

Notice: Dec. 2 - Downtown Parade Street Closures

The annual **Celebration of Lights** holiday parade will take place Saturday, December 2 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

For more information about this event visit:
<https://www.modestogov.com/553/Holiday-Parade>

Holiday Pops!

Dec. 1 & 2, 2023 / Celebrate the Holidays with the MSO!

About the Show

Modesto Symphony Orchestra Association

Holiday Pops!

Friday, December 1, 2023, 7:30 pm
 Saturday, December 2, 2023, 2 pm
 Gallo Center for the Arts, Mary Stuart Rogers Theater

Ryan Murray, *conductor*
Ashley Brown, *guest vocalist*
Modesto Symphony Orchestra Chorus
Daniel R. Afonso Jr., *chorus director*

Program

Stephenson

Holiday Overture

arr. Forrest

O Come All Ye Faithful

Kessler

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year





MODESTO
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA
WALTER REINEKE
—Music Director—



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Niles
arr. Kessler

I Wonder as I Wander

Bernard
arr. Berens

Winter Wonderland

Heusen & Cahn
arr. A. Mann

The Secret of Christmas

Stephenson

Charleston Christmas

Various Composers
arr. Reineke, Shoup

Holiday Hits Medley

- *Intermission* -

arr. Bradford

Sing We Now of Christmas

arr. Reineke

Sing A Long

Gannon & Kent
arr. Reineke

I'll Be Home For Christmas

arr. Stephenson

Jingle Bell Rock

Horner
arr. by Reineke

***Christmas, Why Can't I Find
You***



MODesto
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA
NICHOLAS BRAGA
—Music Director—

Anderson

Sleigh Ride

Traditional Arrangement
arr. Lai, Shirar

Jingle, Jingle Bells

Clydesdale

O Holy Night!



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MODESTO
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA
MODesto, CALIFORNIA
—WEST BAY AREA—

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

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

Ilana Blumberg, *concertmaster*
Robin Hansen, *associate concertmaster*
Tammie Dyer, *assistant concertmaster*
Kirstan Hilton
Milka Krалеva-Castro
Matthew Oshida
Alex Gavriilidis-Petrin
Katherine Allen

Violin II

Myriam Cottin-Rack, *principal*
Sarah Elert, *assistant principal*
Paul Kim
Juan Carlos-Guitierrez
Donald Grishaw
Donna Harrison
Bogdana Mindov
Ray Reinebach

Viola

Caroline Lee, *principal*
Pauline Metzger, *assistant principal*
Anne Martin
Ed Wharton
Lisa Ponton



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Thomas Elliott

Cello

Jonathan Flaksman, *principal*
Andres Vera, *assistant principal*
Daniel Davies
Hannah Harrington
Isaac Pastor-Chermak

Double bass

Michael Taddei, *principal*
Richard Worn, *assistant principal*
Michael Minor

Flute

Carmen Lemoine, *principal*
Debra Dix
Gail Edwards, *piccolo*

Oboe

Laura Griffiths, *principal*
James Moore, *english horn*

Clarinet

Rebecca Tobin, *principal*
Bruce Foster

Bassoon

Jamael Smith, *principal*
Anne Ranzani

Horn

Thea Humphries, *principal*
Sarah Ference
Katie Dennis
William Harrington

Trumpet

Bryce Schmidt, *principal*
Nathan Johnson
Alia Kuhnert

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MICHIGAN
—WEST BETHLEHEM—



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Trombone

Katie Curran, *principal*
Liam Wilt
Todd Eames

Tuba

Forrest Byram, *principal*

Timpani

John Weeks, *principal*

Percussion

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

Harp

Chloe Tula, *principal*

Piano

John Hillebrandt, *principal*

Electric Guitar

Timothy Roberts, *principal*

Roster as of 11/28/2023

MSO Chorus Roster

Daniel R. Afonso Jr., Chorus Director

Soprano

Samantha Alipio
Alondra Arvizu
Sarah Beekman
Janet Betcher
Amy Bloomgarden
Michelle Cortez
Joan Corwin
Annette Dawson



MODESTO
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MUSIC FOR ALL
—WILLI BRIDGES—



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Margaret Denny
Dee Ann Dutter
Meghan Fox
Kathryn Galicia
Sarah Harrell-Kline
Christie Hart
Lisa Highiet
Donna Holloway
Nicole Ibrahim
Dasia Intil
Tracy Kempf
Linda Knoll
Kim Kunkel
Marian MacDonald
Lauren Moraca
Karen Odell
Lizzie Sanders
Kathryn Sargent
Alice Schemmel
Sheri Stambaugh*
Dawn Thomas
Alexandra Tisdell
Jennifer Ward
Alejandra Wheeler
Sharon Wilson

Alto

Gail Bengé
Miriam Bermann
Reva Burchett
Karen Lynne Freitas
Gabriella Germann
Angelica Grishaw
April Hejka-Ekins
Kali Linn
Rebecca Long
Jessica Lopez
Lisa Rae
Rita Rancaño
Karin Reenstierna*
Belinda Rolichcheck
Roodabeh Samimi
Susan Sanders
Lisa Sarasqueta
Linda Scheller
Nancy Silva
Carla Strong
Loretta Sutherland
Linda Swartz



Lisa Traugher
Hennie Van Konynenberg
Polly Vasché
Gay Walker
Barbara Wesley

Tenor

Jim Beggs*
Michael Cash
Luis Gonzalez
Matthew Hanham
James Jacobs
Matthew Long
Steve Matthews
Bruce Merchant
Marco Mitchell
Gregory Pyatt
Marcial Salvador
David Torres

Bass

John Boer
Geoffrey Cavazos
Giancarlo Delgado-Braun
Larry Dorman
David Hosmer
John Jedrzynski
Randy Klinkefus
Mike Larson
Carl Morris
Jonathan Pizzo
Dieter Renning
Kevin Ringsby
Phil Swearingen
Norman VanSpronsen*
Burt Vasché^

* *Section Leader*

^ *Chorus Manager*

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

Artist Biographies



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Ryan Murray

Principal Pops Conductor

American conductor **Ryan Murray** has found steady acclaim as a compelling, dynamic and unflappable presence on the podium. Ryan is currently Principal Pops Conductor for the Modesto Symphony, Music Director of the Auburn Symphony, and Artistic Director of Music in the Mountains. 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 an assistant conductor at the Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera, 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 the 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. Ryan was also 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*.

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 was recently engaged to step-in at the last minute as assistant and cover conductor for Andrea Bocelli's *Believe Tour* with the Sacramento Philharmonic where he conducted rehearsals to acclaim. He has led some of the top vocalists from Broadway



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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*, *Star Wars: A New Hope* and *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back*.

Ryan holds degrees, *summa cum laude*, in Bassoon Performance and Voice Performance from California State University, Sacramento and also holds a master's degree, *with distinction*, 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. Ryan has a strong commitment to education and currently serves as the Director of Symphony Orchestra & Opera at California State University, Sacramento, and as the conductor for the Sacramento Youth Symphony's premier orchestra. Driven by a lifelong passion for learning, Ryan has attended conducting masterclasses and seminars around the world. Ryan recently conducted the Romanian Chamber Orchestra in concert and was one of just eight conductors worldwide to be invited to the *Musiikin aika* Summer Festival Masterclass in Finland led by Susanna Mälkki. He has previously attended the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music's Conductors Workshop; the contemporary music symposium led by Alan Gilbert featuring the New York Philharmonic; 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.



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Ashley Brown

guest vocalist



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Ashley Brown originated the title role in “Mary Poppins” on Broadway for which she received Outer Critics, Drama League and Drama Desk nominations for Best Actress. Ms. Brown also starred as Mary Poppins in the national tour of Mary Poppins where she garnered a 2010 Garland award for “Best Performance in a Musical”. Ms. Brown’s other Broadway credits include Belle in “The Beauty and The Beast”, and she has starred in the national tour of Disney’s “On The Record”. Ashley recently returned to the Lyric Opera of Chicago to star in the role of Laurey in “Oklahoma”. She previously played Magnolia opposite Nathan Gunn in Francesca Zembello’s “Showboat” at the Lyric Opera of Chicago.

Ashley has performed with virtually all of the top orchestras in North America including the Boston Pops, the New York Philharmonic, The Hollywood Bowl Orchestra at Disney Hall, The Pittsburgh Symphony, the New York Pops at Carnegie Hall (three times), Fort Worth Symphony, the Cincinnati Pops, Philadelphia Orchestra (two times), the Milwaukee Symphony, the Indianapolis Symphony (three times), Seattle Symphony, the Houston Symphony, Vancouver Symphony, and the Philly Pops. She has also performed with the BBC orchestra opposite Josh Groban.

Ashley made her solo concert debut at The Kennedy Center as part of Barbara Cook’s Spotlight Series, and has appeared in New York City at prestigious venues including Feinstein’s at the Regency and Birdland. Other projects include a star turn at the La Jolla Playhouse in a production of “Limelight”, “Sound of Music” at the St. Louis MUNY which garnered her a Kevin Kline award, and her own PBS special called “Ashley Brown: Call Me Irresponsible” which received a PBS Telly Award. Ms. Brown’s long awaited album of Broadway and American Songbook standards is available on Ghostlight/Sony. Ashley is a graduate of the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music.



MODESTO
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ORCHESTRA
—1854—



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

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MUSIC DIRECTOR
DANIEL R. AFONSO JR.

choral music and continues to frequently present workshops and lectures about the Latin American choral repertoire.



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MSO Chorus

Formed in 2001, the Modesto Symphony Chorus is a regional ensemble of singers of all ages and experience who share a commitment to performing concerts of the highest artistic quality and enhancing the appreciation and enjoyment of choral music among members and audiences alike. Under the skillful and inspiring direction of Dr. Daniel R. Afonso Jr., the MSO Chorus rehearses weekly and performs throughout the season with the Modesto Symphony Orchestra and also for additional community events.

Celebrating Support

Thank You

The Modesto Symphony Orchestra gratefully acknowledges the following sponsor for supporting Friday, December 1st's post-concert donor reception

**Kelly McMurray
Morgan Stanley**

Celebrating Support for the Modesto Symphony Orchestra

The MSO acknowledges with gratitude the following donors and sponsors whose generosity allows the orchestra to reach new heights in music and education. With your continued support, we are making a difference together and enriching the lives of our community, one note at a time.

[For a full listing of donors & sponsors, click here.](#)

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Presenting Sponsor



MODESTO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
NICHOLAS BERSA
—Music Director—



BEARD

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NICHOLAS BERSA
—Music Director—

Holiday
CANDLELIGHT
C O N C E R T

December 19 • 8 pm
OUR LADY OF FATIMA CHURCH

TICKETS START AT \$39
YOUTH & GROUP PRICING AVAILABLE
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Administration & Board

Artistic Team



MODESTO
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA
NICHOLAS HERSH
— MUSIC DIRECTOR —



Nicholas Hersh

Music Director

American conductor Nicholas Hersh has earned critical acclaim for his innovative programming and natural ability to connect with musicians and audiences alike.

In the 2023-24 season, Hersh returns to the National, Houston, Baltimore, Colorado, and New Jersey Symphonies, while making debuts with the Springfield Symphony and Wintergreen Festival. Recent include engagements with the Detroit, Grand Rapids, New World, North Carolina, Phoenix, Portland (ME), Richmond, Tucson, Utah, and Winston-Salem symphony orchestras, Louisiana and Rochester Philharmonics, and the Florida and Sarasota Orchestras.

Over a remarkable tenure as Associate Conductor of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Hersh created the BSO Pulse series, through which he brought together indie bands and orchestral musicians in unique collaborations; he led the BSO in several subscription weeks, and concerts in and around Baltimore; and he directed the BSO's educational and family programming, including the celebrated Academy for adult amateur musicians. Hersh also maintains a close relationship with the National Symphony Orchestra, leading concerts throughout Washington, D.C. He stepped in to replace an indisposed Yan Pascal Tortelier, on subscription, to great acclaim.

Hersh is frequently in demand as an arranger and orchestrator, with commissions from orchestras around the globe for adaptations of everything from classical solo and chamber music to popular songs. His orchestration of Beethoven's Cello Sonata Op. 69 was premiered by the Philharmonie Zuidnederland in January 2022, while his symphonic arrangement of Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody continues to see worldwide success as a viral YouTube hit. He also serves as arranger and editor for the James P. Johnson Orchestra Edition.

Hersh grew up in Evanston, Illinois and started his musical training as a cellist. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Music from Stanford University and a Master's Degree in Conducting from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. Hersh is also a two-time recipient of the Solti Foundation Career Assistance Award. Nicholas lives in Philadelphia with his wife



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Caitlin and their two cats, and in his free time enjoys baking (and eating) sourdough bread.



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Elisha Wells

MSYO Symphony Orchestra Conductor

Elisha K. Wells is the Director of Band, Brass and Orchestra at Fresno City College. Prior to serving at FCC, Elisha was Horn Instructor and Lecturer at Sacramento State, Stanislaus State, Delta College, College of Sequoias (Visalia & Hanford), Conductor of the Visalia Opera Company, and was Horn Faculty at Cazadero Music Camp (2015-2019). Ms. Wells currently plays Principal Horn in Sequoia Symphony, Wind Symphony of Clovis, and regularly performs as Acting Principal with the Fresno Philharmonic Orchestra. Elisha studied at Chapman University in Orange, CA and University of Houston in Houston, TX briefly. However, her formal studies include a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts with an emphasis in Horn Performance from California State University, Fresno (2009).

Her conducting career began in 2012 with Engelbert Humperdinck's *Hansel und Gretel*, Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Bizet's *Carmen*, and an original Mariachi Opera with Visalia Opera Company. In the summer of 2014, she conducted a professionally-cast production of *Les Miserable* with the League of Christian Actors in Visalia, CA. Beginning in 2015, Ms. Wells has been invited to adjudicate and guest conduct around the state. She has served as the Guest Conductor for FMCMEA (Fresno-Madera), TKMEA (Tulare/Kings), SCMEA (Stanislaus), and Sonoma County (Capitol Section CMEA) Junior High and High School Honor Ensembles. In Summer 2022, Elisha was invited to Guest Conduct the Sutherland Winds and perform as a Horn Soloist for the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE) Conference in Prague, Czech Republic.



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Elisha has been an active horn soloist and freelance artist for over 20 years. Earlier in her career, Elisha performed as a horn soloist and dancer in the Tony Award-winning Broadway show, "Blast!", traveling around the United States and performing in large venues for 2 years. She also competed with a group called The Edge for the nationally televised show called America's Got Talent in New York. Ms. Wells has performed throughout California and Nevada, Walt Disney World in Florida, Australia, Germany, Austria, and the Czech Republic. Ms Wells readily performs solos throughout the west coast with groups including Sequoia Symphony, Kingsburg Community Band, Stanislaus Community Band, and the Wind Symphony of Clovis. Additionally, she has played in accompanying orchestras for world-renown artists such as Natalie Cole, Johnny Mathis, Renée Fleming, Andrea Bocelli, Jackie Evancho, Branford Marsalis, Juan Diego Florez, Sarah Chang, Jon Nakamatsu, Airborne Toxic Event, and Mannheim Steamroller. Ms. Wells is also a noted Artist and Endorser of Robinson's Remedies-Lip Renew.

Elisha is an active faculty member at Fresno City College, and is a patron, supporter, educator and adjudicator within California's music community. She is currently the President of CMEA Central Section, Past President of Friends of the Arts at FCC, and serves on the Sequoia Symphony Board. Elisha regularly adjudicates Solo and Ensemble festivals regionally and state-wide, All-State & Regional Honor Band auditions, and presents clinics on Best Practices for Horn Players and Teaching Horn for Ensemble Directors. She also is a current member of the Local 12 Musicians Union, NAFME, CBDNA, and the International Horn Society. Ms. Wells has been a presenter at the California All-State Conference (CASMEC) and will be returning in 2024 as the Guest Conductor for the Reading Band Session, as well as presenting in a collaborative discussion with Choral Music Education colleagues.

Elisha has maintained an active teaching studio called the Happy Horn Studio for over 15 years. She teaches horn students from Visalia, Fresno, Clovis, Modesto, Sacramento, and coastal areas. Her students achieve All-State and Regional Honor Band chairs each year and have been awarded full scholarships to the Kendall-Betts Horn Camp, Cazadero Music Camp, Sequoia Lake Music Camp, National Symphony Youth Fellowships, Interlochen Summer Institutes, Tanglewood Horn NAFME All-National Honor Ensembles, and local citizenship awards for contribution to the arts.

Ms. Wells feels fortunate to have studied with world-class hornists such as Brian Drake (LA Phil), Nancy Goodearl (Houston Symphony), Dr. Tom Hiebert (Fresno State), David Krehbiel (San Francisco Symphony), and conductors such as Dr. Larry Sutherland.



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Don Grishaw

MSYO Concert Orchestra Conductor

Donald Grishaw began piano and violin lessons at an early age. His interest in music flourished throughout his high school years. He attended San Jose State University, graduating in 1979 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Performance in violin and piano and a minor in Spanish. While attending SJSU, he studied the violin with the late Dr. Lauren Jakey and also with Daniel Kobialka of the San Francisco Symphony. Upon graduation, Mr. Grishaw pursued Single Subject and Multiple Subject teaching credentials and taught in the Turlock Unified School District for 37 years. He recently retired from Pitman High School where he taught Concert Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra as well as Spanish 2 and AP Spanish Literature. With the opening of Pitman High School in 2002, Mr. Grishaw founded the Pitman High School Orchestra which now includes over 80 students, and has received accolades both locally and in Southern California where they continue to perform each year while on tour.

Mr. Grishaw performs regularly throughout the surrounding communities on the violin, the viola, and the piano. He is a longstanding member of the violin section of the Modesto Symphony Orchestra and also freelances with other local orchestras and string quartets. Mr. Grishaw and his wife, Angelica, play regularly for Sunday Masses, quinceañeras, and weddings at Sacred Heart Church in Turlock. Mr. Grishaw joined the Modesto Symphony Youth Orchestra faculty in 2014. Under Mr. Grishaw's direction the Concert Orchestra Division has continued to expand and prepare additional young string, wind, brass, and percussion musicians for the Modesto Symphony Youth Orchestra Symphony Orchestra Division. Mr. Grishaw is an active member of A.S.T.A. (American String Teachers Association) and A.F.M. (American Federation of Musicians).



Ella Webb

MSYO Woodwind & Brass Ensemble Coach

Ms. Webb graduated from the University of the Pacific where she received a Bachelor of Music in Music Education with a minor in French horn performance.

She recently retired from the Hughson Unified School District where she worked for forty years. Her duties there included instrumental (concert and jazz bands) at Fox Road Elementary, Emilie Ross Middle School, and Hughson High School. She was named Hughson's Teacher of the Year Award in 2003-2004 and received the School Bell Award in 2010. In 2015 Mrs. Webb was named one of 23 California Music Educator's Association State Music Mentors.

In 1994 she began Summer Music at Stanislaus, the music camp at CSU Stanislaus for band, choral, orchestra, and piano students in the 6th through 12th grades. She was camp director until 2002.

She has worked for YES (Youth Entertainment Stage) Company as the orchestra conductor for the past fourteen years.

Ms. Webb has also conducted many honor bands including Madera, Novato, Tuolumne County, San Rafael, Merced, Santa Rosa, Sacramento, and California Music Educator's Association Bay Section. She has served on the boards of California Band Director's Association, California Music Educator's Association, and the Stanislaus County Music Educator's Association.

In 2016 she received the Stanislaus County Music Educator's Association Distinguished Service Award and the California Music Educator's Association Lifetime Achievement Award.

Her professional organizations include California Teacher's Association, California Music Educator's Association, National Association for Music Education, Stanislaus County Music Educator's Association, and California Alliance for Jazz.



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Joel Maki

MSYO Percussion Coach

Joel Maki is a skilled percussion coach who is passionate about helping young musicians develop their talents. With years of experience teaching and performing, Joel brings a wealth of knowledge to his work with MSYO. In addition to his role as percussion coach for MSYO, Joel also teaches music for Modesto City Schools. He holds a BM with an emphasis in Jazz Studies from CSU Stanislaus, where he specialized in percussion. As a performer, Joel has played in various settings, including as a pit musician for YES Company. He is also an avid reader of sci-fi and fantasy novels and has a keen interest in history and natural sciences. In his free time, he enjoys playing golf, hockey, and baseball. Joel's expertise in both music performance and education, combined with his passion for teaching and performing, make him an excellent mentor for young musicians in the MSYO program.

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About the MSO

History



MODESTO
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ORCHESTRA
MUSIC. PEOPLE.
COMMUNITY.



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The Modesto Symphony Orchestra (MSO) was founded in 1931 by Frank Mancini, Malin Langstroth, and Leonard Fristrom, who worked with local leaders to establish a musical and cultural focal point. In its early years, the MSO featured its members as soloists and performed concerts in churches, high schools, and colleges. As the orchestra matured, professional soloists and community choruses performed with the MSO. The 1970's through 1990's were a period of transition as the MSO became a fully professional orchestra in 1977. New innovations developed, such as pops concerts, the formation of the Modesto Symphony Youth Orchestra in 1976, and the first Picnic at the Pops in 1994. The 21st century marked further growth with the formation of the Modesto Symphony Orchestra Chorus in 2001, becoming a resident company of the Gallo Center for the Arts when their doors opened in 2007, and the creation of the Modesto Symphony Youth Chorus in 2017.

Each season, the MSO performs five classics concerts and three pops concerts at the Gallo Center for the Arts and produces two community favorites, Picnic at the Pops at the E. & J. Gallo Winery and the Holiday Candlelight Concert at St. Stanislaus Catholic Church. Through its education and outreach programs, the MSO is able to reach over 15,000 students each year by working closely with local schools and providing free or low-cost opportunities to experience classical music.

Today, the Modesto Symphony continues to strive to enrich and enhance the community by bringing music of the highest artistic caliber and fostering lifelong music education and



appreciation. The 2021-22 season marks the Symphony's 91st season and will showcase our Music Director candidates.

Mission & Values

Vision

The Modesto Symphony Orchestra strives to enrich lives and enhance our community's vitality and quality of life through music.

Mission

We shall pursue this vision by producing and presenting music of the highest artistic caliber and fostering lifelong music education and appreciation.

Values

In pursuit of this vision the Modesto Symphony Orchestra Association shall be guided by these values.

Creativity

Foster an environment conducive to innovation in the type, format and venue of musical performance and to the administration and governance of MSO.

Excellence

Expect high levels of performance both on-stage and in MSO's administration and governance.

Integrity

Be honest and expect a foundation of strong moral principles behind all actions.

Collaboration

Look for opportunities to work with others on shared goals.

Welcoming

Strive to meet the needs and desires of all segments of the community through music performance and education.



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MODESTO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
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Celebrating Support

Thank You

The MSO acknowledges with gratitude the following donors and sponsors whose generosity allows the orchestra to reach new heights in music and education. With your continued support, we are making a difference together and enriching the lives of our community, one note at a time.

For our full listing and more information about how you can give the gift of music to our community visit www.modestosymphony.org/support.

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Modesto Symphony Orchestra Annual Fund

Conductor's Circle

Conductor's Circle

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\$25,000+

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Musician's Club

Musicians Club

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Estate of Alicia Aywas



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Estate of Jack & Ann Green, *Endowment Fund*

Estate of Jean Jepson

Estate of Lois Mayol

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The MSO salutes our 2023-2024 Season Corporate Partners whose generosity allows the orchestra to reach new heights in music and education. With the continued support of the sponsors below we are making a difference together and enriching the lives of our community, one note at a time.

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Eleanor Currie
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Gordon Headrick
Ed Howard
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Grace Lieberman
Heidi Lofgren
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Robert L. Rider



**Margaret Scheuber
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Maryann Victorine
Penny White**

MSO Chorus

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Norm Porges
Carole Boyett

Ruth & Dale Smith
Mary Partheymuller

Our 2023-2024 Season

Our 2023-2024 Season Concerts

[Picnic at the Pops! Aretha: A Tribute](#)

September 9, 2023

E. & J. Gallo Winery Grounds

[Tchaikovsky & Copland](#)

October 13 & 14, 2023

[Tim Burton's Nightmare Before Christmas in Concert Live to Film](#)

November 3 & 4, 2023

[Holiday Pops!](#)

December 1 & 2, 2023

[Holiday Candlelight Concert](#)

December 2023

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—WISSE PRELUDIA—



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[Gershwin's An American in Paris](#)

February 9 & 10, 2024

[Symphonic Soundtrack](#)

March 15 & 16, 2024

[Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto](#)

April 12 & 13, 2024

[Beethoven's Symphony No. 9](#)

May 10 & 11, 2024

[Star Wars: Return of the Jedi in Concert](#)

May 31 & June 1, 2024

2023-2024 MSYO Concerts

[MSYO Season Opening Concert](#)

November 4, 2023 at 7:30pm

[MSYO Spring Concert](#)

February 10, 2024 at 2 pm

[MSYO Season Finale Concert](#)

May 11, 2024 at 2 pm

*All MSYO concerts will be in the Mary Stuart Rogers Theater at
the Gallo Center for the Arts.*