

VENTURA COLLEGE • MOORPARK COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

PETITE MESSE SOLENNELLE

BY GIOACHINO ROSSINI



UCSB

Vc Mc

SATURDAY

MAY 16

2:00 PM

SANTA
BARBARA

MOORPARK COLLEGE
CONCERT CHOIR

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA
CHAMBER CHOIR

VENTURA COLLEGE
CHAMBER SINGERS

VENTURA COLLEGE
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

SUNDAY

MAY 17

7:00 PM

OXNARD

2 0 2 6

BRENT WILSON | CONDUCTOR
ASHLEY WALTERS | ORCHESTRA DIRECTOR
DAVID CASTILLO | CHOIR DIRECTOR

ANASTASIA MALLIARAS | SOPRANO
CHRISTINA PEZZAROSSO | MEZZO-SOPRANO
BENJAMIN BRECHER | TENOR
BRIAN HOTCHKIN | BARITONE

WELCOME

Welcome, and thank you for joining us today. We are so pleased to share this program with audiences across our region. Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* is one of the composer's final and most personal works. Written in 1863, more than thirty years after he had set aside opera, Rossini jokingly called it "the last mortal sin of my old age." Despite the denotation as 'petite,' the work is anything but small! This piece brings together soloists, chorus, and orchestra in music full of drama, warmth, and the unmistakable voice of a master composer writing with freedom and wisdom that comes with a lifetime of composing.

What makes this performance especially meaningful is the collaboration it represents. On stage you will find the Ventura College Symphony Orchestra, prepared by Ashley Walters, alongside the Ventura College Chamber Singers, the Moorpark College Concert Choir prepared by David Castillo, and the UC Santa Barbara Chamber Choir. Many of our own faculty appear as soloists and as performers within the orchestra and chorus. We are so proud of all of our students' amazing work and the kind of partnership across institutions that makes a project of this scale possible.

This concert also falls during Ventura College's centennial year; we hope this spirit of collaboration lasts for the next hundred years! We can think of no better way to celebrate than by doing exactly this: making music together with our community - Thank you for being here!

- Brent Wilson



Ventura College's Department of Performing Arts prepares students to pursue careers in music, theatre, and dance. Students have the opportunity to study with a highly qualified and recognized faculty in a variety of ensembles including Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, Chamber Music Ensembles, College Chorus and Singers, VC Musical Theatre & Opera, Jazz Band, and VC Dance and Theatre.

For more information, visit our website: www.venturacollege.edu/performing-arts



PETITE MESSE SOLENNELLE

GIOACHINO ROSSINI (1792-1868)

Saturday, May 16: Trinity Episcopal Church, Santa Barbara; 2:00 PM

Sunday, May 17: Oxnard Performing Arts Center; 7:00 PM

University of California, Santa Barbara Chamber Choir
Moorpark College Concert Choir
Ventura College Chamber Singers
Ventura College Symphony Orchestra

Brent Wilson | Conductor
Ashley Walters | Orchestra Director
David Castillo | Choir Director

Anastasia Malliaras | Soprano
Christina Pezzarossi Ramsey | Mezzo-soprano
Benjamin Brecher | Tenor
Brian Hotchkin | Baritone

This concert will be approximately 85 minutes long, performed without an intermission. We ask that you hold your applause until after "Agnus Dei" (the last movement of the performance).

Kyrie

Kyrie eleison - chorus
Christe eleison - chorus
Kyrie eleison - chorus

Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo - chorus
Et in terra pax - soloists and chorus
Gratias agimus tibi - alto, tenor, and bass
Domine Deus - tenor solo
Qui tollis peccata mundi - soprano and alto
Quoniam tu solus sanctus - bass solo
Cum Sancto Spiritu - chorus

Credo

Credo in unum Deum - soloists and chorus
Crucifixus - solo soprano
Et resurrexit - soloists and chorus

Preludio Religioso

Sanctus - soloists and choir

O Salutaris - solo soprano

Agnus Dei - alto solo and chorus

SPECIAL THANKS

Luca Lewis
Julius Sokenu
Anthony Mansueto
Elizabeth David
Brent Wilson
Nathan Bowen
Mark Meadow



Gabriel Aragon
Cecelia Arias
John Ballerino
Isabel Bayrakdarian
Jamie Birkett
Benjamin Brecher
Matthew Cho
Alex Espinosa
Cesár Garcia
Kim Gregory
Barbara Hirsch
David Holmes
David Howarth
Brian Hotchkin
Thomas Joyce
Anne Paul King
Sandy Mason
Carolyn Merino Mullin
Elizabeth Molitors
Janeene Nagaoka
Peter Parker
David Paul
Dina Pielael
Paloma Salas
Tyson Sauthoff
Laura Solis-Teteris
Vanessa Stotler
Jeanne Tanner
Angelina Toporov
Kevin Yang-Robinson

VENTURA COLLEGE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN I

Angela Gonzalez
Tarah Brown
Breanna White
Alex Fager+
Isabella Vogelaar
Kathleen Roos

VIOLIN II

Axel Griswold^
Janeane Napp
Ann Lam
Brianna Rendon
Aliyah Rose
Hannah Kelley
Julissa Bozman+
Susan Philbrick
Melanie Festa

VIOLA

Bridget Boland^
Natasha Helmering
River Beal
Mark Gygax
Connie Hood
Diane Gilbert+

CELLO

Lily Marquez^
Maya Ferkel
Rachel Newbold
Charlotte Coats
Paul Moranda
Liam Ellison
Sophia Cormack
Erika Duke Kirkpatrick+

BASS

Nathan Cardenas^
David Wolfe
Joseph Osborne
Gail Turner-Graham
Catherine Young
Barry Newton*

HARP

Emmy Pearson

FLUTE

Bonnie Griffin
Dori Riggs
Sabrina Henderson

OBOE

Kimaree Gilad*
Cameron Hartich+

CLARINET

Addie Ragsdale
Peyton Holliday
Alejandro Portillo
Brian Walsh+

BASSOON

Nick Akdag*
Susan Thiroux

HORN

Joaquin Martinez
Jon Titmus*
Joseph Fong

TRUMPET

Mike Hunter
Jeff Frumkin
Victor Rodriguez
Dave Pittel*

TROMBONE

Alex Saenz
Carlos Vargas
Jared Geronimo

EUPHONIUM

Jonathan Tellez
Julian Pulido

TUBA

Tim Hanson

PERCUSSION

Jack Sturgeon
Eric Garcia
Jordan Cucuruto*

ORGAN

Mark Holmstrom+

^ PRINCIPAL * FACULTY

+ GUEST ARTIST

**MOORPARK COLLEGE
CONCERT CHOIR**

Jocelyn Alonso
Tommy Amezcua
Kylee Anthony
Colette Elise
Rye Chandler
Jacob Del Toro
Naomi Fuentes
Denise Garcia
Mel Garcia
Julie Gong
Angelica Guevara
Cash Harrington
Summer Anna Jones
Tommie Lockwood
Jonah Lopez
Mya Lopez
Eliot Lorenzo
Albert Martinez
Colin McCarty
Payton Sherrie Mead
Muali Mirfakhraei
Samuel O'Brien
Kat Pelayo
Gianne Mikaela Po
Robert Posner
Helen Reveles
Hector Rosales
Kelsey Roth
Talie Sanchez
Kayla Saxton
Ana Sharp
Lukas Shepherd
Zoe Solarte Valdes
Felix Stec
Ingrid Surio
Andrew Tran
Elijah Thomas
Karla Trautman
Emille Velarde
Hugo Venegas
Deborah Vukovitz
Leonora Vukovitz
Reginald Whigham

**VENTURA COLLEGE
CHAMBER SINGERS**

Martin Aguilar Nucico
Luvi Avendano*
Olivia Barker*
Axel Bermudez
Conner Burch
Leanna Crenshaw+
Audrey Cunningham
William Grundler+
Todd Honeycutt+
Gaia Hubbard+
Ryn Lakes
Isaiah Maldonado
Savannah Maldonado
Jesus Martinez
Byron Mayes+
Katy McVicker+
Camilla Mendez
Lizbeth Perez
Hannah Rezendes
Seth Salinas
Dorothy Schaefer
Steve Strange
Mariah Young
Alexis Zapata

REHEARSAL PIANISTS

Andrew Anderson
John Ballerino
Mark Holmstrom
Dorrie Kelly
Sio Tepper

(UCSB continued)

Marissa Abaya
Ayve Algazi
Brooke Aron
Emma Barnes
Lilly Bennet
Edwin Chang
Sophia Cooper
Zachary Davis
Rori Escudero
Kelly Flippo
Keala Golden
Cameron Hastings
Angie Kharrat
Mason Klein
Chloe Kumar
Evan Lu
Kamden Ma
Isabella Mackie
Benjamin Maman
Hanz Marx
Matt Oswald
Kevin Sanchez
Eli Siegel
Curtis Smith-Wilde
Eunice Sung
Lemon Taylor
Sarah Turley
Maya Turner
Kate Unger
Eliza Van de Water
Lilah Young
Jake Zhang

SUPPORT

If you would like to help support programs like these, please consider making a donation to the VC Foundation Music Fund. Gifts in any amount are a vital part of promoting Ventura's homegrown talent.

We are so grateful for your support!



ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

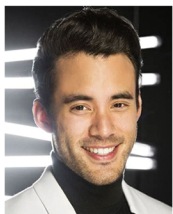


Brent Wilson is a conductor and stage director whose career has included performances with Boston Lyric Opera, Chicago Opera Theater, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Opera Theatre Saint Louis, and other engagements in Italy, Bulgaria, Germany, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the Czech Republic. He has appeared with leading ensembles such as Boston Baroque, the Handel and Haydn Society and Music of the Baroque (Chicago). As a conductor, Wilson served as Assistant Conductor and Chorus Master at Opera Santa Barbara for over 20 productions. At Ventura College, he is the director of voice, choir, opera, and musical theater. He has taught at Boston University's Tanglewood Institute, Augustana and Viterbo University, and actively mentors students who are performing on national Broadway tours. He is also the Director of Choral Studies at University of California, Santa Barbara, and the Chorus Master/Assistant Conductor for the Varna International Music Festival in Bulgaria. Wilson holds degrees in voice and performance from Augustana and Boston University, and in computer science and mathematics from Augustana. An avid endurance athlete, he has completed five Ironman triathlons, 14 marathons, and has run the Alta Via: a 75-mile trail in the Italian Dolomites over a single weekend.



Ashley Walters serves as conductor of the Ventura College Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra, and as Music Director of the Schwab Academy of Music, a three-week summer festival devoted to orchestral and chamber music studies. As a faculty member at the Nief-Norf Summer Festival in Knoxville, she conducts contemporary works and world premieres each summer alongside colleagues from across the country. As a cellist, Walters has been praised for performing "with the kind of brilliance that beckons a major new performer" (Mark Swed, L.A. Times). Her diverse career spans classical, avant-garde, and jazz, and she is a founding member of the Formalist Quartet. A frequent collaborator with legendary trumpeter and composer Wadada Leo Smith, she is a member of his Golden Quintet and appears on four of his albums, including America's National Parks, named Jazz Album of the Year by DownBeat Magazine. Walters can be heard on twenty-two albums across labels. Dr. Walters holds degrees from UC San Diego, CalArts, and Vanderbilt University, and has presented guest lectures at Princeton, CalArts, and UC San Diego, among others.

ashleywalterscello.com



David Castillo is Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Choral and Vocal Activities at Moorpark College, where he also coordinates the Applied Music program. He teaches voice, opera, musical theatre, music appreciation, and music industry, and his students have gone on to USC, UCLA, Berklee, CalArts, and beyond. A longtime member of the Los Angeles Master Chorale, David has performed as soloist and host with the New York Philharmonic, San Diego Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall, working with conductors including Gustavo Dudamel, Franz Welser-Möst, Rafael Payare, and Eric Whitacre. His Hollywood credits are equally wide-ranging. He has appeared on the 97th and 98th Academy Awards, Amazon Prime's *Hunters*, and as a session singer on dozens of major film and television soundtracks including *Encanto*, *Wicked*, *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*, *Despicable Me 4*, *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker*, and *Star Wars: The Mandalorian and Grogu*. David holds a Master of Music from the USC Thornton School of Music and a Bachelor of Music from Loyola University New Orleans. www.davidcastillo.la



Anastasia Malliaras is a soprano and recording artist whose work spans traditional opera and innovative modern projects. This season she debuted with Opera Santa Barbara as Cleopatra in Handel's *Giulio Cesare* and with the Santa Barbara Symphony as soprano soloist in Mozart's *Requiem*. Her operatic roles include Gilda, Nannetta, Susanna, Olympia, and Zerbinetta, among others. She has been an apprentice at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, a Studio Artist at Central City Opera, and has participated in young artist programs at Houston Grand Opera and the iSing! International Young Artist Festival. Accolades include placement in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and the Loren L. Zachary Competition. Malliaras is also an active collaborator and recording artist. With pianist Eva Schaumkell she performs programs linking music and visual art at museums nationally. Her duo with guitarist Aaron Haas, 'Duo Apollon,' released their debut album on Parma/Navona Records in 2023. She is also the lead vocalist of the Greek Rebetiko Trio, performing authentic Greek folk music. Malliaras holds degrees from the University of Illinois and the University of Southern California. www.anastasiamalliaras.com



Christina Pezzarossi Ramsey is a mezzo-soprano from Miles City, Montana. She currently serves as Choral Director at Oxnard College and teaches applied voice at Ventura College. Her operatic career spans a wide range of roles and companies. Notable credits include Margaret in *The Light in the Piazza* and Rossweisse in *Die Walküre* with Opera Santa Barbara, Wellgunde in *Das (continued)*

(Ramsey cont'd) *Rheingold*, Kate Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly* with Central City Opera, Paula in *Florenzia en el Amazonas* with Pensacola Opera, and Dorabella in *Così fan tutte* with Opera San Jose. In 2024, she reprised Margaret in *The Light in the Piazza* with Opera in the Heights and sang the title role in *Carmen* with Opera San Luis Obispo. She has performed Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 with both the Santa Barbara Symphony and Pacific Symphony, Rossini's *Stabat Mater* with Pensacola Symphony, and Handel's *Messiah* with Laguna Beach Chorale. Christina holds a DMA in Voice from UC Santa Barbara. www.christinapezzarossimezzo.com



Benjamin Brecher is a tenor and Professor of Voice at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he also serves as head of the vocal program. Specializing in the high lyric tenor repertoire, he has performed more than 70 operatic roles with over 40 orchestras at venues throughout the United States and abroad. He made his professional debut at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis and has since performed with New York City Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Opéra de Montréal, Glimmerglass Opera, and Opera Santa Barbara, among many others. On the concert stage he has appeared with the Chicago Symphony at Ravinia, the National Symphony at Kennedy Center, and orchestras in Pittsburgh, Seattle, Toronto, Budapest, and beyond. He has also performed in the world premiere of the opera *Shot!*, about the assassination of President McKinley, in Buffalo and Dayton. His thirteen commercial recordings include releases on MSR Classics, among them a 2023 disc devoted to three centuries of settings of the Irish poet Thomas Moore. Brecher holds degrees from Bowling Green State University, New England Conservatory, and the Juilliard Opera Center.



Brian Hotchkin has been noted for his "strong and effortless voice" and his "unerring, witty sense of theater." He has performed with companies around the country, including Virginia Opera, Opera New Jersey, the Aspen Music Festival, Chamber Opera Chicago, and Opera Santa Barbara. He recently made his London debut as Filippo in Bellini's *Beatrice di Tenda*. His recent performances include *Carmen* and Mozart's *Coronation Mass* (Channel Islands Chamber Orchestra); Sondheim's *Assassins* (Out of the Box Theater); Vaughan-Williams's *Sea Symphony* (Santa Barbara Master Chorale); and a concert with Armen Guzelimian for Studio Channel Islands. Other repertoire includes both the title role and Count Almaviva in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Leporello in *Don Giovanni*, Marcello in *La bohème* and Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly*. He is part of Ventura College's voice faculty, and he has stage directed productions including *The Light in the Piazza*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Hansel & Gretel*, and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* for the college. He holds degrees in voice from DePaul University and the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. www.brianhotchkin.com