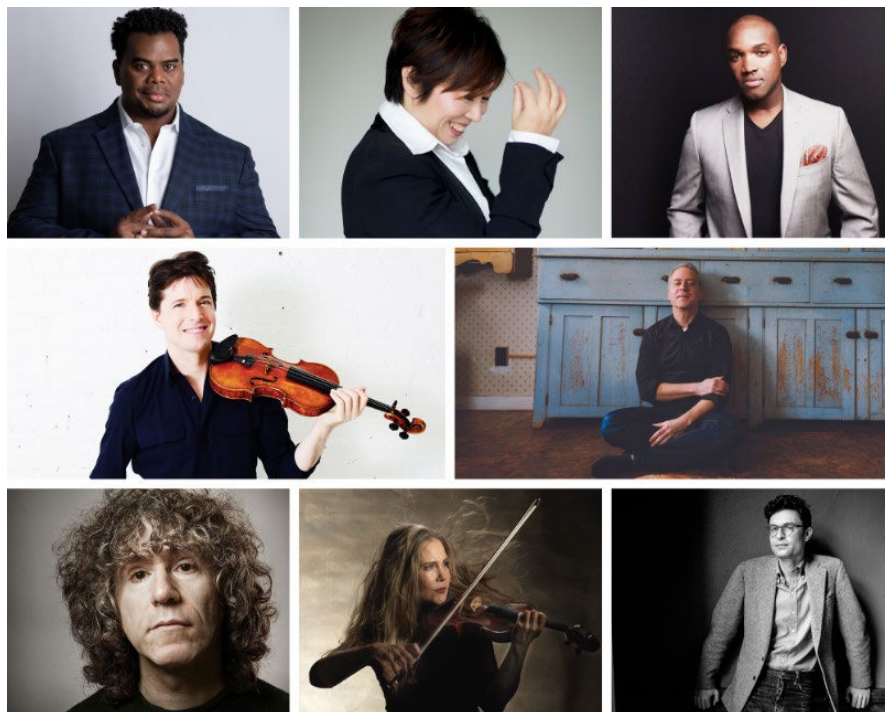




For immediate release

Music Academy of the West announces 2024 Summer Music Festival

The annual 8-week Festival celebrates *The Magic of Music*
June 12 – August 3 in Santa Barbara
Tickets go on sale April 10



Left to right: Anthony Parnter, Xian Zhang, Lawrence Brownlee, Joshua Bell, Jeremy Denk,
Steven Isserlis, Leila Josefowicz, Timo Andres

(April 2, 2024, Santa Barbara, CA) — The **Music Academy of the West**, now in its 77th season, inspires artists and concert-goers alike with the **2024 Summer Music Festival** themed “**The Magic of Music.**” The Festival showcases talented young musicians and outstanding teaching and guest artists in a wide array of one-of-a-kind performances, chamber concerts, public masterclasses, and competitions under the new leadership of President & CEO **Shauna Quill**.

The 2024 Summer Music Festival, which runs from June 12 through August 3 at the Music Academy’s idyllic campus — and throughout the stunning setting of the American Riviera in Santa Barbara, California — features nearly 130 live events including special performances by **Joshua Bell, Lawrence Brownlee, Sasha Cooke, Jeremy Denk, Steven Isserlis, Leila Josefowicz, Richard O’Neill**, and the **Takács Quartet**.

This season’s **Academy Festival Orchestra** concerts are led by Minnesota Orchestra Conductor Laureate **Osmo Vänskä**, Music Director of the San Bernardino Symphony and famed film score conductor **Anthony Parther**, New Jersey Symphony Music Director **Xian Zhang** (making her Music Academy debut), former Music Director of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and St. Louis Symphony Orchestra **David Robertson**, and Finnish National Opera and Ballet Chief Conductor **Hannu Lintu**, who for the second consecutive summer leads fellows in the final performance of the Festival. The Academy’s Principal Opera Conductor, **Daniela Candillari**, takes the podium for a fully staged production of **Bizet’s Carmen**, directed by **Ken Cazan**, and **Mary Birnbaum** directs Ravel’s one-act opera **L’enfant et les sortilèges**.

Special events include a lecture and performance of Charles Ives’ “Concord” Piano Sonata with **Jeremy Denk** in honor of the composer’s 150th birthday anniversary; a duo recital by **Joshua Bell** and **Jeremy Denk** at Santa Barbara’s historic Granada Theatre; an homage to the music of Gabriel Fauré performed by **Joshua Bell, Jeremy Denk, Steven Isserlis, Richard O’Neill**, and a Music Academy violin fellow; a rare performance by **Conor Hanick, Timo Andres**, and the Academy’s solo piano fellows of **Philip Glass’ Complete Piano Études**; solo recitals by Mosher guest artists **Steven Isserlis** and **Lawrence Brownlee**; and a program of uplifting songs and spirituals performed by the Lehrer Vocal Institute fellows, coached by **Lawrence Brownlee**, and inspired by his acclaimed album *Rising*.

Additionally, the season kicks off on June 1 with an inspiring [Summer Gala](#) to benefit the Academy’s **Sing! Children’s Chorus** and the Music Academy fellows’ full scholarship program. Themed “**Magic of the Music Academy: A New Era**,” the gala features a performance by cellist, curator, composer, and Music Academy alumnus **Joshua Roman**.

“We look forward to welcoming music lovers in the Santa Barbara community and beyond to immerse themselves in the Music Academy’s 77th Summer Music Festival,” said Quill. “With 130 captivating performances, the Festival stands as a testament to our unwavering commitment to nurturing and educating our exceptional fellows. Through collaboration with 60 esteemed teaching artists, guest musicians, and directors we aspire to create a truly unforgettable summer of music.”

Tickets

General Public

Subscriptions for the 2024 Summer Music Festival are on sale April 10 at musicacademy.org. Individual tickets are available starting May 1. Tickets and additional information are available via email ticketoffice@musicacademy.org or by calling the Ticket Office at 805-969-8787.

Community Access Tickets

The Music Academy is committed to ensuring the Santa Barbara community has access to and is inspired by the magic of music. \$10 Community Access Tickets are available for the 2024 Summer Festival beginning on June 7 at 10 AM, subject to availability. Tickets are available in person at the Music Academy Carsey Ticket Office and online. *The Community Access Ticket program is made possible in the loving memory of Linda Sawyer Frankel.*

For more information, download the Music Academy Summer Festival [press kit](#).

About the Music Academy of the West

Located in Santa Barbara, the Music Academy of the West creates a space where exceptional talent can thrive by encouraging artists to stretch, experiment, improvise, and play. The Music Academy provides artists with the tools they need to become not just great musicians but great leaders. The Music Academy's programs include the annual eight-week Summer School & Music Festival which trains up to 150 fellows ages 18-34 and presents more than 130 performances and events, competitions, and a fully staged opera; *Sing!*, a children's choir that performs with local, national, and international partners; the MAX (Music Academy Exchange) partnership with international orchestras; the innovative Alumni Enterprise Awards; and the Mariposa Series of concerts by Academy-affiliated artists. The 2024 Summer School & Festival takes place from June 12 through August 3. Learn more at musicacademy.org.

Press Contacts

For further information, contact:

Kerry Allen

Vice President, Marketing & Communications

Music Academy of the West

kallen@musicacademy.org

805-895-9491

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