



Embargoed until February 5, 2023 at 10AM PST

San Diego Symphony Announces 2023-24 Inaugural Season in Newly Renovated Jacobs Music Center

Music Director Rafael Payare to lead ten programs, including World Premieres by Texu Kim, Carlos Simon, and Vladimir Tarnopolsky as well as West Coast premieres by Billy Childs, Mason Bates, and Gabriela Ortiz

Conductors making their San Diego Symphony debut include Paolo Bortolameolli, Tianyi Lu, Otto Tausk and Michael Tilson Thomas

Guest Artists include Jeremy Denk, Pacho Flores, Augustin Hadelich, Stephen Hough, Lang Lang, Jan Lisiecki, Daniel Lozakovich, Yo-Yo Ma, Angela Meade, Gil Shaham, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, and more

New Currents Series will illuminate urgent civic and social issues of our time, featuring contemporary music, living composers, and interdisciplinary collaborations

www.JacobsMusicCenter.org

San Diego, CA (February 5, 2023) – The San Diego Symphony today announced the wide-ranging programs of its **2023-24 Jacobs Music Center season** that will introduce audiences to the organization’s renovated and revitalized indoor home, Copley Symphony Hall at Jacobs Music Center, **beginning November 4, 2023**. Performances of the works of more than 35 composers, spanning symphonic eras and repertoire and representing 250 years of music, will showcase the Orchestra’s versatility and virtuosity while bringing to life the enhanced acoustics and capabilities of the hall following a **\$125 million renovation** and restoration. Highlights of the season will include **Mahler’s Symphony No. 2 “Resurrection”** with the California Festival Chorus, featuring voices from some of the best choruses in the state, and soloists Angela Meade and Anna Larsson; ***The Ring Without Words***, a symphonic journey through Richard Wagner’s Ring cycle, conducted by Music Director Rafael Payare as an homage to his mentor, Lorin Maazel; excerpts from **Prokofiev’s beloved *Romeo and Juliet***; World Premieres by Texu Kim, Carlos Simon, and Vladimir Tarnopolsky; and the West Coast Premieres of works by Mason Bates, Gabriela Ortiz and Billy Childs.

“We have much to celebrate here in San Diego,” said **Music Director Rafael Payare**, “and an abundance of exciting programs with which to welcome everyone back to Jacobs Music Center. Audiences will discover a new concert experience and hear the phenomenal musicians of the San Diego Symphony Orchestra as never before. At last, the Orchestra will have an indoor home to match its artistry and the enthusiasm of its public.”

The **opening night concert on November 4** will feature **Rafael Payare** leading the Orchestra in the **World Premiere** of a fanfare for Jacobs Music Center commissioned from Korean-born American composer **Texu Kim**, Richard Strauss' *Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks*, and the West Coast Premiere of a new **saxophone concerto by Billy Childs** featuring soloist Steven Banks. Childs, known for his work as a GRAMMY® nominated jazz musician and composer, is considered one of the most relevant American composers of today. Also, this marks soloist Steven Banks' first performance with the San Diego Symphony. Rounding out this festive opening night will be **Mozart's *Exsultate, jubilate***, with soprano Liv Redpath and Debussy's *La mer*.

Additionally, **as part of its opening festivities** the organization will host its first Family Concert of the year on November 5, as well as **free activities and performances throughout the week for San Diegans to enjoy the new performance hall, lobbies, and activity spaces**. Details on the week of free programming will be available on the Symphony's Jacobs Music Center website in the coming months.

"It is a **once in a lifetime chance** to reopen a historic building," said **Martha Gilmer, CEO** of the San Diego Symphony. "The idea of renewal, renovation, and indeed resurrection are themes for the entire year, and therefore it is only fitting that our first few weeks of the season begin with works like Mahler's 2nd Symphony. This work, also known as his 'Resurrection' symphony, exhibits extremes of emotion, brilliant orchestration, glorious solo voices and chorus, and one of the most exquisite and joyful endings of any work of music." Gilmer continued, "upon our return it will have been over **40 months since we have joined together in our beloved Jacobs Music Center**, and we cannot wait to welcome our audience home, and to welcome new friends who are experiencing it for the very first time."

A Revitalized Copley Symphony Hall at Jacobs Music Center

In anticipation of the 2023-24 season, the San Diego Symphony is continuing to make rapid progress on the \$125 million revitalization of its historic home at Jacobs Music Center, which **began in early 2022**. The project will greatly enhance the musical and performance experience for artists and audiences alike while honoring the legacy of the nearly **100-year-old Fox Theatre**. Elements of the renovation designed to elevate the hall's acoustics include a **custom-designed permanent orchestra enclosure, a tunable acoustic canopy, and the reconfiguration of both the stage and the audience seating, with the addition of a choral terrace behind the orchestra and a completely reshaped main seating level**. The hall features new seating and finishes; restored architectural details; modernized lighting, sound, and video equipment; updated and expanded support spaces for musicians; and enhanced audience amenities. The project was designed by architectural firm HGA in collaboration with acoustician Paul Scarbrough of Akustiks and theater planner Schuler Shook. Major upgrades to the main mechanical systems of Jacobs Music Center have already been completed, which not only significantly enhance the comfort within the hall, but also contributes to the hall's acoustic quality, and allows valuable space to be reprioritized for Symphony program uses. The

revitalized hall will be inaugurated just two years after the San Diego Symphony opened its new waterfront home, The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park.

Highlights of the 2023-24 Jacobs Music Center Season

In addition to the opening night program, the inaugural season will feature **18 programs** curated to showcase the orchestra and a variety of esteemed guest artists, musical perspectives, and experiences.

When the Orchestra opens the renovated Jacobs Music Center, the first two programs will be part of the new **California Festival project**, in which musical organizations throughout the state will perform the most innovative and compelling music composed around the world in the last five years. Music Directors Rafael Payare, Gustavo Dudamel and Esa-Pekka Salonen along with the San Diego Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic and San Francisco Symphony as organizing partner orchestras will join efforts for this **massive state-wide collaboration**. The San Diego Symphony's California Festival concerts include a new work by the Ukrainian-Jewish composer Vladimir Tarnopolsky, performed alongside Stravinsky's iconic *Rite of Spring*, and the Jacobs Music Center premiere of Carlos Simon's new work.

Key elements of the revitalized Jacobs Music Center to be prominently showcased in the 2023-24 season include the **Choral Terrace**, to be used in the Orchestra's first performance in more than 10 years of **Mahler's Symphony No. 2 "Resurrection."** The Choral Terrace serves as one of the most visually striking additions to the new hall and will not only be used for musical purposes, but also as extra seating for audiences at select concerts. Additionally, the **organ** has been refurbished as a part of the renovation and will be the centerpiece of the **Saint-Saëns Symphony No. 3**.

Lorin Maazel's unique synthesis of orchestral music from Wagner's Ring cycle promises to be another highlight of the season. Beginning with the first note of *Das Rheingold* and finishing with the last chord of *Götterdämmerung*, **Ring without Words** is a thrilling symphonic journey conveying the breadth and scope of Wagner's monumental four-opera cycle. The piece resonates deeply for **Music Director Rafael Payare**, who said "**Maestro Maazel** was one of my greatest **mentors** and I'm thrilled to conduct his brilliant arrangement *The Ring Without Words* in the new Jacobs Music Center. This piece is a reinvention of a great work of art, just like what we are doing here at our new hall."

Throughout the season, San Diego Symphony will welcome an outstanding lineup of **guest conductors**, including the inimitable Michael Tilson Thomas, who will make his San Diego Symphony conducting debut, Principal Guest Conductor Edo de Waart, Paolo Bortolameolli, Tianyi Lu, Ludovic Morlot, Otto Tausk, and Joshua Weilerstein. **Soloists** appearing with the Orchestra include violinists Augustin Hadelich, Daniel Lozakovich, and Gil Shaham; cellist Yo-Yo Ma; pianists Jeremy Denk, Stephen Hough, Lang Lang, Jan Lisiecki, and Jean-Yves Thibaudet; vocalists Dashon Burton, Anna Larsson, Angela Meade, and Liv Redpath; and Steven Banks, Saxophone; and Pacho Flores, trumpet.

As part of its yearly programming the Symphony is also proud to showcase **three of the orchestra's musicians in solo performances**. Concertmaster Jeff Thayer and Principal Oboe Sarah Skuster will be featured on Bach's virtuosic Double Concerto for Oboe and Violin, and Andrea Overturf will perform Rorem's Concerto for English Horn.

Within this inaugural season, the Symphony will introduce a **contemporary classical series** called **Currents**. This new artistic addition underlines San Diego Symphony's commitment to **innovative programming** and will use the power of music to **illuminate stories of our world**, now. In this first year, each interdisciplinary concert is exploring identity – the search for it, the celebration of it, the ways we fight for it, and the courage sometimes needed to express it. Artists featured across this series include GRAMMY® nominated cellist Seth Parker Woods, innovative dancer and choreographer Roderick George, Iranian-American composer Gity Razaz, rising star composer Nicolas Lell Benavides, librettist Marella Martin Koch, San Diego Symphony Orchestra musicians, and more.

Family Concerts, Broadway, Jazz and more!

In its return to Jacobs Music Center, the Symphony is pleased to reintroduce its indoor Broadway @ the Jacobs, Jazz @ the Jacobs and Family Concert series. **Jazz @ the Jacobs** will include three thrilling concerts: A Tribute to Ella, Billie, and Sarah (Nov 25), Miles Davis: *Kind of Blue* (Feb 3), and Piano Paragons: The Music of Monk, Powell, Tatum and Corea (May 4).

Broadway @ the Jacobs will return in a two-concert series on this season, with its first concert (Dec 3) featuring the incomparable Audra McDonald on the Jacobs Music Center stage for one night only and its second being a curated evening of Broadway favorites by director and pianist Rob Fisher (Feb 4.)

Concerts for families will also be featured at the renovated Jacobs Music Center as the organization reaffirms its commitment to the community through interactive and accessible programming for even the youngest classical music listeners. Family concerts will include *Because: A Symphony of Serendipity* (Nov 5) featuring a musical score by Jesse Montgomery inspired by Mo Williams' award-winning book *Because*, composer Caroline Shaw's musical adaptation of Alice McLerran's story *The Mountain that Loved a Bird* (Feb 3), and Mason Bates's exciting *Philharmonia Fantastique* (Apr 27). Each program will introduce audiences to the musical voices of today's most talented living composers and feature members of the San Diego Symphony Orchestra. Additionally, in its return to Jacobs Music Center the Symphony is excited to bring back **the Linda and Shern Platt Open Rehearsals for Schools Program, pre-concerts talks** for all Classical Masterworks concerts, and its partnerships with direct service nonprofit organizations across San Diego County to provide free tickets for most San Diego Symphony performances in the 2023-24 season.

For subscriptions, ticket prices and more information on the San Diego Symphony's 2023-24 Jacobs Music Center season, please visit www.JacobsMusicCenter.org

2023-24 JACOBS MASTERWORKS SEASON

Saturday, November 4, 2023

JACOBS MUSIC CENTER: A GRAND OPENING NIGHT

Jacobs Music Center

Rafael Payare, Music Director

Steven Banks, saxophone

Liv Redpath, soprano

R STRAUSS: *Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks*

BILLY CHILDS: Saxophone Concerto (**West Coast Premiere, San Diego Symphony Co-commission**)

TEXU KIM: *Welcome Home!!* Fanfare for Jacobs Music Center
(**World Premiere, San Diego Symphony Commission**)

MOZART: *Exsultate, jubilate*

DEBUSSY: *La mer*

Saturday, November 11 & Sunday, November 12, 2023

THE CALIFORNIA FESTIVAL 2023

Jacobs Music Center

Rafael Payare, Music Director

Angela Meade, soprano

Anna Larsson, mezzo-soprano

San Diego Symphony Festival Choir

CARLOS SIMON: New Work (**San Diego Symphony Commission**)

MAHLER: Symphony No. 2 in C minor, "Resurrection"

Friday, November 17 & Saturday, November 18, 2023

THE CALIFORNIA FESTIVAL 2023

Jacobs Music Center

Rafael Payare, Music Director

BARTOK: *The Miraculous Mandarin Suite*

VILLA-LOBOS: *Bachianas Brasileiras No. 7*

VLADIMIR TARNOPOLSKY: *Danse Macabre* (**World Premiere, San Diego Symphony Commission**)

STRAVINSKY: *Rite of Spring*

Friday, Dec 1 & Saturday, Dec 2, 2023

Jacobs Music Center

Joshua Weilerstein, conductor

DAWSON: *Negro Folk Symphony*

DVOŘÁK: Symphony No. 9, "From the New World"

Saturday, December 9 & Sunday, December 10, 2023

Jacobs Music Center

Edo de Waart, Principal Guest Conductor
Jeff Thayer, violin
Sarah Skuster, oboe
BRAHMS: Haydn Variations
J.S. BACH: Double Concerto for Oboe and Violin
ELGAR: *Enigma Variations*

Saturday, January 13 & Sunday, January 14, 2024

Jacobs Music Center

Tianyi Lu, conductor
Jan Lisiecki, piano
ANNA CLYNE: *This Midnight Hour*
MOZART: Piano Concerto in D Minor
R STRAUSS: *Aus Italien*

Friday, January 19, Saturday, January 20 & Sunday, January 21, 2024

Jacobs Music Center

Paolo Bortolameolli, conductor
Augustin Hadelich, violin
MIGUEL FARÍAS: *Estallido*
SIBELIUS: Violin Concerto in D minor
TCHAIKOVSKY: Symphony No. 6 in B minor, "Pathétique"

Friday, January 26 & Saturday, January 27, 2024

Jacobs Music Center

Rafael Payare, Music Director
MOZART: Symphony No. 29 in A Major
BRUCKNER: Symphony No. 7 in E Major

Friday, February 16 & Saturday, February 17, 2024

Jacobs Music Center

Rafael Payare, Music Director
Pacho Flores, trumpet
RAVEL: *Le tombeau de Couperin*
GABRIELA ORTIZ: *Altar de bronce* (**West Coast premiere, San Diego Symphony Co-commission**)
RAVEL: *La Valse*
DEBUSSY: *Images*

Saturday, February 24 & Sunday, February 25, 2024

Jacobs Music Center

Rafael Payare, Music Director
Gil Shaham, violin
MASON BATES: Violin Concerto (**West Coast Premiere**)
WAGNER: *Ring Without Words*

Friday, March 1 & Saturday, March 2, 2024

Jacobs Music Center

Ludovic Morlot, conductor

Andrea Overturf, English horn

BARBER: Second Essay for Orchestra

ROREM: Concerto for English Horn

MUSSORGSKY: *Pictures at an Exhibition*

Friday, March 15, Saturday, March 16 & Sunday, March 17, 2024

Jacobs Music Center

Sir Mark Elder, conductor

Stephen Hough, piano

RIMSKY-KORSAKOV: Suite from *The Tale of Tsar Saltan*

RACHMANINOFF: Piano Concerto No. 2

SAINT-SAENS: Symphony No. 3 in C minor

Saturday, March 23 & Sunday, March 24, 2024

Jacobs Music Center

Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor

Dashon Burton, bass-baritone

SIBELIUS: Symphony No. 6 in D minor

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS: Selections from *Meditations on Rilke*

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS: *Street Song*

SIBELIUS: Symphony No. 7 in C Major

Friday, March 29 & Saturday, March 30, 2024

Jacobs Music Center

Rafael Payare, Music Director

Gerard McBurney, director

SCHUMANN: Symphony No. 1 in B-flat Major, "Spring"

PROKOFIEV: *Romeo & Juliet*

Friday, April 12, 2024

Jacobs Music Center

Otto Tausk, conductor

Lang Lang, piano

JOEY ROUKENS: *365*

SAINT-SAËNS: Piano Concerto No. 2

STRAVINSKY: Suite from *The Firebird* (1945 Version)

Sunday, April 14, 2024

Jacobs Music Center

Otto Tausk, conductor

JOEY ROUKENS: 365
TCHAIKOVSKY: *Swan Lake* Suite
STRAVINSKY: Suite from *The Firebird* (1945 Version)

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Masterworks Special Event

Jacobs Music Center

Rafael Payare, Music Director

Yo-Yo Ma, cello

WAGNER: Siegfried's Death and Funeral Music from *Götterdämmerung*

ELGAR: Cello Concerto in E minor

TCHAIKOVSKY: Symphony No. 5 in E minor

Saturday May 11 & Sunday May 12, 2024

Jacobs Music Center

Rafael Payare, Music Director

Jean-Yves Thibaudet, piano

SOFIA GUBAIDULINA: *Fairytale Poem*

RAVEL: Piano Concerto

BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 3 in E-flat Major, "Eroica"

Saturday, May 18 & Sunday, May 19, 2024

Jacobs Music Center

Rafael Payare, Music Director

Daniel Lozakovich, violin

BRAHMS: *Tragic Overture*

MENDELSSOHN: Violin Concerto in E minor

BRAHMS: Symphony No. 2 in D Major

Friday, May 24 & Saturday, May 25, 2024

Rafael Payare, Music Director

Jeremy Denk, Piano

BEETHOVEN: Piano Concerto No. 4 in G Major

R. STRAUSS: *Ein Heldenleben*

2023-2024 CURRENTS SERIES
Where Music Meets Our World

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Difficult Grace

Seth Parker Woods, cello

Roderick George, dancer/choreographer

Difficult Grace is a multimedia concert tour de force conceived by and featuring Seth Parker Woods in the triple role of cellist, narrator/guide, and movement artist. Heightened by film, spoken text, dance and visual artwork, *Difficult Grace* is a semi-autobiographical exploration of identity, past/present histories and personal growth that draws inspiration from the Great Migration, the historic newspaper *The Chicago Defender*, immigration, and the poetry of Kemi Alabi and Dudley Randall.

* *The San Diego Symphony does not perform on this concert.*

Saturday, January 5, 2024

Tres minutos

Music by Nicolas Lell Benavides

Libretto by Marella Martin Koch

Where do we belong? Inspired by a real program that reunites families separated by immigration policies at the U.S. - Mexico Border, but only for three minutes, *Tres minutos* by composer Nicolas Lell Benavides and librettist Marella Martin Koch imagines the story of Diego and Nila, a brother and sister who share DNA but not citizenship. When Diego is deported, leaving Nila behind, questions of identity, duty, and belonging threaten to consume them. A co-production with Music of Remembrance.

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

The Wonders We Carry Inside

In support of Women, Life, Freedom

Hailed by the *New York Times* as “ravishing and engulfing,” Iranian-American composer Gity Razaz curates an evening of music honoring the mystical beauty of Persian culture and the power of women to shape history both past and present. Poetry and music weave together to guide us through this ancient celebration of reflection and renewal at the spring equinox.

2023-2024 JAZZ @ THE JACOBS SERIES

Saturday, November 25, 2023

Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday and Sarah Vaughan

Champion Fulton, vocals

Mary Stallings, vocals

Saturday, February 3, 2024

Miles Davis Kind of Blue

Gilbert Castellanos, trumpet

Additional artists to be announced

Saturday, May 4, 2024

The Music of Thelonious Monk, Bud Powell, Chick Corea and Art Tatum
Artists to be announced

2023-2024 BROADWAY @ THE JACOBS SERIES

Sunday, December 3, 2023

Audra McDonald with the San Diego Symphony Orchestra
Andy Einhorn, conductor

Sunday, February 4, 2024

Broadway: Then and Now
Rob Fisher, director and piano
Additional artists to be announced

2023-2024 FAMILY CONCERT SERIES

Saturday, November 5, 2023

Because: A Symphony of Serendipity

An energetic and heart-warming performance that features George Gershwin's American classic *Rhapsody in Blue*. The San Diego Symphony brings Mo Williams' award-winning book *Because* to life, with music written by Jessie Montgomery, and Mexican-American composer Arturo Márquez's *Conga del Fuego* is a fiery adventure that uses conga rhythms in an expression of joy that is big in character and drive.

Saturday, February 3, 2024

The Mountain That Loved a Bird

Featuring Grieg's glorious *Morning Mood*, the *Mountain King*, and Pulitzer Prize winner Caroline Shaw's musical adaptation of *The Mountain that Loved a Bird* by Alice McLerran and set to Eric Carle's colorful collage illustrations.

Saturday, April 27, 2024

Philharmonia Fantastique

This whimsical presentation begins with a classic introduction to the instruments in Benjamin Britten's *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*. Then, dynamic concerto meets animated film in Mason Bates' *Philharmonia Fantastique*. Guided by a magical Sprite, you'll explore the fundamental connections between music, sound, performance, creativity and technology.

ADDITIONAL SPECIAL CONCERT OFFERINGS

Friday, December 8, 2023

The Airborne Toxic Event

Bruce Kiesling, conductor

San Diego Symphony Orchestra

Known for their dramatic blend of rock and electronic music with orchestral arrangements, this electrifying night of music will feature the band's chart-topping hits performed live with the San Diego Symphony Orchestra.

Sunday, March 10, 2024

Rock n' Radio

Artists to be announced

An evening of chart-topping hits from the greatest names in music history including Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Carole King, Aretha Franklin, The Beatles, Elvis Presley, Whitney Houston, Lady Gaga and more

ABOUT THE SAN DIEGO SYMPHONY

Founded in 1910, the San Diego Symphony is the oldest orchestra in California and one of the largest and most significant cultural organizations in San Diego. The Orchestra performs for more than 250,000 people each season, offering a wide variety of programming at its two much-loved venues, Copley Symphony Hall at Jacobs Music Center in downtown San Diego (now under renovation) and The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park on San Diego Bay. In early 2018, the San Diego Symphony announced the appointment of Rafael Payare as music director. Payare leads the orchestra's 82 full-time musicians, graduates of the finest and most celebrated music schools in the United States and abroad. The San Diego Symphony also serves as the orchestra for the San Diego Opera each season, as well as performing at several regional performing arts and community centers. For more than 30 years, the San Diego Symphony has provided comprehensive learning and community engagement programs reaching more than 65,000 students annually and bringing innovative programming to San Diego's diverse neighborhoods and schools. For more information, visit www.sandiegosymphony.org.

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