

2024

FRIDAY

APRIL 26

7:00 PM

**SAINT-SAËNS
REQUIEM**

**VIVALDI
MAGNIFICAT**

FREE COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE
SAN BUENAVENTURA MISSION
211 E. MAIN STREET

VC CONCERT CHOIR & SINGERS
BRENT WILSON, DIRECTOR

ANASTASIA MILLIARAS, SOPRANO
CHRISTINA PEZZAROSSO, MEZZO-SOPRANO
BENJAMIN BRECHER, TENOR
LUVI AVENDANO, BARITONE

VENTURA COLLEGE CONCERT CHOIR and SINGERS

BRENT WILSON conductor

MARK HOLMSTROM rehearsal pianist

SOPRANOS

Isabella Catalano, Elaina Crenshaw, Leanna Crenshaw, Destiny Garrett,
Kathleen Goodrich, Teresa Goodrich, Mariah Gruber, Areli Leon, Alyssa Rae,
Adrien Roberts, Angel Torres, Jesstina Torres

ALTOS

Kathleen Capolupo, Jessica Gonzalez-Rodriguez, Gaia Hubbard, Makena
Kalbs, Katie Kolberg, Taryn Lakes, Miriam Morado, Isabella Perez, Shannon
Ramirez, Paloma Rodriguez, Jasmine Salas, Katherine Strange, Mariah Young

TENORS

William Grundler, Isaiah Maldonado, Erick Marroquin, Kai Olmos, Ryan
Williams

BASSES

Zach Barnes,, Victor Chavez, Randy Crenshaw, Ramon Damian, Larez
Edmonson, Brian Hotchkin+, Evan Howard, Miles Jefferson, Octavius Licon,
Shane Lisle, Jesse Morales, Gianni Nicolini, Armando Santos, Brian Soden

VIOLIN I

Steve Zander, concertmaster
Holly Knoch

VIOLIN II

Sharon Cooper
Maia Zander

VIOLA

Besnik Yzeiri
Jordan Warmath

CELLO

Madlen Sarkissian

OBOE

Kimaree Gilad+
Adelle Rodkey

BASS

Barry Newton+

HARP

Liesl Ehrman

ORGAN

Fern Fay+

+—denotes present or past
VC faculty

PROGRAM

BRENT WILSON conductor
ANASTASIA MALLIARAS soprano
CHRISTINA PEZZAROSSO mezzo-soprano
BENJAMIN BRECHER tenor
LUVI AVENDANO baritone

Magnificat, RV 610

Antonio Vivaldi
(1678–1741)

(please hold applause until the end of the 9th mvmt.)

- I. Magnificat
- II. Et exultavit
- III. Et misericordia
- IV. Fecit potentiam
- V. Deposuit potentes de sede
- VI. Esurientes implicit bonis
- VII. Suscepit Israel
- VIII. Sicut locutus est
- IX. Gloria patri

Messe de Requiem, Op. 54

Camille Saint-Saëns
(1835–1921)

(please hold applause until the end of the 8th mvmt.)

- I. Kyrie
- II. Dies Irae
- III. Rex Tremendae
- IV. Oro Supplex
- V. Hostias
- VI. Sanctus
- VII. Benedictus
- VIII. Agnus Dei

This performance is approximately one hour in length and will
be performed with no intermission.

BRENT WILSON conductor

Brent Wilson is a Los Angeles-based conductor and stage director, and is the Department Chair of Performing Arts and Director of Voice, Choirs, Opera and Musical Theatre at Ventura College, resident guest director at Viterbo University, and director of choral studies at University of California, Santa Barbara. Locally as a conductor, Wilson served as Assistant Conductor and Chorus Master of Opera Santa Barbara for over twenty productions and conducted productions of *The Consul* and *Don Pasquale*. He has appeared as guest conductor for the UCSB Orchestra and Opera, receiving top prizes for collegiate opera production from the National Opera Association for the production of *Twelfth Night*.

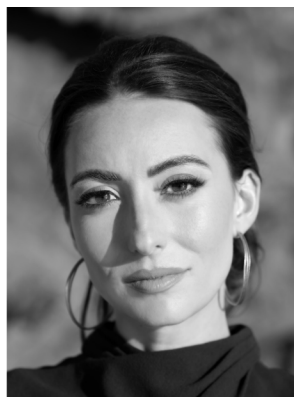


Wilson has worked with choral groups such as the Grammy-nominated ensemble Boston Baroque, Handel and Haydn Society, Handel Oratorio Society (Chicago), Long Beach Camerata, and Santa Barbara Master Chorale, and opera ensembles including Boston Lyric Opera, Maine Grand Opera, Opera Santa Barbara, Granite State Opera, Chicago Opera Theater, Lyric Opera of Chicago, and Opera Theatre Saint Louis.

Additionally, he has been on faculty at the Tanglewood Institute through Boston University, Augustana College, and Viterbo University where the National Opera Association awarded his production of *Trouble in Tahiti* a 3rd prize in Division I collegiate productions. He is a member of the National Opera Association, American Choral Directors Association, National Association of Teachers of Singing, and champions the training of young singers and has students in the Broadway tours of *School of Rock*, *Rock of Ages*, and *Hamilton*. He has recently embarked on a project to rediscover and remount works by Gian Carlo Menotti that have been lost since their debuts on NBC and CBS in the '60s and '70s. Wilson received Voice Performance degrees from Augustana College (B.A.) and Boston University School of Music (M.M.) and also holds degrees in Computer Science/Mathematics from Augustana. In his free time, Wilson likes to compete in marathons and other endurance sports and has completed five Ironman competitions, fourteen marathons, and most recently ran across the Italian Dolomites Alta Via I 75-mile trail in a weekend.

ANASTASIA MALLIARAS soprano

Greek-American soprano Anastasia Malliaras is devoted to the continuous exploration of new depths both vocally and artistically. With a beautiful blend of warm and bright colors, her timbre is distinguishable and vocal tone elegant and natural. Her voice has led her to play operatic roles such as Nannetta, Olympia, Zerbinetta, Marie and Frasquita, to name a few. This spring, Anastasia makes her debut with Opera Mississippi, playing the role of Pamina in *The Magic Flute*. In the spring of 2023, Anastasia was an apprentice at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis where she covered the role of Despina in Mozart's iconic *Così fan tutte* and made her OTSL professional debut as Mrs. Hayes in Carlisle Floyd's *Susannah*. Anastasia has been a Studio Artist at Central City opera where she played Ruth Baldwin in Musto's *Later That Same Evening* and has previously participated in the Young Artist Vocal Academy at Houston Grand Opera and the iSing! International Young Artist Festival. She has placed in prestigious competitions including the Loren L. Zachary Competition, the Irene Dalis Vocal Competition at Opera San Jose and the Metropolitan Opera National Council Los Angeles District and Western Regionals. Equally comfortable on the concert stage, Anastasia is an active performer in Los Angeles. Last winter, she was featured as the soprano soloist in *Messiah* with the Dream Orchestra of Los Angeles and recently performed with the Los Angeles Symphony. Anastasia is a graduate of USC where she earned a Master of Music degree in Vocal Arts. Furthermore, she is co-founder and singer of the chamber music ensemble, Duo Apollon, who released their debut album "Folksongs" in August 2023 with Navona Records.



CHRISTINA PEZZAROSSO mezzo-soprano

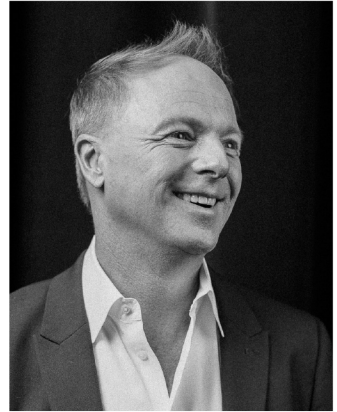
Christina Pezzarossi, a mesmerizing operatic mezzo-soprano from Miles City, Montana, has graced prestigious stages nationwide. Her journey began in Montana, nurtured by her community, leading to remarkable roles such as El Gato in "El Gato con Botas", Rossweisse in "Die Walkure," Margaret in "Light in the Piazza," and Lucilla in "La scala di seta" with Opera Santa Barbara. Notable portrayals include Ino in "Semele" and Wellgunde in "Das Rheingold." In challenging times, she (bio continued on next page)



showcased resilience in "COVID fan tutte." Pezzarossi continues to captivate in concert and choral performances, leaving an indelible mark on the opera stage and sharing her hometown's magic nationwide.

BENJAMIN BRECHER tenor

Operatic and Concert tenor Benjamin Brecher has performed 70 operatic roles with more with than forty orchestras at some of the world's most prestigious venues specializing in the high lying lyric tenor repertoire. A native of Toledo Ohio, he grew up in a music loving household that often attended symphonic and opera performances. He began formal music training as a classical guitarist at 8 followed by the trumpet at age 10. He studied voice at Bowling Green State University, New England Conservatory of Music, and the Juilliard Opera Center. After making his professional debut with Opera Theatre of St. Louis in Colin Graham's production of Billy Budd, he quickly began winning engagements in the US and abroad. He has performed fifteen roles with The New York City Opera alone. In the fall of 2000, Benjamin won in audition with the Indianapolis Symphony to perform the great Irish tenor repertoire in a concert entitled "A Celtic Celebration", under Maestro Jack Everly. Mr. Brecher has gone on to perform that concert with over 40 symphonies in North America to date, and it is still being sought after. In addition to the Irish Concerts, he has performed solo oratorio repertoire including, Messiah, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, Carmina Burana, and many other works.



Mr. Brecher has twelve recordings including *The Barber of Seville* with The Franz Liszt Chamber Orchestra and the 2010 release of Bernstein's *Candide* recorded live in Rome, along with two live PBS concerts from Carnegie Hall: *Ira Gershwin at 100* and *The Music of Lerner and Lowe*. His 2016 recording "Forgotten Liszt" with Robert Koenig, piano, on MSR Classics has already received glowing reviews. Recent engagements include performances at the Ravinia Festival with The Chicago Symphony Orchestra; the world premiere of the opera *Shot!* the story of the assassination of President McKinley in Buffalo and Dayton; Edgardo in *Lucia di Lammermoor* and Gerald in *Lakmé* with California Opera, Fresno; Holiday Pops concerts with The Jacksonville Symphony; and a live recital broadcast on Radio France. and a world premiere recording of "Breathed Back Again" by Sarah Gibson.
(bio continued on next page)

In 2018-19 he returned to “A Celtic Celebration” in Baltimore, Fresno for *Don Ramiro* in *La Cenerentola*, and *Manon, Eugene Onegin, and Madama Butterfly, The Crucible, La Traviata* with Opera Santa Barbara as well as a ten city US and European tour featuring his “Forgotten Liszt” repertoire. 2023 brings his thirteenth recording “Three Centuries of Thomas Moore” on MSR Classics, featuring the music of Britten, and Berlioz.

Benjamin currently is a Professor of Voice at the University of California Santa Barbara.

LUVI AVENDANO baritone

Luvi Avendano is an active singer, conductor, and educator in Southern California. Most recent engagements include performances with The Industry, Pacific Opera Project, Opera Santa Barbara, National Opera Association, The Opera Buffs, and The California Philharmonic.

Opera credits include Germont (*La Traviata*), Alfio (*Cavalleria Rusticana*), Dr. Dulcamara (*L'elisir d'amore*), Escamillo (*Carmen*), Marcello (*La Boheme*), Vidal (*Luisa Fernanda*), Count Almaviva (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Don Alfonso (*Così fan tutte*), Don Giovanni (*Don Giovanni*), and several others.



Luvi Avendano earned BM and MM degrees in Voice Performance and Choral Conducting from the University of Redlands and a DMA in Voice Performance from the University of California Santa Barbara.

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