

2021

Symphony Orchestra
Philharmonic Orchestra
String Orchestra
Prelude Strings
Percussion Ensemble

2022

Symphony Orchestra
Sunday October 31
Scottsdale Center for
the Performing Arts



**Anniversary
Season**

P Y
S O



In Concert

Galvin Gaustad & Stein LLC is pleased to be the financial advisors to the Phoenix Youth Symphony Orchestras. As an independent, boutique financial services firm, we provide comprehensive wealth management services that deliver customized investment solutions. Working together to make it count for business and community.

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21 | 22 PYSO

Season

Partial funding for the PYSO 21|22 season is provided by the Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture through appropriations from the Phoenix City Council.

Young Musicians Competition

January 8 and 9, 2022
Mesa Community College
Accepting applications online
November 1 at pysorchestras.org

Music Memory Concert for Schools

February 1, 2022 8:45 AM
PYSO's Symphony Orchestra

Side By Side Concert

February 17, 2022 7:30 PM
Phoenix Symphony Hall
Featuring the Symphony Orchestra and The Phoenix Symphony, Matthew Kasper conducting.

Teacher Appreciation Concert

February 27, 2022 3:00 PM
This concert recognizes the instrumental music teachers of PYSO musicians. Featuring: PYSO Percussion Ensemble, Prelude Strings, String Orchestra, and Philharmonic Orchestra.

Philharmonic Orchestra Concert

March 17, 2022
Mountain View High School, Mesa
Featuring Philharmonic Orchestra in the ensemble's first solo concert performance.

Season Finale Concert

May 2022
Featuring Percussion Ensemble, Prelude Strings, String Orchestra, and Philharmonic Orchestra.

Tchaikovsky's Sleeping Beauty

June 3, 4, and 5, 2022
Symphony Orchestra & The School of Ballet Arizona
Madison Center for the Arts
A performance partnership between PYSO's Symphony Orchestra and the School of Ballet Arizona



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Welcome



Hello and welcome to PYSO's 70th Anniversary Season!

For an organization to sustain itself, much less grow for 70 years it needs a dedicated constituency of people supporting it. Since 1952 PYSO has been a beacon of exceptional music education for young students in the Valley and that is solely because of the pioneering group of women who started the Phoenix Symphony Guild in 1947. Their determination to expand music education in the valley is what began PYSO and kept it going for 70 years. Started as a single orchestra, PYSO quickly expanded to a second orchestra and kept that expansion going until just recently with the addition of our Prelude Strings in 2018. I am proud to say that in addition to our Orchestral Training Academy, our Young Musicians Competition and our Music Memory education program have also sustained themselves since 1960.

As we look to the future PYSO continues to be dedicated to the development of its talented young musicians and will look to further expand its reach with the purpose of transforming our society by introducing classical music to every child in the Valley. Music has the ability to change all of us and help us grow in life's journey. The sooner we begin that journey the better for all.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Conductors and Staff I sincerely thank you for being a part of this historic season and I invite you to continue to be involved with this very special organization.

Matthew Kasper
Artistic and General Director
Symphony Orchestra Conductor

Symphony Orchestra
Sunday October 31, 3:00 PM
Scottsdale Center for
the Performing Arts

This performance is funded
in part by the Kurt Weill
Foundation for Music, Inc.,
New York, NY

Steven Moeckel's appearance
is made possible by a generous
gift from Octavio Pajaro and
Dominique Van de Stadt

Program

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Matthew Kasper | CONDUCTOR

Spartacus Suite No. 2 **ARAM KHACHATURIAN**

- i Adagio of Spartacus and Phrygia
- ii Entrance of the Merchants, Dance of the Roman Courtesan, General Dance
- iii Entrance of Spartacus, The Quarrel, Treachery of Harmodius
- iv Dance of the Pirates

Concerto in D-Major for Violin and Orchestra **ERICH KORNGOLD**

Steven Moeckel | VIOLIN

INTERMISSION

Symphony No. 2 **KURT WEILL**

Spartacus Suite No. 2 **ARAM KHACHATURIAN**

Notes from the stage

Concerto in D-Major for Violin and Orchestra **ERICH KORNGOLD**

Steven Moeckel | **VIOLIN**

Notes from the stage

Program Notes

Symphony No. 2 **KURT WEILL**

In November of 1932, Kurt Weill traveled to Paris for performances of some of his music and to expand his name and reputation in the music world of the city. This was a successful trip for him on many accounts, including him being commissioned to write a symphony for the Princess de Polignac, more well-known in the USA as the heir to the Singer Sewing Machine fortune. This was different for Weill, who up until this point was mainly a composer of stage works. Weill embarked on his symphonic adventure in January of 1933. Unfortunately, fate decided to interrupt his work. As Weill was putting the final touches on the first movement, everyone's worst nightmare came to fruition and Adolf Hitler was elected Chancellor of Germany. Weill, being Jewish knew his days in Germany were numbered and by March of 1933 he had found a way to slip across the German border into Luxembourg undetected and finally settling in Louveciennes, France.

Weill returned to his work on the symphony later that year and finished it in early 1934. Bruno Walter took up the task of conducting the world premiere of the work. He had some revisions for Weill to make including changing the name of the work to a Symphonische Fantasie and to add more percussion to the work. The premiere happened with the famed Concertgebouw Orchestra in October of 1934 with performances to follow in Vienna and New York. The work did not receive favorable reviews to begin with and it could have something to do with its unorthodox shape. Weill, who had composed many songs, singspiels and other stage works that featured a heavy Jazz influence couldn't help but bring some of that to his symphony. There are clear points at which the orchestra becomes the accompaniment for Jazz like solos in the trombone and trumpet yet within a form that was greatly influenced by Mozart. Nonetheless the work has survived and is quickly becoming a part of the standard orchestral canon.

The music Weill gives us in this symphony is obviously affected by the turmoil present in his private life during this time. The fear and anxiety he must have felt as the Nazi's took power are ever present in the powerful imagery of the symphony. Weill was also estranged from his wife, Lotte Lenya during this period and from his own accounts was in a very dark place. To fan the flames Weill was never able to collect the full fee for his symphony from the Princess de Polignac. She only paid about a third of what he was owed, as apparently was her custom. Nonetheless it is a treat that this work has survived and we are able to experience a different side of the composer who gave us Mack the Knife, The Seven Deadly Sins and the Threepenny Opera among others.



Conductor

American conductor Matthew Kasper currently serves as Resident Conductor of The Phoenix Symphony, Artistic and General Director of the Phoenix Youth Symphony and was recently appointed conductor for Ballet Arizona. Matthew is also a recipient of the prestigious 2020 Solti Foundation US Career Assistance Award. Past posts have included Music Director of the Queens Symphony Orchestra, Music Director of the Chicago Composers Orchestra, Associate Conductor of the Queens Symphony Orchestra and he served on the faculty of the Aaron Copland School of Music.

Beginning his sixth season with The Phoenix Symphony, Matthew has proven a wide-range of ability leading Classics, Pops, Education, Chamber and other programs during his tenure. This success led to his promotion from Assistant to Resident Conductor in the 2018-19 season. Past seasons have included successful performances of symphonies by Ives, Schumann, Dvorak, Beethoven, Haydn as well as Handel's Messiah, Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker with the Phoenix Ballet and a performance of Mozart opera arias with artists from the Arizona Opera's Marion Roose Pullin Opera Studio.

In demand as a guest conductor, Matthew has conducted extensively in the United States, Europe and Asia. Recent seasons included successful debuts with the Rochester Philharmonic, the Tucson Symphony and the Evergreen (Taiwan) Symphonies. Matthew has also appeared with the Orchestre Symphonique et Lyrique de Nancy, Opera National de Lorraine, Queens Symphony Orchestra, The Phoenix Symphony and the Salt River Ballet. Matthew has served as cover conductor for The Cleveland Orchestra, the San Diego Symphony, The Phoenix Symphony, Arizona Musicfest and the Queens Symphony.

As Artistic and General Director of the Phoenix Youth Symphony Orchestras, Matthew has worked hard to form meaningful collaborations for the benefit of the organization's young musicians. This includes a conducting fellowship with Arizona State University and ballet productions with the Ballet Arizona School. Matthew believes music should be widely available to any and all children and is working hard to forge relationships to help make that a reality in Phoenix.

Trained as a violinist, Matthew is a former member of the Chicago Civic Orchestra and holds degrees in violin performance from Queens College and the Chicago College of Performing Arts where his principal teachers were Burton Kaplan and Shmuel Ashkenasi. Matthew holds a Master's degree in Orchestral Conducting from Queens College where he was a student of Maurice Peress.

Originally from Madison Wisconsin, Matthew currently resides in Phoenix with his wife Rebecca, son Theodore and daughters Fiona and Magnolia.

Steven Moeckel
Violinist
Concertmaster
The Phoenix Symphony



Guest Artist

Violinist Steven Moeckel's effortless virtuosity, vivid characterization and uncanny ability to capture the very essence of a work have been hailed by critics worldwide. As concerto soloist, recitalist and chamber musician, his ability to engage audiences in an astounding range of repertoire distinguishes him as one of the most versatile young musicians of today.

A seasoned performer since childhood, Moeckel began his career as a violinist in the United States, and then, from the age of eleven, toured as principal soprano soloist of the renowned Vienna Boys Choir. Resuming his violin studies, he graduated with honors from the Mozarteum in Salzburg at the age of nineteen and immediately assumed the position of Co-Concertmaster of Germany's Ulm Philharmonic. Since his return to the United States, Moeckel has continued to combine a career as concertmaster with that of soloist and chamber artist.

He has performed with Leon Fleisher and Menachem Pressler at Chicago's Ravinia Festival and frequently appears in concert with William Wolfram. He is a much sought after concerto soloist, his repertoire encompassing everything from the standard classical and romantic masterpieces to the visceral virtuosity of the Shostakovich Concerto and Corigliano's Red Violin. Invited to China under the auspices of the newly formed Ling Tung Foundation, he was the first Western violinist to perform the beloved violin concerto, The Butterfly Lovers, with a Chinese orchestra. At home in a myriad of styles, with pianist Paula Fan he performed a 12 hour marathon charity concert featuring masterworks of the classical literature interspersed with intermezzi featuring country, tango and jazz.



NAU School of Music welcomes
Steven Moeckel, Associate Professor of Violin



Jacquelyn Schwandt
viola



Chris Finet
double bass



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cello



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Symphony Orchestra

VIOLIN I

Seungchan Min*
Jonathan Okseniuk
Hiyun Lee
Margaret Wang
Audrey Kurtz
Ellie Colvig
Connie Kang
Joshua Lee
Yoonji Lee
Echo Reed
Shea Lee
Marco Opena
Bill Chung
Michelle Kim
Thilina Balasooriya
Daniel Kang

VIOLIN II

Michael Meng^
Brian Yong
Evelyn Jo
Aya Barnett
Theodore Tungol
Jayden Yoneyama
Aiden Bowers
Alicia Bai
Sophia Winney
Gracie Priest
Jinoo Park
Jade Lee
Dawn Shim
Avi Calloway

VIOLA

Boyoung Min^
Yuki Matsui
Lillie Harper
Alex Gong
Jungin Choi
Esther Cho
Emma Jahn
Avinash Murlikrishnan
Alex Drace
Timothy Lin

CELLO

Vincent Claes^
Daniel Kwak
Feyi Adebekun
Sean Waite
Prem Jain
Sydney Gibson
Aanand Mehta
Tristan Deters
Reagan Drewitt
Abraham Kim
Ella McConnon
Ellena Jeon
Minseong Kim
Evan Yoon
Charles Pabst
Nicholas Raclaw
Jasmine Zehn

DOUBLE BASS

Rakshak Shah^
Simon Missen

FLUTE

Felix Shen**
Elizabeth Hebing +PICCOLO
Candice Liu
Maya Shah +PICCOLO
Daniel Walker°

Matthew Kasper
Conductor

Sunny Xuecong Xia
Assistant Conductor

Concertmaster *
Principal for concert ^
Principal on Weill *
Principal on Khachaturian ^
Principal on Korngold °

OBOE

Chase Klein^
Suhani Patel
Sierra Rockey +ENG. HORN

CLARINET

Jaehyung James Lee^°
Kaelan James* +BASE CLARINET
Daniel Jeon
Joseph Kim

BASSOON

Sonya Viquesney^
Cooper Taylor

FRENCH HORN

Tyler White^
Lucy Alwin
Cade Araza
Ethan Times

TRUMPET

Joel Uliassi^°
Christopher Scrivens°

TROMBONE

Adam Uliassi^
Connor Lively

TUBA

Isaac D'Avanzo

TIMPANI

Ben Landon
Jackson Aoyama

PERCUSSION

Jackson Aoyama
Landon Frank
Ben Landon
Annaliesa Shepherd

PIANO

Daniel Kang

HARP

Maya Lai

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Anthony & Wende Fiandaca
Jooyeon Han
Matthew & Dr. Rebecca Kasper
Jina Park
Adele Ponce

Wei Shen
Connie Wu

\$100 - \$249

Chris Adebekun
Ana Aray
Janaka Balasooriya
Sheri Bowers
Julie Colvig
Nuper Deb
John Deters
Billy Drace
Kenna Draxton
Laurie Erickson
Arianna Fourt
Traci Frederick
Claudia Gonzalez
Desislava Grosso
Kimberly Hebing
Dwight Johnson
Byunglan Kim
Ji Hyun Kim
Soojung Kim
Sue Kim
Yong Kim
Paul Knitter
Grace Laba
Chiungtzu Lin
Sahar Moghadam
Andrew Murray
Sean-Wyn Ng
Diona Opena
Kathryn Pabst
Lola Primose
Sarah Reddington
Johnny Rivera
Margaret Rockey
Heather Ross
Protul Shrikant

Gayathri Sridhar
Erica Swick
Sujatha Sundaram
Gil Tongol
Marisa Valdivia
Dr. Thomas and Rachel Waite
Jodi Winney
Stephen Wu
Quing Xie
Natsu Yamaoka

\$50 - \$99

Sonoko Barnett
Tanya Belcheff
Kyoungah Choi
Peter Fine
Tim Gibson
Tobie Kaufman
Anndrea Kawamura
Jeongi Kim
Jiyoung Kim
Sabrina Konicanin
Don Lee
June Lee
Zhuang Liu
Karen Lugosi
Changsoon Lundquist
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Krish Perinkulam
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A Brief History

In 1947, an imaginative and resourceful group formed the Phoenix Symphony Guild with the dual purpose of creating the Phoenix Symphony and to raise funds in support of it. In 1952, this same group created a Youth Orchestra with the intent to train young musicians for The Phoenix Symphony. In 1955, due to increasing demand, the Guild formed the Symphonette Orchestra, and Eleven years later, the Junior Strings were added, giving beginning string players an opportunity to learn basic orchestral skills.

In 1992, the PYS(O)'s top ensembles had both evolved into full symphonic orchestras with 80-100 members each. In order to provide more advanced training, the Junior Strings evolved into the String Orchestra and no longer admitted beginners. In addition, the Symphonic Winds was added to further woodwind and brass orchestral training. A Percussion Ensemble was added in 2004, and in 2018 the organization added the Prelude Strings answering the ever-growing demand for beginning strings instruction.

In May of 2020, in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, the visionary board of PYS decided to overhaul the organization's image. They voted to change the name to Phoenix Youth Symphony Orchestras in order to encompass all of our ensembles under that banner. The top three ensembles were re-named to Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonic Orchestra and Wind Orchestra respectfully. In addition, the board voted to create a new logo and website with the goal of furthering the mission of the organization to expand horizons through music and to develop the next generation of artists, patrons and leaders.

PYSO remains committed to providing the best orchestral training in Arizona and continuing to spread arts throughout the community with its many collaborations with other leading arts organizations in Phoenix.

CONTACT

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Phoenix AZ 85006
Phone 602-277-7013

pysorchestras.org

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Photos by Rosalie O'Connor and Tzu Chia Huang.



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