

1967 50 Years 2017  
**PENINSULA**  
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# *Symphony Sounds*

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October, 2016

50<sup>th</sup> Season, Number 1

Editor: Terri Zinkiewicz

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## **Peninsula Symphony Concert**

Sunday, October 30, 2016, at 7:00 PM

**Redondo Union High School Auditorium**  
222 North Pacific Coast Highway  
Redondo Beach, CA 90277

### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

Copland	<i>Happy Anniversary</i>
Sibelius	<i>Finlandia</i> , Opus 26
Chopin	Concerto No. 2 for Piano and Orchestra in F minor, Opus 21
Haydn	Symphony No. 104 in D major, H. 1/104 ("London")
Wendel	<i>The 50th Anniversary Concerto</i>

### **Concert Details**

Doors open at 6:00 PM. Center-section seating is reserved for members at the Patron level and above. Pre-concert lecture by Maestro Berkson begins at 6:15 PM for all Symphony Association members.

General public admitted at approx. 6:50 PM.

### **Post- Concert Reception**

Immediately after the concert, Symphony Association members at the Sponsor level and above (\$250+) are invited to a reception at:

**Ws China Bistro**  
1410 Pacific Coast Highway  
Redondo Beach, CA 90277

RSVP for the reception at 310-544-0320.

## **Welcome to the Peninsula Symphony's 50th Anniversary Season!**

The Peninsula Symphony is fifty years old and we have a big celebration concert scheduled for Sunday, October 30, at Redondo Union High School Auditorium. See the information on the left for times and the post-concert reception at Ws China Bistro for Sponsors and above (\$250+). Maestro Berkson has planned some special surprises for this concert; it is one you won't want to miss.

It is not too late to renew or upgrade your Peninsula Symphony Association membership. You may visit the membership table at any of our concerts or call our office at 310-544-0320.

We started our fiftieth year with a Gala celebration on September 24 at a private estate in Rolling Hills. This edition of ***Symphony Sounds*** includes some photos from the Gala, short previews of the pieces and composers that will be performed at the October 30 concert and other articles. We look forward to greeting you at our first concert.



Maestro Gary Berkson presents a pre-concert lecture before every concert to introduce the music and composers. He illustrates with keyboard examples and usually has very interesting stories to tell. Take advantage of this membership perk!

**Music Preview** (Please see the 2016-2017 Program Book that is distributed at all concerts for more detailed program notes.)

### **Happy Anniversary**

**Aaron Copland** (1900-1990)

Aaron Copland is one of the best-known, successful and influential American composers. He initially learned piano from one of his sisters and he learned harmony through a correspondence course, but his main teacher and influence was the famous Nadia Boulanger in Paris. Copland worked with jazz rhythms and wrote some twelve-tone pieces, but most of his compositions were written to appeal to students, large audiences and modern media such as radio, phonograph, and film. Some of his most well-known works are the ballets *Billy the Kid*, *Rodeo*, and *Appalachian Spring*. Copland stopped composing after 1970 but continued on the lecture and guest-conducting circuits. Beginning in the post-Depression years he became very wealthy through royalties.

This 1969 piece will be recognizable to everyone, as it is based on the *Happy Birthday* tune. It was commissioned for the Philadelphia Orchestra's seventieth anniversary, but won't it work perfectly for the Peninsula Symphony's fiftieth?

### **Finlandia, Opus 26**

**Jean Sibelius** (1865-1957)

Jean Sibelius was a Finnish composer who remains a national icon. He initially studied law but turned to the violin and then to composition. He wrote seven symphonies, thirteen symphonic poems, and over one hundred songs, mostly before 1926, although he lived for another thirty years.

The tone poem *Finlandia*, probably his most famous work, was written in 1899 and premiered in a revised form the next year. Although it is a patriotic piece with turbulent sections that represent the fight for freedom, it was initially called *Impromptu* so as not to attract negative attention from czarist Russia at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1941 words by Veikko Antero

Koskenniemi were added to the last theme, and it was reworked to become a stand-alone piece, the *Finlandia Hymn*.

### **Concerto No. 2 for Piano and Orchestra in F minor, Opus 21**

**Frédéric Chopin** (1810-1849)

Frédéric Chopin was a Polish virtuoso pianist and composer who wrote music almost exclusively for the piano. He gave his first piano concert at age eight. Shortly after composing his two piano concertos he went to Vienna and then Paris where he would remain, although he always considered himself to be a Pole. He earned a good living through piano teaching as well as via royalties. Chopin rarely performed in public, preferring smaller private salon settings, and he suffered from poor health for years.

Most of Chopin's 230+ compositions featuring the piano are shorter piano solos such as nocturnes, preludes, waltzes, polonaises, mazurkas and etudes. He also did larger piano works like scherzos, ballades (he invented this genre) and sonatas. His typical style has a singing quality and employs ornamentation like coloratura sopranos often use.

Chopin wrote only two piano concertos, in relatively quick succession in 1829-1830. The F minor concerto was actually written first and Chopin premiered it first in 1830 in Warsaw, but it was published second; hence, it is number 2. This piece is characterized as warmly lyrical and passionate, incorporating Polish dance rhythms.

The concerto begins with a long orchestral section, but once the piano enters it holds the majority of the interest. The second nocturne-like movement is particularly loved and probably inspired by romantic dreams. The final movement is a rondo and includes parts where the violins play *col legno* (with the stick of the bow rather than the bow hair), producing a different sound.

### **Symphony No. 104 in D major, H. 1/104 ("London")**

**Franz Joseph Haydn** (1732-1809)

Haydn started his musical life as a choirboy in Vienna, and he also played harpsichord and

violin. He is best known for his almost 30-year employment with the Austro-Hungarian aristocratic Esterházy family where he composed and performed his works weekly. He often traveled to Vienna. Haydn was particularly successful in London where he was treated like royalty and earned a great deal of money. His prodigious output included 104 symphonies, and the upcoming concert features the final one.

Franz Joseph Haydn's Symphony No. 104 was successfully premiered in 1795 in London with the composer leading from the pianoforte. The first movement begins with a slow introduction in unison, but it takes a few measures before the audience can tell the key is in D minor. The later Allegro section is in D major. The slow Andante movement begins in a typical fashion but has more freedom and variations than usual. The third movement is a minuet and trio. The final movement's opening theme is based on a Slavonic folk tune, likely from Haydn's earlier days, and the tune comes up again just before the coda.

### ***The 50th Anniversary Concerto*** **Robert Wendel (Born 1951)**

Robert Wendel initially studied piano but turned to conducting and composing/arranging while a chemistry and music student at the University of Connecticut. His music tends toward the pops sound of composers such as Leroy Anderson, and he focuses on special events. He has provided pops music to hundreds of top orchestras across multiple continents. Wendel currently resides in New York and enjoys tornado chasing, astronomy and pyrotechnics.

### **Soloist – Rufus Choi, Piano**

The Korean-American Rufus Choi has achieved several top placements in important international competitions. He is a graduate of The Julliard School and is a Steinway Artist. Choi has performed widely around the United States and in Europe and Asia. He identifies with the Russian school of technique and artistry.

Rufus Choi's most recent performance with the Peninsula Symphony was in Rachmaninoff's

Concerto No. 3 for Piano and Orchestra in D minor, Opus 30 in October, 2013.



Pianist Rufus Choi

### **Past Events**

#### **The Norris Foundation Concert**

The June 19 Peninsula Symphony concert, titled "*Brahms Cycle IV*," began with Maestro Berkson's pre-concert lecture. He shared his characterizations of the pieces that he programmed for the evening's concert. Rossini's Overture to *The Italian Girl in Algiers* is "just fun" and the Tchaikovsky Concerto No. 1 for Piano and Orchestra is "very Russian with a grandiose finish." All year the Peninsula Symphony has worked on the Brahms symphonies, and Gary indicated that Symphony No 4 is his favorite and he could listen to it "all day and all night." The first movement starts with melancholy sighing. The third movement is the only Brahms symphony movement with percussion. Berkson characterized the last movement as "pure genius."

Immediately prior to the concert Teddy Greenwald, 2016 Rips Scholarship Chair, introduced Chadwick High School's Kristine Jiao as this year's scholarship winner. Ms. Jiao played clarinet in her school orchestra and has also played keyboard in school musical productions. She has just enrolled as a first year student at the University of California,

Berkeley and will hopefully continue her interest in chamber music.

The annual Rips scholarship is awarded to an area high school woodwind player. The scholarship is funded by Rips family members Kevin Floyd and Annamay Martin.

Following the concert, pianist Caroline Ho received her soloist medal and her Knox Competition winner's check. She and Maestro Berkson then engaged with the audience in a question-and-answer session.



Rips Scholarship Chair Teddy Greenwald and 2016 scholarship winner Kristine Jiao.



2016 Edith Knox Young Artists Performance Competition winner Caroline Ho performed with the Peninsula Symphony.

### Fundraiser – *Strawberry Social*

The Point Vicente Interpretive Center served as the setting for The Peninsula Symphony Association's summer fundraiser entitled "*Strawberry Social*." Once again the Redondo

Union High School Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Ray Vizcerra entertained the attendees. Their performance was followed by a collection of baroque selections by the Corelli Ensemble, under the direction of Robert Blake. This latter ensemble is managed by Dr. Sophia Momand, a member of the symphony's cello section and also a member of the Symphony Association's Board of Directors. Approximately half of the Corelli Ensemble musicians are members of the Peninsula Symphony.



The Corelli Ensemble warmed up just before its performance at the Strawberry Social.



The beautiful Palos Verdes Interpretive Center provided the space for the Strawberry Social. What beautiful views.

### Board of Directors' Installation Brunch

Board member Marion Ruth hosted the annual installation of the Peninsula Symphony Association board. After good food, wine and conversation, former board member Roger Schamp officially installed the 2016-2017 board members. John Williams graciously agreed to serve another year as the association president.

We welcomed Helene Reid to the Board. Helene was our ace office manager for many years, and now she is participating in a director role in addition to being a symphony violinist.



This group picture features the Board members who were able to attend the installation brunch in August, 2016.

### Orchestra Potluck

The annual potluck for orchestra members was held at Marion Ruth's beautiful Rolling Hills home in August. After enjoying each other's food, we tested our knowledge of music and musicians and learned several unique tidbits about some of our favorite composers while playing the music-themed games that orchestra and Board member Sophia Momand organized.



Orchestra members Dr. Claudia Medl-Rilling, Paul Wehrmer, Dr. Sophia Momand, and Jennifer Holley, along with music director Gary Berkson at the potluck.

### Members, Members, Members!

Our individual members are vital to the success of the Peninsula Symphony and, collectively, provide the largest share of our annual operating budget. Thank you to those of you who renewed your membership for the 2016-

2017 season and double thank you to those who upgraded their memberships or invited friends to become new members. It is never too late to upgrade or recruit new members.

We have many different membership levels, beginning with Contributors at \$75, extending to the Virtuoso level for contributions of \$5000 and above. All members are entitled to attend Maestro Berkson's pre-concert lectures. Some of the higher levels include perks such as a reception after the first concert and reserved, close-in parking at all concerts. Our membership brochure includes all of this information. You may also visit our website at [www.pensym.org](http://www.pensym.org), stop by the membership table at any of our concerts, or leave a telephone message at the Peninsula Symphony office at 310-544-0320 to request more information.

### Future Events

#### **2016 Edith Knox Performance Competition Applications**

The application and competition rules will be posted at [www.pensym.org](http://www.pensym.org) by December 1, 2016, and applications must be submitted via the website by noon on January 31, 2017. The preliminary round of competition is scheduled for Saturday, March 4, 2017.

### **Peninsula Symphony Concert Sunday, February 19, 2017 at 7:00 PM**

*A ROYAL AFFAIR*  
Inna Faliks, piano

Johann Strauss Jr.	<i>Emperor Waltz</i> , Opus 437
Reinecke	Selections from <i>King Manfred</i> , Opus 93
Beethoven	Concerto No. 5 for Piano and Orchestra in E-flat major, Opus 73 ("Emperor")

## Thank you to our 2016-2017 Sponsors

City of Rolling Hills

Kenneth T. & Eileen Norris Foundation

Enriching Lives



Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors/County Arts Commission

Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe

Palos Verdes Woman's Club

The Morgan Stanley Foundation

Weinstock Accountancy Corporation

The Peninsula Symphony's concerts are also generously supported by the Recording Industry's Music Performance Trust Fund.

## Thank you to our Virtuoso Level Members

Our highest membership level, Virtuoso, is for individuals or couples who contribute at least \$5000 to the Peninsula Symphony Association in a single season. As of early October, we are proud to announce the 2016-2017 season Virtuoso contributors:

Ken and Anita Gash  
Dorothy and Allen Lay  
The Shlens Family  
John and Sue Williams

## Scenes from the Peninsula Symphony Association's 50th Anniversary Gala

The biggest social event of the Peninsula Symphony's fiftieth year was a gala celebration at the expansive, Rolling Hills estate of Richard Colyear held on Saturday, September 24, 2016. Approximately 100 symphony supporters gathered to tour the grounds, enjoy a dinner catered by The Red Onion and attend a concert by music director Gary Berkson and an octet of symphony musicians. As an added bonus, Mr. Colyear arranged for his spectacular Friesian horse to be shown to guests and available for photographs. Marion Ruth was the chair of the event. Sophia Momand managed the silent auction. Gary Berkson conducted a live auction for the privilege of conducting the orchestra at its July, 2017 Pops concert, complete with a baton, conducting lessons from Berkson and all the trappings that go with being a guest conductor, including a bio in the program insert and assigned parking. Danielle Weinstock was the successful bidder, and her father will be the featured guest conductor. Enjoy this sampling of photos; there will be more in the October 30 concert's program insert.



50th Anniversary Gala event chair Marion Ruth and host Richard Colyear.

More photos from the Gala!!



Midge Trost and Sue Williams greeted guests at the registration table.



Symphony Association President John Williams welcoming the guests.



Thunder entertained the guests and posed for pictures.



Gene and Catherine McAdoo purchased a full table and entertained their friends.



Dinnertime at the Gala.



Music Director/Conductor Gary Berkson and guest-conductor auction winner Danielle Weinstock. She bid on it for her father's conducting debut.

**Enjoy the First Concert!**  
**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**  
**Sunday, October 30, 2016 at 7:00 PM**  
**Redondo Union High School Auditorium**



Post Office Box 2602  
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### Contact Information

Any questions or requests about the Peninsula Symphony, the Peninsula Symphony Association or ***Symphony Sounds*** should be sent to the Peninsula Symphony Association office. We will route your message to the appropriate person.

The Peninsula Symphony Association  
Post Office Box 2602  
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

The office is normally staffed from 9:00 AM to noon on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. You may call at any time (310-544-0320) and leave a message on our answering machine, but phone replies will usually be made only during normal staffing hours. You can also e-mail us at [music.pensym@verizon.net](mailto:music.pensym@verizon.net). General information about the Symphony (current season schedule, maps and directions, etc.) can be found on our website ([www.pensym.org](http://www.pensym.org)).

Other contacts are:

Peninsula Symphony Association president, John Williams [wskrs@verizon.com](mailto:wskrs@verizon.com)

Music Director/Conductor, Gary Berkson [conductor.pensym@verizon.net](mailto:conductor.pensym@verizon.net)