

Santa Rosa Symphony

2023
2024
SEASON

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 5, 2023

Santa Rosa Symphony showcases Mahler's *Titan*

Third Coast Percussion will join acclaimed composer Clarice Assad for the world premiere of her new percussion concerto, PLAY!

November 4, 5 & 6, 2023 at Weill Hall, Green Music Center

(Santa Rosa, Calif.) — The Santa Rosa Symphony, conducted by Music Director Francesco Lecce-Chong, presents its second Classical Series performance of the season, Mahler's *Titan*, at Weill Hall, Green Music Center on November 4, 5 & 6, 2023. Opening the concert will be Two Canzoni for Brass written by Italian Renaissance composer Giovanni Gabrieli. Grammy award-winning sensation Third Coast Percussion will join acclaimed composer Clarice Assad for the world premiere of her new percussion concerto, *PLAY! Gustav Mahler's Titan*, a monumental symphony that is both enlightening and cathartic is Mahler's most popular and frequently performed work. *A work of symphonic virtuosity!*

"Composer Clarice Assad and Third Coast Percussion are a match made in heaven and I am so happy to bring them together for this world premiere. I have no doubt their sense of fun and adventure combined with breathtaking virtuosity will bring surprise and delight to all. The sense of adventure will continue in Mahler's powerful *Titan* Symphony that celebrates the vast evocative possibilities of a large orchestra from the fragility of a single sustained note to the blazing chords of a fanfare."

Francesco Lecce-Chong, SRS Music Director

MASTERCLASS WITH THIRD COAST PERCUSSION

Monday, November 6, 2023, 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm at Weill Hall, Green Music Center.

The event is free, but a ticket is required to enter. To request a ticket, call (707) 546-8742 or go to srsymphony.org.

What is a masterclass?

A masterclass is an open lesson, during which a student performs a solo work and is coached by a master teacher. The attending audience listens and learns as observers. It is a fun and informative opportunity to see a top-flight musician and music educator share insights and techniques and to watch a student learn and grow before your eyes.

Much of the advice given in a masterclass can be applied to any instrument. Therefore, all musicians are encouraged to observe the masterclasses, regardless of the instrument they play.

Please note: Parking is not included in the ticket. To purchase your \$5 parking permit in advance: [BUY PERMIT](#)

CALIFORNIA FESTIVAL: A CELEBRATION OF NEW MUSIC

The Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Diego Symphony, and San Francisco Symphony have announced that 95 organizations will participate in the [California Festival: A Celebration of New Music](#), presenting some of the most innovative and compelling music from around the world for two weeks, November 3-19, 2023, in venues throughout the state. The California Festival highlights the collaborative and innovative spirit that thrives in California by inviting musical organizations of all kinds to incorporate works written within the past five years into their broader season programs.

Santa Rosa Symphony is participating in the festival with three concerts.

Santa Rosa Symphony will present:

Mahler's *Titan* featuring *PLAY!* for Orchestra by Clarice Assad (2023)

November 4, 5 & 6, 2023

Weill Hall, Green Music Center

Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra will present:

Lunar Songs by Jessie Montgomery (2019)

Sunday, November 12, 2023, at 3:00 PM

Weill Hall, Green Music Center

Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Chamber Orchestra will present:

Arcus for string orchestra by Márton Levente Horvath (2019)

Sunday, November 19, 2023, at 2:00 PM

Weill Hall, Green Music Center

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE:

GIOVANNI GABRIELI: Bruce Chrisp, arranger

Canzon Noni Toni a 12, Ch. 183

Canzon Septimi et Octavi Toni a 12, Ch. 182

CLARICE ASSAD: *PLAY!* for Orchestra (World Premiere) featuring **Third Coast Percussion**

GUSTAV MAHLER: Symphony No. 1 in D major, *Titan*

BIOGRAPHIES:

Francesco Lecce-Chong, conductor

Francesco Lecce-Chong is a fast-rising conductor with an international presence. He was appointed Music Director of two U.S. orchestras, the Eugene, and the Santa Rosa Symphony (SRS) before he reached the age of 30. He has successfully launched several groundbreaking projects, commissioned dozens of orchestral pieces, and fostered community engagement. Lecce-Chong has appeared with orchestras worldwide, including the San Francisco Symphony, New York Philharmonic, Seattle Symphony, National Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Toronto Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Hong Kong Philharmonic, and collaborated with top soloists such as Renée Fleming and Itzhak Perlman.

The San Francisco Chronicle described Lecce-Chong's subscription debut with the San Francisco Symphony as "first-rate" and pointed out the "vitality and brilliance of the music-making he drew from members of the San Francisco Symphony." Other recent subscription debuts include the Seattle Symphony, Utah Symphony, North Carolina Symphony, Louisville Orchestra, Kansas City Symphony, and Detroit Symphony, as well as a return to the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, where he conducted the US premiere of Brett Dean's Piano Concerto.

In September 2023, Lecce-Chong debuted in Europe at the prestigious George Enescu Festival, with the Romanian Radio Orchestra leading a program of Hindemith and Bernstein. During his 2023/2024 season with the Santa Rosa Symphony, he continues a cycle of the significant orchestral works of Rachmaninoff paired with film composers entitled "Rachmaninoff & the Hollywood Sound." He leads the world premieres of new orchestral works by Conrad Tao, Clarice Assad, and Michael Djupstrom.

During Lecce-Chong's tenure, both Eugene and SRS have achieved significant milestones. One of his first large-scale endeavors was the "First Symphony Project," which consisted of full-length commissions from four of America's emerging composers over the course of four seasons, complete with residencies in the communities.

Only last season, Lecce-Chong led the world premieres of five major orchestral works and led the Santa Rosa Symphony in Mozart's *Magic Flute*, for which he wrote his own original dialogue and created the staging and sets. He continues to build partnerships with local art institutions, schools, and businesses to create original, multi-disciplinary experiences for audiences.

Clarice Assad, composer and vocals

A powerful communicator renowned for her musical scope and versatility, Brazilian-American Clarice Assad is a significant artistic voice in the classical, world music, pop, and jazz genres and is acclaimed for her evocative colors,

rich textures, and diverse stylistic range. A prolific Grammy Award-nominated composer with more than 70 works to her credit, she has been commissioned by internationally renowned organizations, festivals, and artists and is published in France (Editions Lemoine), Germany (Trekel), Brazil (Criadores do Brasil), and the U.S. (Virtual Artists Collective Publishing).

An in-demand performer, she is a celebrated pianist and inventive vocalist who inspires and encourages audiences' imaginations to break free of often self-imposed constraints. Assad has released seven solo albums and appeared on or had her works performed on another 34. Her music is represented on Cedille Records, SONY Masterworks, Nonesuch, Adventure Music, Edge, Telarc, NSS Music, GHA, and CHANDOS. Her innovative, accessible, and award-winning VOXploration series on music education, creation, songwriting, and improvisation has been presented throughout the world. Sought-after by artists and organizations worldwide, the multi-talented musician continues to attract new audiences both onstage and off.

Third Coast Percussion, percussion ensemble

Third Coast Percussion is a GRAMMY® award-winning Chicago-based percussion ensemble and GRAMMY®-nominated composer collective. For over fifteen years, the ensemble has created exciting and unexpected performances that constantly redefine the classical music experience. The ensemble has been praised for “commandingly elegant” (*New York Times*) performances, the “rare power” (*Washington Post*) of their recordings, and “an inspirational sense of fun and curiosity” (*Minnesota Star-Tribune*). Third Coast Percussion maintains a busy tour schedule, with past performances in 39 of the 50 states and Washington, DC, plus international tour dates across four continents.

A direct connection with the audience is at the core of all of Third Coast Percussion's work, whether the musicians are speaking from the stage about a new piece of music, inviting the audience to play along in a concert or educational performance, or inviting their fans around the world to create new music using one of their free mobile apps. The four members of Third Coast are also accomplished teachers and make active participation by all students the cornerstone of all their educational offerings.

CLASSICAL SERIES EXPERIENCE ENHANCEMENTS:

CONCERT CONVERSATIONS (*one hour prior to Classical Series performances*)

Music Director Francesco Lecce-Chong discusses the music and composers, often with the guest artists, one hour prior to the Classical Concert Series performances in Weill Hall. These informative, pre-concert talks, which are included in the price of the ticket, are general seating. Concert Conversations are held before Saturday and Monday night performances at 6:30 pm and prior to Sunday afternoon performances at 2:00 pm.

PROGRAM NOTES

Program Notes, posted on each of the seven Classical Series concert event pages offer insight and fascinating details about the concert program. See srsymphony.org.

SPOTIFY PLAYLISTS

Classical Series concert event pages include a Spotify playlist of the works on that concert program. Full-season Spotify playlists can also be found on the Symphony's website under, Plan Your Visit.

PROGRAM BOOKS

New season Program Books are available for all patrons at the concerts.

SPONSORS:

Classical Concert Series Underwritten by **Anderman Family Foundation**

Sponsored by **Judith M. Gappa**

Conductor **Francesco Lecce-Chong** sponsored by **David and Corinne Byrd**

Discovery Open Rehearsal Series sponsored by **The Stare Foundation and David Stare of Dry Creek Vineyard**

Pre-Concert Talks sponsored by **Jamei Haswell, in honor of Richard Grundy**

Season Media Sponsor: *The Press Democrat*

AT A GLANCE / CALENDAR LISTING:

WHAT:

[Santa Rosa Symphony concert Mahler's *Titan*](#)

WHO:

[Santa Rosa Symphony](#)

[Francesco Lecce-Chong, conductor](#)

[Clarice Assad, composer and vocalist](#)

[Third Coast Percussion, percussion ensemble](#)

Interview Opportunities: Francesco Lecce-Chong, Clarice Assad, composer and vocalist, and Third Coast Percussion

WHEN:

Discovery Open Rehearsal, Saturday, November 4, 2023 at 2:00 PM – no concert talk

Saturday, November 4, 2023 at 7:30 PM (Doors at 6:00 PM, Pre-concert talk 6:30 PM-7:00 PM)

Sunday, November 5, 2023 at 3:00 PM (Doors at 1:30 PM, Pre-concert talk 2:00 PM-2:30 PM)

Monday, November 6, 2023 at 7:30 PM (Doors at 6:00 PM, Pre-concert talk 6:30 PM-7:00 PM)

WHERE:

Weill Hall, Green Music Center, Sonoma State University

TICKET PRICES:

\$32-\$105 for Classical Series performances

\$18 / adult; \$10 / youth (7-17 years of age) for Discovery Open Rehearsal

Receive ONE FREE TICKET for a youth 7-17 with each paid adult ticket! Call Patron Services to redeem this offer.

Student Rush tickets are available 1-1/2 hours before the performance, \$10/ticket with a valid student ID.

TICKETS: rsymphony.org or (707) 546-8742 (Weekdays 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, opening at 10:30 AM Wednesdays, closed Saturday & Sunday)

ABOUT SANTA ROSA SYMPHONY

Santa Rosa Symphony, the Resident Orchestra of the Green Music Center, is the third-oldest professional orchestra in California and the largest regional symphony north of Los Angeles. Francesco Lecce-Chong, the Symphony's fifth music director in its 96 years, began his tenure in 2018. The Symphony is committed to the core values of artistic excellence, innovative programming, comprehensive music education, and community service.

The Symphony's performance schedule for 2023-2024 includes 21 Classical Series concerts (seven sets), six Discovery Rehearsal concerts, a three-concert Family Series, a four-concert Pops Series, and special concerts. Awards include an American Symphony Orchestra League MetLife Award for Community Engagement and a first-place award for adventurous programming in the 2012-2013 season from the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP).

The Symphony is recognized for having one of California's most comprehensive music education programs, serving nearly 20,000 youth annually. Collaborations with schools and organizations across Sonoma County have gained the Santa Rosa Symphony national attention and support.

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