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Santa Rosa Symphony Announces 2024-2025 Snoopy Family Concert Series

Music Director, Francesco Lecce-Chong conducts all three concerts

FLC's Spooktacular Extravaganza – October 27, 2024
Who Wants to Compose a Symphony? – January 26, 2025
Young Heroes: *Peter and the Wolf* – April 6, 2025
Sundays at 3:00 pm at Weill Hall, Green Music Center

(Santa Rosa, Calif.) – Santa Rosa Symphony announced today its 2024-2025 family concert series. As part of the reimagining of the 13-year-old series by Music Director and Conductor Francesco Lecce-Chong and produced in cooperation with the Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center and Snoopy's Home Ice, the series has been rebranded as the **Snoopy Family Concert Series**.

In addition to curating the series, Maestro Lecce-Chong will conduct all three performances, October 27, 2024, January 26, 2025, and April 6, 2025, at Weill Hall, Green Music Center.

Lecce-Chong has crafted a captivating series of programs designed to inspire learning, cultivate an enthusiasm for music, and ignite musical storytelling all in a fun and enjoyable concert environment. Taking inspiration for Charles M. Schulz's passion for classical music and the Santa Rosa Symphony, **Snoopy** will be present for all performances and seamlessly integrated into each concert's programming, creating unforgettable memories for audience of all ages.

"When Conductor Francesco Lecce-Chong proposed having Snoopy as the face of the Symphony's Family Series for 2024-2025, I thought it was a perfect pairing," said Jean Schulz, widow of Charles M. "Sparky" Schulz and board president of the Charles M. Schulz Museum. "Sparky loved attending the Symphony and was always interested in classical music and the creative world it opened up. To engage young audiences would be a dream of his."

"I have long been inspired by Leonard Bernstein's Young People's Concerts," said Lecce-Chong, "and I am looking forward to bringing his brilliant vision of education, entertainment, and artistic quality to our new family series. With Snoopy, I am fully committed to making the Santa Rosa Symphony's family concerts a flagship of our orchestra and community, creating new symphony fans for generations to come."

New this season at every concert! An immersive multimedia experience will give concertgoers an up-close view of the musicians, their instruments and Maestro Lecce-Chong. Young concertgoers will see peers from the **Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra (SRSYO)** perform side-by-side with Symphony musicians on the

first piece of each program. Immediately following each performance, Maestro Lecce-Chong and an orchestra member will be in the Green Music Center lobby for a **Meet & Greet**.

The **Instrument Petting Zoo**, a popular attraction returns for pre-concert fun at 2:00 pm in the lobby.

SEASON AT-A-GLANCE:

Music will include excerpts from:

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 7 in A major (with SRSYO)
LEONARD BERNSTEIN (arr. Peress): Overture to *West Side Story*, Mambo
GEORGES BIZET: *Carmen*, Suite No. 1 (with SRSYO)
PAUL DUKAS: *La Péri* [*The Peri*]
ANTONIN DVOŘÁK: Symphony No. 9 in E minor, *From the New World*
UMBERTO GIORDANO: *Fedora*
EDVARD GRIEG: *Peer Gynt*: Suite No. 1, In the Hall of the Mountain King
ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK: *Hansel and Gretel* Prelude (with SRSYO)
WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART: Symphony No. 41 in C major, *Jupiter*
MODEST MUSSORGSKY: *Pictures at an Exhibition*
FLORENCE PRICE: Symphony No. 1 in E minor
NIKOLAI RIMSKY-KORSAKOV: *Scheherazade* for Orchestra
SERGEI PROKOFIEV: *Peter and the Wolf*
GIOACHINO ROSSINI: *William Tell* Overture
PABLO DE SARASATE: *Zigeunerweisen* (with Henry Miller, violin)
PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY: Symphony No. 4 in F minor
ELLEN TAAFFE ZWILICH: *Peanuts Gallery*, Snoopy Does the Samba

FLC's Spooktacular Extravaganza | Sunday, October 27, 2024, at 3:00 pm

Exploring Scheherazade

Francesco Lecce-Chong, conductor

Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra

This Halloween, the chills will be symphonic! Maestro Francesco and Snoopy will guide the orchestra to dress up in "sound costumes" inspired by beloved masterpieces like Bizet's *Carmen* and Bernstein's *West Side Story*. Then join Francesco in a captivating musical exploration of Rimsky-Korsakov's masterpiece, *Scheherazade*.

In a kingdom gripped by a vengeful king's fury, a glimmer of hope emerges. Scheherazade, a princess blessed with beauty and brilliance, devises a daring plan to save her sister and liberate the land. With each night, she weaves tales that enthrall the king, her voice weaving a tapestry of 1001 nights. Costumes encouraged.

Who Wants to Compose a Symphony? | Sunday, January 26, 2025, at 3:00 pm

Francesco Lecce-Chong, conductor

Danny Clay, composer

Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra

Have you ever wondered what goes into composing a symphony? Join us for a captivating journey into the world of orchestral music, led by the innovative composer Danny Clay. Using inspiration from masterpieces by Beethoven, Mozart, Tchaikovsky, and Dvořák, Danny will guide you and the audience on a creative adventure to co-compose a brand-new symphony! **PLUS!** The orchestra will play it on the spot.

No musical experience needed! Through interactive games and collaboration, Danny will ignite your imagination and unlock your creativity. Join us for this unique opportunity to learn how to compose a symphony.

Young Heroes: *Peter and the Wolf* | Sunday, April 6, 2025, at 3:00 pm

Francesco Lecce-Chong, conductor
Henry Miller, violin
Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra
Narrator: TBA

Come along on a thrilling adventure exploring the brilliance of young heroes in classical music with Maestro Francesco. Beloved *Hansel and Gretel*, featuring SRSYO, *Peer Gynt*, a young boy who encounters mischievous trolls and must outsmart them to escape and *William Tell*, whose son aims for the ultimate test of bravery. Sarasate's *Zigeunerweisen* showcases the awe-inspiring virtuosity of the exceptional Henry Miller.

Embark on a musical adventure with the whole family! Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* ignites young imaginations as each animal character comes to life by the unique sounds of the orchestra. Hear the soaring strings chase the brave Peter, the sneaky clarinet stalks the cunning wolf, and the playful flute flits as the clever bird. *Peter and the Wolf* unlocks a lifelong love of classical music.

BIOGRAPHIES:

Francesco Lecce-Chong, Music Director and Conductor

Francesco Lecce-Chong is the Music Director and Conductor of the Santa Rosa Symphony. The press has described him as a “fast-rising talent in the music world” with “the real gift” and recognized his dynamic performances, fresh programming, deep commitment to commissioning and performing new music, and community outreach.

Lecce-Chong has appeared with orchestras around the world including the San Francisco Symphony, New York Philharmonic, Seattle Symphony, National Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Toronto Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Colorado Symphony, and Hong Kong Philharmonic, and collaborated with world-renowned soloists including Renée Fleming and Itzhak Perlman.

Lecce-Chong is the recipient of several distinctions, including the prestigious Solti Foundation Award. Trained also as a pianist and composer, he completed his studies at the Curtis Institute of Music with Otto-Werner Mueller after attending the Mannes College of Music and Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Italy. He has been mentored and supported by celebrated conductors including Bernard Haitink, David Zinman, Edo de Waart, Manfred Honeck, Donald Runnicles, and Michael Tilson Thomas.

Danny Clay, composer

Danny Clay is a composer and educator whose work is deeply rooted in curiosity, collaboration, and the sheer joy of making things with people of all ages and levels of artistic experience. He sees “composing” as the act of putting things together and strives to find ways to utilize this act to foster creativity and connection – whether it be playing musical games with visitors to Chicago’s Millennium Park or building experimental sound installations with classes of elementary schoolers. Working closely with artists, students, and community members alike, he builds worlds of inquiry, play, and perpetual discovery that often combine sound with other forms of media.

Henry Miller, violin

Henry Miller is currently a freshman at Maria Carillo High School in Santa Rosa. He plays violin for the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra and oboe for the Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra.

Miller began playing the piano with his mother at the age of four, and the violin with Melanie Webster at the age of five. He has studied violin with Aaron Westman since 2021, and oboe with Elena Sloman since 2022.

He served as concertmaster of the Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra and the Young People’s Chamber Orchestra from ages 12 to 14. At age 13, he was honored to perform a solo on the famed Redwood Violin for violin maker Andy Carruthers during the 2022 TEDxSonomaCounty presentation, *Emergence*. Also in 2022, Henry was selected to perform at the Junior Bach Festival in San Francisco, CA.

In the fall of 2023, Miller played the part of “The Fiddler” in 6th Street Playhouse production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. In 2024, he won the Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra concerto competition and was named to the All-State Symphonic Band for oboe. Later that year, he was asked to play violin for the opening of the Redwood Arts Council’s presentation of the Miró Quartet. Miller spent the summer of 2024 studying at the Meadowmount School of Music in upstate New York.

In his off time, he enjoys playing tennis, pickleball, and table tennis. He is also part of a jazz trio with two friends, in which he plays alto saxophone.

High-res photos and interview opportunities available: Francesco Lecce-Chong

SPONSORS:

Snoopy Family Concert Series is underwritten by Victor and Karen Trione and Irene Sohm.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Charles M. Schulz Creative Associates, Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center, and Snoopy’s Home Ice.

AT A GLANCE / CALENDAR LISTINGS:

WHO: [Santa Rosa Symphony](#), [Francesco Lecce-Chong, conductor](#)

WHAT: Snoopy Family Concert Series

WHERE: Weill Hall, Green Music Center, Sonoma State University

WHEN:

Sunday, October 27, 2024, FLC’s Spooktacular Extravaganza – *Exploring Scheherazade* at 3:00 pm

Sunday, January 26, 2025, Who Wants to Compose a Symphony? at 3:00 pm

Sunday, April 6, 2025, Young Heroes: *Peter and the Wolf* at 3:00 pm

Complimentary Instrument Petting Zoo at 2:00 pm at all three concerts

TICKET PRICES:

3-concert subscription packages: \$54/Adult; \$24/child (12 and under) | Packages on-sale, Monday August 12, 2024

Single tickets: \$20/Adult; \$10/child (12 and under) | Tickets on-sale Monday, September 16, 2024

HOW TO PURCHASE TICKETS:

srsymphony.org or (707) 546-8742 or in person: 50 Santa Rosa Ave, 1st Floor, Santa Rosa CA. Weekdays 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, 10:30 am – 5:00 pm on Wednesday, 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. J. Andrew Bradford joined SRS as President and CEO in 2023. The Symphony is committed to the core values of artistic excellence, innovative programming, comprehensive music education, and community service.

The Symphony’s performance schedule includes 21 Classical Series concerts (seven sets), seven Discovery Dress 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 as having one of California's most comprehensive music education programs, serving nearly 20,000 youths annually. Collaborations with schools and organizations across Sonoma County have gained the Santa Rosa Symphony national attention and support.

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