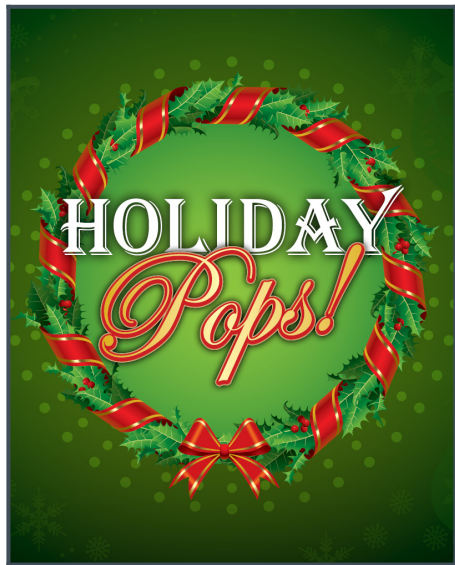


Holiday Pops!

Celebrate the Holidays with the MSO!



Notice: Dec. 4 - Downtown Parade Street Closures

The annual **Celebration of Lights** holiday parade will take place Saturday, December 4 starting at 5:30pm. Street closures will begin as early as 1pm that day. Please be aware of this event for your operations, your staff and your customers.

The following streets will be closed to vehicular traffic as well as street parking:

- H Street from 9th to 17th Streets
- I Street from 9th to 17th Streets
- J Street from 9th to 17th Streets
- Needham Ave from 9th to 17th Streets

For more information about this event visit:

<https://www.modestogov.com/553/Holiday-Parade>

About the Show

Modesto Symphony Orchestra Association

Holiday Pops!

Friday, December 3, 2021, 7:30 pm

Saturday, December 4, 2021, 2 pm

Gallo Center for the Arts, Mary Stuart Rogers Theater

Ryan Murray, *conductor*

Ali Ewoldt, *guest vocalist*

with performances by

Modesto Symphony Orchestra Chorus

Daniel R. Afonso Jr., *chorus director*

Roy Stevens, *narrator "The Night Before Christmas"*



Program

James M. Stephenson, III	<i>Holiday Overture</i>
arr. by Jim Kessler	<i>It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year</i>
arr. by James M. Stephenson, III	<i>I Saw Three Ships/Jeanette, Isabella</i>
arr. by Jim Kessler	<i>Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas</i>
Jerry Herman	<i>We Need A Little Christmas</i>
arr. by Jim Kessler	
Frederick Oakeley & John F. Wade	<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful</i>
arr. by Doug Andrews	
arr. by James M. Stephenson, III	<i>In the Bleak Midwinter</i>
Leroy Anderson	<i>Sleigh Ride</i>
Andrew Lloyd Webber & Charles Hart	<i>Think of Me</i>
- <i>Intermission</i> -	
arr. by James M. Stephenson, III	<i>A Charleston Christmas</i>
Paul O'Neill and Robert Kinkel	<i>Christmas Eve/Sarajevo 12/24</i>
arr. by Bob Phillips	
arr. by Jim Kessler	<i>Silent Night Medley</i>
Mel Torme & Robert Wells	<i>The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire)</i>
arr. by James M. Stephenson, III	
attributed to Mateo Flecha the Elder	<i>Riu, riu, chiu</i>
René Clausen	<i>There Is No Rose</i>
Randol Alan Bass	<i>The Night Before Christmas</i> narrated by Roy Stevens
arr. & orc. by David T. Clydesdale	<i>O Holy Night!</i>

The Doubletree by Hilton Modesto is the official hotel of the Modesto Symphony Orchestra.

MSO Chorus Video Credits

Video recording & production by

Omid Zoufonoun

Audio recording & post-production by

John Bogni

Photography, sound, or video recording of this performance is strictly prohibited. Please remember to silence all electronic devices and refrain from text messaging during the concert. Mobile devices may be used to read program notes during the concert.

Program and artists subject to change. E&OE.

Rosters

Orchestra Roster

Ryan Murray, Conductor

Violin I

Dagenais Smiley, *Concertmaster*
Elizabeth Rivard, *Associate Concertmaster*
Aya Kiyonaga, *Assistant Concertmaster*
Kirstan Hilton
Milka Kraleva-Castro
Elizabeth Kidwell
Trevor Thompson
Ray Reinebach

Violin II

George Hayes, *Principal*
Michael Nicholson, *Assistant Principal*
Donald Grishaw
Josephine Gray
Donna Harrison
Bogdana Mindov
Susan Doering
Julie Metz

Viola

Pauline Metzgar, *Principal*
Stephanie Railsback, *Assistant Principal*
James Een
Anne Martin
Alessandra Aquilanti
David Cann

Cello

Jonathan Flaksman, *Principal*
Robin Snyder, *Assistant Principal*
Hannah Harrington
Paul Hale
Krisanthy Desby

Double bass

Michel Taddei, *Principal*
Harrison Dearman, *Assistant Principal*
Sascha Jacobsen

Flute

Gail Edwards, *Principal*
Debra Dix
Elissa Brown

Oboe

Robert Walker, *Principal*
Trey Farrell
Kim Foskett, *English Horn*

Clarinet

Bruce Foster, *Principal*
Sarah Bonomo

Bassoon

Sebastian Chaves, *Principal*
Marko Bajzer

Horn

Melia Badalian, *Principal*
Nicky Roosevelt
Caitlyn Smith Franklin
Alicia Mastromonaco

Trumpet

Bill Harvey, *Principal*
Robert Giambruno
Ellie Fajer

Trombone

Sam Schlosser, *Principal*
Don Benham
Jason Borris

Tuba

Forrest Byram, *Principal*

Timpani

John Weeks, *Principal*

Percussion

Thomas Rance, *Principal*
Joseph Runnels
Kumiko Ito
David Gabrielson

Harp

Chloe Tula, *Principal*

Piano

John Hillebrandt, *Principal*

MSO Chorus Roster

Modesto Symphony Orchestra

Daniel R. Afonso Jr., Chorus Director

Lisa Battista, *accompanist*

Soprano

Julie Bartlett
Tiffany Baxter
Janet Betcher
Joan Corwin
Annette Dawson
Peggy Denny
Dee Ann Dutter
Meghan Fox
Christie Hart
Lisa Highiet
Donna Holloway
Kim Kunkel
Sarah Lindbergh-Lewis
Shelby Maderr
Cindi Martin
Karen Odell
Ranelle Prescott
Sheri Stambaugh *
Megawati Tanudjaja
Dawn Thomas
Sharon Wilson
Jasmine Woodall

Alto

Gail Bengé
Miriam Bermann
Reva Burchett
Sue Chaffee
Cheri Cole
Karen Lynne Freitas
Kelsey Freitas
Angelica Grishaw
April Hejka-Ekins
Jessica Lopez
Marissa Meredith
Joyce Palmaymesa
Lisa Rae
Lyn Raible
Karin Reenstierna *
Hanna Renning
Belinda Rolicheck
Rodabeh Samimi
Susan Sanders
Lisa Sarasqueta
Linda Scheller
Nancy Silva
Carla Strong
Loretta Sutherland
Lisa Traughber
Hennie Van Konynenburg
Polly Vasché

Modesto Symphony Orchestra

Gay Walker
Barbara Wesley

Tenor

Jim Beggs *
Michael Cash
Kwei-Cee Chu
Matthew Hanham
Steve Matthews
Bruce Merchant

Bass

Giancarlos Delgado-Braun
Rick Dewar
Larry Dorman
David Hosmer
Steve Klinkerman
Mike Larson
Carl Morris
Jonathan Pizzo
Dieter Renning
Kevin Ringsby
Phil Swearingen
Norman VanSpronsen *
Burt Vasché ^
Brent Wheeler

* *Section Leader*

^ *Chorus Manager*

Special thanks to Trinity United Presbyterian Church for providing rehearsal space for the MSO Chorus

Artist Biographies



Ryan Murray

MSO Associate Conductor

Ryan Murray is currently the Artistic Director and Conductor of Music in the Mountains and the Associate Conductor of the Modesto Symphony Orchestra. He is also the Director of Symphony Orchestra & Opera at California State University, Sacramento, and the Conductor for the Sacramento Youth Symphony's premier orchestra. An award-winning opera conductor, Ryan spent his early career working as an assistant conductor and répétiteur, and is currently the Music Director of Opera Modesto. He has served as assistant conductor for opera productions at the Sacramento Philharmonic and is the past Music Director of Fresno Grand Opera, and previously worked as a staff conductor for the Bay Area Summer Opera Theater Institute (BASOTI) and The Opera Academy of California in San Francisco. Effortlessly moving between genres, Ryan currently enjoys a wide range of performance genres & platforms, including traditional orchestral and operatic repertoire, pops performances, movies in concert, and a notable emphasis on contemporary American operatic works.

Ryan was recently awarded second place in the 2019 American Prize for Professional Orchestral Conducting for his work with the Modesto Symphony, and has garnered national recognition for his dynamic, compelling performances of contemporary opera as the winner of the 2017 American Prize in Opera Conducting for his highly lauded production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*. He was a 2016 semi-finalist for the Ernst Bacon Memorial Award for the Performance of American Music for his production of Jake Heggie's *Dead Man Walking*. Ryan is also a past winner of the Vienna Philharmonic's prestigious Ansbacher Fellowship for Young Conductors, and spent the summer in residence alongside the Vienna Philharmonic at the 2014 Salzburg Festival.

A charismatic pops conductor, Ryan has worked with prominent artists such as Storm Large of Pink Martini, SuperDiamond and the phenomenal symphonic tribute to David Bowie. He has led some of the top vocalists from Broadway and beyond, including Ben Crawford (Broadway's *The Phantom of the Opera*), Ashley Brown (Broadway's *Mary Poppins*), and Alli Mauzey (Glinda from *Wicked*), as well as some of today's top young jazz vocalists including Tony DeSare and James Tormé. With an enthusiasm for film scores, Ryan enjoys the unique challenges of conducting movies in concert and was recently added to the *Disney & ICM Approved Conductors list*. Recent and upcoming performances include Disney's *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*, Pixar Animation Studios' *Pixar in Concert* and *Star Wars: A New Hope*.

Ryan holds degrees, *summa cum laude*, in Bassoon Performance and Voice Performance from California State University,

Sacramento and also holds a master's degree in Music Business from the Berklee College of Music where he studied with industry professionals to develop tools for success in the modern music industry, including new technology, policy, law and finance. Driven by a lifelong passion for learning, Ryan has attended conducting masterclasses and seminars around the world. Ryan recently attended the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music's Conductors Workshop, and was one of just eight conductors worldwide to be invited to the *Musiikin aika* Summer Festival Masterclass in Finland led by Musical America's 2017 Conductor of the Year & Principal Guest Conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Susanna Mälkki. He also recently attended a contemporary music symposium led by Alan Gilbert featuring the New York Philharmonic. Past events include the Aurora Chamber Festival in Sweden, where he studied under Maestro Kurt Masur, the Lucerne Festival Academy's Conducting Masterclass in Switzerland, and the Eastman School of Music's Summer Conducting Institute. Widely praised for his tireless work ethic, natural poise, and impassioned, inspired performances, Ryan continues to connect deeply with orchestras and audiences alike, and has proven to be a formidable presence on the podium.



Daniel R. Afonso Jr.

Chorus Director

Daniel R. Afonso Jr. has served as conductor of the Modesto Symphony Orchestra Chorus since its foundation in 2001 and has prepared several choral works with the ensemble. He is also Coordinator of Vocal and Choral Studies at California State University, Stanislaus. Afonso received a B.M.E.

degree from the Universidade do Rio de Janeiro (UNI -Rio), a M.M. degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and a D.M.A. degree in Choral Conducting and Pedagogy from the University of Iowa. Dr. Afonso is originally from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and has studied conducting with Carlos Alberto Figueiredo, Cees Rotteveel, Eph Ehly, and William Hatcher.

Dr. Afonso has performed with choral groups in Brazil, U.S., and Europe, and has previously taught music at the Conservatório Brasileiro de Música, Universidade do Rio de Janeiro (UNI-Rio), and Doane College, Nebraska. In 1988, he won the first prize and the best performance of Villa-Lobos work award at the Concurso Villa-Lobos de Canto Coral, a national choral competition sponsored by the Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro. Dr. Afonso is strongly committed to the performance of new music and has commissioned and premiered many new choral works in the last few years, including several of his own works as well as works by young composition students. He had his New York debut in 2012, conducting Mozart's Requiem with members of the MSO Chorus and students from CSU Stanislaus at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

He is also a composer, arranger, and editor of choral music and has choral works published by earthsongs, Colla Voce, and Alliance Music Publications. He served as composer-in-residence with the San Francisco Choral Artists during their 2014-2015 season and has also written works for the Los Angeles Children's Choir, the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles, and other ensembles in the US and abroad. He has written innumerable arrangements for the Modesto Symphony Orchestra, including a new version of The Star-Spangled Banner for chorus and orchestra, recently premiered at the opening concert for the 2015-16 concert season. Dr. Afonso is widely recognized for his research and performance of Brazilian choral music and continues to frequently present workshops and lectures about the Latin American choral repertoire.



Ali Ewoldt

Guest Vocalist

Born outside Chicago and raised 45 minutes north of New York City in the small town of Pleasantville, Ali has loved performing for as long as she can remember. She made her Broadway debut as Cosette in the 1st Broadway Revival of *Les Miserables* and starred as Christine in *The Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway for over two years.

Ali has starred as Maria in the 1st National Tour of *West Side Story* directed by Arthur Laurents and David Saint and played Luisa in the *The Fantasticks* Off-Broadway, the world's longest running musical. She has been featured on *The Michael J. Fox Show*, the short film *Yield and DRAMA: The Webseries* and has performed at Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall and Town Hall, and across the country and world!

Ali also has a BA in Psychology from Yale University, which has proved surprisingly relevant to her career.



Roy Stevens

Narrator

Roy Stevens is a Modesto native and graduate of both Paradise Elementary School and Modesto High School. He has been the General Director of Opera Modesto since 2018. Since his professional debut in Italy in 1987, his career as an international opera singer has taken him around the world for starring engagements with leading opera companies and symphonies in over 20 countries, on 5 continents, and singing in 14 languages; from the national theaters of Albania, Guatemala, Colombia and Taiwan, to the Dallas Opera, Metropolitan Opera, Dresden Semperoper, Oper Frankfurt, Barcelona's Liceu, Teatro Nacional de São Carlos in Lisbon and Milano's famed Teatro Alla Scala.

Roy and his wife, Annalisa Winberg (Opera Modesto Artistic Director & international opera singer), are also very proud of their work as inspirational performing arts/opera-based educators through their AmazingVox School Residencies. They have had the privilege to touch the educational lives of 500,000+ young Americans in California and across the country. These experiences have profoundly impacted the way they work with Central Valley youth and young artists through the training, educational and nationally unique literacy programs of Opera Modesto.

Roy's international operatic career has been very unusual, performing roles in nearly every male vocal category (except true Bass and Counter Tenor); Basso Buffo, Bass-Baritone, Heldenbaritone, Verdi Baritone, Heldentenor, Lyric Tenor, and Musical Theater/Pop Style Baritone & Tenor. He considers this to be fun!

In 1995, Annalisa and Roy were the featured soloists in a wonderful Modesto Symphony Orchestra & Chorus concert of opera highlights. Roy is delighted to return to MSO as Narrator, just a few years later. This occasion should also mark, for the public, the genuine atmosphere of friendly collaboration that currently exists between Central Valley arts organizations...something to be truly treasured!

Program Notes

Riu Riu Chiu

Lyric Translation

Refrain:

Riu, riu, chiu
la guarda ribera /
Dios guardó el lobo
de nuestra cordera /
Dios guardó el lobo
de nuestra cordera.

Riu, riu, chiu
the river bank protects it /
God kept our lamb (Our Lady)
from the wolf (the Devil) /
God kept our lamb (Our Lady)
From the wolf.

Verses:

El lobo rabioso
la quiso morder /
Mas Dios Poderoso
la supo defender /
Quizo la hacer que
no pudiese pecar /
Ni aun original
esta virgen no tuviera.

The rabid wolf
wanted to bite her /
But Almighty God knew
how to defend her /
He decided to make Her
impervious to sin /
Even original sin
this Virgin did not have.

Riu, riu, chiu...

Riu, riu, chiu

Este que es nascido
es El Gran Monarca /
Cristo Patriarca
de carne vestido /
Ha nos redimido
con se hacer chiquito /
Aunque era infinito
finito se hiciera.

This One who is born
is the Grand Monarch
The Patriarch Christ
dressed in human flesh/
He has redeemed us
by making Himself small /
Although He is infinite
He made Himself finite.

Riu, riu, chiu ...

Riu, riu, chiu



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