

## Upcoming Events

### **Composer of the Year | Kabalevsky**

Sunday, March 19 | 1:00—6:00 p.m.

Barrett Hall

Free

Hear performances of Kabalevsky's music by students and faculty of the piano department.

### **Guitar Faculty Concert**

Friday, March 24 | 7:30 p.m.

Barrett Hall

Free

PCM guitar faculty present a concert in Barrett Hall.

### **Wicked GOAT | Folk**

Sunday, April 2 | 4:00 p.m.

Barrett Hall

Free: Reservation Required

Join us for the third Wicked GOAT concert featuring music that incorporates folk elements. Wicked GOAT is a brand new immersive concert series at PCM featuring performances by faculty and friends.

Recommended for ages 10+

### **Between the Wars (Mostly) | Russia**

Saturday, April 15 | 4:00 p.m.

4:00 p.m. Barrett Hall

\$100. Registration required.

This season, Musical Interludes explores three music chronologies from the first half of the 20th Century. In this third concert, Brian Lauritzen provides historical connections and guides our exploration of how the sounds of classical music evolved in Russia during this time.

*For more information, please visit [pasadenaconservatory.org](http://pasadenaconservatory.org)*



Do you require an **assistive listening device**?

Please feel free to ask a PCM staff member or volunteer for assistance!

*\* Masks are strongly recommended.*



100 North Hill Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91106



artnight  
PASADENA

# PCM Faculty Concert

Friday, March 10, 2023

9:00 pm

Barrett Hall

## GUEST ARTISTS

### **TOM MOOSE**

Tom Moose is a Los Angeles based multi-instrumentalist and composer. He studied classical violin with Dimitrios Papanikolaou (Staatstheater Kassel, Germany) and received his BA in Music and Theater from University of La Verne. His violin, mandolin and guitar playing has featured in alternative folk band Cuñao, americana band Ikes Creek, with chanson artist Jessica Fichot, and klezmer band Mostly Kosher among others. He's composed music for (post-)modern dance and film.

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### **JASON STOLL**

Southern Californian pianist, Jason Stoll, enjoys a multifaceted career as concerto soloist, recitalist, chamber musician, educator, and collaborative artist. Concert highlights for the upcoming 2022-2023 season include concerto appearances with the Santa Monica Symphony, Westlake Village Symphony, Antelope Valley Symphony, multiple solo recitals, and chamber music across the United States. Past concert highlights include giving the U.S. premiere of Benjamin Britten's Rondo Concertante for piano and strings, a number of solo recitals throughout his native California, New York, Toronto, Dublin, and orchestral appearances with the North Charleston Pops, Midland-Odessa Symphony, Victoria Symphony, Miami Music Festival Orchestra, the Westlake Village Symphony, the California State University, Northridge Symphony, the Antelope Valley Symphony, the York Symphony Orchestra, and the Tehachapi Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Stoll has also competed internationally and was named a Semi-finalist in the 2015 Dublin International Piano Competition and Finalist in the 2013 American Paderewski Piano Competition.

Mr. Stoll holds degrees from California State University, Northridge, the Juilliard School, and the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. His principal teachers included John Perry, David Louie, Jerome Lowenthal, Matti Raekallio, Dmitry Rachmanov, and John Roscigno. Additionally, Mr. Stoll has attended several prestigious summer music festivals including the Miami Music Festival, Pianofest in the Hamptons, Aspen Music Festival, and the Adamant Music School.

Currently, Mr. Stoll is a piano instructor and lecturer at California State University, Northridge, and is also a freelance pianist, masterclass presenter and adjudicator throughout the Los Angeles area. Apart from pianistic activities, Mr. Stoll is a fan of the NBA, professional tennis, juggling, and loves to live stream on Twitch.

## PCM FACULTY PERFORMERS (continued)

Steinway and Sons of Pasadena recently awarded Ms. Wang the distinguished honor of “2022 Top Piano Teacher,” a prestigious recognition that acknowledges exemplary piano teachers and professors in regions across the country and commends a music educator’s passion, artistry, and commitment to students.

Dr. Wang has been on the faculty of Pasadena Conservatory of Music since 2017 and also currently serves on the music faculties of Citrus Community College and California School of the Arts – San Gabriel Valley.

### **MICAH WRIGHT**

An accomplished and versatile artist, Dr. Micah Wright is an active musician based in Southern California. Dr. Wright has received many national and international musical awards and given solo, chamber, and orchestral performances throughout the United States. He has performed concertos with several ensembles including Rice University’s Shepherd School Symphony, Drake University Symphony Orchestra, Masterworks Festival Orchestra, Meyer Chamber Orchestra, and Des Moines Metro Concert Band. Known for his unique programming, Dr. Wright frequently performs his own arrangements, has premiered many contemporary works, and co-founded several active chamber ensembles including the Aristeia Trio, Syrinx Reed Quintet, and Kaleidoscope Trio. In 2018, he was featured as a soloist by the Beverly Hills National Auditions, performing on both clarinet and piano.

Dr. Wright maintains a diverse teaching schedule and is currently on faculty at California Lutheran University, California School of the Arts, and Kadima Conservatory. He graduated with academic honors from USC Thornton (D.M.A., 2015), Rice University’s Shepherd School (M.M. 2012), and Drake University (B.M. 2009).

### **ALEXANDER ZHU**

Los Angeles based musician Alexander Zhu has performed solo recitals, concerti and chamber, orchestral, pop, fusion and film music coast to coast in the United States, across Europe and China. He is also an established film and TV composer whose work has been showcased in film festivals across the US and Europe, and can be heard on Disney+, Netflix and TF1 (France).

Alexander serves on the faculties of Occidental College, Pierce College and the Pasadena Conservatory of Music, where he teaches music theory, composition and piano. Prior to his current appointments, he taught at the University of Southern California. He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, where he studied with Stewart Gordon, while serving as a lecturer in the Piano Department. He earned a Bachelor of Music degree summa cum laude from New England Conservatory in Boston. He is the recipient of NEC’s Tourjée Alumni Scholarship and Thornton’s Distinguished Graduate Award. Alexander attended the Aspen Music Festival on fellowship, studying collaborative piano with Rita Sloan. Prior to his conservatory studies, he studied with Lydia Artymiw.

An avid proponent of new music, Dr. Zhu performed on the viral Yeethoven Kanye West/Beethoven mashup concert series, appearing in media outlets such as the USA Today, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, Huffington Post, Reuters, and Agence France Presse. He is an expert in minimalism, performing the music of Terry Riley, Steve Reich, Philip Glass and John Adams in concert halls, art museums and nightclubs. He has presented lecture-recitals on the performance practice of minimalism; his dissertation focused on pioneering new analytical techniques for the style.

For two years, Alexander served as the principal keyboard of the Aspen Chamber Symphony, where he worked alongside principal players from the Los Angeles and New York Philharmonics, the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, and the Chicago Symphony. He has collaborated with soloists in Joshua Bell, Lynn Harrell, Sarah Chang, Midori and Gil Shaham, and performed under conductors including Leonard Slatkin, David Robertson, and Robert Spano. He has appeared on several film scores, including The Harvest (2013), directed by John McNoughton, as well as on radio programs on NPR, WGBH, KUSC and LACMA’s Sundays Live. He toured China as piano soloist and principal keyboardist with Los Angeles Film Symphony, performing in 15 cities across the country.

## PROGRAM

“America” from West Side Story

Ruby Wang, piano  
Stephen Cook, piano  
Vatché Mankerian, piano

Leonard Bernstein  
arr. Derison Duarte

“Sabre Dance”

Ruby Wang, piano  
Alexander Zhu, piano

Aram Khachaturian  
arr. Anderson & Roe

Paganini Variations

Vatché Mankerian, piano  
Annie Chen, piano

Witold Lutoslawski

Cookbook for Clarinet and Piano

I. Smokehouse

IV. La ultima noche en la casa del  
Flamenco

Micah Wright, clarinet  
Jason Stoll, piano

Kenji Bunch

“Song for Maria”

Laura Mazon, guitar

Laura Snowden

Se Ela Perguntar

Uma Valsa e Dois Amores

Bryan Fasola, guitar

Dilermando Reis  
Dilermando Reis

Three Tunes from Across America

“Big Sciotia”

Tom Moose, mandolin  
Natalie Brejcha, fiddle

West Virginia Traditional  
attributed to:  
“Hammond’s Family”

“Dry and Dusty”

Natalie Brejcha, fiddle  
Tom Moose, fiddle

Missouri Ozark Mountain  
Traditional, attributed to:  
“Morrison Twin Brothers”

“Sweet Revelations”

Natalie Brejcha, fiddle  
Tom Moose, mandolin

California Modern  
Natalie Brejcha

## PCM FACULTY PERFORMERS

### **NATALIE BREJCHA**

Accomplished violist Natalie F. Brejcha regularly presents many different styles of music, ranging from baroque to avante garde, and has worked with many of the worlds most innovative composers including James Tenney, John Zorn, Brian Ferneyhough, and Harold Budd. Described by the LA Times as “A bright eared, sensitive performer that seemed to breathe the air of other worlds.”

She has spent much of the last 20 years dedicated to performing in small ensembles such as The Arroyo Ensemble, a Los Angeles based flute, viola and piano trio that specializes in creating new and exciting work for this creative instrumentation.

Natalie has performed and recorded with many popular artists such as Elton John, Rod Stewart, Sarah McLachlan, Michael McDonald, Earth, Wind and Fire, and David Foster. Natalie received her classical training in her hometown of Kansas City at the Conservatory of Music at University of Missouri-Kansas City and her MFA Degree from California Institute of the Arts.

A passionate Suzuki Violin and Viola teacher, Natalie is an active member of the leadership team for the Suzuki Music Association of California- Los Angeles Chapter and has a studio of awesome students who love performing locally with other Suzuki families. Natalie is currently on the faculty for the Los Angeles Suzuki Institute as well as mom to two Suzuki violin and viola daughters.

### **ANNIE CHEN**

Annie Chen received her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in Piano Performance from the University of Southern California, where she studied with Nancy Bricard, Bernandene Blaha, and James Bonn. Ms. Chen has performed in master classes with such world-renowned artists as Nelita True, Menahem Pressler, John Perry, Cecile Ousset, and Andre Watts. Privately she has also worked with Constance Keene, Cecile Ousset (Puyceli, France), and Bernardo Segall. Ms. Chen’s has earned many awards and honors such as first prize in the International Piano Concerto Competition of Washington D.C., the International Young Artist Peninsula Music Festival and numerous Music Teachers Association of California (MTAC) piano solo/chamber music competitions and scholarships. Ms. Chen is an active board member of the Music Teachers’ Association of California-Los Angeles Branch, Music Teachers National Association, and California Association of Professional Music Teachers. Ms. Chen maintains an active schedule as a solo artist and keyboard collaborative performer. Ms. Chen also serves as a member of MTAC’s Certificate of Merit Council.

### **STEPHEN COOK, Department Chair**

Stephen Cook received his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Music degrees from the University of South Carolina where he studied composition and piano performance and pedagogy; additional studies were at the Aspen School of Music. While completing his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Southern California, Dr. Cook served as an assistant lecturer in the Keyboard Studies Department under the direction of Stewart Gordon. From 1996-2012 he taught on the faculty of the Colburn School of Performing Arts and from 1996-2004 was the Director of the Pianist Program at the Orange County School of the Arts. He served on the Executive Board of the California Association of Professional Music Teachers and is a former Research Program Specialist with the Music Intelligence Neural Development Institute at the University of California, Irvine. From 2002-2017 Dr. Cook was Associate Professor of Music at Whittier College and currently is Dean of Arts at California School of the Arts | San Gabriel Valley while maintaining his position as Chair of the Piano Department at the Pasadena Conservatory of Music. Past activities included adjudication of the Pro-Romania International Piano Competition in Bucharest, performances and master classes in Tokyo, Japan, Montreal, Madrid, Barcelona, Carnegie Hall, and numerous concert appearances with Broadway talent Susan Egan.

### **BRYAN FASOLA**

Dr. Bryan Fasola grew up in Los Angeles. From the ages of 18 to 21, he composed and published music through BMI that has been used by television shows around the world. After receiving his Performing Arts Diploma under Hubert Kaepfel Germany, he returned to Los Angeles in 2007 to take a position as lecturer of music at California State University, Northridge while completing the Doctorate of Musical Arts degree at USC. As a teacher, Bryan has adjudicated numerous local programs as well as guitar competitions. In his solo performances, Bryan has entertained audiences at numerous universities and arts

societies, as well as radio stations such as KUSC 91.5 in Los Angeles, and was featured on “Inside the Classical Guitar” RAF 107.3 in St. Louis. Bryan’s classical guitar project, LADuo, focuses on developing new music for the genre and has performed as soloists at recent music festivals such as The Cabrillo Festival with conductor Marin Alsop, and the Southern Guitar Festival in South Carolina.

### **LAURA MAZON FRANQUI**

Laura Mazon Franqui is one of the leading Cuban and Latin American classical guitarists of her generation. Recently awarded with the Augustine Artist endorsement sponsored by Augustine Strings, she is now part of a historically recognized collective comprised of the world’s finest guitarists which started with the great Andres Segovia. Laura Mazon is also a Cordoba Guitars Artist, and a Guitar Salon International scholarship awardee. The young guitarist aims to break the boundaries and challenge the orthodoxy present in the classical guitar world, offering a unique musical perspective of the guitar, infused by the rich cultural heritage of her Cuban roots, the best of the classical traditions, and the contemporary trends and influences of the 21st Century.

Laura is also a Hispanic Scholar (Hispanic Scholarship Foundation), a Florida Guitar Foundation and Guitar Foundation of America member, as well as a member of the American Musicological Society. She has served as Head of Guitar Jury at the National Federation of Music Teachers guitar Competition in Miami, having taught for several years at the University of Miami Frost Preparatory Program, and regularly gives lectures, workshops, and masterclasses at renowned institutions, non-profits, and guitar programs in the United States and Latin America.

### **VATCHÉ MANKERIAN**

Vatché Mankerian has actively contributed to the cultural life of Los Angeles for more than two decades. A multi-faceted artist, he distinguishes himself as a pianist, composer, lecturer, author, and teacher. He has written works for piano, chamber ensembles, and electro-acoustic media, as well as incidental music for theatrical productions and cinema. He frequently appears as a soloist with orchestras, and, in 1995, gave an unprecedented performance of the complete solo piano works of Arno Babajanian in his debut at Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall. He also performed Chopin in the Warner Brothers production of NBC pilot Witches of Eastwick and was one of the Rhapsody in Blue pianists at the Olympics opening ceremony in 1984 in Los Angeles. Dr. Mankerian holds a doctor of musical arts degree from USC’s Thornton School of Music and began teaching at the Pasadena Conservatory of Music in 1988.

### **RUBY WANG**

Praised for the passion and authority she commands with her playing, award-winning pianist Ruby Wang made her solo debut at the age of eight in Mississauga, Canada. From there, she continued to earn top prizes and accolades competing and performing across the province of Ontario and abroad. Currently active as a solo recitalist, collaborative artist, lecturer, teacher, and adjudicator, Dr. Wang has performed throughout the United States, Canada, Taiwan, Spain, and Italy.

Beginning her studies at the age of four, Ms. Wang received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in piano performance with a music theory minor from the University of South Carolina. Ruby also holds musical degrees from Brigham Young University (Master of Music) and the University of Utah (Bachelor of Music). Additional studies include graduate certificates of piano and theory from the Royal Conservatory of Music of Canada, as well as a baccalaureate degree in public relations.

An avid teacher, Dr. Wang maintains an active piano studio inspiring a lifelong passion for piano and music in the next generation, as well as preparing students to pursue future musical careers. Accepted into top universities and colleges across the U.S., her students have also garnered prizes from local, state, national, and international festivals and competitions. Dedicated to the music community and outreach programs, she presently resides in Southern California where she is frequently recognized and sought after as a performer, teacher, adjudicator, and clinician. Dr. Wang is an active member of Music Teachers’ Association of California (MTAC), Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), California Association of Professional Music Teachers (CAPMT), and Southwestern Youth Music Festival (SYMF). Ms. Wang was appointed as the 2017-2019 Southern Festival Chair for CAPMT, the California affiliate of MTNA. She also led as the 2017-2018 Concert Series Event Coordinator for CAPMT’s Young Professional Leadership Network initiative.