oregon Symphony, Colorado Symphony, and Minnesota Orchestra. She tours extensively in Europe with such orchestras as the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Vienna's Tonkünstler Orchester, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Orchestre de Bretagne, the Orchestre de Nancy, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Tonhalle Orchester in Zurich, Moscow Philharmonic, under the direction of conductors including Peter Oundjian, Andres Orozco-Estrada, Jeffrey Kahane, James Gaffigan, Dmitri Yablonski, Tomas Netopil, JoAnn Falletta, Fabien Gabel, and Andrew Litton. Natasha has toured with Gidon Kremer and the Kremerata Baltica in Latvia, Benelux, the UK and Austria and performed with the National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra in Taipei.

She has given recitals at London's Wigmore Hall, the Auditorium du Louvre in Paris, Schloss Elmau, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Festival, Verbier Festival, Seattle's Meany Hall, Kansas City's Harriman Jewell Series, Santa Fe's Lensic Theater, Ludwigshafen BASF Series, Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires, Tokyo's Musashino Performing Arts Center and on the Rising Stars Series of Gilmore and Ravinia Festivals.

Beyond the traditional concert hall, she was the featured pianist in choreographer Benjamin Millepied's *Danse Concertantes* at New York's Joyce Theater (2008); was featured in the BBC's life and work of Tchaikovsky; participated along Simon Keenlyside and Maxim Vengerov in the filming of *Twin Spirits*, a project starring Sting and Trudie Styler that explores the music and writing of Robert and Clara Schumann.

Natasha began her piano studies at the age of 4 with Nina Malikova at Moscow's Andreyev School of Music. She then studied at San Francisco Conservatory of Music before moving to New York to study with Pavlina Dokovska at Mannes College of Music, from which she graduated in 2007. Natasha made her professional debut at age nine with the El Camino Youth Symphony in California. At the age of fifteen she debuted with Los Angeles Philharmonic and recorded two discs with Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra under Dmitri Yablonski, the first featuring Anton Rubinstein's Piano Concerto No. 4 coupled with Rachmaninoff's Paganini Rhapsody and the second featuring all of Chopin's shorter works for piano and orchestra.

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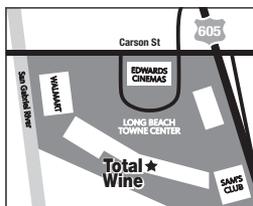
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## **Enrico Chapela – *Rotor***

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Enrico Chapela's propulsive *Rotor* grasps the listener by both shoulders and never lets go. Commissioned and premiered in July, 2017, this barreling ten minute musical train ride takes the audience on a headlong riotous adventure. Inspired by, and named after, the composer's long-time rock band Rotor (Chapela is a virtuoso guitarist, both acoustic and electric), the eponymous piece's circling, throbbing rhythms reflect both the musical idea of "estructura simétrica" (symmetrical structure) and the related concept of "matemúsica" (math-music), in which mathematical principles guide the composer's creative work. Audiences will recognize elements of rock, electronica, jazz, and even film scores as they cling to the edge of their seat during this exhilarating percussive journey.

Chapela's involvement and influence in the universe of Mexican and, more broadly, Latin American contemporary classical music is sweeping. Born in 1974, he has enjoyed a dizzying career since the publication of his first work in 1999. As evidenced by his growing roster of awards, Chapela is a sought-after composer who over the past two decades has received scores of commissions from orchestras around the globe, including two works for the L.A. Philharmonic. In addition, through his work directing composition studies at two elite music schools in Mexico City, he is helping to shape the burgeoning future of classical music from Mexico and Mesoamerica.

## **Sergei Rachmaninoff – *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini***

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Sergei Rachmaninoff was born into a musical family in 1873 and began piano lessons at the age of four. While his musical education had its ups and downs, he was a formidable performer and emerging composer during his years at Moscow Conservatory, graduating one year early with high honors in 1892 at the age of 19. But, his many talents did not insulate him from hardship.

Rachmaninoff battled depression throughout his life. In 1897, at the age of 24, the disastrous premiere of his Symphony No. 1 caused him to fall into a state of debilitating melancholy that lasted for four years, rendering him unable to compose. With treatment, this dark time ultimately waned and in 1901 the premiere of his newly completed Piano Concert No. 2, which he dedicated to his therapist Dr. Nikolai Dahl, was enthusiastically received and earned him the first of his five prestigious Glinka Awards.

The life of the composer, performer, and conductor in Russia during the following years was by turns unnervingly tenuous, due both to the personal demons with which he wrestled and to the rapidly changing social and political times, though often rewarding and successful. However, in 1918, the Russian Revolution forced the Rachmaninoff family to leave their homeland for good, relocating first to New York City then to Beverly Hills. Once in the U.S., Rachmaninoff earned a comfortable living as a pianist, but his grueling performance schedule prevented him from composing with any regularity.

*The Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* is the fourth of only six works he composed in the 24 years after relocating to the United States. It premiered on November 7, 1934 with Rachmaninoff at the piano and Leopold Stokowski conducting the Philadelphia Orchestra. An immediate hit, the work was turned into a ballet at Covent Garden, and became a tour de force showpiece for pianists. Cinephiles of a certain age may also recognize its lushly romantic themes from the 1980 weepfest *Somewhere in Time* starring Jane Seymour and Christopher Reeve as star-crossed lovers separated by a rift in time.



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## Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky – *Swan Lake Suite*

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After composing close to 100 works for voice, orchestra, opera, and instrumental ensembles, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky composed *Swan Lake*, his first ballet. Arising from a collaboration between the composer and several other young artists who brashly styled themselves the “Artistic Circle of Moscow” and who regularly met to argue about art and philosophy while putting down what is reported to be copious amounts of alcohol, it took shape in 1875 when the group decided they should create a ballet. Tchaikovsky would compose and Vladimir Begichev, stage manager at the Bolshoi Ballet, would arrange a commission and collaborate on the libretto.

The ballet premiered on March 4, 1877 in a forgettable performance wracked with slip-ups: the dancers disliked the music and dialed in their performance, the dance master’s skill was critiqued as “limited”, the costumes were recycled from another show and worn, and the prima ballerina demanded a new pas de deux which was composed by someone else, as were a number of other changes that had been made to the score. The Bolshoi danced *Swan Lake* a few more times until 1883, then removed it from the repertory.

A letter dated October 2, 1882, from Tchaikovsky to his publisher Pyotr Jurgenson records that he wanted to turn the music from *Swan Lake* into a suite for orchestra, but today there is no record of him doing so. However, in November 1900 - seven years after the composer’s death in 1893 - Jurgenson published as “Op. 20a” a “suite” of six numbers from the ballet. Who chose the numbers is lost to history, but it is possible Tchaikovsky himself did so sometime in the intervening years before his death.

## Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky – 1812, Overture

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On August 20, 1882, five years after the disappointing premiere of *Swan Lake*, Tchaikovsky’s triumphant Opus 49 premiered in Moscow. *The Year 1812, Solemn Overture*, as the work was formally entitled by the composer, was written in commemoration of Russia’s successful defense of Moscow against Napoleon’s invading French Grande Armée between September and December, 1812.

Despite Russia’s historic success in spurning Napoleon’s forces, the city of Moscow was decimated during the siege and took decades to recover. Prominent among the rebuilding was the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour, commissioned by Tsar Alexander I to memorialize the victory. It was in connection with a celebration of the Cathedral’s completion seventy years later, in 1882, that Tchaikovsky chose to compose the *1812 Overture*, which was performed under a tent across the plaza from the new cathedral.

For American audiences, the Russian commemorative origin of the *1812 Overture* is largely unknown, having been overshadowed by the now widespread custom of enjoying rousing renditions of the work during Fourth of July celebrations, often accompanied by fireworks. This tradition began not quite 50 years ago in 1974, when Arthur Fiedler brilliantly included the work for the first time on the Boston Pops July 4th concert program. The piece’s proud bombast, crashing exuberance, and thunderous cannon blasts perfectly exemplify the warfare of U.S. patriot forces fighting against Great Britain during the American Revolution. Thank you, comrade Tchaikovsky!

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Susan Swinburne has been a lover and student of music since demanding piano lessons at age six. Her work in orchestra management has enriched her life personally and professionally for the past three decades. A habitué of concert halls throughout southern California, she lives, listens, writes, and researches in the South Bay. II

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Roger Wilkie, Agnes Gottschewski,  
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**3/11/23** Carmina Burana Anna Schubert, soprano  
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Long Beach Camerata Singers | South Bay  
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**6/3/23** An American in Paris  
Michelle Cann, piano

All Classical concerts conducted by Music Director Eckart Preu



Michelle Cann  
piano

## POPS UPCOMING CONCERTS Long Beach Arena | 8PM

**12/17/22** HOLIDAY POPS  
Morihiro 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

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Susie Seiter, conductor

Programming and artists subject to change.



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