FAREFAN

DECEMBER 2022

SPECIAL EDITION

CELEBRATING OUR
75TH ANNIVERSARY
SANTA BARBARA, CA
Dear Friends of the Music Academy,

During this milestone 75th anniversary year, we’ve been mobilized by our unifying purpose to catalyze the change that will propel classically trained musicians boldly forward. We were founded to be different, and we stand on the shoulders of all who created this welcoming place to forge exciting pathways of growth.

In this special edition of FanFare, we celebrate the ways we have helped artists grow and expand through their participation with the Music Academy. From our partnerships with the London Symphony Orchestra and the Young People’s Chorus of New York City, to our Fast Pitch and Alumni Enterprise Awards, we are giving them tools to become not just great musicians, but great leaders.

Please enjoy this joyful photo essay of our many offerings this year that could only be made possible with a community like this one. Our supporters are central to our mission.

Thank you for helping us to chart a new direction.

Scott Reed
President & CEO
Music Academy alumna and Lehrer Vocal Institute Co-Director Sasha Cooke, a GRAMMY Award-winning Metropolitan Opera star, headlined the Music Academy’s annual gala. A magical night under the stars was enjoyed by all! Special thanks go to Co-Chairs Michele Brustin, Kandy Luria Budgor, and Val Montgomery.
“My experience with my Compeers was life changing. Their generosity and kindness made my time at Music Academy absolutely wonderful, but also made me feel like I had my own little family in Santa Barbara.”

“Having audience members that you know and love is a huge plus to being a performer. And my Compeers did nothing but support me the entire summer.”

“The Compeer Program is generously supported through a gift from co-founder Barbara Robins

Compeers shared their amazement at the connections

“I loved getting to know the fellows and hear about their lives. I also learned so much more from them about music and their experiences as performers.”

“We built the foundation for lifelong friendships, the fellows helped us better understand what the mindset, lifestyle and concerns of a young person being a classically trained musician were. We felt like we had walked in their shoes a bit. This was incredibly impactful.”

Fellows loved their Music Academy experience, especially their Compeers!

Fellow Chi-Jo Lee enjoys time with Compeer Ashley Woods Hollister and friend
On June 25, the Music Academy welcomed a sold-out audience (including over 400 children!) to experience some of the most incredible music ever written at the outdoor grandeur of the Santa Barbara Bowl. The Academy Festival Orchestra, led by Donato Cabrera, performed an unforgettable program including Ludwig van Beethoven’s Symphony No. 5.

“We’re pushing the boundaries for classical music to be accessible, welcoming, and fun.”
– Scott Reed in the Montecito Journal
The Music Academy provides transformative growth opportunities for Summer Festival fellows through competitions for artistry and entrepreneurship. Here are the proud winners of the Keston MAX, Duo, Marilyn Horne Song, and Solo Piano Competitions and the Fast Pitch Award winner.

MEET THE 2022 COMPETITION WINNERS!

The Music Academy’s competitions offered fellows opportunities to showcase their talents and receive incredible prizes. The six winners of the Fast Pitch, Solo Piano, Duo, and Marilyn Horne Song Competitions each received a cash award of $5,000. The Duo, Solo Piano, and Song winners will also have a work from a composer commissioned on their behalf to perform in recital in the Music Academy’s Hahn Hall at the opening of the 2023 Summer Festival. For each recital, the winners may utilize a $1,000 stipend to produce and present their performances in new ways. Additionally, they’re encouraged to use Hahn Hall’s recently enhanced audio, lighting, and projection capabilities to craft innovative performances.

Pictured Clockwise from up left

SOLO PIANO COMPETITION
ADRIA YE
DUO COMPETITION
JOSHUA WILLIAMS TUBA
YU-TING PENG COLLABORATIVE PIANO
MARILYN HORNE SONG COMPETITION
JOANNE EVANS MEZZO-SOPRANO
TZU-KUANG TAN VOCAL PIANO
FAST PITCH AWARDS
ANGIE ZHANG SOLO PIANO
“This event was the climax of a fortnight’s intensive coaching for young musicians from the Music Academy in Santa Barbara... I couldn’t imagine a better workout for them.”

– London Independent

The 75th anniversary celebration launched in March with three performances by the LSO and Music Director Sir Simon Rattle. A family concert featured the children of the Music Academy’s Sing! program and All-Star Alumni Keston MAX Fellows performed jointly with the orchestra in music of Percy Grainger and Anton Bruckner.

KESTON MAX

In its largest global exchange year to date, the 2022 Keston MAX winners joined winners from 2019-2021 in London this November for three performances with the London Symphony Orchestra and Principal Guest Conductor Gianandrea Noseda. They also performed at the United States Ambassador’s residence, participated in recording studio training, and reflected on what it is to be a 21st century musician in an LSO Discovery Workshop.

“What an experience for the young professionals from the Music Academy in Santa Barbara, California, playing alongside the LSO musicians...honing their orchestral skills.”

– London Telegraph

The lead sponsors of the London Symphony Orchestra partnership are Linda and Michael Keston and Mary Lynn and Warren Staley. Additional support has been provided in remembrance of Léni Fé Bland.
Everyone raved about the immersive event of the summer, which shone a spotlight on the Lehrer Vocal Institute fellows. Through director James Darrah’s vision and music direction by Craig Terry, audiences were transported to 1922 in an original music and theater experience inspired by the politically charged Weimar cabaret culture. Making full use of Hahn Hall’s upgrades of enhanced video and lighting technology, generously funded by the Hind Foundation, the fellows performed their hearts out in characters they conceived and brought to life through each song. The sold-out house rose to a standing ovation!
Pyotr Tchaikovsky’s romantic masterpiece came to life at the Granada Theatre in a production conducted by Principal Opera Conductor Daniela Candillari and directed by Peter Kazaras.

“AN EXPRESSIVE LOVE STORY was flawlessly performed by the Music Academy Lehrer Vocal Institute and Festival Orchestra fellows in celebration of the Academy’s return to fully staged opera. The principal cast... was extraordinary as a vocal collective, adept, with spot-on stagecraft. Conductor Candillari worked the Academy Festival Orchestra into a philharmonic of sound – intoxicating, lush, hugely attentive to color, balance, style, and musical subtext. Goosebumps!

– VOICE Magazine
This summer, our fellows participated in innovator sessions focused on entrepreneurial ideas and projects. They were led by industry leaders from institutions such as Stanford’s d.school, Lincoln Center, Apple, The Juilliard School, and Sonos. These seminars prepped fellows for their Fast Pitch Awards submissions, inspiring ideas to propel classical music boldly forward!

Music Academy Board Member PATRICK SPENCE CEO of SONOS with fellow Angie Zhang

This year, the Academy’s Innovation Institute awarded $75,000 to support four entrepreneurial alumni projects to seed the industry with bold, new ideas. Awardees also received training with an industry advisor and design thinking leaders.

AMANDA CRIDER (’06 mezzo-soprano)
IlluminArts presents: To Reach the Light
Vocal ensemble Variant 6 was presented in a performance of six commissioned pieces and choreography.

CHRISTOPHER JANWONG MCKIGGAN
(’09 solo piano) Pain of Silence
A feature length documentary in Thai focused on the struggles endured by traditional artists of Thailand.

STEVE PARKER (’07 tenor trombone) FIGHT SONG
Uses the marching band to examine virtuosity, spectacle, labor, inequities, and traumatic injury in Texas football.

SAEUNN THORSTEINSDÓTTIR (’04 cello)
The NOW Concerto
A reimagining of the genre, reclaiming its art of improvisation and expanding the orchestral concerto experience.

(Pictured top right, clockwise, Crider, Throsteinsdottir, Parker and McKiggan)

Our 2023 awardees will be announced next month! Stay tuned to learn more!

musicacademy.org/aea
We love sharing success stories as fellows launch their careers post-Festival. But sometimes, we get to celebrate these milestones during the Festival! This summer, fellow David Riccobono, who was already serving as principal percussion in the Long Beach Symphony, received the incredible news that he would become assistant principal of the timpani/section percussion in the LA Phil and a peer to his mentor Music Academy teaching artist and LA Phil principal Joseph Pereira. Also joining the LA Phil this year is alum double bassist Kaelan Decman.

Audience members enjoyed the rare opportunity to hear directly from our Academy Festival Orchestra conductors this summer. These world-class artists shared career stories, spoke about that evening’s performance, and welcomed questions. Their unique and entertaining personalities made for candid storytelling, as they were interviewed by the fellows in the concerts. What a treat!

“Within an exploration of the music of Rachmaninoff, Alex Ross noted in The New Yorker that, “in July I caught a vibrant rendition by performers from the Music Academy, in Santa Barbara. The conductor was Stéphane Denève, who smartly paired Rachmaninoff with Ravel—the second suite from “Daphnis et Chloé.” Bursts of kaleidoscopic orchestration in the symphony suggest Ravel’s influence.” He also added, “When classical-music organizations present Russian music these days, they often try to distance it, whether subtly or explicitly, from the brutal regime that is waging war on Ukraine. Denève, addressing the Santa Barbara audience before the Third, pointedly mentioned Rachmaninoff’s international connections.”

Special thanks to SULLIVAN GOSS - AN AMERICAN GALLERY for supporting Meet the Conductor. Watch for new events in 2023!
Solo Piano fellows work with GUEST ARTIST
NICO MUHLY

Solo Piano fellows trained side-by-side with one of the prolific composers of our time. Nico Muhly’s *The Bell Études* was a large part of their Festival experience. He worked on the pieces individually with them, in a masterclass, and was even part of the culminating performance on a Picnic Concert. Many of these etudes received their west coast and even a world premiere, an invaluable experience for the fellows.

COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE
MOLLY JOYCE

As part of the Showcase Series, Molly took us on a journey in a program of her own works sharing her story and using her disability (she has an impaired hand from a car accident) as a creative source. She utilized her voice, toy organ, and electronic samplings in her powerful songs. The evening included the world premiere of *Imperfection*, performed by select fellows and commissioned by the Music Academy.

“a powerful response to something (namely, physical disability of any kind) that is still too often stigmatized, but that Joyce has used as a creative prompt.” - NEW SOUNDS

VIOLINIST | COMPOSER | EDUCATOR
MOSHER GUEST ARTIST
JESSIE MONTGOMERY

Jessie Montgomery’s works have been described as “turbulent, wildly colorful, and exploding with life” (*The Washington Post*). She performed her works side-by-side with select fellows in recital, offering them the rare insight of the composer’s true vision in coaching sessions.

ALUMNA
SUSANNA PHILLIPS
SHEDS A LIGHT ON FEMALE COMPOSERS

Academy alumna and Metropolitan Opera favorite Susanna Phillips returned to the Summer Festival as a Mosher guest artist. The soprano mentored singers in lessons and a public masterclass. In a special recital, Susanna performed selected works written by female composers, such as Hildégard von Bingen, Clara Schumann, Florence Price, and Amy Beach. She shared their poignant personal stories along the way, noting how each woman made a remarkable contribution to classical music. May these women inspire future female composers to fearlessly pursue their art.
YPC founder and composer in residence Francisco J. Nuñez was noted musings, “Who is teaching whom?” reflecting on the partnership between our elementary school singers and the YPC’s high school choristers as they spent a weeklong residency joining their voices in song. The partnership culminated in a magical concert with all the singers on stage performing “Music of the Americas” – including two world premieres. Stay tuned for future collaborations!

Sing! has just begun its fifth season, which is chock full of performances in the community, including the Santa Barbara Symphony and Santa Barbara Choral Society.
The final concert of the Festival brought the Academy Festival Orchestra and Lehrer Vocal Institute fellows together onstage for a riveting program of orchestral favorites paired with opera ensembles and Spanish zarzuelas! The performance was conducted by alum Speranza Scappucci, who recently made headlines as the first Italian woman to take the podium at the historic La Scala opera house in Milan and just made her Metropolitan Opera debut. It was the perfect way to close the summer.
In a historic move, the Music Academy Auxiliary has become the new name of a now gender-inclusive membership. This change is a significant breakthrough in the Music Academy’s evolution during its 75th anniversary year. Committed to supporting music training at the highest level, the Auxiliary (formerly Women’s Auxiliary) - 135 people strong and one of the most successful volunteer fundraising and community engaging groups in Santa Barbara - collaborates to raise crucial funds central to the Academy’s mission. Increasing membership year over year, 47 new members have joined this intergenerational group in the past year. These new members represent a wide variety of professions incorporating entrepreneurs, non-profit leaders, teachers, professors, visual artists, attorneys, and more.

JOIN THE AUXILIARY at musicacademy.org/join

“Inclusiveness matters. We’re facilitating a more diverse membership that accurately reflects the vibrancy of our organization and our community.”
– Mally Chakola, Auxiliary Governance Chair & Music Academy Board Member
Music Academy alumna soprano Michelle Bradley performed to a sold-out crowd with former teaching artist, pianist Brian Zeger. Following a bouquet of American, French and German songs, the audience was in awe of her encore aria, Vissi d’arte from Puccini’s Tosca, and her own arrangement at the piano of a medley of Whitney Houston hits. Upon her immediate return to New York City from Santa Barbara, Michelle was asked to step in for the complete run of the title role of Giuseppe Verdi’s Aida at the Metropolitan Opera. We wish her many congratulations! We were so lucky to have her back with us for an intimate and special performance.

“A REMARKABLE FEAT OF ARDOR AND MUSICAL STAMINA

stunned a packed Hahn Hall when critically-acclaimed pianist Conor Hanick performed composer Hans Otte’s The Book of Sounds on October 27th. The debut recital of the Music Academy’s new Mariposa Concert Series, the evening proved a testament to music’s power to individually impact listeners even when experienced in a shared, concert environment.”

“When Hanick concluded his concentrated yet seemingly effortless performance, listeners remained still for the briefest of moments, savoring the final notes. Then, they all jumped to their feet in applause.”

- Daisy Scott Voice Magazine
Congratulations on the Music Academy’s 75th Anniversary!
- Ani Maldjian, Owner & Music Academy Alumna ’04/’05

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UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

FRI, JAN 13, 2023, 7PM
LOS ANGELES REED QUINTET (LARQ)
Pat Posey saxophone, Claire Brazeau oboe
Don T. Foster clarinet, Anthony Parnter bassoon
Brian Walsh bass clarinet

SUN, FEB 19, 2023, 4PM
TAKÁCS QUARTET
Edward Dusinberre violin, Harumi Rhodes violin
Richard O’Neill viola, András Fejér cello

WED, MAR 1, 2023, 7PM
CONOR HANICK piano

SAT, MAY 13, 2023, 7PM
DEMARRE MCGILL flute
RODOLFO LEONE piano

Performed at
St. Mark’s in-the-Valley
2901 Najoqui Ave., Los Olivos, CA
CONGRATULATIONS

To the Music Academy on its 75th Anniversary!

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Here’s to an incredible collaboration that’s allowed us both to stretch, experiment, improvise, and of course, play. We are so honored to have been entrusted with the creation of your new brand identity.

Congratulations on a magnificent 75 years!
Congratulations on seventy-five years of excellence! We are grateful to the Music Academy for providing our community with world class music and generations of musicians with the opportunity to advance and perfect their craft.

A STANDING OVATION FOR THE MUSIC ACADEMY!

Congratulations on seventy-five years of excellence! We are grateful to the Music Academy for providing our community with world class music and generations of musicians with the opportunity to advance and perfect their craft.

For over 94 years, the Santa Barbara Foundation remains your trusted philanthropic partner for Santa Barbara County. Whatever cause is near and dear to your heart, whether its the performing arts, the environment, helping our most vulnerable neighbors, and beyond, we are here to help you make a lasting impact!

Learn more at SBFoundation.org
THANK YOU, MUSIC ACADEMY for 75 years of nurturing musical careers!

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for 75 years as a community treasure!

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On March 24, 2022 CAMA partnered with the Music Academy to co-present the London Symphony Orchestra with Sir Simon Rattle at the Granada Theatre, in celebration of the Music Academy’s 75th Anniversary. CAMA extends continuing congratulations and appreciation to the Music Academy for 75 years of providing pivotal learning opportunities for the future great musicians of the classical music world.

Congratulations to the Music Academy for 75 years of providing world-class music and education to our community.

The SBCC Foundation opens doors for students of all ages to pursue their passions, launch their careers, and achieve academic excellence.

sbccfoundation.org
Celebrating the Music Academy's 75th Anniversary

Tickets on sale now!
Secure your seats for this season's classical highlights and so much more.

Emanuel Ax – Leonidas Kavakos – Yo-Yo Ma
Fri, Jan 27 / 7 PM / Granada Theatre

Lang Lang, piano
Mon, Feb 27 / 7 PM / Granada Theatre

Attacca Quartet
Sun, Mar 5 / 4 PM / Hahn Hall

Alisa Weilerstein, cello
FRAGMENTS
Fri, Mar 10 / 7 PM / UCSB Campbell Hall

Vikingur Ólafsson, piano
Thu, May 11 / 7 PM / Hahn Hall

Get tickets and view the entire lineup at www.ArtsAndLectures.UCSB.edu | (805) 893-3535
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2022-2023
Season Highlights

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2022-2023
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Spring Opera:
Rossini’s “La Scala di Setta”
Gilbert & Sullivan’s
“Trial By Jury”
7 p.m., Friday, January 27
7 p.m., Sunday, January 29
Center Stage Theater

Choral Masterworks
7 p.m., Sunday, March 5
First Presbyterian Church

Orchestra Concerto Concert
7 p.m., Saturday, April 29
First Presbyterian Church

Westmont salutes the Music Academy and its 75 years of wonderful contributions to the music community!

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Aptitude values our partnership with the Music Academy of the West since 2020!

We are proud to support and celebrate the Music Academy’s 75th anniversary!

Our Locations

Santa Barbara
Earl Warren Showgrounds, Gate B

Santa Maria
Allan Hancock College, Lot 6

Buellton
River View Park, Eastside Lot

805-409-9669 support@aptitudelabs.com
Fellows Abigail Lopez, Aislin Carpenter, and Sophia Jean

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