

# 2016-2017 CONCERT SEASON



THOMAS NEENAN, MUSIC DIRECTOR

2016-  
2017

WORLD-CLASS MUSIC CLOSE TO HOME

## Welcome to Our 2016-2017 Season!



Our 32nd year! Seven subscription concerts and a free community concert featuring our wonderful Chamber Orchestra, a world premiere and outstanding guest artists.

I hope you will subscribe to this great season, and please consider joining at the silver membership level or above. Subscribing is more than season tickets and a host of benefits. You are supporting both the orchestra and our outreach programs.

Help sustain our commitment of making classical music available to everyone regardless of resources and offering opportunities to younger musicians and composers. Help bring classical music to area schools and free concerts to the community.

The St. Matthew's Music Guild is a non-profit corporation and all donations over the basic levels are fully tax-deductible under current law. Experience the joy of hearing great live classical music and extending that opportunity to a new generation.

**Fred Doering**, *President*  
St. Matthew's Music Guild

Photos here and on cover by Chuck Gardner Photography

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- Free refreshments in a stunning setting
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- Great premium benefits



# OCTOBER 14 at 8pm

## 2016 – 2017 Season Opener

### *The Chamber Orchestra at St. Matthew's* *Michele Zukovsky, Clarinet*

- **Mozart:** “Jupiter” Symphony
- **Wagner:** Siegfried Idyll
- **Lutoslawski:** Dance Preludes
- **Baermann:** Adagio for Clarinet

We are thrilled to present Michele Zukovsky, Principal Clarinetist of the Los Angeles Philharmonic for more than fifty years. Michele will perform the jazzy Dance Preludes by Witold Lutoslawski and the stunningly beautiful Adagio for Clarinet and Orchestra by Heinrich Baermann.

The ‘Jupiter’ earned its nickname for its good humor, exuberant energy, and unusually grand scale. The symphony was completed in 1788 and was Mozart’s last major orchestral work. It is the largest and most complex of his symphonies and concludes with a double fugue that would do J.S. Bach proud. At moments jovial, as if Jupiter himself were laughing heartily in the celebratory key of C Major, the work contains dark and serious moments that foreshadow grand Romantic masterpieces of the next generation. In 1835 Robert Schumann wrote, “About many things in this world there is simply nothing



more to be said—for example, Mozart’s ‘Jupiter’ symphony.”

Wagner composed the beautiful *Siegfried Idyll* in 1870 as a Christmas present to his wife Cosima and it was premiered on Christmas morning by local musicians from the staircase of the Wagner villa in Lucerne, Switzerland. It is a quiet and touching work, with gentle hints of the forest music from his opera “Siegfried.”

“We came to St. Matthew’s recently for the choir, and the Music Guild was a huge added benefit. We enjoy the concerts, meeting the performers, the intermission goodies, and most of all, the four-minute drive from our home!”

—Dave and Jennifer Kanaar

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# NOVEMBER 11 at 8pm

## Music of Beethoven and Prokofiev

### *The Chamber Orchestra at St. Matthew's*

#### *Yabing Tan, violin*

(Grand Prize Winner, Classics Alive Young Artists Competition)

- **Prokofiev:** Violin Concerto No. 1
- **Beethoven:** “Eroica” Symphony

Despite massive unrest in Russia, 1917 was the most richly productive year for Prokofiev, composing the *Classical* Symphony, the Violin Concerto No. 1, two piano sonatas and the Piano Concerto No. 3.

At its premiere, the work did not please Parisian audiences who wanted their modern music to carry a certain shock value. The concerto was simply too Romantic, with one critic pronouncing it *Mendelssohnian* — the kiss of death. Ironically, people in Prokofiev’s native Russia loved it. The music, full of contrasts, is by turns amusing, naughty, for a while even malevolent, athletic, and always ingenious and brilliantly virtuosic.

Beethoven planned the “Eroica” as a tribute to the heroic achievements of Napoleon, who he hoped would lead Europe toward a more humanist, free, and egalitarian society. When Napoleon declared himself emperor, Beethoven so forcefully scratched the dedication off the title page that the paper was left with a gaping hole. The work has been seen as autobiographical,



tracing Beethoven’s journey from recognition of his hearing loss, to despair, resolution and ultimate triumph.

MEET OUR MUSIC  
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“My parents have been subscribers for more than 30 years and now that my husband and I are empty-nesters we can take advantage of this musical gem in a wonderful setting”

—Lawry Meister (with her mother, Judy Jones)

# DECEMBER 9 at 8pm

## Annual Holiday Concert

*The Chamber Orchestra at St. Matthew's with the  
Choir and Soloists of St. Matthew's Parish*

*Peter Kent, violin*

- **Bach:** Magnificat in D Major
- **Bach:** Violin Concerto in E Major
- **Bach:** Brandenburg Concerto No. 4

**W**e welcome back Peter Kent, Concertmaster of the Chamber Orchestra from 1987 - 1997 for a performance of Bach's delightful Concerto in E Major.

Written while Bach was a young man working in the court of Weimar, this concerto must have been a favorite of Bach's. Some twenty years after writing it, he reworked it as the Harpsichord Concerto in D, no doubt with himself in mind as soloist. The concerto was most probably premiered by the Leipzig *Collegium Musicum* at Zimmermann's Coffee House or the adjoining beer garden.

Bach's Magnificat in D for choir, soloists and orchestra with three trumpets and timpani will resound through St. Matthew's Church. The work, first performed in 1733, is formal, architectural, and varied in its emotions and textures. Along with its dramatic choruses, solos and ensemble pieces, it contains one of the era's most common



musical puns: at the end of the work, when the chorus sings "Sicut erat in principio," ("As it was in the beginning"), Bach reprises the music heard at the very beginning of the piece.

*The concert concludes with our traditional audience sing-along of Handel's "Hallelujah" Chorus*



“We are busy professionals and don't have the time to drive downtown for concerts. The Music Guild series gives us superb music in a stunning setting, with an easy drive and parking. We will be back next season!”

—Greg Pottie and Aldo Rafael Cos

# JANUARY 20 at 8pm

## Ines Thomé and Friends

### *Music for guitar, string quartet, percussion and voice*

*Concert generously underwritten by Charles and Jessie Cale*

German-born Ines Thomé, a multifaceted musician who performs internationally as a solo and ensemble artist, brings a varied program of music that covers more than four centuries.

She has toured in Italy and Germany and has performed at Walt Disney Concert Hall, Zipper Hall and the Colburn School. Her program will include music by Bach, Benjamin Britten, John Dowland and the great “Fandan-



go” Quintet for Guitar and Strings by Baroque master Luigi Boccherini.

# FEBRUARY 10 at 8pm

## Baroque and Beyond 2.0

### *Members of The Chamber Orchestra at St. Matthew's Los Angeles Vocal Artists*

Following the overwhelming response to our 2016 concert, “Baroque and Beyond,” twelve of LA’s finest choral artists return to St. Matthew’s for performances of music for multiple choirs and instruments by Gabrieli, Monteverdi and Jakob Handl.

The first half concludes with Bach’s sumptuous motet, “Der Geist Hilft.” After intermission, the singers change things up with close-harmony arrangements of Broadway show tunes, torch songs and jazz standards, complete with a rhythm section of drums, guitar and bass.

# MARCH 10 at 8pm

## The Chamber Orchestra at St. Matthew's

*Deborah Buck, violinist • the Lark Quartet*

*Appearance by Deborah Buck and the Lark Quartet underwritten by the Music Guild Endowment Fund.*

- **Vaughan Williams:** *Fantasy on a Theme of Thomas Tallis*
- **Erwin Schulhoff:** Concerto for String Quartet and Winds
- **Beethoven:** Symphony No. 1

**D**eborah Buck, Concertmaster from 1997 - 2000, returns as First Violin of the critically acclaimed Lark Quartet for a special program of music for string quartet and orchestra.

Vaughan William composed the *Tallis Fantasy* in 1910, and he splits the string orchestra into three parts; a large orchestra; a smaller one of nine players; and a string quartet. The second is used almost as an echo of the first, providing a “halo” of sound. The appeal of the work is its beauty, and its ghostly, mystical sound effects.



Czech composer Erwin Schulhoff is one of hundreds of artists whose careers were prematurely terminated by the rise of the Nazi regime. Today, his music and that of other “Silenced Voices” is being recognized as coming from a lost generation of great composers. Schulhoff composed his Concerto for String Quartet and Wind Orchestra in 1930, and, according to one critic, it provides “a fascinating inversion of the traditional concerto grosso style, with winds providing the framework of the piece as a whole, while the string quartet appears as contrast and solo.”

Beethoven's first foray into the symphony took Vienna by storm with its “wrong key” introduction and unprecedented rhythmic drive and syncopation. A special feature of this symphony is the heightened role given to the woodwinds who add color and rich textures to the orchestral fabric.



# MAY 5 at 8pm

## Free Community Concert

*The Chamber Orchestra at St. Matthew's • Maria Newman, viola*  
*The Paul Revere Middle School Chamber Orchestra*

- **Newman:** Viola Concerto
- **Beethoven:** Fifth Symphony
- Music of **Mozart** and **John Williams**
- Commissioned work (World premiere)

**M**aria Newman was a founding member of The Chamber Orchestra and its first concertmaster. She is the featured soloist in her own dynamic Viola Concerto.

Violinist, violist, pianist and composer Maria Newman has been awarded commendations from the U.S. Congress, California State Senate and Assembly, and the Annenberg Foundation.



Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, composed and premiered in 1808, has become the symphony of symphonies that embodies all of the power and possibilities of instrumental music – the template for a journey from tragedy to triumph that would become a musical and dramatic blueprint for all that followed.

We are pleased to welcome back the Paul Revere Middle School Chamber Orchestra who astounded us with their virtuoso performance in April 2015. Members of The Chamber Orchestra at St. Matthew's will join the Revere orchestra in music of Mozart and John Williams.

### MEET OUR CHAMBER ORCHESTRA MUSICIANS



**Rachel Coosaia**, cello, attended Western Michigan University on a full scholarship where she received her B.A. While a student of Ronald Leonard's in LA, Rachel pursued a multi-faceted career teaching, performing with orchestras, working in the TV and Motion Picture industries and even touring with jazz, rock and hip-hop groups. She is a Technical Advisor for Fox and helps actors prepare for roles as musicians.

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St. Matthew's Music Guild gratefully acknowledges the support of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission.



# JUNE 2 at 7:30pm

*Sprague Center, St. Matthew's Church*

## **Haydn: *The Creation***

*The Choir and Soloists of St. Matthew's Parish*

*The Westwood United Methodist Church Chancel Choir*

*The Chamber Orchestra at St. Matthew's*

*Thomas Neenan and Stephen Gothold, conductors*

**H**aydn's life-affirming oratorio *The Creation* is a glorious celebration that encompasses all of nature, and many consider it his greatest achievement.

Premiered in 1799, the oratorio is scored for vocal soloists, chorus and large orchestra. At the public premiere, Haydn enlisted an orchestra of 120 and a chorus of 60, both extremely large for the day. The Oratorio tells the creation story using fragments of the biblical account with beautiful poetic observations on everything imaginable, including the Big Bang, roaring lions and tigers, the fish and whales of the sea, the birds of the air and, finally, human beings. Two outstanding choirs and soloists unite for these performances of one of the greatest works from the turn of the 19th Century.



MEET OUR CHAMBER ORCHESTRA MUSICIANS

**Bill Johnson**, bass, started playing violin at age 9 and switched to double bass when he was 10. He continued his musical studies through high school and graduated from the prestigious Oberlin College and Conservatory. He performs with the Santa Barbara and Long Beach symphonies and is an avid tennis player and world traveller.



MEET OUR CHAMBER ORCHESTRA MUSICIANS

Cellist **David Mergen** knew at the age of 12 that he wanted to be a professional cellist. When still in high school he entered the Cleveland Institute of Music where he earned a B.A. followed by a Masters from USC. He performs with the LA Opera Orchestra, New West Symphony and Santa Barbara Symphony and spent five years on the Broadway National Tour of *Phantom of the Opera*.

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We gratefully acknowledge the following who, over the years, have made major capital gifts to Music at St. Matthew's. Their generosity has significantly enhanced the musical life of the greater community.

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Yabing Tan, Peter Kent, orchestra musicians and patron photos by Ed Levy.

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## Contact Us

**Music Director:** Thomas Neenan

**Phone:** 310-573-7422

**E-mail:** [info@MusicGuildOnline.org](mailto:info@MusicGuildOnline.org)

**Website:** [www.MusicGuildOnline.org](http://www.MusicGuildOnline.org)

### **Mailing Address:**

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