

# LONG BEACH SYMPHONY

ECKART PREU, MUSIC DIRECTOR

2024-2025 Season

3/8/25

Classical series

Terrace Theater

## Musical Fusion with Arturo Sandoval

Eckart Preu, conductor

Pops series

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3/22/25

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Eckart Preu, conductor

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## 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. During the 2022-23 session he recorded a CD exclusively dedicated to living Mexican composers. His concerts have been aired from coast to coast and on Jerusalem Radio.



## Pola Benke assistant conductor

Pola Benke is a distinguished conductor and cellist, recognized for her dynamic approach and deep commitment to musical excellence. Currently serving as

Assistant Conductor for both Long Beach Symphony and Riverside Philharmonic, she has quickly risen in the world of conducting, combining her talent and dedication with a profound understanding of musical intricacies.

Born in Poland, Pola's early immersion in music led her to pursue a Master's degree in cello performance and later, orchestral conducting. This solid foundation, coupled with her passion for music, has shaped her unique artistic vision.

Her early career was marked by selection for a prestigious summer program with Maestro Neeme Järvi. She was also invited to the Dartington Music Festival in England as a Fellow Conductor, worked under Sian Edwards, and participated in the esteemed Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music, collaborating with Cristian Macelaru. Her recent participation in the Järvi Academy in Estonia, under the direction of Paavo Järvi, further solidified her reputation as a rising star in the classical music community.

Her background as a musician has given her the ability to analyze and interpret scores with a high level of detail, enabling her to lead ensembles with precision and nuance. This knowledge and experience allow her to bring a unique perspective to her work as a conductor. Her leadership results in performances that are both precise and emotionally compelling.

Pola is also a passionate advocate for contemporary music and frequently collaborates with living composers to premiere new works. She is committed to promoting female artists and often features their compositions in her programs. Her musical influences include Krzysztof Penderecki, Igor Stravinsky, Thomas Adès, Jennifer Higdon, and the renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma. She is currently living in Redondo Beach with her husband and their dog, Bobby.

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Terrace Theater

Classical series



# Musical Fusion with Arturo Sandoval

Eckart Preu, conductor | Arturo Sandoval, trumpet

Adam Schoenberg *Cool Cat*

Gershwin *Cuban Overture*

Arturo Sandoval *Concerto for Trumpet No. 2*

\*\*\*\*\* 20 min. Intermission \*\*\*\*\*

Hindemith *Symphonic Metamorphosis*

Rachmaninoff (arr. Bob Barrett) *SERGE* (themes from Piano Concerto No. 2).  
World Premiere.

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**Arturo Sandoval**  
jazz trumpeter, pianist,  
composer



Arturo Sandoval (born November 6, 1949) is a Cuban-American jazz trumpeter, pianist, timbalero, and composer known for his virtuosity and diverse musical contributions. Born into a poor family in Artemisa, Cuba, he discovered music at 13, eventually choosing the trumpet as his primary instrument. He studied classical trumpet at the Cuban National School of Arts and earned a place in the country's all-star national band. He helped establish the Orquesta Cubana de Música Moderna, which became the band *Irakere* in 1973.

In 1977, Sandoval met jazz legend Dizzy Gillespie, who became his mentor and later played a pivotal role in helping him defect from Cuba in 1989 while touring with the United Nations Orchestra. He officially became a U.S. citizen in 1998. His life story was dramatized in the HBO film *For Love or Country: The Arturo Sandoval Story* (2000), starring Andy García.

Sandoval's career spans jazz, classical, and Latin music. He has won 10 Grammy Awards, multiple Billboard Awards, and an Emmy Award for his film score. His Grammy-nominated compositions include *A Mis Abuelos* and music from *The Mambo Kings*. In 2013, he was honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama, and in 2024, he received the prestigious Kennedy Center Honors.

He has performed at major events, including the White House and the 1995 Super Bowl, and has played with legendary artists such as Paquito D'Rivera, Tito Puente, and Chico O'Farrill. In addition to his jazz performances, he has collaborated with renowned orchestras like the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the National Symphony Orchestra. His classical works include a trumpet concerto recorded with the London Symphony Orchestra and a commissioned score for the Kennedy Center Ballet's *Pepito's Story*.

Beyond performing, Sandoval has taught at Florida International University and Whitworth University, leading their jazz ensembles. His impact on music is profound, influencing generations of musicians with his electrifying performances and compositions. He remains an iconic figure in both jazz and classical music, continuing to captivate audiences worldwide with his dynamic artistry.



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ECKART PREU, MUSIC DIRECTOR

## Adam Schoenberg – *Cool Cat*

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**Question:** *How does one pay appropriate homage to a beloved and iconic community symbol of independence, daring, and heart?* This was the challenge faced by Los Angeles-based composer Adam Schoenberg (no relation to Arnold, btw) when the Los Angeles Philharmonic asked him to compose a fanfare in tribute to P-22, the intrepid mountain lion who miraculously survived in Griffith Park for 10 years until his death in December, 2022. During P-22's decade of tenaciously resourceful residency in the unlikely urban L.A. wilderness, with regular forays into the streets and backyards of neighborhoods abutting the park in the Hollywood Hills and nearby Silverlake, the "Hollywood Cat" acquired a huge fan club and became the poster cat for a highly popular campaign to preserve the endangered California mountain lions. When he died in 2022, the city mourned.

Of his energetic and joyous work, composer Schoenberg – who teaches music at Occidental College and lives just over the hill from P-22's Griffith Park stomping grounds – shared that "*Cool Cat* is a celebration more than anything else, as I was specifically asked to not write an elegy."

**Fun fact:** *Cool Cat* received its premiere performance at the Hollywood Bowl on September 12, 2023, exactly ten years to the day from the premiere in 2013 of Schoenberg's first Los Angeles Philharmonic commission, *Bounce*.

## George Gershwin – *Cuban Overture*

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In 1932, George Gershwin enjoyed a whirlwind vacation to Havana with a group of bachelor friends. This first exposure to the sultry, steamy island nation and its storied nightlife, percussive rhythms, and characteristic Latin popular music took him by storm – he was mesmerized by the totally exotic flavor of his vacation, which he remembered later as "two hysterical weeks... where no sleep was had." Upon his return to New York, inspired by the indelible experience and wanting to share the excitement of it with Americans who had not visited Cuba, he wrote his *Cuban Overture* (originally entitled *Rumba*, but later renamed so as to be more "dignified").

By then, Gershwin was a mature and wildly successful composer with a 20-year track record of Broadway shows, popular songs, and "serious" music; *Rhapsody in Blue* and *An American in Paris* were already phenomenal blockbusters. However, success was not enough for Gershwin. With a laser-focus on continuously improving his compositional technique, he was at that time studying to hone his orchestration skills with an eminent Russian emigré named Joseph Schillinger. Schillinger's student roster also included other contemporary luminaries such as Tommy Dorsey, Benny Goodman, and Oscar Levant. Gershwin's studies imparted a new sophistication to his later works, but never quashed his genius for innovation. *Cuban Overture* prominently features four Cuban instruments that he brought home from Havana, and he specified that they be prominently positioned in front of the conductor's podium.

*Cuban Overture* received its premiere at the New York Philharmonic's first ever all-Gershwin concert, a gargantuan sold-out event performed at Lewisohn Stadium to an audience of more than 17,000. Said the composer, "It was the most exciting night I have ever had."



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## Arturo Sandoval – Concerto for Trumpet No. 2

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Virtuoso trumpeter Arturo Sandoval defies categorization. He roared into the American musical consciousness at the 1978 Newport Jazz Festival where with his Cuban jazz ensemble *Irakere* (also including the likes of Paquito D’Rivera and Chucho Valdés), he took the proverbial roof off. In the five decades since that historic entré, his meteoric career has continued and his musical interests have ranged panoramically. He is a soloist, a recording artist, a film soundtrack musician, a band leader, a classical music star, a composer and improviser, and a proud acolyte of his mentor and idol, Dizzy Gillespie. He defies categorization, except to the extent that everything he has undertaken in the seven-and-counting decades he has been performing music qualifies as groundbreaking.

Sandoval grew up immersed in music, playing multiple instruments before settling on the trumpet. He began performing on stage in his native Cuba at the age of thirteen, studied for three years in his teens at La Escuela Nacional de Arte in Havana, and became a member of both the All-Star National Band of Cuba and the Orquesta Cubana de Música Moderna. He also continued to perform the Afro-Cuban jazz upon which he was raised, and in secret he was studying and listening to contraband recordings of American jazz, which was forbidden under the regime of Fidel Castro. Eventually, when the nation’s isolation relaxed enough to allow a return of the cruise industry, Sandoval was able to meet his idol, Dizzy Gillespie, who came to perform in Cuba in 1977 on the very first ship to arrive. Sandoval volunteered to be Gillespie’s driver and spent the day escorting him to destinations all around Havana. Imagine Gillespie’s surprise when, later in the evening, he arrived at a club jam session and discovered the trumpeter wailing onstage was none other than his driver. Sandoval and Gillespie were fast friends until the latter’s passing in 1992, and it was with help from Gillespie in 1990, while Sandoval was touring with his United Nations Orchestra, that Sandoval and his family were able to seek political asylum through the American Embassy in Athens.

The Concerto for Trumpet No. 2 is both an evolution of Sandoval’s musical oeuvre and a personal contribution to the trumpet repertoire by the prodigious multi-hyphenate musician. “The thing is,” he says, “I’ve been playing these concertos that everyone plays all the time... We just don’t have enough new material.” Both this work and his 1st trumpet concerto demonstrate Sandoval’s deep love and appreciation for classical music, reflecting the foundational music education he received during his time at the Escuela Nacional.

“For ... the jazz musician, the melody is just an excuse to improvise; but in classical music, it’s the other way around. It’s two different states of mind. With classical you have to be extremely well prepared, you have to know the music very well, and you have to play as neat and clean, as perfect as possible.”

Hear Arturo Valdes and his Irakere colleagues in 1977 here:

<https://havanamusicsschool.com/irakere-a-name-that-makes-history/>

## Paul Hindemith – *Symphonic Metamorphosis*

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Arguably Paul Hindemith’s most enduringly popular orchestral composition, the *Symphonic Metamorphosis After Themes by Carl Maria von Weber* has quite a complex mouthful of a title, which is why it is so routinely truncated to *Symphonic Metamorphosis* (although the composer disliked the shorthand). The work’s origin story is equally complex. By the 1930s, Hindemith had built a very successful career as a performer and composer in his native Germany and around Europe. He also held a respected academic position at the Berlin Academy of Music when Adolf Hitler’s influence on German culture



began to take hold. After enduring several years of increasing trouble from the rising Nazis, he and his Jewish wife Gertrud left Germany for Switzerland in 1936. During their stay in Switzerland he accepted an invitation from dancer and choreographer Léonide Massine to collaborate on developing a ballet, *Nobilissima Visione*, which was well-received. Therefore, in 1940, after he and Gertrud had departed Europe for New York, it was a welcome opportunity when Massine again invited Hindemith to join him in a new project to compose a ballet around motifs from the musical works of Carl Maria von Weber. Hindemith accepted, swiftly composed two pieces to set the tone, and shared them with his colleague. Unfortunately, Massine detested the music. The straitlaced Hindemith, in turn, loathed the revelation that Salvador Dalí had been enlisted to design surrealistic backdrops and costumes. These and other personal differences irrevocably soured the friendship. The partnership ended, the ballet was cancelled, and the compositions were temporarily shelved.

However, Hindemith was happy with the music and after a lengthy cooling off period he took it up again, transforming and developing Weber's themes into the orchestral suite on the program tonight. *Symphonic Metamorphosis* was an immediate hit when it premiered with the New York Philharmonic in 1944. Hindemith remained in the U.S., composing and teaching at Yale, until 1953 when he returned to Zurich and eventually to Frankfurt and his homeland.

## **Rachmaninoff (arr. Bob Barrett) - SERGE (themes from Piano Concerto No. 2). World Premiere.**

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"I'm a huge fan of Ravel, Debussy, Satie," says Arturo Sandoval, "and I am also a huge fan of Sergei Rachmaninoff. I love those piano concertos; that's my favorite music. Romantic music. And why? Because the melodies are so beautiful!"

This passion for Rachmaninoff was the inspiration for composer Bob Barrett's *SERGE: Themes from Piano Concerto No. 2*, a collaboration between the two musicians which receives its concert debut performance tonight. "In 2020, during the pandemic, Arturo and I began getting together in his studio... with no intent in mind other than maintaining some sense of sanity during a time when concerts and all other work had come to a halt," says Barrett. With Sandoval on record that he especially loves the 2nd piano concerto, "we wanted to create an all-new standalone piece designed specifically as a feature for Arturo..... So I guess you could say something good (and musical) came out of the pandemic!"

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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.

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A photograph of Matt Mauser performing on stage. He is wearing a light-colored suit jacket, a white shirt, a dark tie, and a fedora hat. He is holding a microphone to his mouth and appears to be singing or speaking. The background is dark with some stage lighting.

**Sinatra, Elvis  
and MORE!  
by Matt Mauser**

**Eckart Preu**, conductor

**Matt Mauser**, vocals | **Pete Jacobs**, orchestrator

Tonight's Concert is Generously Sponsored by  
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**Matt Mauser**  
vocals

## *Featured Artists*

Matt Mauser is a songwriter, solo artist, pop/rock bandleader, and Sinatra-style crooner, having spent more than two decades onstage and in the writing room. A lifelong resident of Southern California, he was an all-American swimmer during his younger years before shifting his focus to music.

During a local show with his Orange County-based party band, the Tijuana Dogs, he met fellow athlete, Christina. The two married and

began raising a family, with Matt pulling triple duty as full-time family man, daytime Spanish teacher, and nighttime musician. He even combined his love of music and academics into a unique educational project, *Rockin' the Class*, which taught children the fundamentals of Spanish through a selection of songs Matt had written, performed, and recorded.

These days, music isn't just a job; it's also a source of therapy for Matt, who lost his wife in the January 2020 helicopter crash that also killed NBA great Kobe Bryant and seven others. Kobe hired Matt to create the music for an educational podcast called "The Punies." Kobe and Christina

also worked together, coaching a girls' basketball team at the Mamba Sports Academy. Their loss was tragic to an entire world of basketball fans, and it was unspeakably tough for Matt.

With songs like "Lost," Matt Mauser is once again using his music to teach lessons and inspire joy. Written during the aftermath of Christina's passing, the song reaches out to those who've experienced similar losses in their own lives. Those who grieve don't have to grieve alone. And Matt Mauser, during the most challenging season of his life, hasn't lost his ability to bring people together through his melodies, messages, and music.

## Musician's Corner

Pete Jacobs has made a significant mark on the Los Angeles music scene as a music arranger, composer, producer, and bandleader. His jazz bands have been featured at esteemed venues such as New York's Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, The Hollywood Bowl, Catalina's Casino Ballroom, and has enjoyed a regular monthly spot at Disneyland for many years.



In 2012, Pete teamed up with Matt Mauser as his pianist and musical director. Matt approached him with the idea of forming a 'Sinatra Tribute' band. They began with some of Sinatra's greatest hits, carefully orchestrated by Pete for their 12-piece band after listening intently to the original recordings.

As their performances spread across Southern California, it became clear they should diversify their shows to include music from other iconic

artists like Elvis, Tom Jones, Bill Withers, Barry Manilow, Lou Rawls, and more. Matt and Pete created a unique and dynamic style of entertainment that keeps even the performers guessing, as they never quite know what Matt will ask them to play from concert to concert.

In 2020, the band was invited to perform at Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago Club for New Year's

Eve, where they also accompanied renowned artists such as The Temptations, The Spinners, The Commodores, and Jason Scheff, the former lead singer of Chicago. This past New Year's Eve marked their seventh performance at the club.

For tonight's special performance at Long Beach Symphony, Pete has re-orchestrated all the music specifically for the symphony. This event will showcase these newly crafted arrangements for the very first time.

# Honoring the Memory of Patricia Mohler



Tonight, we celebrate the life and legacy of Patricia Mohler, a devoted friend and longtime volunteer of Long Beach Symphony. From the early days of the Symphony Guild to becoming an Ovation member at its inception in 1998, Pat's unwavering dedication, kindness, and love for the Symphony left an indelible mark on our community.



Alongside her husband, Mo, Pat played a vital role behind the scenes, helping to prepare for many Crescendo celebrations. Later, she found her true calling as Ovation's Personal Communications Chairperson, sharing thoughtful notes and heartfelt messages to celebrate milestones and support members facing challenges.

Upon her passing, Pat generously left the Symphony a legacy gift.

In accordance with her family's wishes, her gift has been dedicated to sponsoring a concert filled with the music she cherished. As a true lover of the Great American Songbook, tonight's performance is in her honor.

The Long Beach Symphony family deeply thanks and misses Pat. Her warmth, generosity, and passion for music will always be remembered.





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Agnes Gottschewski,  
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Chyi-Yau Lee

Reina Inui

Valerie Geller

Chloe Chiu

Carrie Kennedy

Alwyn Wright

Sarkis Gyurgchyan

Dynell Weber

Julie Metz

Linda Stone

Mei Chang

Yaeri Choi

## VIOLIN II

Chloé Tardif, principal  
(Karen & Wayne Freeman Chair  
in Memory of Katia Popov)

Carolyn Osborn,  
assistant principal

\*

Ellen Jung

Jacqueline Suzuki

Cynthia Moussas

Sakura Tsai

Haesol Lee

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Ann Brenton

\*

+Richard Clark

## VIOLA

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Jonah Sirota, assistant principal

\*

Colleen Sugata

Carole Kleister-Castillo

Hyeree Yu

Alexander Knecht

Craig Gibson

Alexander Granger

Kira Blumberg

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Trevor Handy

Andrew Honea

Jonathan Flaksman

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+Jake Saunders

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Thomas Harte

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Diane Alanraig

## PICCOLO

Diane Alanraig

## OBOE

Rong-Huey Liu, principal

Joseph Stone

Lelie Resnick

## ENGLISH HORN

Lelie Resnick

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Paul Castillo

\*

## BASS CLARINET

\*

## BASSOON

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\*

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\* associate principal

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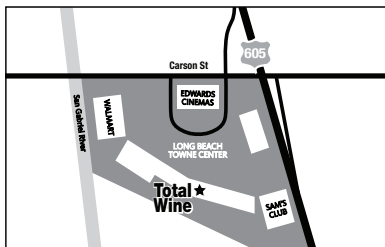
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The Mission of Long Beach Symphony is to engage audiences of all ages and cultures through exceptional orchestral performances, community partnerships, and meaningful educational experiences.

## Our Vision

Our Vision is to inspire and unite ALL people through the transformative power of music.

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Long Beach Symphony proudly recognizes Ovation, a group of dedicated volunteers who, through a shared love of orchestral music, generously contributes time and talent to an extensive schedule of concerts, special events, community engagement activities, and education programs in support of the mission of Long Beach Symphony.

To learn more about Ovation, visit [longbeachsymphony.org/ovation](http://longbeachsymphony.org/ovation)

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The Foundation for the Long Beach Symphony is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization which oversees the management of the Long Beach Symphony Endowment Fund. Gifts to the Endowment Fund remain invested in perpetuity, and the income provides crucial annual support to the Symphony. For more information, please call **John Cross at (562) 436-3203, ext. 222.**

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# LONG BEACH SYMPHONY

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 **RuMBA** FOUNDATION

## Family Concert

# Dance Around the World

## Sunday, June 8, 2025

Terrace Theater | 1-5PM

This festival-style event will be filled with activities, live music, interactive booths, and kid-friendly food. Children will enjoy playing with symphonic musical instruments at the "Instrument Petting Zoo," interacting with our assistant conductors and musicians, arts and crafts, lawn games, and more!

At 3PM, children and their families will take part in an interactive, educational, and playful musical performance with Maestro Eckart Preu. The stage will be filled with Long Beach Symphony musicians, dancers, and performers. Join in the fun and learn about all the different sights and sounds that make up an orchestra.



## Kids Get In FREE!

Concert, Activities, Crafts,  
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<https://longbeachsymphony.org/rumba-foundation-family-concerts/>

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**90<sup>TH</sup>**  
2024-25 Season

2024-25

# Season Events

## Classical series

Long Beach Terrace Theater

**3/8/25**

**Musical Fusion with  
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**Sunday  
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