

# WORLD CLASS MUSIC CLOSE TO HOME



## 2019-2020 SEASON



# Welcome to Our 35th Season of Concerts!

**T**hank you to all our loyal subscribers for making our 2018 – 2019 season such a success. With our new Music Director, **Dwayne Milburn**, the Chamber Orchestra at St. Matthew's continues to flourish, and the Music Guild continues to attract large audiences and new subscribers. As a matter of fact, last year we achieved something of a record – more than 30 new subscribing households! Thank you one and all.

Some of our subscribers have offered comments about what an important part of their lives the Music Guild is. Two of our wonderful orchestra members, **Kay Nevin** (clarinet) and **William Johnson** (double bass), share their perspective as well. I know the orchestra members treasure the opportunity to perform before an audience of subscribers whom they have come to know personally over the years and subscribers likewise enjoy chatting with orchestra members at intermission and after the performances.

Along with our concert series at St. Matthew's Church, we've been busy in the community. We have a new outreach partnership with Bread and Roses Café where we are providing music for the homeless clients who come to Bread and Roses for meals. We were also at Canyon Elementary, Kenter-Canyon Elementary, and the UCLA Lab School where members of the orchestra inspired

students in the instrumental music program with a performance and an opportunity for one-on-one mentoring and a master class. We also continue to commission new music from deserving young composers. This season, we are excited to present the premiere of a newly commissioned work by New York composer and saxophonist **Ethan Helm** (see *April listing*).



All of this is 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 but the kinds of outreach and commissioning efforts described above.

Thanks to you – our loyal subscribers and patrons – the Music Guild is a healthy and vital organization. Please take a moment to renew your subscription online at [MusicGuildOnline.org](http://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 4.

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

## *Subscribe now and enjoy:*

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- Great premium benefits



# DWAYNE S. MILBURN

## *Music Director and Conductor*

**T**hank you for your enthusiastic support during my first season as Music Director. Less than two weeks after my retirement from the Army last fall, I was conducting my first rehearsal with The Chamber Orchestra at St. Matthew's, and since then my excitement over leading this incredible ensemble and sharing great music with you has continued to build. With that, I invite you to subscribe to the 2019-2020 season and enjoy all the wonderful concerts we have in store for the season.

We kick off the season with Beethoven's Symphony No. 8, paired with music by the composer Beethoven considered his greatest contemporary, Luigi Cherubini. We're also excited to welcome internationally acclaimed violinist Moses Pogossian, who will perform Max Bruch's stunning Violin Concerto in G minor. We follow that with the second of our Choral Arts Initiative performances featuring the internationally renowned VOCES8. The Choir and Soloists of St. Matthew's Parish join us for our traditional holiday concert, this year concluding with Vivaldi's Gloria in D major. The sumptuous music of French composers Debussy, Ravel, Francaix, and Bizet will lift your spirits in the

chill of January. Pianist Petronel Malan returns just in time to celebrate the arrival of spring with a solo concert that pays further tribute to the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth. Famous trumpet virtuoso Jens Lindemann joins the Chamber Orchestra in April to help celebrate



America's enduring gift to the world of music — jazz. Included on this concert will be the premiere of a commissioned work by saxophonist and composer Ethan Helm. Our season closes in June with works by William Grant Still, Igor Stravinsky, and Franz Josef Haydn's beloved "Lord Nelson" Mass.

I have met many of you this season and I'm looking forward to renewing and strengthening those ties in the years to come. When we do next meet, I hope you will bring a friend to join us in what promises to be another season of wonderful World-Class Music Close to Home.

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“We love the beautiful music, sonorous setting, up-close seating, the location in the neighborhood—and the opportunity to round up friends for an early dinner followed by a fun cultural experience. The music-making is at a consistently high level and the programming gives us the perfect mix of familiar and not so familiar. This is why we have been subscribers for more than 20 years and why we plan to enthusiastically renew this year!”

— Chris and Pam McGranahan, season subscribers

# OCTOBER 4 at 8pm

## Pogossian plays Bruch

*The Chamber Orchestra at St. Matthew's* ■ *Mosves Pogossian, violin*

- BRUCH: Violin Concerto in G minor
- BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 8
- CHERUBINI: Overture to *Faniska*

Armenian-born Mosves Pogossian took the violin world by storm winning the Tchaikovsky International Competition at the age of 20 and becoming the youngest-ever First Prize winner of the 1985 USSR National Violin Competition.

Following his American debut at Symphony Hall, Boston, in 1990, Richard Dyer wrote, “There is freedom in his playing, but also taste and discipline. It was a fiery...and highly musical performance” (*The Boston Globe*). Now a faculty member at the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music, Pogossian will perform the quintessentially romantic Concerto in G minor by Max Bruch, a favorite violin showpiece since its premiere in 1866.



Luigi Cherubini, a contemporary of Beethoven and equally as famous in his day, wrote the opera *Faniska* after attending a performance of Beethoven’s *Fidelio* in Vienna. Like *Fidelio*, *Faniska* is a “rescue” opera – in this case with a Polish connection. Although the opera and its vivacious overture were praised by Haydn and Beethoven, only the overture remains in the standard repertoire.

MEET OUR MUSIC  
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“Playing with The Chamber Orchestra at St. Matthew’s feels like playing at home with family for good friends. Our loyal audience gives me encouragement every concert, propelling me to the end of a challenging piece. Every concert, a member of our audience comes to me with gratitude, interesting questions, and thoughtful responses to the evening’s program. I love the diversity of pieces each season brings – for us, the players, and for our audience – and am very grateful to be a member of such an awesome organization.”

— William Johnson, double bass

# NOVEMBER 1 at 8pm

## VOCES8



Voces8, the astonishing British vocal ensemble, is proud to inspire people through music and share the joy of singing.

Touring globally, the group performs an extensive repertoire both in its cappella concerts and in collaborations with leading orchestras.

Versatility and a celebration of diverse musical expression are central to the ensemble's performance and education ethos.

"The singing of VOCES8 is impeccable in its quality of tone and balance. They bring a new dimension to the word 'ensemble' with meticulous timing and tuning." —*Gramophone*.

*This concert by Voces8 is presented as the 2019-2020 installment of the Music Guild's new Choral Arts Initiative.*

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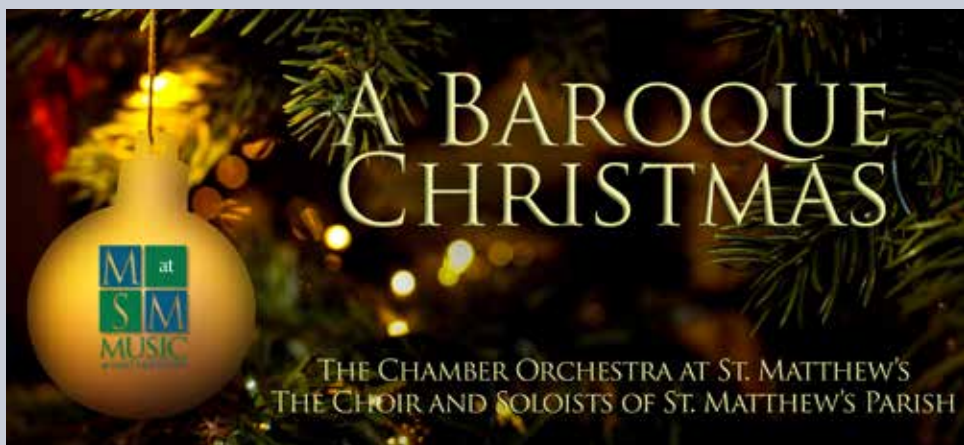


“Every time we attend a Chamber Orchestra at St. Matthew’s concert, we find the experience inspiring because of the level of excellence exhibited throughout. The orchestra, programming and pre-concert ‘Liner Notes’ are brilliant and the guest artists and ensembles are first-rate. The fact that the venue is on the Westside, a short, traffic-free drive away, is another plus.”

— Val Holwerda and Paul Kruger, season subscribers

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# DECEMBER 6 at 8pm



The Chamber Orchestra and Choir join forces to present a joyful start to the holiday season.

William Boyce was one of the most respected English composers in his day and his effervescent Symphony No. 4 opens the concert. Giovanni Battista Pergolesi produced many influential masterworks during his short life, including the *Magnificat*, which features the Soloists of St. Matthew's Parish.

- BOYCE: Symphony No. 4
- PERGOLESI: *Magnificat*
- VIVALDI: *Gloria*
- HANDEL: *Hallelujah Chorus*

The Choir of St. Matthew's Parish takes the stage to perform the perennial holiday favorite, Antonio Vivaldi's *Gloria*, followed by our traditional audience sing-along of the *Hallelujah Chorus*, from Handel's *Messiah*.

# JANUARY 31 at 8pm

## A Night on the Boulevard Saint-Germain

The Chamber Orchestra at St. Matthew's ■ Soloist tba

Spend a night with us on Paris's Boulevard Saint-Germain and enjoy the music of some of the finest French composers of the 19th and 20th centuries.

The sumptuous harmonies of Debussy's *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun* and Ravel's *Three Poems by Stéphane Mallarmé* are matched with the vibrant energy of *Six Preludes* by the always cosmopolitan and charming Jean Françaix. George Bizet's delightful Symphony in C is a youthful work, composed when he was just seventeen and a student at the Paris

- DEBUSSY: *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun* (chamber orchestra version)
- FRANÇAIX: *Six Preludes*
- RAVEL: *Three Poems by Stéphane Mallarmé*
- BIZET: Symphony in C

Conservatory. Because Bizet was consumed with opera after graduating, the work lay dormant until its premiere in Basel in 1935 when it was hailed as a masterpiece.

# MARCH 13 at 8pm

## Petronel Malan in Recital

*Music by Beethoven, Brahms and Price*



South African-born pianist **Petronel Malan**, who brought the house down with her October 2018 performance of Beethoven's *Emperor Concerto*, returns for a solo recital commemorating the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth.

Known for her "uniquely captivating style," and described by New York reviewer Harris Goldsmith as "formidable...dizzying...magical," Malan, a multiple Grammy nominee, will also present rarely heard masterpieces by American composer Florence Price, and music by Johannes Brahms.

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“We love The Music Guild Series! We live in Santa Monica so we really do have the opportunity to hear ‘World-Class Music’ – in a beautiful setting – ‘Close to Home.’ Tom Neenan’s ‘Liner Notes’ are an added free benefit to the audience.”

— Marilyn and Eric Schmitter, season subscribers

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“My family has been connected with the Music Guild since it began in 1985, and I’ve grown to appreciate it more and more through the years. My parents attended all the concerts they could, and my father, who was a member of the Choir of St. Matthew’s Parish for decades, always loved singing in the annual holiday concerts.”

— Vicki Warren, season subscriber

# APRIL 24 at 8pm

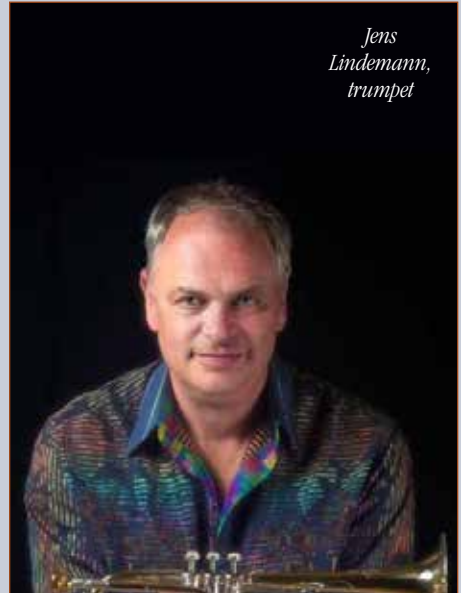
## Classical Jazz

*The Chamber Orchestra at St. Matthew's*  
*Jens Lindemann, trumpet*  
*Ethan Helm and Owen Broder, saxophone*

- IVES: *Ragtime Dances*
- MILHAUD: *The Creation of the World*
- BROUGHTON: *Saloon Music for Trumpet and Pit Orchestra*
- HELM: Commissioned work for two saxophones and chamber ensemble

A uniquely American art form, jazz continues to influence world music. Charles Ives' jaunty *Ragtime Dances* explore the power of jazz to move the body, while Darius Milhaud's *The Creation of the World* invokes jazz idioms to move the spirit.

Canadian Jens Lindemann, one of the greatest trumpet virtuosos of our era, joins us in Bruce Broughton's *Saloon Music for Trumpet and Pit Orchestra*, a work that moves jazz from the nightclubs to the concert stage. New York jazz



Jens  
Lindemann,  
trumpet

saxophonist duo Ethan Helm and Owen Broder join us for the world premiere of a new work commissioned for the Chamber Orchestra at St. Matthew's.

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“I love playing in the Chamber Orchestra for many reasons. The members are great musicians, and the fact that most of us have worked together for 20 years makes the experience like being with old friends or family. I love the warm acoustics of the performance space, but also that our audience almost surround us so that each performance becomes a closely shared experience of music for everyone there.”

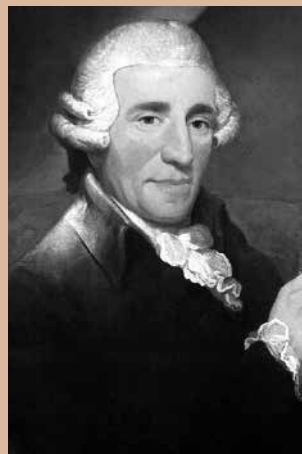
— Kay Nevin, clarinet



# JUNE 5 at 8pm

## Still, Stravinsky, Haydn

*The Chamber Orchestra at St. Matthew's*  
*The Choir of St. Matthew's Parish*



- STILL: *Out of the Silence*
- STRAVINSKY: *Dumbarton Oaks*
- HAYDN: *Lord Nelson Mass*

Our season closes with Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass*. Composed during the height of the Napoleonic wars, the premiere occurred as news of England's

Admiral Lord Nelson's victory at Aboukar reached Austria.

The coincidence of these events, as well as Haydn's admiration for Nelson, prompted the work's familiar nickname.

*Dumbarton Oaks*, Stravinsky's homage to Bach's *Brandenburg* concertos, and William Grant Still's elegant essay *Out of the Silence*, round out the program.



“We feel fortunate to have the opportunity to enjoy top quality musical events in a unique community environment, brought to us by some of the most accomplished professional musicians in LA and delivered in the confines of the acoustical marvel that is St. Matthew's Church. The orchestra, choirs and programming remain par excellence.”

— Marian and Leo Orr, season subscribers

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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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