



Schwab 2025
ACADEMY OF MUSIC

SUNDAY, JULY 6 / 4:00 PM

**HENRY SCHWAB
VIOLIN & VIOLA COMPETITION**

SCHWAB SUMMER ORCHESTRA



PHOTO: BRANDON T. KING / THEOTUS MEDIA

ABOUT THE ACADEMY

The Ventura College **Miriam & Henry Schwab Academy of Music** provides opportunities in chamber music and orchestra to student instrumentalists 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.

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DIRECTOR

Brian Hotchkin
MARKETING / PR

John Hester
PROGRAM
COORDINATOR

Laura Solis-Teteris
ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT

SUPPORT

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SPECIAL THANKS

Claudia Lourido-Habib
Anthony Mansueto
Brent Wilson
Gabriel Aragon
Jamie Birkett
Grace Douglas
David Howarth
Anne King
Brandon King
Tyson Southoff
Laura Solis
Jeanne Tanner
Ventura Music Festival
Lalé Welsh

STILL TO COME

VENTURA MUSIC FESTIVAL
July 24 – 27 at the Ventura College Performing Arts Center

PROGRAM

Allegro brillante (1885).....William Ten Have
Op.19 (1831–1924)

Yiyi Chang, violin

Violin Concerto No. 5 in A major (1775).....W.A. Mozart
K. 219, “Turkish” (1756–1791)

III. Rondeau: Tempo di Menuetto – Allegro – Tempo di Menuetto

Maya Kim, violin

Introduction et Rondo Capriccioso (1867).....Camille Saint-Saëns
Op. 28. (1835–1921)

Leo McDonnell, violin

Symphonie espagnole in D minor (1874).....Édouard Lalo
Op. 21 (1874) (1823–1892)

I. Allegro non troppo

Nicole Alexander, violin



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2025 FINAL ROUND JUDGES

(Scan the QR code for full artist bios.)



Mark Menzies is a violinist, violist, conductor, composer, and educator known internationally for his work in contemporary music. He has collaborated with leading composers including Sofia Gubaidulina, Brian Ferneyhough, Elliott Carter, and Liza Lim, and has appeared at major festivals such as Ojai, June in Buffalo, and Dartington. He began his professional career performing Bruch's Violin Concerto with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra under Maxim Shostakovich and has since appeared as soloist with orchestras in the U.S., New Zealand, and Europe. His performances span the complete Beethoven sonatas, Bach's solo works, as well as Ferneyhough's Terrain. Menzies was a founding member of The Salomon Ensemble in London and first violinist of Ensemble Sospeso in New York, presenting premieres at Carnegie Hall and Alice Tully Hall. A dedicated educator, he taught at CalArts for 17 years and is now Professor of Music at the University of Canterbury. He was named an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music in 2014.



Tomasz Golka is a conductor and composer who gained international recognition after winning First Prize at the 2003 Eduardo Mata International Conducting Competition. He has led major orchestras across North and South America and Europe, including the Seattle Symphony, Fort Worth Symphony, Warsaw Philharmonic, Sinfonia Varsovia, and OFUNAM in Mexico City. He has collaborated with renowned soloists such as Susan Graham, Alisa Weilerstein, and Inon Barnatan. Formerly Chief Conductor of the National Symphony of Colombia and Music Director of the Lubbock Symphony, he currently serves as Music Director of the Riverside Philharmonic. A dedicated composer, his works have been performed by several U.S. orchestras, and he was Composer-in-Residence for the 2018 Boulder International Chamber Music Competition. At Tanglewood, he conducted a historic performance of *The Soldier's Tale* with narrators Milton Babbitt, Elliott Carter, and John Harbison. Born in Warsaw, Golka studied violin at Rice University and conducting with David Effron and Gustav Meier. He also holds a Certificate in Film Scoring from UCLA Extension.

2025 FINALISTS - CATEGORY A



Carlos Ozuna has been surrounded by music his entire life—his mother works in the performing arts and his father is a professional musician. He began playing violin at Balboa Middle School in 2017, where he received the “Director’s Award for Orchestra” in 2019 and was accepted into the honors string orchestra his freshman year. At Buena High School, he earned multiple “Outstanding Performer” awards and the “National School Orchestra” award as a senior in 2023. Carlos studied under Dr. Andrew Tholl and Dr. Ashley Walters at Ventura College, where he completed his AA for Transfer in music and served as concertmaster of the Symphony and Chamber Orchestra for three years. He will attend Cal State Northridge in the fall to pursue a Bachelor’s in Violin Performance.



Isabella Zhou, age 11, is a fifth grader at Lang Ranch Elementary School in Thousand Oaks. She began studies at the Colburn School at age five under ShihLan Lavner and has performed in masterclasses with Kerson Leong, Martin Beaver, and Alexander Treger. She received First Place in the 2024 Henry Schwab Violin Competition (B Category) and in the Glendale MTAC Concerto Competitions (2022; 2023). She was a Silver Medalist at the 2024 Junior Bach Festival Finals and a prizewinner at the SCJBF All-Strings Regionals, MTAC Contemporary Festival and VOCE competitions. She won 2nd Place in the Junior Division of the 2025 Culver City Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition. She enjoys ballet, painting, and making Chinese pasta and dumplings.



Leonora Vukovitz, age 14, is a violin student of her mother, Deborah Vukovitz, and began playing as a toddler by imitating her. She is the Second Prize winner of the 2024 Henry Schwab Violin & Viola Competition. She also premiered her mother’s “American Legends” Violin Concerto with Jennifer Walton’s Instrumental Casting Orchestra. Leonora has received honors from the American Virtuoso International Music Competition, SYMF, SCJBF, and the Topanga Fiddle Festival, and performed at Carnegie Hall. In 2024, Leonora appeared on CBS’s Family Film and TV Awards, playing violin with country artist Walker Hayes. Outside of music, she enjoys fashion design, writing, and acting.

2025 FINALISTS - CATEGORY B

(Scan the QR code for full artist bios.)



Nicole Alexander started violin at age 11 and studies with Elise Goodman. She has performed with Conejo Valley Youth Orchestra and Agoura High School Orchestra, including a 2019 trip to New Orleans for clinics and the Scholastic Music Festival. Nicole earned multiple gold medals in MTAC Contemporary Music Festival and Festimantic competitions and soloed with the Thousand Oaks Philharmonic in Opus 58 (2022). She has also performed at the MTAC state convention and participated in masterclasses through the Appassionata program.



Yiyi Chang, 15, studies with Elise Goodman and is a member of the Viewpoint School Orchestra. She won the Thousand Oaks Philharmonic Appassionata Competition, performing as soloist in two Opus 69 concerts. Yiyi completed Certificate of Merit Level 8 and attended the Montecito International Music Festival. She has performed Spanish folk songs in Junior Chamber Music and studied Spanish culture in Spain to deepen her musical interpretation. Yiyi also teaches violin to younger students and has participated in multiple masterclasses.



Maya Kim began violin in 3rd grade and studies with Shuwei Liu. She was principal second violinist with Conejo Valley Preparatory Youth Orchestra and performed with a quartet for the Thousand Oaks Philharmonic Opus 67. Maya was principal second violinist in chamber orchestra at Sequoia Middle School and will join Newbury Park High School's chamber orchestra as a freshman in fall 2025. She also performed en pointe in Pacific Festival Ballet's Nutcracker in 2024. Maya has participated in numerous regional festivals and earned superior ratings in solo and ensemble competitions.



Leo McDonnell, 15, studies violin with Dr. Keum Hwa Cha and Viktória Várkonyi. He completed the Advanced Certificate of Merit level and is principal violinist of the Laurel Springs Chamber Orchestra and assistant principal of the Conejo Valley Youth Orchestra. Leo has participated in Junior Chamber Music, the Colburn Summer Chamber Intensive, and earned scholarships to the Montecito International Music Festival and Nelli Shkolnikova Academy in France. His compositions for various ensembles have been performed by Colburn guest groups.

FLUTE

Ronan Friedl
 Dylan Gruber
 Sabrina Henderson
 Carol Lockart^{∞^}
 Dori Riggs §

OBOE

Kimaree Gilad^{∞^}
 Owen Zgliniec

CLARINET

Brian Walsh ^
 James Gilmore
 Peyton Holladay
 Nolan Hrdina-Rivera
 Andy Huang

BASSOON

Nick Akdag^{∞^}
 Maciej Flis ^

HORN

Joseph Fong
 Melanie Link
 Beau Lockhart
 Joaquin Martinez
 Jon Titmus^{∞^}

TRUMPET

Marla Ascencion
 Nate Hunnicutt-Evans
 Mario Lopez
 David Pittel^{∞^}
 Israel Ruiz

TROMBONE

Jared Geronimo
 EUPHONIUM
 Gwang Kim^{∞^}
 Carlos Vargas

VIOLIN I

Eric Clark ^
 Alex Fager
 Clara Friedl
 Liah Kraft
 Isaac Lopez
 Carlos Ozuna
 Diego Salas
 Maia Zander^{∞^}

VIOLIN II

Julissa Bozman ^
 Melanie Festa
 Mara Ysobel Garcia
 Angela Gonzalez
 Hannah Kelley
 Ann Lam
 Susan Philbrick
 Hannah Murray
 Emi Rangel
 Isabella Vogelaar

VIOLA

Margot Aldcroft
 Natasha Helmering
 Connie Hood
 Diane Gilbert ^
 Jay Goodrich
 Mark Gygas
 Cynthia Lee
 Rebecca Lee
 Karen Long §

CELLO

Nancy Clarin
 Charlotte Coates
 Erika Duke-Kirkpatrick ^
 Nathan Gallardo
 Alanm Magana Gonzalez
 Ian Lam
 Skyla O'Connor
 Anna Rowlands
 Oval Wolf

BASS

Nathan Cardenas
 Tony Colonna
 Barry Newton^{∞^}
 Mattie Rowlands
 Gail Turner-Graham
 David Wolfe

HARP

Emmy Pearson

PERCUSSION

Jordan Curcuruto^{∞^}
 Mariella Koelln
 Jack Sturgeon

^ Schwab Mentor ∞ VCPA Faculty § Guest Artist

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