



SCHWAB ACADEMY CHAMBER MUSIC

FRIDAY, JULY 17 – 5:00 PM

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FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2026 – 5 PM

**SCHWAB ACADEMY
CHAMBER MUSIC**

ASHLEY WALTERS, DIRECTOR

VENTURA COLLEGE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED FROM THE STAGE

Welcome to our Chamber Music Concert!

It has been such a joy to watch these students work so incredibly hard in preparation for today's concert. Watching them discover the unique challenges and rewards of chamber music, and helping them develop skills in listening, communication, collaboration, and leadership has been so meaningful and a pleasure for me and our Schwab mentors.

We hope you'll join us again tomorrow at 5:00 PM for our Orchestra Finale, which celebrates America's 250th anniversary. Margaret Bonds' *Montgomery Variations* reflects on moments of courage and despair during the Civil Rights Movement. Antonín Dvořák's Symphony No. 9, "From the New World" explores the cultural richness of the United States through the eyes of someone experiencing it for the first time. Daniel Slatkin's *Voyager 130* honors the importance of scientific discovery and curiosity – and recognizes the power of community. Slatkin calls Ventura County home, and generously spent time sharing his music and his perspectives with our students this week.

As we enter the last weekend of the 2026 Schwab Academy I am filled with gratitude for our incredible staff and faculty, who share their many talents to make these three weeks so special. We are also so grateful to you for supporting our participants and Miriam's vision by being here with us today! We look forward to seeing you again throughout the year and for next summer's 2027 Academy!

– Ashley Walters

instagram.com/[schwabacademy](https://www.instagram.com/schwabacademy)

Join our **Mailing List** for updates!



PROGRAM – FRIDAY, JULY 17

Jaime Esparza, guitar
Seth Salinas, guitar
Yahvi Chonkar, guitar
Matthew Cho, guitar
Miles Jefferson, guitar

COACH: HUGO NOGUEIRA^

Daxton Ehret, cello
Ian Lam, cello
Isaac Nicely, cello
Skyla O'Connor, cello
Naomi Sklanowsky, cello

COACH: ASHLEY WALTERS^

Zech Aspinall, oboe
Sawyer Shumway, oboe
Dori Riggs, flute

**COACHES: NICK AKDAG^
KIMAREE GILAD^**

Giselle Duarte, violin
Alisha Kwon, violin
Sophia Pham, viola
Nathan Stone, cello

**COACH: ERIKA DUKE-
KIRKPATRICK**

Michael Dechellis, saxophone
Ulises Vasquez, clarinet
Cooper Mckinstry, saxophone
Prisha Gordhan, percussion

COACH: BRIAN WALSH

Mark Kanchibhotla, bass
Sivani Kanchibhotla, violin
Hannah Kelley, violin

COACH: JOHN HESTER^

Garrett Stepp, violin
Sofia Ponce, violin
Susan Philbrick, violin
John Hester, bass

COACH: BARRY NEWTON^

Prisha Gordhan, percussion

COACH: JORDAN CURCURUTO^

INTERMISSION

Robert Pereyra, trumpet
Israel Ruiz, trumpet
Jared Geronimo, trombone,
tuba

Carlos Vargas, trombone
Ethan Nikula, trumpet

**COACHES: GWANG KIM^,
DAVID PITTEL^, JON TITMUS^**

Henry Reineke, guitar
Mark Engel, guitar
Jacob Geronimo, guitar

COACH: CARLOS GONZALES

Axel Martin, viola
Isabella Vogelaar, viola
Sophia Pham, viola
Sofia Ponce, viola

COACH: DIANE GILBERT

Ann Lam, violin
Elise Louie, violin
Louis Belsito Swietnicki, cello

COACH: JULISSA BOZMAN

Ryan Walker, violin
Liam Stewart, violin
Gordon Xue, cello

COACH: DIANE GILBERT

Mary Peterson, flute
Jay Lawton, flute

COACH: CAROL LOCKART^

Finnegan Neilan, piano

COACH: JORDAN CURCURUTO^

Axel Martin, violin
Isabella Vogelaar, viola
Anna Rowlands, cello
David Wolfe, bass

COACH: ALEX FAGER

LEADERSHIP & STAFF

Ashley Walters^
DIRECTOR

Brian Hotchkin^
**MARKETING, DESIGN,
& PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Luvi Avendano^
Jordan Curcuruto^
John Hester
ARTISTIC PRODUCERS

Laura Solis-Teteris
**PERFORMING ARTS
DEPARTMENT
ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT**

Gabriel Aragon
**PERFORMING ARTS
CENTER ASSISTANT**

Tyson Sauthoff
**PERFORMING ARTS
CENTER TECHNICIAN**

Devon Thrumston
**ORCHESTRA STAGE
MANAGER**

Kai Olmos
**ORCHESTRA
ASSISTANT**

Dorothy Schaefer
**CHAMBER MUSIC
ASSISTANT**

^ VCPA Faculty

ABOUT THE ACADEMY

Made possible through Miriam Schwab’s extraordinary generosity, **Ventura College’s Miriam & Henry Schwab Academy of Music** was created to provide student instrumentalists opportunities in orchestra and chamber music through three main components.

The **Schwab Summer Academy** is an intensive program held each July. Participants study and perform a series of concerts alongside notable professional mentors. The **Extension Program** extends this mentorship throughout the year.

The Summer Academy dovetails with the finals of the **Henry Schwab Violin & Viola Competition**, established in memory of Miriam’s late husband Henry – a celebrated concert violinist. This competition highlights talented young soloists performing concertos accompanied by the full Academy Orchestra.

Miriam – a violinist herself who played with the Ventura College Symphony Orchestra for over a decade – highly valued the importance of exceptional music instruction in our community. At the time of her passing, Miriam’s bequest made history as the largest gift ever made to a community college in Southern California.

“The Schwab Academy teaches more than just music,” says music director **Ashley Walters**. “It teaches students the value of hard work, collaboration, and perseverance. Just as importantly, it provides a supportive community where students of all ages can learn from one another, build lasting friendships, and gain the confidence to pursue their dreams.”

SUPPORT



Miriam Schwab’s passion for music and her generous support of student musicians made the Schwab Academy of Music possible. If you would like to help us strengthen and grow Miriam’s vision for the Academy, please consider making a donation through the Ventura College Foundation. For more information, contact **Pete Parker, Director of Development**.

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SPECIAL THANKS

Luca Lewis
Roam Romagnoli
Anthony Mansueto
Brent Wilson
Jamie Birkett
David Howarth
Anne Paul King
Janeene Nagaoka
Andrea Rambo
Jeanne Tanner