

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PHILHARMONIC

## Holiday Spectacular!

Branden Muresan, Music Director & Conductor



Monday, December 2 at 7:30pm

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
1221 WASS STREET  
TUSTIN, CA 92780

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**March of the Toys** from "Babes in Toyland" .....Victor Herbert, arr. Otto Langey

**Christmas Eve Suite**.....Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

*Lynn Chavdarov Segrist, narrator*

Movement 1 - Holy Night

Movement 2 - Games and Dances of the Stars

Movement 3 - The Devil's Christmas

Movement 4 - Polonaise

Movement 5 - Procession to Midnight Mass and Carols

*Intermission*

**Clarinet Candy**.....Leroy Anderson

**White Christmas**.....Irving Berlin, arr. Robert Russell Bennett

**Bugler's Holiday**.....Leroy Anderson

**Festive Sounds of Hanukah**.....arr. Bill Holcombe

**Sleigh Ride**.....Leroy Anderson

**A Christmas Festival (sing-along)**.....Leroy Anderson

*with Lynn Chavdarov Segrist, voice*

Joy to the World

Silent Night

Deck the Halls

Jingle Bells

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

O Come All Ye Faithful

Good King Wenceslas



find our past performances on YouTube!

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"Southern California Philharmonic"

More information at [www.socalphil.org](http://www.socalphil.org)



Maestro **Branden Muresan** is a native of San Juan Capistrano, California, where he still resides and teaches. He began studying violin performance at age six, under the tutelage of Merillee Walker and Noumi Fischer. After earning his AA from Saddleback College, he went on to study at San Diego State University, where he was honored to be taken as a student by Igor and Vesna Gruppman, former students of Jascha Heifetz and David Oistrakh. At SDSU, he earned his Bachelor of Music Degree in Violin Performance, and in 2000 he graduated with a Master's in Music with a major in Instrumental and Orchestral Conducting, under the instruction of Dr. Donald Barra.

Branden began performing violin professionally at age 16 and has since become a well-known orchestral violinist from Baja California to Los Angeles. His most notable performances have been with the Irish Tenors, in Mexicali BC, at Luciano Pavarotti's last professional concert, and most recently on tour with Il Divo. Currently he is Assistant Conductor for the Long Beach Ballet Orchestra.

Professor Muresan began teaching private violin at age 18, and many of those students have pursued advanced music degrees at such prestigious colleges as Longy Conservatory of Music, CalArts, UCSD, USD, CSULB, and University of Utah. In a college setting, Professor Muresan began teaching at Grossmont College in 2001, University of San Diego in 2003, Mira Costa College in 2009, and has since been honored



**Jessica Haddy** has been the concertmaster of the Southern California Philharmonic since 2016. She was a featured soloist for the ensemble performing works by Bruch, Beethoven and Rimsky Korsakov. As a soloist, Jessica has been invited to perform at the Laguna Beach Sunset Serenades and the Hortense Miller Estate concert series. In 2020, Jessica and harpist Jillian Risigari-Gai Lopez recorded an album featuring French and Argentinian composers. In the same year, she filmed a concert at the historic Long Beach Bembridge House with pianist Anthony Lopez, performing pieces celebrating the fall season. She has been featured on Mission Viejo's television network as a soloist and performed in the city's featured solo concerts.

Krutz Strings company based in Kansas City named Jessica Brand Ambassador in 2018, launching a social media campaign to feature string artists in the United States for the company. Each year, Jessica represents the company at NAMM convention in Anaheim.

Her event music company, Haddy Music performs at events and has been featured at several music festivals, including the Coast Film festival in 2023. Haddy Music is highly reviewed and was featured in Riviera Magazine's Best of OC for event music.

While working in Los Angeles during 2000-2010, Jessica has appeared in music videos with Elton John, Sheryl Crow, Sting, Il Divo, and Randy Travis. Jessica was also the violinist for the first musical stage production of Quadrophenia written by Pete Townsend of The Who.

A Laguna Beach resident, Jessica teaches has a viola/violin studio in Laguna beach. Her students have positions as soloists and concertmasters in their school and youth orchestras. Her students have won prizes in international and local concerto competitions. In 2021, she became the strings director at the Waldorf school of Orange County and has been the strings coach and conductor at Corona Del Mar middle and high school since 2017.

Jessica would also like to thank her husband Ryan and daughter Ravelle for all their love and support!



**Lynn Chavdarov Segrist** is the Founding Director of Faith Community Chorus of Orange County, which she began in January 2006 as a ministry to her community. The choir is made up of singers from several churches and various choirs, including Voices of Tustin, as well as several singers from Aldersgate UMC, where she is the Director of Music Ministries and directs the Chancel Choir, Youth Choir and Handbell Choir. Under her creative leadership, FCC presents two to three concerts per year, typically with orchestra and covering a wide range of musical genres.

In addition to her director role, Lynn sang soprano with the Orange County Choral Society of Huntington Beach, the Orange Community Master Chorale, Musica Sacra/William Lock Singers,

the Robert Carl Chorale, and other groups. Additionally, she plays French horn and has both played for and directed bands for many years. She directed her Illinois hometown's Park Singers junior and senior high school performers and added an elementary age group during her tenure as director; both groups performed at the Illinois State Fair several years under her direction.

Lynn is an honor graduate of the University of Illinois with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education and dual concentrations in Music and Reading Disabilities. She is married to Gene Segrist, and the happy couple lives in Orange, CA. Lynn has one daughter, Ali, who is also a fine singer.

## **A Christmas Festival Sing-along**

**Joy to the World**, the Lord has come  
Let Earth receive Her King!  
Let every heart, prepare him room

And Heaven and nature sing  
And Heaven and nature sing  
And Heaven and nature sing

**Deck the Halls** with boughs of holly  
Fa la la la la la la la  
Tis the season to be jolly  
Fa la la la la la la la  
Don we now our gay apparel  
Fa la la la la la la la  
Troll the ancient yuletide carol  
Fa la la la la la la la

**God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen**  
Let nothing you dismay  
Remember Christ our Savior  
Was born on Christmas Day  
To save us all from Satan's power  
When we were gone astray  
Oh tidings of comfort and joy  
Comfort and joy  
Oh tidings of comfort and joy

**Good King Wenceslas** looked down  
On the feast of Stephen  
When the snow lay round about  
Deep and crisp and even  
Brightly shown the moon that night  
Though the frost was cruel  
When a poor man came in sight  
Gath'ring winter's fuel

**Hark! the Herald Angels Sing**  
Glory to the newborn king  
Peace on Earth and mercy mild

God and Sinner reconciled  
Joyful all ye nations rise  
Join the triumph of the skies  
With angelic host proclaim  
Christ is born in Bethlehem  
Hark the Herald Angels sing  
Glory to the Newborn King!

**Silent Night**, Holy Night  
All is calm. All is bright  
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child  
Holy Infant so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace  
Sleep in heavenly peace

**Jingle Bells**  
Dashing through the snow  
In a one-horse open sleigh  
O'er the fields we go  
Laughing all the way  
Bells on bob tails ring  
Making spirits bright  
What fun it is to laugh and sing  
A sleighing song tonight  
Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells  
Jingle all the way  
Oh what fun it is to ride  
In a one-horse open sleigh

**O Come All Ye Faithful**,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ, the Lord!



# Southern California Philharmonic Personnel

## First Violin

Jessica Haddy\*\*\*  
Simeon Brown\*\*  
Daphne Artis  
Terry Blalock  
Donna Cho  
Christian Davoodian  
Hannah Glass+  
Cole Grace  
Karen Harms  
Justin Heo  
Lixing Min  
Benji Park  
Kenneth Park  
Carmel Shahriary  
Kim Stephens-Doll

## Second Violin

Stefano M. Stefan\*  
Archer Joseph\*\*  
Marjorie Criddle  
Manami "Mimi" Fisher  
Tiger Huang  
Lucia James  
Beth McCormick  
Karina Morse  
Pamela Samuel  
Susan Teitelbaum

## Viola

Joi Ciarletta\*+  
Tobin Gomez\*  
Anna Baermann  
Eric Chang  
Michael Cleary  
Jon Goldman  
Jacob Logback+  
Aydin Safabakhsh  
Kerry Walther+  
Angie Whyel

## Cello

Nancy Korb\*  
W. Peter Harvey\*\*  
Jessica Alfieri  
Cash Boden  
Emily Chien  
Teddy Christian  
Catherine Croisette  
James Fenton  
Jason Greenberg  
Austin Hall+  
Judith Stearns Hall+  
Vivien Ide  
Daniel Louie  
Pauline Merry+  
Joanne Noh+  
Kathleen Robinson  
Gabrielle Sanchez+  
John Wilkerson

## Bass

Isaac Suarez\*  
Nathaniel Gaber  
Bob Stephens-Doll  
Christopher Sterling+

## Flute

Betty Whyte\*  
Ann Goldman  
Randy Smith

## Piccolo

Ann Goldman

## Oboe

Ann Ludwig\*  
Lisa Chatter+  
Amelia Russo Neustadt

## English Horn

Amelia Russo Neustadt

## Clarinet

Daryl Golden\*  
Oma Skyrus\*

## Bass Clarinet & Saxophones

Mark Day

## Bassoon

Theresa Harvey\*  
Stan Tyler

## Trumpet

Timothy Shevlin\*  
Stephen Farkas  
Carl Privette

## Horn

Tod Beckett-Frank\*  
Frank Fox  
Kathy Lowe  
Shauna McFadden

## Trombone

Craig Chorbagian\*  
David Ludwig

## Bass Trombone

John Lowe

## Tuba

Jason Trimble

## Harp

Anna Reynolds\*

## Percussion

Greg Ozment\*  
Andrew Alvidrez  
Shota Hanai

## Piano

Melissa X. Marius\*

**Victor Herbert** (1859-1924) was an American composer, cellist and conductor of English and Irish ancestry and German training. Although Herbert enjoyed important careers as a cello soloist and conductor, he is best known for composing many successful operettas that premiered on Broadway from the 1890s to World War I. He was also prominent among the Tin Pan Alley composers and was later a founder of the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP).

**March of the Toys** comes from Herbert's operetta *Babes in Toyland*, which weaves together various characters from Mother Goose nursery rhymes into a musical extravaganza.

**Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov** (1844-1908) was a Russian composer, a member of the group of composers known as The Five. He was a master of orchestration. His best-known orchestral compositions are staples of the classical music repertoire, along with suites and excerpts from some of his fifteen operas. He believed in developing a nationalistic style of classical music, employing Russian folk song and lore along with exotic harmonic, melodic and rhythmic elements in a practice known as musical orientalism, and eschewed traditional Western compositional methods.

**Christmas Eve Suite** is comprised of music from his opera, *Christmas Eve* (1904). In Movement 1, The widow Solokha agrees to help the Devil steal the moon. The Devil is annoyed with Solokha's son Vakula, who painted an icon mocking him. The Devil decides to create a snowstorm to prevent Vakula from seeing his beloved Oksana. While the storm rages, Solokha rides up to the sky and steals the moon, while the Deacon and Oksana's father, Chub, are unable to find their way. Oksana tells Vakula that she will only marry him if he brings her a pair of jeweled slippers from the Tzarina, Catherine the Great.

In Movement 2, we witness the charming "Games and Dances of the Stars" during which Solokha has four visitors, the Devil, the Mayor, Deacon, Chub (Oksana's father) one-by-one who are seeking respite from the storm and possibly a place for merry-making, but none of whom want to be found in the witch's hut. One-by-one, each of them hides in a sack of coal on the mantle near the fireplace and end up being carried off by Solokha's son, Vakula, the blacksmith, while hiding in sacks of coal.

This is followed by Movement 3, when Vakula finds the Devil hiding in a sack of coal and jumps on his back so he will take him to St. Petersburg to talk to Catherine the Great to obtain a pair of her jeweled slippers. As they take flight, Patsyuk, riding a mortar, and Solokha, on her broom, attempt to stop Vakula. He succeeds, however, in getting through, and the lights of St. Petersburg become visible through the clouds.

In Movement 4, the Devil puts down Vakula in the Tzarina Catherine the Great's court and disappears into the fireplace. Vakula joins a group of Zaporozhian Cossacks who are petitioning the Tzarina. A chorus sings the Tzarina's praises in a magnificent polonaise. The Tzarina addresses the Cossacks. Vakula requests the Tzarina's jeweled slippers to be given to his beloved Oksana to convince her to marry him, and his wish is granted because of its unusual and amusing nature. The Devil takes Vakula away as Russian and Cossack dances commence.

And in Movement 5, Vakula returns home to Dikanka on the devil's back. The women of the village believe that Vakula has died and Oksana realizes she loves him and vows to marry him if she ever sees him again. He presents the jeweled slippers to Oksana, and the two are wed on Christmas morning accompanied by church bells and a choir echoing their happiness.

**Leroy Anderson** (1908-1975) was an American composer of short, light concert pieces, many of which were introduced by the Boston Pops Orchestra under the direction of Arthur Fiedler. John Williams described him as "one of the great American masters of light orchestral music."

**Clarinet Candy** was written in 1962. First recorded for Decca Records in 1962, its first live performance was given by the Miami Beach Philharmonic in 1965.

**Irving Berlin** (1888-1989) was an American composer and songwriter. His music forms a large part of the Great American Songbook. Berlin received numerous honors including an Academy Award, a Grammy Award, and a Tony Award. He also received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Gerald R. Ford in 1977. Broadcast journalist Walter Cronkite stated he "helped write the story of this country, capturing the best of who we are and the dreams that shape our lives".

**White Christmas** was written in 1942 for the musical film, Holiday Inn.

Leroy Anderson's **Bugler's Holiday** is a virtuoso piece that features three trumpeters, and has become one of Anderson's best known compositions. In the United States, it is included in nearly every concert program celebrating the July 4th Independence Day.

The **Festive Sounds of Hanukah** celebrates the most beloved songs of Hanukah, including Maoz Tusa (Rock of Ages), Mi Y Malel (Who Can Retell?), Hanuka, Hanukah , My Dreidel , S Vivon (Spin Dreidel), and Hanukah, O Hanukah

**Sleigh Ride** is a light orchestra standard composed by Leroy Anderson. He formed the idea for the piece during a heat wave in July 1946, and finished it in February 1948. Its first performance was by the Boston Pops Orchestra, with Arthur Fiedler conducting, on May 4, 1948.

Arthur Fiedler asked Leroy Anderson to write a special concert piece for a Christmas recording in 1950. Anderson selected eight of the most popular Christmas carols and one Christmas song, "Jingle Bells". Using the themes, Anderson built a concert overture that was nine minutes in length (8:48), whose title at the time of the June 12, 1950 recording was "Christmas Festival". For publication in 1952, Anderson eliminated "The First Noel" and shortened the overture overall to a length of 5:45. Anderson adjusted the title to "**A Christmas Festival**".

program notes compiled from Wikipedia

**The SoCalPhil wishes you a Joyous and  
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Thank you for your patronage in 2024!!**

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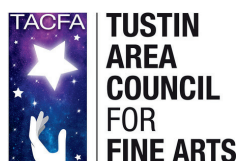
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