

MERCED

Symphony

64TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

 2021-2022
SEASON
MUSIC DIRECTOR, MING LUKE

SUPPORT YOUR *Symphony*

The Merced Symphony's artistic and educational programs would not be possible without the generous support of many individuals, foundations, and corporations. Donors receive special perks like access to events and artists throughout the season. To view sponsorship information or to make a donation online, please visit our website: www.mercedsymphony.org.

Season Tickets are a 15% savings from individual ticket prices for 4 concerts with reserved seating. The Merced Theatre will contact you to select your seat(s) for the season, so be sure your contact information is correct.

Name(s): _____ (as you wish listed in the program)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Season Tickets

Adult: _____ @ \$135 each \$ _____

Student* / Child: _____ @ \$35 each (may sit with parent or guardian) \$ _____

Grand Total \$ _____

Paid by ☐ Check *Please make checks payable to: **Merced Theatre Foundation***

☐ Credit Card (Specify: Amex/VISA/MC/Disc/Other: _____)

CC# _____

Exp. Date: _____ / _____ CCV: _____

Individual concert tickets can be purchased at the Merced Theatre Box Office or online.

Individual Concert Tickets

Adult: \$40 each

Student* / Child: \$15 each

**Full-time Students 25 and under with school ID. Children under 12 do not need an ID.*

For Tickets (Season and Individual Performances):

Merced Theatre Box Office
301 W Main St., Merced, CA 95340
or call 209-381-0500

The Sixty-Fourth Season



After a month of Sundays, we meet again. It has been an extraordinary privilege to serve this organization as President for just over a year, and to help plan and guide our return to full time, in-person programming. As Merced County's oldest and most revered arts organization, our Board worked hard to not let unprecedented circumstances deter us from our important mission. We managed to survive, and thrive, while delivering arts education to thousands of

children, preserving culture and live music in our community, and supporting our nonprofit partners in the arts and beyond. We are glad to have kept our promise to return to in-person concerts as soon as it became safe to do so with an intimate performance capping off our previous season this past July. Second, we grew our reach by producing the first live broadcast classical concert in Merced history, a live-to-tape production of the Holiday Candlelight Concert, a second-live stream Pops Concert, and a simulcast of our in-person Season Finale. Cumulatively, these events were enjoyed by several thousand viewers. On the educational front, strategic partnerships with the Merced County Office of Education and the Bernstein Institute allowed us to deploy a digital version of our much-loved "Children's Concert" to more than 4,500 students (roughly 1,600 more than our usual in-person participation rate), with NEW participation from school districts in Delhi, El Nido, Livingston, Snelling, and Winton. Finally, we are so fortunate to find ourselves on firm financial footing as we emerge from the economic challenges of the pandemic. Merced Symphony has been the grateful beneficiary of funding from the CARES Act and the California Relief Grant. Most importantly, it has been your steadfast support that has brought us success through trying times. As we begin the transition back from institutional support to grassroots donor funding, it is more important than ever that we rely not just on your largesse, but your guidance. Please be generous with both. »

Enough about the past – here is what has us excited about the future. Your Merced Symphony, a true Twenty-First Century arts organization, will continue to grow our reach with free digital programming, including a live simulcast of our Season Premiere Concert on September 25th. As part of our continued effort to professionalize from an all-volunteer Board, we are thrilled to announce the hiring of Jennifer Summers as our first full-time Executive Director. Jennifer comes to Merced Symphony with 20 years of experience working for one of the largest privately-held insurance brokerages in the United States and, as a result, has extensive knowledge in commercial business operations, with an emphasis in marketing, technology, and customer service. As Information Security Officer for her firm, Jennifer acted as a compliance officer and ran her firm's education and training department. Jennifer is pursuing her teaching credential and hopes to become a high school teacher for one of our local Merced schools. Please be sure to give her a warm welcome when you encounter her at concerts and signature events.

As always, we are elated to welcome back Maestro Ming Luke for another year leading our orchestra in what surely will be a memorable season. Our Premiere Concert will celebrate “new beginnings” in the best way possible: with opera overtures! The remainder of the season delivers on some of our favorite traditions: the Holiday Candlelight and Pops Concerts. The Season Finale is not to be missed: we celebrate some unprecedented times with an unprecedented performance. The “Organ Symphony” by Saint-Saëns is arguably the most powerful and transcendent piece of music of the Romantic period, and we will enjoy it in the beautiful and historic Central Presbyterian Church, on their William E. Baker pipe organ, which retains some components of the original 1920s instrument. We are filled with hope and optimism as we endeavor to reach new heights and provide unforgettable experiences for our community. Most of all, we are overjoyed at the prospect of seeing you again.

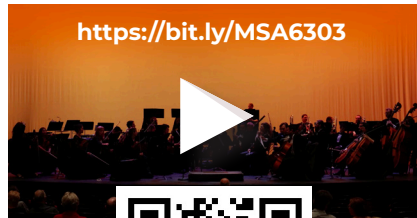
Looking forward to it,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Richard Heller', with a stylized, flowing script.

R. Richard Heller



Did you miss a performance? Want to experience the magic again? The Merced Symphony is growing its digital platform by adding concerts to our YouTube channel. To view Merced Symphony's YouTube channel, type the following link in your browser <https://bit.ly/MSAYouTube2021> OR scan this QR code with your phone and hit "subscribe." As a subscriber to our YouTube channel, you will receive notifications as we upload exciting new content. Our YouTube library will continue to grow, giving you access to free digital content on-demand at any time.

September 2020 Season Premiere<https://bit.ly/MSA6300>**Holiday Candlelight Concert 2020**<https://bit.ly/MSA6301>**Spring
Pops Concert 2021**<https://bit.ly/MSA6302>**Reconnecting
Our Season Finale 2021**<https://bit.ly/MSA6303>

A long-standing tradition for over three decades, the Children's Educational Concerts are a highlight of our programming. By providing free, interactive, educational concerts to Fourth Grade students across Merced County, we have managed to ignite a love of music for over 58,000 young people since the inception of this exciting program.

Last year, in response to the pandemic and in-person meeting restrictions, we got creative, working with the Bernstein Institute to develop a digital curriculum so that our students would not have to miss out on this important experience. The result was a success, increasing our annual outreach from 3,000 to 4,500 students, including new partnerships in Delhi, El Nido, Livingston, Snelling, and Winton. Please consider supporting our Children's Concert in 2022 and our Children's education program as we expand into the digital world to be more inclusive of Merced County schools.

» To donate online, please visit mercedsymphony.org/donate.
Alternatively, if you wish to mail a check, please remit to:

Merced Symphony Association
PO Box 894
Merced, CA 95341-0894

Valley PBS Presents:
Merced Symphony Annual Children's Concerts 2016



REBIRTH

Merced Symphony comes back with a season of rebirth and renewal! Starting the 21-22 season with an exciting concert representing the full return to live music, Merced Symphony opens with a concert full of favorite concert overtures as well as Stravinsky's famous Firebird Suite of 1919. Representing the phoenix' rise from the ashes, Stravinsky's colorful suite couldn't be more perfect to start our year back to concerts this season.

Overture to *Marriage of Figaro*
Overture to *Prince Igor*
Egmont Overture
Overture to *Die Fledermaus*
Firebird Suite (1919 version)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Alexander Borodin
Ludwig van Beethoven
Johann Strauss, Jr.
Igor Stravinsky



WHEN:

September 25 at 7:30 pm
at Merced Theatre
Doors open at 6:30 pm

Holiday Candlelight

Join the Merced Symphony in our traditional and beloved Holiday Candlelight! Nothing gets one into the holiday mood like some timeless classics played by a symphony chamber orchestra. Be serenaded as we perform concert favorites that will

get you in the holiday mood. Lyric Coloratura soprano Nikki Einfeld will be our soloist for this evening of holiday classics. Ms. Einfeld is a former Adler Fellow and Merola Alumnus with the San Francisco Opera and has performed across North America with some of the most notable orchestras.



NIKKI EINFELD

WHEN:
November 21 at 7:30 pm
at Merced Theatre
Doors open at 6:30 pm

FROM **FILM** TO **STAGE**

Some of the greatest orchestral music has been found in movie theaters as composers like John Williams, Bernard Hermann, and Hans Zimmer all were taught and influenced

by classical composers. Join the Merced Symphony in a classic pops concert that will thrill and excite you in the theater – with some of the most famous movie music written for the screen!



WHEN:
January 21 at 7:30 pm
at Merced Theatre
Doors open at 6:30 pm

Season Finale

We close out the 64th Anniversary season with two momentous works, Camille Saint-Saens grand Organ Symphony and the Brahms Double Concerto for Violin and Cello. Hear this immense, grand, and sweeping symphony of Saint-Saens as we close out the season with one of the fullest

orchestras on stage. Soloists Cordula Merks and Amos Yang come from the San Francisco Symphony and San Francisco Ballet and perform the fiendishly difficult but beautiful Brahms Double Concerto. An exciting way to finish out the year, this will be a concert, and a season, not to miss!



Concerto For Violin And Cello in A Minor **Johannes Brahms**

Organ Symphony **Camille Saint-Saens**

WHEN:

May 21 at 7:30 pm
at **Central Presbyterian Church**
Doors open at 6:30 pm

MERCED *Symphony*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

R. Richard Heller

VICE PRESIDENT

Shane Smith

TREASURER

Susan Amussen

SECRETARY

Connie Brons

PRESIDENT EMERITA

Judy Edwina Smith

BOARD MEMBERS

Rick Graves

David Medley

Patricia Vergara

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jennifer Summers

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ming Luke



To become a sponsor for one of our events or to make a donation to the Merced Symphony, please contact a board member.

All 2021-2022 Concert Events will have printed programs, if you wish to purchase ad space, please contact our Executive Director, Jennifer Summers.

Designed and printed by

Jaime Ramirez | Merced County Office of Education



Merced Symphony Association
P.O. Box 894
Merced, CA 95341

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #522
MERCED, CA 95340