



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Media Contact

**Brenda Fox** | Director of Marketing and Patron Services  
(707) 546-7097 x 218 | [bfox@srsymphony.org](mailto:bfox@srsymphony.org)  
[srsymphony.org](http://srsymphony.org)

## **Santa Rosa Symphony Opens 97th Season with Iconic Beethoven and Copland Masterworks**

**Featuring Santa Rosa's own David McCarroll and *Marketplace's* Kai Ryssdal**

October 19, 20 & 21, 2024 Weill Hall, Green Music Center

(Santa Rosa, Calif.) — Santa Rosa Symphony launches its 97<sup>th</sup> season with timeless works by Beethoven and Copland. Performances will take place at Weill Hall, Green Music Center, on October 19, 20, and 21, 2024. Joining the Symphony is Sonoma County's very own David McCarroll for the riveting Beethoven Violin Concerto and *Marketplace's* host and senior editor Kai Ryssdal as the narrator for Copland's majestic *Lincoln Portrait*.

"Opening weekend will be one of the Santa Rosa Symphony's most exciting programs in our history at the Green Music Center as we are joined by three remarkable guest artists that celebrate our orchestra's commitment to our community and growing national reputation. I am thrilled to welcome internationally renowned violinist and hometown hero David McCarroll for Beethoven's iconic violin concerto. Copland's beloved *Lincoln Portrait* will be narrated by Kai Ryssdal of NPR's *Marketplace*. And we give the West Coast Premiere of Katherine Balch's *musica pyralis* - a co-commission with the New York Philharmonic."

**Francesco Lecce-Chong**, Music Director and Conductor

Aaron Copland's triumphant *Fanfare for the Common Man* was written in response to Eugene Goossens's 1942 call for fanfares. It speaks of the American spirit and honors the hard work of the common man. This piece has also been integrated into pop culture via commercials and rock arrangements, becoming a favorite amongst audiences. Structured with open harmonies and what composer John Corigliano called a bare sound, the fanfare is the only one of the 18 that Goossens commissioned that has withstood the test of time.

Following Copland's patriotic masterwork is Beethoven's groundbreaking Violin Concerto, which has become a cornerstone of both violin and orchestral repertoire. Commissioned by violinist Franz Clement at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the piece did not become well-known for over 30 years. Performing the concerto is David McCarroll, concertmaster of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and alumnus of the Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra, marking a full-circle moment as he returns to the stage in his native Sonoma County. Although incredibly difficult, this Beethoven concerto will allow McCarroll to showcase his lyrical and artistic sensibilities. The piece highlights his virtuosity and demonstrates the orchestra's ability to navigate complex melodies and rhythmic undertones with remarkable agility.

The West Coast premiere of Katherine Balch's *musica pyralis* transitions from the grandeur of Beethoven to the magic of everyday sounds. Balch weaves a sonic tapestry of imagination and textural lyricism, drawing inspiration from nature's subtle intricacies. Her latest piece captures the enchanting sounds of fireflies and natural nightscapes, blending de-tuned harp and piano to create a uniquely fuzzy harmonic space.

Copland bookends this sonic journey with *Lincoln Portrait*, a piece that conductor Andre Kostelanetz commissioned as part of his vision for a musical portrait gallery of great Americans. The composition reflects the wartime era Lincoln navigated, his hopes for a new future, and the nuances of his personality. Divided into three sections, the third features a narrator delivering five brief quotes, each offering reflections on Lincoln's life and the impact of war on both the president and Copland. Kai Ryssdal,

recognized for his steady presence amidst two decades of economic shifts and crises, adds his voice as narrator to Copland's text.

**MASTERCLASS: David McCarroll**

Monday, October 21, 2024, 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](https://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 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](#).

**BIOGRAPHIES:**

**Francesco Lecce-Chong**, Music Director and Conductor

Francesco Lecce-Chong has established himself as a respected leader in the orchestral world through acclaimed performances, innovative projects, and passionate arts advocacy.

Appointed Music Director of Eugene Symphony and Santa Rosa Symphony (SRS) before age 30, he launched groundbreaking projects, commissioned over a dozen major works, and forged innovative community partnerships. Now in his seventh season, he has grown the SRS's reputation as one of the most prominent US regional orchestras, with performances at the world-class Green Music Center. This season, he also serves as Artistic Partner with the Eugene Symphony, further advancing his artistic vision.

Lecce-Chong regularly appears with major US orchestras, from the San Francisco Symphony to the New York Philharmonic, collaborating with top soloists such as Renée Fleming and Itzhak Perlman. Additional debuts include Seattle Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, Utah Symphony, North Carolina Symphony, Louisville Orchestra, Kansas City Symphony, and Detroit Symphony. In 2023, Lecce-Chong debuted in Europe at the prestigious George Enescu Festival with the Romanian National Radio Orchestra, which led to a regular relationship with the orchestra.

Throughout his career, Lecce-Chong has fostered an unparalleled dedication to the orchestral art form's future. One of his first large-scale endeavors was the "First Symphony Project," which consisted of major commissions from next-generation composers across four seasons, including multiple residencies. He has integrated a dozen new orchestral works into the repertoire from composers like Grammy winner Michael Daugherty, Conrad Tao, Clarice Assad, and Gabriella Smith. To keep SRS connected to its community during the pandemic, he spearheaded SRS @ Home, which brought live internet performances to thousands of households. Several performances were broadcast on local PBS TV, reaching two million viewers. This series included works by living composers and a partnership with Pulitzer Prize winner Ellen Taaffe Zwilich, culminating in a CD release in 2022.

Lecce-Chong is equally committed to the opera repertoire, having first conducted performances of Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos* at age 24 in New York City. He served as staff conductor with the Santa Fe Opera and led performances with Milwaukee's Florentine Opera. Recently, he led the Eugene Symphony's semi-staged presentation of Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*. At SRS, Lecce-Chong conducted and directed Opera in Concert: Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, featuring his original dialogue, and partnered with a local arts high school to create a multi-disciplinary experience.

Trained as a pianist and composer, Lecce-Chong studied at the Curtis Institute of Music, Mannes College of Music, and Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Italy before winning positions as Associate Conductor of the Pittsburgh Symphony and Milwaukee Symphony. Lecce-Chong has received several distinctions, including the Solti Foundation Award. He has been mentored by renowned conductors, including Bernard Haitink, David Zinman, Edo de Waart, Manfred Honeck, Donald Runnicles, and Michael Tilson Thomas.

**David McCarroll**, violin

David McCarroll has been described by *Musik Heute* as “a violinist of mature musicality and deep understanding.” In the 2022-2023 season, he assumed the position of concertmaster with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, holding the prestigious Rachel Mellon Walton Concertmaster Chair.

Launching his solo career with the London Mozart Players in 2002, McCarroll has performed concertos with renowned orchestras, including the Vienna Radio Symphony, Tonkünstler-Orchester Niederösterreich, Hong Kong Sinfonietta, Santa Rosa Symphony, and Philharmonie Zuidnederland. He regularly performs in major concert halls such as the Konzerthaus Berlin (Stravinsky Violin Concerto), Vienna Konzerthaus and Musikverein, Amsterdam’s Concertgebouw and Muziekgebouw, Wigmore Hall, Library of Congress, Kennedy Center, 92nd Street Y, and Carnegie Hall. He has also appeared on radio stations, including WGBH Boston, WQXR New York, National Public Radio, O’1, BR-Klassik, and the BBC. In 2012, McCarroll won the prestigious European Young Concert Artists Auditions.

From 2015 to 2022, McCarroll served as the violinist of the renowned Vienna Piano Trio. In addition, he has performed with musicians including Mitsuko Uchida, Richard Goode, Miriam Fried, Pamela Frank, Anthony Marwood, Donald Weilerstein, Kim Kashkashian, Roger Tapping, Marcy Rosen, Peter Wiley, Charles Neidich, Jörg Widmann, and Radovan Vlatkovic. McCarroll regularly appears at festivals such as Marlboro, the Schubertiade, Heidelberger Frühling, Grafenegg, Lucerne, Menuhin Festival Gstaad, Siete Lagos (Argentina), ChamberFest Cleveland, and Portland Chamber Music Festival. McCarroll taught at Salzburg’s Mozarteum, Ravinia’s Steans Institute, Rice University, and the San Francisco Conservatory.

He was born in Santa Rosa, California in 1986 and began studying the violin with Helen Payne Sloat at the age of four before attending the Crowden School of Music in Berkeley. He continued his studies with Simon Fischer at the Yehudi Menuhin School, Donald Weilerstein and Miriam Fried at the New England Conservatory, and Antje Weithaas at the Hanns Eisler Academy in Berlin. McCarroll plays a 1761 violin made by Antonio and Joseph Gagliano.

**Kai Ryssdal**, narrator

Kai Ryssdal is the host and senior editor of Marketplace, the most popular program on business and the economy – radio or television, commercial or public broadcasting – in the country.

Since joining the flagship Marketplace broadcast in 2005, Ryssdal has told stories of the world through an economic lens –whether exploring the pace of change on the ground in China or from London, making sense of Brexit for an American audience. He interviewed President Obama twice in the Oval Office and once on a folding chair in the middle of the Nevada desert.

Ryssdal has been a voice of calm for listeners through two decades of economic change and crisis, from the aftermath of the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks, the collapse of Enron, the financial crisis, the Great Recession, and the unprecedented pandemic shock to the American and global economies. Kai won a 2012 Emmy for a PBS FRONTLINE documentary about money in politics called *Big Sky, Big Money*.

Before his career in broadcasting, Ryssdal spent eight years in the United States Navy, flying from the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt and, later, with the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon. He also served in the United States Foreign Service, with postings to Ottawa, Canada and Beijing, China. Kai is a graduate of Emory University and Georgetown University. He’s the immediate past Board Chair of the Los Angeles Children’s Chorus and is a referee for youth, high school, and college soccer across Los Angeles. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife and four children.

## PROGRAM AT A GLANCE:

**AARON COPLAND:** *Fanfare for the Common Man*

**LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN:** Concerto in D major for Violin and Orchestra, Opus 61

**KATHERINE BALCH:** *musica pyralis* (West Coast Premiere)

**AARON COPLAND:** *Lincoln Portrait* for Narrator and Orchestra

**High-res photos and interview opportunities available:** Francesco Lecce-Chong, David McCarroll, and Kai Rysdøl

## CONCERT ENHANCEMENTS:

**Concert Program books:** Available at all Classical Series concerts.

**Concert Program notes:** These can be read on the [Digital Program Books & Notes](#) page.

**Pre-concert talk:** Conductor Francesco Lecce-Chong, David McCarroll and Kai Rysdøl provide a 30-minute pre-concert talk one hour prior to the performances.

## SPONSORS:

Classical Series underwritten by **Anderman Family Foundation**

Sponsored by **Marcia Wagner, in memory of Hap Wagner**

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

Kai Rysdøl, sponsored by **Stephen & Lynn Olsen**

David McCarroll sponsored by **Sig Anderman, in memory of Susan Anderman**

The music of Aaron Copland, sponsored by **Sam Guerrero, in memory of Ava Guerrero**

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

Pre-concert Talk sponsored by **Jamei Haswell and Mack Schwing**

Season Media Sponsor: ***The Press Democrat***

## AT A GLANCE / CALENDAR LISTINGS:

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

**WHAT:** [Beethoven & Copland](#)

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

## WHEN:

Saturday, October 19, 2024 at 2:00 pm – Discovery Open Rehearsal, (no Pre-concert talk)

Saturday, October 19, 2024 at 7:30 pm (Doors at 6:00 pm, Pre-concert Talk 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm)

Sunday, October 20, 2024 at 3:00 pm (Doors at 1:30 pm, Pre-concert Talk 2:00 pm - 2:30 pm)

Monday, October 21, 2024 at 7:30 pm (Doors at 6:00 pm, Pre-concert Talk 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm)

## TICKET PRICES:

\$20 / adult; \$10 / youth (7-17) for Discovery Open Rehearsal

\$34-\$110 for Classical Series performances

Youths 7-17 may receive one complimentary ticket with every paid adult. Request tickets through Patron Services at (707) 546-8742. Classical Series concerts only

\$10 student rush tickets for college students with a valid student ID. Available at the door only

## HOW TO PURCHASE TICKETS:

[srsymphony.org](http://srsymphony.org) or (707) 546-8742 or in person: 50 Santa Rosa Ave, 1<sup>st</sup> 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 97 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.

###