

Merced Symphony

Ming Luke, Music Director



Photo by Roger J. Wyan

2018-2019 Season



A Message From The President

Welcome to our 61st Season!

Now that we have completed our 60th Anniversary Season, we are looking forward to our 61st with great anticipation. As a result of a poll of our patrons during last season, the artistic committee and Maestro Ming Luke have used your ideas for music repertoire to inform our choices for the 2018-2019 concerts.

You requested a mix of standard classics, newer pieces, works by women composers and more. There is something for everyone to enjoy. For example, Ming is collaborating with local vocalists Jenni Samuelson and Eric Bocks to put on an exciting Pops Concert which will also feature Andrew Whitfield, conducting the orchestra.



Photo by Roger J. Wyan

Other events are in the works and we will make every effort to keep you informed throughout the year. If you have not shared your e-mail address with us, please consider doing so. This makes it easier and much less expensive to keep you up to date on symphony news.

MSA will continue to bring music to the students of Merced County with another four lively Children's Concerts—two here in Merced and two in Los Banos. We hope to continue to expand our Educational Program in future years with your support.

How can you help the Merced Symphony grow? Attend concerts and events, bring friends, tell contacts about the high-quality musicians who perform in our orchestra and our stellar Music Director. Of course, donations are always welcomed to support these concerts.

Please plan to get your tickets early and join us for the September 22nd Opening Concert!

Judy Edwina Smith

2018 – 2019 Season



Educational Programs

Providing students with the opportunity to experience live music is part of the core mission of the Merced Symphony. Our Winter Children's Concerts are regularly fully booked with a waiting list. Our annual Youth Auditions give talented young artists the opportunity to perform before judges and receive positive feedback. Winners can be asked to perform with the orchestra. Some of our winners have gone on to professional careers or become music teachers. We are very proud of them!



Amaryn Olmeda, 2017-18 Youth Audition winner

Children's Concerts

Associate Concert Sponsors



Not open to the public. Schools/Classroom Teachers may make reservations for their 4th grade students through MCOE for the concerts in Merced on February 1st, 2019. Los Baños area schools reserve through LBUSD Office of the Superintendent for the Children's Concerts at Pacheco HS Theater on January 31st, 2019. These programs are designed to be interactive with students and pique their interest in music and band.

Your contributions help us to continue providing these orchestral experiences for our local students. You can sponsor students through a specified donation. Please refer to the Order Form.



2018 – 2019 Season

Beethoven & More

Season Opener

September 22, 2018 | 7:30 pm
Merced Theatre



Photo by Roger J. Wyant

Ma Vlast

Bedřich Smetana

Horn Concerto No. 1

Reinhold Moritzewich Glière

Kevin Rivard, Horn

Symphony 7

Ludwig van Beethoven

We open with the most requested piece of orchestral music – Smetana's gorgeous Ma Vlast suite (Die Moldau). Renowned horn player Kevin Rivard joins us as soloist for Glière, and we end the program with Beethoven.

Concert Sponsor:

Art Kamangar in Honor of Jan Mendenhall

Simply Strings

Fall Concert

November 17, 2018 | 7:30 pm
Merced Theatre



Photo by Roger J. Wyant

Chamber Symphony

Dmitri Shostakovich

Violin Concerto

Johann Sebastian Bach

St. Paul Suite

Gustav Holst

From the sweet sounds of Bach to the intensity of Shostakovich and the brilliantly energetic melodies of Holst, you get it all in this eclectic strings program!

Concert Sponsors:

Sam & Dena Traina

2018 – 2019 Season



Pops Concert

Reach for the Stars!

February 1, 2019 | 7:30 pm
Merced Theatre



Featuring Jenni Samuelson (Soprano), Eric Bocks (Tenor) and Guest Conductor Andrew Whitfield

Merced's own Jenni Samuelson and Erik Bocks grace our stage under guest conductor Andrew Whitfield. From Star Wars to solos and duets from the Broadway stage, this is not a concert to be missed!

Associate Concert Sponsor:

Melbourne Gwin & Judith Hartman

Magnificent Mozart

Season Finale

April 12, 2019 | 7:30 pm
Merced Theatre



Photo by Roger J. Wyan

Symphony 29

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Concertino

Cecil Chaminade

Symphony 41 'Jupiter'

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

We close with two brilliant symphonies by Mozart, paired with a beautiful piece by an amazing female composer. What a great way to close out the season by performing some of the greatest music of the orchestral repertory!

Associate Concert Sponsor:

Richard Graves



2018 – 2019 Season

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 access to events and artists throughout the season, depending upon their donation level. For the perks within each level, check our website: www.mercedsymphony.org

The MSA Board will schedule one or more fundraisers during the season along with other events, such as soirees to meet the musicians and chat with our music director. If you are on our e-mail list, you will receive advance notice about any special events for planning purposes. We will also put a notice on our website.

Please consider supporting the Merced Symphony Association (MSA) to allow us to continue our mission of bringing to Merced the finest professional musicians for great symphonic programs. Our musicians are highly trained and sought after for performances in major orchestras. Many make solo appearances and perform throughout northern California.

We bring the Bay Area Music Scene to Merced! No need to drive long distances to hear exceptional music. MSA provides it right here!

Thank you for supporting music in the central valley!

Note: All donations are tax deductible. [IRS Tax ID #94-1541775]

Donor Opportunity

Names are listed in programs and on the website. Gifts at any level are appreciated:

Season Sponsor (\$10,000+)
Concert Sponsor (\$5,000+)
Associate Sponsor (2,500-\$4,999)
Platinum Level (\$1,000-\$2,499)

Gold Level (\$500-\$999)
Silver Level (\$250-\$499)
Patron Level (\$100-\$249)
Supporter Level (\$50-\$99)

ENDOWMENT FUND: Please talk with a MSA Board Member for more information.

Subscriber & Donor Form



Season tickets feature tiered pricing with reserved seats selected prior to general sale to the public. 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: _____

Season Tickets = 15% savings from individual ticket prices for 4 concerts.

Tier 1: _____ @ \$153.00 each (Front Middle section, rows A-O)

Tier 2: _____ @ \$119.00 each (Front Sides to Row O)

Tier 3: _____ @ \$85 each (Side and Middle Back from Row P on)

Student/Child: _____ @ \$51.00 each (may sit with parent or guardian)

FIRST TIME Season Ticket Buyers get a 30% discount from individual tickets:

Tier 1: _____ @ \$126.00

Tier 3: _____ @ \$70.00

Tier 2: _____ @ \$98.00

Student*/Child _____ @ \$42.00

Additional, Individual concert tickets (specify concert on lines below)

_____ Adult Tier 1 Tickets @ \$45 each for _____ \$ _____

_____ Adult Tier 2 Tickets @ \$35 each for _____ \$ _____

_____ Adult Tier 3 Tickets @ \$25 each for _____ \$ _____

_____ Student*/Child Tickets @ \$15 each _____ \$ _____

*Fulltime Students 25 and under with school ID. Children under 12 do not need an ID.

Total Tickets \$ _____

I will sponsor _____ students at the Children's Concerts: (Optional) \$ _____

This donation helps defray the cost of the free concert for 4th grade students in Merced County.

I wish to support the MSA Programs with my donation of: \$ _____

Grand Total \$ _____

Paid by ☐ Check

☐ Credit Card

(Specify: Amex/VISA/MC/Disc/Other: _____)

CC# _____

Exp. Date: ____/____ CCV# _____

For season tickets:

Merced Symphony Association

PO Box 894

Merced, CA 95341-0894

For Individual Tickets contact

Merced Theatre Box Office

301 W Main St, Merced

or call 209-381-0500

AFTER August 30, 2018



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