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SEASON



2018-
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A NEW CHAPTER OF WORLD-CLASS MUSIC

Welcome to Our 34th Season of Concerts!

We have a wonderful season in store for you with our new Music Director, Dr. Dwayne S. Milburn. I have known Dwayne for more than 30 years and I look forward to the magic he will bring to the podium from his distinguished career as an orchestral and choral conductor and composer.

Dwayne is presenting an exciting season of seven concerts featuring the critically-acclaimed Chamber Orchestra at St. Matthew's, extraordinary soloists, and distinguished guest artists. Orchestra programs include a return visit by the amazing Annelle Gregory, whose performance in Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto last November dazzled all of us, an all-Beethoven season opener with pianist Petronel Malan, a concert commemorating the 100th anniversary of the end of the 'War to End All Wars,' and our holiday concert of Baroque masterpieces. The internationally renowned male vocal ensemble, Cantus, and a solo recital by one of L.A.'s most distinguished and versatile artists, pianist Robert Edward Thies, round out the season.

Our 34th season, like the prior 33, are only possible because of your support. I urge you to

subscribe. In doing so, you are supporting not only our series of concerts at St. Matthew's church but also our outreach programs with schools and senior centers, and our ongoing work with young composers.



Thanks to you – our loyal subscribers and patrons – the Music Guild is a healthy and vital organization ready to begin our newest chapter.

Please take a moment to renew your Music Guild subscription online at MusicGuildOnline.org. If you are not currently a subscriber, now's the time to sign up and enjoy the savings and convenience of having a season pass and the benefits of membership at one of the higher subscription levels.

I look forward to seeing you at our opening concert on Friday, October 12, and welcoming Dwayne Milburn as Music Director and Conductor.

Tom Neenan, *President*
St. Matthew's Music Guild

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DWAYNE S. MILBURN

Music Director and Conductor

Dwayne S. Milburn is a multi-faceted conductor, composer, singer and keyboard artist whose career has taken him throughout North America, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

Born in Baltimore, Milburn came to Los Angeles in 1986 where he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Composition and Music Education at UCLA. After graduating with honors, he entered the Cleveland Institute of Music where he earned a Master's degree in Orchestral Conducting.

For three years Milburn was the Director of Cadet Music and the Glee Club at West Point and in 1993 he joined the U.S. Army, serving as Bandmaster of the Continental Army Band and the U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own." In 1999 he was named Director of the U.S. Army Europe Soldier's Chorus in Heidelberg, Germany, and later, Commander and Conductor of the Army Ground Forces Band at Fort McPherson, Georgia.

From 2005–2009, while on leave from the Army, he completed a Ph.D. in Music Composition at UCLA, during which time he was Assistant Conductor of The Choir of St. Matthew's Parish and Composer-in-Residence for St. Matthew's Music Guild. His *Water Scenes for Clarinet and Chamber Orchestra* may be heard on the orchestra's CD, *Music from the Left Coast*.

Upon reentering the Armed Forces in 2009, he directed the U.S. Army Field Band and was Army Bands Liaison Officer to U.S. Army Central Command in the Middle East. This summer he will



complete his tenure as Commander and Conductor of the U.S. Army Europe Band and Chorus in Sembach, Germany.

Units under his direction have performed at the 2016 Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo and D-Day commemorations at Normandy, have toured in France, Italy, and the Netherlands, and have appeared at hundreds of Army-sponsored events throughout Europe.

Dwayne Milburn is active as a composer, conductor, and adjudicator. He has received commissions from the instrumental programs at UCLA, University of North Texas, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. His choral and wind ensemble works are published by Alfred, Kjos and Ludwig Masters.



“I attend many classical concerts each month and the Music Guild is absolutely a favorite. Superb music, excellent curating and informative pre-concert talks keep bringing me back.”

— Ann Graham Ehringer

OCTOBER 12 at 8pm

Beethoven Extravaganza

The Chamber Orchestra at St. Matthew's ■ *Petronel Malan, piano*

- BEETHOVEN: *Coriolan Overture*
- BEETHOVEN: *Emperor Piano Concerto*
- BEETHOVEN: *Symphony No. 4*

Three-time Grammy-nominated South African pianist Petronel Malan is an internationally recognized artist and recently enjoyed an unprecedented run of 30 weeks on Classic-FM's Top-10 list with her recording of Bach transcriptions.

Beethoven's *Coriolan Overture* and Fourth Symphony were premiered together in 1807 and reveal two very different sides of Beethoven's character. The overture, like the mighty Fifth Symphony, is cast in C minor – a key so often associated with fate and the heroic in Beethoven's music. The Fourth Symphony is not the anti-thesis of the iconic Fifth (Schumann called it a "slender Grecian maiden between two Nordic Giants") but a companion to it. While at times highly dramatic, the Fourth is full of wit, charm and grace. The *Emperor* was composed in 1811 and represents a synthesis of styles. Bold and



heroic, lyrical and tuneful, Beethoven's final piano concerto stretches the limits of the instrument and the skill of the player with cascades of sound and dazzling virtuosity. An opening concert you won't want to miss.

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“For many years we’ve enjoyed the special treat of beautiful music so close to home, with no traffic or parking problems, and in the company of friends and neighbors to boot! And we’ve made lots of new friends at the concerts. We thank all our talented musicians for so much pleasure and musical adventure and we look forward to much more in the future!”

— Wayne and Judy Marcus

NOVEMBER 9 at 8pm

'Great War' Hundredth Anniversary Commemoration

The Chamber Orchestra at St. Matthew's ■ *Annelle Gregory, violin*

- RAVEL: *Le Tombeau de Couperin*
- COPLAND: *Letter from Home*
- KORNGOLD: Violin Concerto

We welcome back Annelle Kazumi Gregory who “blew the roof off the joint” last season with her performance in the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto.

Maurice Ravel, himself a soldier in the French Army during World War I, composed *Le Tombeau de Couperin* for piano in 1917, and completed the orchestration in 1919. The work is a memorial to friends of Ravel who died fighting in the war and consists of a series of neo-baroque dances that evoke the delicate harpsichord works of François Couperin.

Copland's *Letter from Home* was written in 1944 as a patriotic work for Paul Whiteman and his Radio Hall of Fame Orchestra. It is a sentimental and nostalgic tone-poem that depicts a soldier on the battlefield, reading a letter from a loved one back home.

Erich Wolfgang Korngold left war-torn Europe in 1934 and, with Max Steiner and Alfred Newman, established the language of the Hollywood film.



The Violin Concerto, composed here in America, is his most beloved concert work, with soaring melodies reminiscent of his greatest film scores such as *The Adventures of Robin Hood* and *The Sea Hawk*.



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“We are thrilled to be Music Guild members! With many years of enjoyment, we eagerly anticipate each upcoming season and look forward to the consistently outstanding performances and casual atmosphere.”

— Bob and Evelyn Fowlks

DECEMBER 7 at 8pm

Annual Holiday Concert – Baroque Spectacular

The Chamber Orchestra at St. Matthew's

The Choir and Soloists of St. Matthew's Parish

- VIVALDI: *Magnificat* in G Minor
- BACH: Christmas Oratorio (Excerpts)
- HANDEL: Concerto Grosso, Op. 6, No. 2
- HANDEL: “*Hallelujah*” Chorus – Audience Sing-Along

This year's Holiday Concert brings together the three greatest composers of the baroque era: Antonio Vivaldi, George Frederick Handel, and Johann Sebastian Bach.

Vivaldi's *Magnificat*, composed for the orphaned girls at Venice's *Ospedale della Pietá*, is full of Italian grace and sparkle, a trait picked up by George Frederick Handel during his long Italian stay during the 1700s and applied to all of his concertos for orchestra.

Bach's Christmas Oratorio is a compilation of six cantatas for performance on the days leading up to and after Christmas. We will sample some of its greatest hits and we conclude with the traditional audience sing-along of Handel's “*Hallelujah*” Chorus.



FEBRUARY 1 at 8pm

Alone Together ■ *Cantus Vocal Ensemble*

The outstanding male a cappella ensemble Cantus brings an introspective narrative on our struggles to connect with one another in an increasingly digital world.

The first installment of the Music Guild's new **Choral Arts Initiative**, the program includes music of Beethoven, Leonard Bernstein and David Lang, along with newer works by Jennifer Higdon and Libby Larson.

“Cantus’s...tightly blended voices, meticulously balanced...came through with a clarity that I’ve never experienced...” – David Patrick Stearns, Philadelphia Inquirer.

“Singers of superlative quality, all switching easily from idiom to idiom. These boys can rock, swing, groove, and boogie, as well as do their standard shift of classical and contemporary music. They can, in short, do pretty much anything...” – Terry Blain, Minnesota Public Radio

MARCH 1 at 8pm

Spotlight On Strings

The Chamber Orchestra At St. Matthew's
Antonio Lysy, Cello

- HOLST: St. Paul Suite
- BRITTEN: Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge
- SCHUBERT: *Arpeggione* Sonata

Antonio Lysy, an artist of international stature, has performed as a soloist in major concert halls worldwide.

He has appeared with such orchestras as the Royal Philharmonic and Philharmonia Orchestra of London, Camerata Academica of Salzburg, Zurich Tonhalle and Israel Sinfonietta. Lysy will perform the lyrical and moving *Arpeggione* sonata of Franz Schubert in an arrangement for solo cello and strings. Benjamin Britten's touching tribute to his teacher, Frank Bridge, and music by Gustav Holst, composer of *The Planets*, round out the program.



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“We are enthusiastic and grateful supporters of the world-class performances of St. Matthew’s Music Guild. We sponsor the Viola Chair in honor of Phil’s mother Onnie, who played viola in a quartet with the same group of friends for over fifty years!”

— Phil and Robin Darrow

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“This is our first year as Music Guild subscribers. What a joy it is to spend a relaxing evening in a beautiful setting listening to wonderful music close to home with no traffic or parking hassles. Tom Neenan’s “Liner Notes” are an educational bonus to the experience.”

— Ann & Dave Gooding

APRIL 5 at 8pm

Pianist Robert Thies In Recital

- SCHUMANN: Fantasy In C, Op. 17
- CHOPIN: Ballade No. 4 In F Minor, Op. 52
- DEBUSSY: *Images*, Book 1 and Selected Preludes
- RACHMANINOFF: Selected Etudes

A pianist of “*unerring, warm-toned refinement, revealing judicious glimmers of power,*” (Los Angeles Times), Robert Thies is an artist renowned for his consummate musicianship and poetic temperament.

He first captured worldwide attention in 1995 when he won the Gold Medal at the Second International Prokofiev Competition in St. Petersburg, Russia. Praised for his “thoughtful and intensely moving interpretations,” Thies enjoys a diverse career as an orchestral soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician. He brings a varied program of Romantic and 20th-century masterpieces including Chopin’s soulful Ballade in F minor and dazzling works by Debussy and Rachmaninoff.



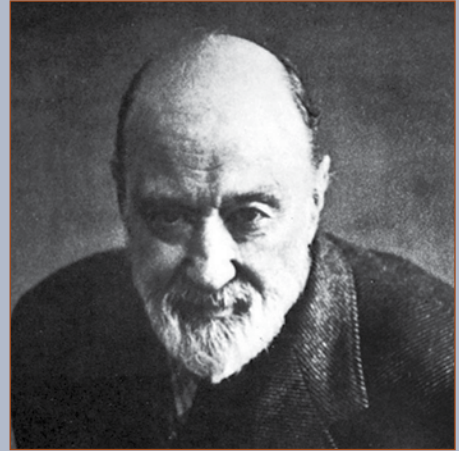
“We are not church members or musicians, just music lovers, who, for the past six years, have been finding respite from a turbulent world at Friday evening concerts at St. Matthew’s. We feel so fortunate to have such an accomplished ensemble with world-class guest artists right in our own backyard.”

— Karen Chorney and Tom Lane

JUNE 7 at 8pm

Beethoven and The “Unanswered Question”

*The Chamber Orchestra at St. Matthew's
The Choir of St. Matthew's Parish
Soloists to be announced*



- BEETHOVEN: Mass in C Major
- IVES: *Unanswered Question*
- Commissioned Work, World Premiere

Composed on commission by Haydn's patron, Prince Nikolaus Esterházy, in 1807, the Mass in C major made its premiere in a famous December 1808 concert that also featured the Fifth and Sixth symphonies and Fourth Piano Concerto.

The musical language is of Beethoven's "Heroic" period – although the critic and writer E.T.A.

Hoffman commented on the "expression of a childlike serenity" in several of its movements.

The visionary American composer Charles Ives composed his *Unanswered Question* in the early 1930s. According to Ives, against a background of slow, quiet strings representing "The Silence of the Druids," a solo trumpet poses "The Perennial Question of Existence," to which a woodwind quartet of "Fighting Answers" tries vainly to provide an answer. The three groups engage in their dialog from the front, back and sides of the performance space, creating a true quadrophonic experience.

The program will also include the world premiere of a new Music Guild commissioned work.



“The Music Guild is the Westside’s best kept secret. Enjoying world-class musicians with friends in a beautiful setting, close to home is why I’ve remained a subscriber and proud supporter all these years!”

— Cindy Dunne

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