



SYMPHONY **d'ORO**
rancho cordova



earth

A CONCERT CELEBRATING THE MAJESTY,
POWER, AND MYSTERY OF OUR PLANET

NOVEMBER 16, 2019

A FREE CONCERT TO BENEFIT RANCHO CORDOVA WHISKER
WARRIORS' EFFORTS IN ANIMAL SEARCH + RESCUE

Symphony d'Oro Rancho Cordova

*Sharing exceptional music,
achieving the extraordinary.*

If you are interested in learning more about
our ensemble, please visit our website:
symphonydoro.org

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Earth

Our planet is a unique jewel, suspended in perfect rotation and balance. The only known planet capable of sustaining life, the earth's inner strength is immense, and formidable, capable of moving continents and creating new ecosystems. The surface of the earth, if left alone, is also in perfect balance with each ecosystem ideally designed to sustain the life contained within. Yet, for all her strength and perfection, Earth is vulnerable. Human progress threatens even as it aids our existence in many ways. This concert is intended to explore Earth's many facets through music – her strength, majesty, perfection and vulnerability. It is also intended to help each of us to consider what we can do to protect our most valuable resource.

We perform "**Lake That Speaks**" by composer James DeMars featuring the gifted Deborah Pittman on the Native American Flute. This is a beautiful piece, mysterious and rich. After that you will be treated to the world premiere of "**Burning**," commissioned nearly two years ago especially for this concert. Ryan Suleiman, a local, young composer studying at UC Davis, was so moved by the devastation of the fires in Napa in 2017 that he conceived a piece for orchestra, featuring the drama of the percussion section. The piece expresses Ryan's emotions while observing the destruction of the fires. Last fall, this composition took on a new meaning with the tragic losses caused by the Camp Fire in Paradise. The poignancy of "**Burning**" is more apparent as we continue to experience more statewide devastation by fire.

Our final offering is **Beethoven's lyrical 6th Symphony, also known as the Pastoral**. Composers have been inspired by nature since the dawn of time, Beethoven especially so. Next year, 2020, is the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth, and many symphonies world-wide plan to perform the Pastoral Symphony to raise awareness about the importance of protecting the planet as our most valuable resource. Given the prominence of the devastating fires in California, we decided to bring this issue to the public in our concert now. **You are hearing it in Rancho Cordova first!**

Our community partner this fall is the Rancho Cordova Whisker Warriors. In addition to serving the community through its spay and neuter program, Whisker Warriors operates a prominent animal search and rescue program. Actively involved in search and rescue efforts last year in Paradise during and after the fire, the Whisker Warriors continue to prepare for the next disaster in order to aid the helpless creatures with whom we share our planet, communities, and households. The Whisker Warriors will be in the lobby demonstrating the shelters constructed for animal rescue and will also have furry friends to meet with our audience. Symphony d'Oro is collecting donations tonight to assist the Whisker Warriors' mission going forward. At the beginning of this holiday season of giving, we ask for your generosity on their behalf.

Board of Directors – Symphony d'Oro Rancho Cordova



Symphony d'Oro Rancho Cordova Conductor and Musical Director Pete Nowlen has been a dynamic part of the Northern California musical scene for over 30 years. Dedicated to renewing and sustaining classical music's relevance in our society, Pete's career

has led to multiple and diverse accomplishments. A prize-winning French hornist, Pete came to Sacramento in 1987 to join the horn section of the Sacramento Symphony. He joined the Music in the Mountains Orchestra in 1989 and has performed frequently with the San Francisco Symphony, Opera and Ballet Orchestras and all of the prominent orchestras of the Bay Area and Northern California. For several years, he served as principal hornist of the Orchestra of Italy, performing and recording in Italy's most prestigious festivals and venues.

Pete currently holds artistic and musical director positions with seven organizations from San Francisco to Nevada County. As a faculty member at UC Davis and previously at CSU Sacramento, Pete has mentored a generation of musicians and music educators for our region and beyond.

As a guest conductor, Pete has led performances of the Sacramento Symphony and Philharmonic, as well as the Auburn, Camellia, Veridian, UCD, and CSUS Symphonies. He has served as musical director for more than a dozen theatrical programs ranging from *La Boheme*, *Magic Flute*, and *Hansel und Gretel* to *Rocky Horror Show* and *Little Shop of Horrors*.

Pete is also the founder (and driving force) of the Vocal & Instrumental Teaching Artist (VITA) Academy in Sacramento. The Academy provides music and music education to school children in the greater Sacramento community, while training emerging professional musicians to be effective teaching artists.

As the conductor of both Camerata California and Symphony d'Oro Rancho Cordova, Pete brings his passion for making beautiful music full circle as he inspires adult musicians to develop their musical talents and performing skills. Pete also serves as the Artistic Director of the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band, the Artistic Advisor Emeritus of Music in the Mountains, and as the Wind Symphony Director of the California Youth Symphony.

Symphony d'Oro Rancho Cordova

presents

“Earth”

**Peter Gynt Suite One
Op. 46 (1888)**

Edvard Grieg
(1843-1907)

I. Morgenstimmung (Morning Mood)

Two World Concerto (2006)

James DeMars

II. Lake That Speaks “this trembling of beings and things...”

Deborah Pittman – Native American Flute

Burning (2017-2019)

Ryan Suleiman

Intermission

Please join us in the lobby to visit with Ryan Suleiman, to learn more about the mission of the Rancho Cordova Whisker Warriors' rescue efforts, and participate in our raffle. Proceeds from the raffle directly support the Symphony d'Oro.

**Symphony No. 6 in F Major
Op. 68 (1808)**

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

“Pastoral Symphony or Recollections of Country Life”

- I. Allegro ma non troppo “Awakening of cheerful feelings upon arriving in the country”
- II. Andante molto mosso “Scene by the brook”
- III. Allegro “Merry gathering of peasants”
- IV. Allegro “Tempest storm”
- V. Allegretto “Happy and thankful feelings after the storm”



Ryan Suleiman was born to Lebanese and American parents in Sacramento. His music engages with daydreams, the natural world, and the understated beauty of everyday life. While his interests vary, much of Ryan's music attempts to make sense of humanity's place in a world increasingly threatened by ecological collapse, and to foster a sense of awe and reverence for it. Ryan is inspired by the music of Messiaen, Takemitsu and St. Vincent.

Twice a finalist in the ASCAP Young Composer Awards, Ryan also received two first prizes from the FeNAM Student Composers Competition. His music has been performed at several festivals, including SICPP at New England Conservatory, June in Buffalo, and the

Oregon Bach Festival Composers Symposium. Ryan has collaborated on performances and commissions with numerous ensembles, namely Left Coast Chamber Ensemble, Calder Quartet, Ensemble Mise-en, Symphony d'Oro Rancho Cordova, Camerata Capistrano (CSUS), and Davis High School Symphony Orchestra.

Ryan earned his bachelor degree at California State University Sacramento and is currently a PhD candidate in Composition/Theory at University of California, Davis. Ryan resides in Sacramento with his wife/music collaborator, two cats, and one brown dog. He enjoys long walks, good food, and the films of Hayao Miyazaki.

"Burning" is dedicated to wildfire victims, firefighters, climate scientists, and activists. To honor the victims and help fight climate change, 50% of royalties generated from performances of this piece will be donated to a non-profit protecting forests in California.

Visit www.ryansuleiman.com for more information.

Composing "Burning" by Ryan Suleiman

Though Californians are no strangers to wildfires, we've all seen that the summer and fall months of the last few years have been marked by tragedy and the devastation of extremely intense fires in what is being called the "new normal" in our current era of climate crisis. These days, high winds and dry conditions give me anxiety, and I know I'm not alone.

The idea for this piece came in 2017 during the fires that devastated Santa Rosa. Driving along I-80 on my way to San Francisco, I observed the eerie, thick blanket of smoke that covered everything. I could barely see. This level of intense smoke was new, and was echoed by the smoke from the Butte County Fire last year that put Northern California's air quality at dangerous levels. And there will be, and have been, more devastating fires. While California is the place that's gotten the most international attention, unusually strong and frequent fires are occurring all around the world, including Alaska, the Pacific Northwest, the UK, and Greece – due in part to our civilization's warming of the planet.

While many of us are fortunate not to have to endure the tragedy of loss and destruction in fires, the smoke is something everyone remembers. For that reason, the thick, eerie clouds of smoke are what open "Burning," depicted by the string players sliding around their pitches to create a kind of still but undulating sound-mass. The near-apocalyptic blazes are another element depicted in the piece. And perhaps most importantly, the piece is also inspired by the grief and loss of life (both human and non-human) caused by fires. The piece is dedicated to the victims of these fires and the brave and heroic firefighters who make tremendous sacrifices to keep us safe. I'm also extremely grateful to the tireless Pete Nowlen for his collaboration on this project and to the musicians and donors of the Symphony d'Oro Rancho Cordova. I have enjoyed working with them.

While this may seem like a heavy piece (and it is), it's our responsibility as artists and humans to face what's happening around us, both tragic and beautiful. Since I was a teenager, nature has always been an important source of inspiration and comfort for me. In the last five years or so, I've been trying harder to consider the interconnectedness of the comfort the natural world provides – which it still does – with the reality of its destruction head-on. I think it is important for us to embrace the beauty around us, while at the same time we experience the sense of loss.

I'm very happy that "Burning" is programmed alongside Beethoven's beloved "Pastoral" Symphony, which is a favorite of mine. Beethoven, like many creative people, was deeply inspired by the natural world, taking walks through nature and retreating to the countryside to escape city life, recharge himself, get ideas. Scientific research has shown, as most of us have suspected, that doing this is extremely important for one's health and creativity. I also share Beethoven's sense of joy and wonder of nature. I think the huge mistake that many of us have made in our Western society is thinking of civilization and "the environment" as separate from each other. They're not! No matter how clever we think we are, we can't survive without caring for and respecting the natural world we live in. Unfortunately, we're learning this lesson the hard way. "The environment" is where we live and we depend on it for survival. "Burning" stands for the proposition that caring for our environment is our highest priority.

Rancho Cordova Whisker Warriors

Preparing for the next disaster...

The Rancho Cordova Whisker Warriors is dedicated to reducing animal overpopulation, specifically through a spay/neuter program coordinated with the SSPCA. They also assist in the care and well-being of felines, canines, and rabbits in our community and beyond. As part of its mission, the Whisker Warriors responds to special needs in our community and beyond, including search, rescue, and reunification when disasters strike.

Long recognized as a distinguished community organization, the Rancho Cordova Whisker Warriors has received, among other awards, the following recent accolades for its community service: Certificate of Appreciation from Kevin Walker, Case Manager, Mather Vets Village, for providing service dog food (2018); Meals on Wheels, Outstanding Service Award (2017); Distinguished Community Service Organization Award from the Cordova Community Council (2017); and Certificate of Achievement, Donald Terry, Mayor of Rancho Cordova (2017).

Last year the Whisker Warriors responded to the Camp Fire's disastrous impact on animals after discovering that an officer was walking several miles into a hidden valley to check on his home. Cats began to follow him during his walks, and after several days there were over 100 cats following him requiring food. The Whisker Warriors mobilized community support and provided pallets of food to non-profit organizations and animal shelters working in the area. It also provided much needed feeding stations and shelters for the cats left behind waiting to be rescued and reunited with their families. Examples of the shelters used are displayed in our lobby. Each shelter costs approximately \$20.00 in materials to construct. Please visit with our friends from Whisker Warriors at intermission and meet some of the furry friends they have rescued!

Organizations such as the Whisker Warriors are essential to providing much needed support for pets during an emergency such as a fire, flood, earthquake or other disaster. Often there isn't time to gather pets for evacuation or to return home to collect them in the case of emergencies. Our furry family members are particularly vulnerable when disaster strikes.

With fires a reality and flood always a threat, we urge you to support the Whisker Warriors in its mission to rescue pets and reunite them with their families. This is something we can all do now to help mitigate the damage done by fire. We can accept donations in any amount but ask that you consider a minimum donation of \$20.00 to support the construction of the much-needed shelters. Cash, check or credit card donations may be made in the lobby. Checks should be made payable to the Rancho Cordova Whisker Warriors. Our goal is to raise a minimum of \$1000.00 at this concert.

As a final consideration, we also encourage everyone with furry family members to please include them in your careful disaster planning.



We are delighted to perform again with **Deborah Pittman**, who joins us tonight on the Native American Flute. Deborah's primary instrument is the clarinet. She holds B.S. and M.A. degrees in music performance from the Brooklyn College Conservatory (doctoral studies at the Manhattan School of Music). She recently retired from 23 years as Professor of Clarinet and Musical Theatre at California State University, Sacramento.

Ms. Pittman played second clarinet with the **Sacramento Symphony** (1981 to 1990). Other orchestral positions include Brooklyn Philharmonic, State Symphony of Mexico,

Orchestra of New York, Dance Theatre of Harlem, pit orchestras of musicals on Broadway, and Sacramento Music Circus.

For several years, Deborah was Artist in Residence for the Sacramento Light Opera Association's Theater Education Project, presenting the **Metropolitan Opera's *Creating Original Opera*** program at schools in the greater Sacramento area.

Deborah has also been the **Artist in Residence at the Crocker Art Museum**, where her multi-media work, *Small Shoulders/Big Dreams*, was created to support the Norman Rockwell *American Chronicles* exhibition. The work focused on Rockwell's *The Problem We All Live With*, shedding light on the illustrator's commitment to the civil rights movement, and includes original music, narration, projections, and puppetry. This composition was revised in 2018, through the award of a Sacramento Creative Economy Grant. The focus was on Ruby Bridges and the Four Freedoms.

Other Multi-Arts productions include *Niam: Portrait of a Gnome* (based on *Pictures at an Exhibition*), *Peter in the Hood* (based on *Peter and the Wolf*), *In the Land of Picklesnout Gouch* (commissioned by Sacramento Youth Symphony Orchestra), *Harriet and Anne* a performance piece co-authored with Laurie Friedman (New York off-Broadway Showcase 2006), *The World According to Earl: A Father/Daughter Biography* (premiere, Berkeley, California, January 2011), and *The Dancer Within* (premiere, Berkeley, California, January 2011).

Contact Information: pittman@csus.edu

Symphony d'Oro Rancho Cordova Musicians

Violin 1

Caryl Butcher
Concertmaster
Jennifer Campbell
Dorothy Klishevich
Lydia Wyrzes
Tony Yoon
Jolan Friedhoff

Violin 2

Kathy Davis**
Rosemary Hallett
Elaine Hallett
Jessica Chan
Elyssa Havey

Viola

Jay King
Catherine Palmer
Judy Bromley
Jon Fleuter

Cello

Chris Allen**
Rosalind Askin
Heather Williams
Louise Rebello
Leslie Stueben-
Trumphour
Robert Case
Cathy Vincent

Bass

Jeremiah Bear**
Randy Barton
Mars Burnside

Flute

Marion Umgelster**
Jonathan Martinez
Kathy Standley

Piccolo

Jonathan Martinez

Oboe

John Giles**
Karen Niiya

Clarinet

Ed Lowry**
Brennen Milton

Bass Clarinet

Ed Lowry**

Bassoon

Jack Miller
Laura Turpen

French Horn

Steve Fernald**
Dawn David
Darryl Moxley
Don Leach

Trumpet

Jim Kepfer**
Craig Thomas

Trombone

Richard Davis**
Hal Edmunds

Tuba

Robert Rucker**

Percussion

Leone Rivers
Trevor Hall
Marc Cambridge

Keyboard

Carlos McMillan
Fuentes

Thanks to our Exceptional Volunteers and Staff!

Symphony d'Oro Staff

Brennen Milton – Librarian
John Giles – Musician messaging and contact information
Chris Allen/Steve Fernald – Website Management and Design
Dawn David – Rehearsal Set Up and Take Down

Don't Miss Our Next Performance!

"Mozart Madness"

March 19, 2020 – Saturday at 7:30 pm
Rancho Cordova City Hall

"Hot Latin Nights"

May 2020 – Saturday at 7:30 pm
Cordova High Performing Arts Theater

Support the Symphony d'Oro Rancho Cordova

The Symphony d'Oro Rancho Cordova is an Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization. Your donations to the orchestra are tax deductible to the extent provided by law and will ensure that we continue to perform high-quality music for the members of our community. Checks should be made payable to "Symphony d'Oro." We have individuals who can process credit card donations at the concert, or you may visit our website at www.symphonydoro.org to make your donation. Donations may also be sent to Symphony d'Oro, c/o Ed Lowry, 1124 13th Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95822. Thank you for your continuing support of the musical arts in Rancho Cordova.

** Section Leader

Thank You to our Sponsors

Symphony d'Oro Rancho Cordova wishes to acknowledge the following contributors for their generous support of the symphony throughout this season. We could not perform our concerts without their support:

