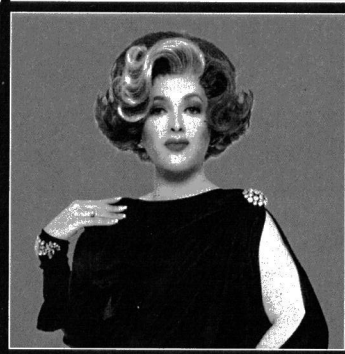


Remember When?



March 25, 2023 • 7:30pm

SYMPHONY d'ORO
rancho cordova

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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SYMPHONY d'ORO
r a n c h o c o r d o v a

Dear Symphony Supporters and Friends,

We sincerely thank you for supporting our first fundraising concert in 3 years. In March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic changed the world. For the symphony it meant: canceling our planned fundraiser that same month; 6 months with no rehearsals or concerts; a year of online concerts rehearsed online and recorded individually in our homes; and 6 months of concerts recorded with the ensemble together, but without a live audience.

“Remember When” concerts were so much easier? We are thrilled to be back live this season and we are doing our best to make every concert special for you. Please join us at our upcoming concerts this spring and summer.

This season marks the 10th Anniversary of the Symphony d'Oro. Our anniversary coincides with the 20th anniversary of the City of Rancho Cordova. In 2013 the symphony was proud and honored to perform only its second performance here in the City Council Chambers—in celebration of Rancho Cordova's 10th Anniversary. It is fitting that this evening, during our first season “post COVID,” brings us back to this special place.

“Remember When?” celebrates the combination of two great art forms—music and film. The cinematic experience has always been coupled with music. “Remember When” movies were silent and accompanied by an organist in the theater? “Remember When” cartoons were played before feature films? “Remember When” movies were black and white?

This evening brings nostalgia to life again as we present two film scores composed by the acclaimed silent film composer Andrew Earle Simpson: andrewsimpson.com. We open the program with *Le Voyage dans la lune*, a short, film by Georges Méliès, circa 1902. Andrew Simpson, who is also an acclaimed pianist, composed the original score that will be performed by the symphony's composer and artist in residence, Carlos McMillan Fuentes at the piano. After intermission, the symphony will perform Andrew Simpson's acclaimed score to Buster Keaton's timeless silent movie, *One Week*.

To make the evening extra special, we are delighted to be joined by the incomparable Countess Katya Smirnof-Skyy as our emcee for the evening. The Countess will regale you with lively banter, beautiful music, and the first performance of the song selected to represent the theme of Rancho Cordova's birthday celebrations taking place throughout this summer—, *A Million Dreams*, from the musical and movie, *The Greatest Showman*.

Enjoy!

Board of Directors – Symphony d'Oro Rancho Cordova

March 25, 2023

Symphony d'Oro Rancho Cordova

presents

“Remember When?”

Voyage to the Moon Andrew Earle Simpson
Carlos McMillan Fuentes, piano accompanying the 1902 Film

Salute to the Cinema Carl Strommen
Hooray for Hollywood, Singin' in the Rain, Somewhere Over the Rainbow, As Time Goes By, A Day in the Life of a Fool

Katya Smirnoff-Skyy Cabaret
“As If We Never Said Goodbye” from Andrew Lloyd Webber’s *Sunset Blvd*,
“I’m The Greatest Star” from Jule Styne’s *Funny Girl* (arr. Joseph Kanon),
“Falling in Love Again” by Friedrich Hollaender/Sammy Lerner from
Der Blaue Engel

Chicago; A Medley John Kander
(Lyrics Fred Ebb, arr. Ricketts)
And All That Jazz, Cell Block Tango, Roxie, We Both Reached For The Gun

Intermezzo from Cavalleria Rusticana Pietro Mascagni
From The Godfather

Katya Smirnoff-Skyy Cabaret
A Julie Andrews Tribute (arr. Joseph Kanon)

Tribute to the Film Composer John Williams
“As Time Goes By” from *Casablanca*, “Cinema Paradiso” from *Cinema Paradiso*, “Citizen Kane Overture” from *Citizen Kane*, “Theme From E.T. (The Extra-Terrestrial)” from the Universal Picture *E.T. (The Extra Terrestrial)*, “Exodus” Main Theme from *Exodus*, “The Godfather” Love Theme from the Paramount Pictures *The Godfather*, “Gonna Fly Now” from *Rocky*, “I Had A Farm In Africa” Main Title from *Out of Africa*, “Jaws” Theme from Universal Pictures *Jaws*, “The Magnificent Seven” Theme, “My Heart Will Go On” Love Theme from *Titanic*, “The Natural” from *The Natural*, “Patton” Theme, “The Pink Panther” from *The Pink Panther*, “Psycho (The Murder)” from the Paramount Pictures *Psycho*, “The River Kwai March” from *The Bridge on the River Kwai*, “The Seahawk” Main Title, “Somewhere, My Love (Lara’s Theme)” from *Doctor Zhivago*, “Spellbound Concerto” from *Spellbound*, “Star Wars” Main Theme from *Star Wars: A New Hope*, “Tara’s Theme (My Own True Love)” from *Gone With The Wind*, Twentieth Century Fox Trademark, Warner Bros. Fanfare

Intermission

A Million Dreams from The Greatest Showman Benj Pasek and Justin Hall
(arr. Huff)
Featuring Katya Smirnoff-Skyy

One Week Andrew Earle Simpson
Accompanying the Buster Keaton Film

An American in Paris George Gershwin (arr. Whitney)



Symphony d'Oro 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.

Currently, Pete holds artistic and musical director positions with 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. It also sponsors an annual chamber music workshop “CALCAP” which provides chamber music instruction for adult musicians.

As the conductor of both Camerata California and the 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 and the Artistic Advisor Emeritus of Music in the Mountains, and as the Wind Symphony Director of the California Youth Symphony.

March 25, 2023



Andrew Earle Simpson is an acclaimed composer of opera, silent film, orchestral, chamber, choral, dance, and vocal music based in Washington, DC. His musical works make multi-faceted, intimate connections with literature, visual art, and film, reflecting his own interest in linking music with the wider world, an approach which he calls “humanistic music.”

His concert and theatrical works have been performed at such venues as Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, Music Center at Strathmore, National Gallery of Art, Library of Congress,

Smithsonian Museums of American Art, American History and Freer-Sackler Gallery, and the Getty Museum in Los Angeles. He has collaborated with visual artists and digital animators in programs at the National Gallery of Art and other venues, including painting, films, and animations by Man Ray and Marcel Duchamp, René Clair, Sharon Louden, Micheline Klagsbrun, David Brody, Jodie Mack, and many others.

One of America’s foremost silent film musicians, he has performed across the United States, Europe, and South America. He is Resident Film Accompanist at the National Gallery of Art and a regularly featured accompanist at the Library of Congress’ Mt. Pony Theater in Culpeper, VA, as well as Keyboard Artist for the Cantate Chamber Singers. He has performed silent film scores at the Giornate del Cinema Muto in Pordenone, Italy; Lincoln Center in New York City; the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC; the Sala Cecelia Meireles in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Harvard Film Archive; UCLA Film and Television Archive; and festivals such as Cinefest; Slapsticon; Orphans; and the Library of Congress’ Mostly Lost workshops. Simpson also conceived and co-founded Atlas Performing Arts Center’s Silent Film Series, entering its fifth season in 2020-21, for which he is curator and resident musician.

Andrew Simpson’s chamber, vocal, choral, and silent film music has been recorded on the Naxos, Albany, Fleur de Son Classics, Capstone, Athena, and other labels. His silent film scores have been broadcast on the Turner Classic Movies Channel, and more than fifty of his silent film piano, theater organ, and chamber ensemble scores are available on DVD/Blu-Ray through Kino-Lorber, Flicker Alley, Olive Films, Undercrank Productions, and All Day Entertainment.

Most recently, on April 16, 2020, he launched “Sparklers,” a daily YouTube improvisation series featuring a short, improvised piece for piano or other instruments accompanied by still and moving images that the composer creates and curates. The pieces embrace a wide variety of musical styles, and the accompanying films engage with stop motion, montage, color studies, silent film, and other genres.

Andrew Earle Simpson is ordinary (full) professor and founder/director of the Master of Music, Stage Music Emphasis Composition program at the Benjamin T. Rome School of Music, Drama, and Art at The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. andrewsimpson.com

Program Notes: “One Week”

Dear Nephew:

*As a wedding present I am giving you
a house and lot no. 99 Apple Street.*

Wish you joy.

—Uncle Mike

This short note, thrust into Buster Keaton’s hands immediately following his wedding at the start of the 1920 comedy *One Week*, sets up all of the action which follows. Buster needs seven days to build his new house, aided only by the tools he has on hand and the help of an unsympathetic handyman (who was, incidentally, turned down for marriage by the woman who is now Keaton’s wife). This potential powder keg of problems blows up—gradually—in surprising and wonderful ways.

Part of what makes *One Week*, or any Keaton film, so entertaining is Keaton’s comedic style: it’s full-blown slapstick stunt comedy, and Keaton does all the stunts himself. He really falls from a second-story perch, really stands still while the side of a house falls down around him: there is no computer animation, no stunt doubles. And, no matter what happens, Keaton neither weeps, laughs or smiles. He reacts to all which comes his way, good or ill, with the same stoic face: for this reason, he was nicknamed “the great stoneface” in the 1920’s.

My purpose in composing this full orchestral film score is to help *One Week* tell its story by blending the music as seamlessly as possible with the film. Mine is an entirely new score, carefully designed to track the action of each scene (with one exception: there is a short quotation of the early 20th-century song “A Perfect Day,” by Carrie Jacobs-Bond, because the film shows an image of the sheet music on the piano in the new Keaton home). Sometimes, events on screen are exactly matched by the orchestra; sometimes, the music flows in support of the general mood of the scene. The style of the music is mostly bright and light, in keeping with the film’s happy (though sometimes slightly sour!) nature. There is a powerful thunderstorm just past the midpoint of the film, however, which provides for stylistic contrast. And *One Week* contains one of the best surprise endings in all film.

—Andrew Earle Simpson



The Countess Katya Smirnoff-Skyy (J. Conrad Frank) has enthralled Bay Area and Rancho Cordova audiences for years with her unique blend of opera, pop, and booze. With a career spanning a very... very long time, Katya claims to have invented Popera, romanced William Shatner, and lived across the hall from John Lennon at the Dakota during her infamous 1970's stint in NYC. Once Eastern Europe's most sought after Mezzo Soprano—understudy, the countess now spends her evenings crooning and drinking her way through the finer theaters, bars, and bathhouses of America. Named "Best Drag Act 2008" by the *San Francisco Bay Guardian* and best actor in a musical: "Katya a Holiday Spectacular 2009," Katya has appeared in various theatrical runs and nightclubs. She has sold out runs at the Razz room, Feinstein's, The New Conservatory Theater, Oasis, Don't Tell Mama's, and thirteen years of monthly shows at Martuni's. Katya played Blanch Hudson in Billy Cliff's film *Baby Jane*, and Mildred in *Hush Up Sweet Charlotte*. @katyasmirnoff on Twitter, katyasmirnoffskyy on Instagram. Katya is the creation of J.Conrad Frank who resides in San Francisco.



Carlos McMillan Fuentes is a pianist, composer, singer-songwriter, music educator, and accompanist. He has performed in concert with the Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera, Symphony d'Oro (Rancho Cordova), the Camellia Symphony Orchestra, and Camerata California. In 2018, his piano-clarinet duo "Carlos & Brennen" won First Prize in their category at the Golden Classical Music Awards. As part of their prize, the Golden Classical

Music Awards invited Carlos & Brennen to perform at Carnegie Hall. In 2019, he appeared with soprano Susheel Bibbs as accompanist for her acclaimed one-woman musical on Mary Ellen Pleasant. In 2021, his suite for piano and orchestra, *A Winter Rhapsody*, received its online premiere by Symphony d'Oro, with the composer as soloist.

Largely self-taught as a musician, Fuentes demonstrated an affinity for composition and performance from an early age. In early middle school, he began to develop his gift for composition through a set of short piano pieces inspired by Chopin, compiled as Opus 1. Fuentes has matured into a prolific composer, creating hundreds of pieces including a symphony for choir and orchestra, *Concerto da Requiem* for piano, orchestra, choir and soloists, concertos and concertante works for piano, viola, cello, and alto saxophone, three independent film scores, a score to accompany a play, chamber works of various instrumentation, works for choir, art songs, and solo piano pieces—as well as a variety of musical works created using digital production.

Fuentes is a lyricist and songwriter. His songwriting bridges classical training with his love for pop, jazz, R&B/soul, Gospel, and musical theatre to create a truly American style all his own. Among his influences, he cites Michael Jackson, Lady Gaga, Patrick Wolf, Björk, Erykah Badu, Sade, Perfume Genius, Stevie Wonder, Richard Smallwood, and Janelle Monáe as modern masters in their fields. He is also guided by a form of synaesthesia in which specific patterns of harmony evoke a spectrum of colors.

Fuentes' performance and teaching experience include working in live musical theatre and opera; establishing the Renaissance Academy, a K-12 arts after-school program ensuring equity and access to arts education in the Western Addition of San Francisco, California (disbanded in 2015); K-8 music education in Sacramento, California; and private lessons in piano, voice, and composition and songwriting to students of all ages.

Symphony d'Oro Rancho Cordova

Musicians

Violin 1

Lorraine Crozier**
Concertmaster
Caryl Butcher
Keri Chen
Elyssa Havey

Violin 2

Kathy Davis**
Rosemary Hallett
Elaine Hallett
Jessica Chan
Michele
Pappone-Beedy

Viola

Annette Orella**
Dayne Sakazaki
Jay King

Harp

Bill Damien**

Cello

David King**
Louise Rebello
Chris Allen
Leslie Stueben-
Trumphour

Bass

Jeremiah Bear**

Flute

Marion Umgelster**
Roberta Huff
Elizabeth Perhson

Piccolo

Elizabeth Perhson**

Oboe

Karen Niiya**
Ben Saetern

Clarinet

Ed Lowry**
Brennen Milton
Michael Colby

Bass Clarinet

Ed Lowry**

Bassoon

Laura Turpen
Oscar Santamaria
Sondra Marchand

French Horn

Steve Fernald**
Cody Bennett
Tia Kilpatrick
Kennedy Youmans

Trumpet

John Williams**
Ethan Matthes
Cris Hancock

Trombone

Richard Davis**
Glenn Lewis
Hal Edmunds

Tuba

Robert Rucker**

Percussion

Leone Rivers
Marc Cambridge
Trevor Hall

Piano/Organ

Carlos McMillan
Fuentes

Don't Miss Our Next Performance!

"American Spring" – featuring music by Aaron Copland, including the stunning "Quiet City" for English Horn, Trumpet, and Orchestra.

June 3, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. – Cordova High School Performing Arts Theater

Happy Birthday Rancho Cordova! – featuring an original composition by the symphony's composer in residence, Carlos McMillan Fuentes, in honor of Rancho Cordova's 20th Anniversary as a city.

A joint concert featuring the Symphony d'Oro Rancho Cordova and the Rancho Cordova River City Concert Band.

June 30, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. – Cordova High School 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 Elaine Hallett, 100 Coval Court, Folsom, CA 95630. Thank you for your continuing support of the musical arts in Rancho Cordova.

Remember the Symphony d'Oro on the Big Day of Giving!

On May 4, 2023, the Symphony d'Oro Rancho Cordova will participate in the Sacramento Region's Big Day of Giving campaign. Your generosity to the symphony tonight and at the Big Day of Giving will insure our continued performance of beautiful music at no cost to the public. Our symphony and the smaller ensembles perform at many occasions in the City of Rancho Cordova throughout the year. Some of our performances are in support of other non-profit organizations, some are our own events, but all are intended to call forth the unifying spirit and camaraderie which music brings to an occasion.

** Section Leader

PLEASE THANK OUR SYMPHONY SPONSORS

The following organizations and individuals have generously contributed to the success of not only this concert but to the symphony for the past 10 years. We could not have made it without them.

City of Rancho Cordova

**City of Rancho Cordova Community Enhancement
and Investment Fund**

Cordova Community Council Foundation

Mandarins of Sacramento

Folsom Cordova Unified School District

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The Rucker Family Trust has generously offered to match up to \$3,000.00 in donations collected at this concert, or by those who made a donation in lieu of attendance. Please consider an additional donation this evening in any amount to help us achieve the matching amount. It doesn't matter if your donation is large, small, or somewhere in between. What matters is that you care enough to support us. We gratefully thank you for all your support.

