

Merced Symphony

Ming Luke, Music Director



**2019-2020
SEASON**



A Message From The President

Welcome to our 62nd Season!

Through subscription concerts and youth programs the MSA Board continues to bring the highest quality orchestral music to our community under the direction of Maestro Ming Luke. In response to patron requests, this season we are featuring a Candlelight Concert and an all Gershwin Pops Concert along with two classical concerts which honor the 250th birthday of one of the most recognised and beloved composers of all time--Ludwig van Beethoven.

Our Education Program continues to inspire young musicians to develop their talent through annual Youth Auditions and Children's Concerts in Merced and Los Baños. The performances reach approximately 3,000 4th grade students and inspire many to enroll in band or take private lessons. Youth Audition winners are often featured at one of our regular concerts to the delight of our audiences as well as our professional orchestra members!



Photo by Roger J. Wyan

The best way to support the Merced Symphony is to attend our concerts and bring friends. You may also purchase season tickets and contribute at one of the donor levels which we sincerely hope you will. Do you know that MSA is the oldest continuously operating arts organization in Merced County? It is, and we want to ensure that the Merced Symphony continues to thrive and grow along with our community.

I look forward to joining you in the audience for our opening concert on October 5th!

Judy Edwina Smith

2019 – 2020 Season



Educational Programs

Providing students with the opportunity to experience live music is part of the core mission of the Merced Symphony. Our Winter Children's Concerts are regularly fully booked with a waiting list. Our annual Youth Auditions give talented young artists the opportunity to perform before judges and receive positive feedback. Winners can be asked to perform with the orchestra. Some of our winners have gone on to professional careers or become music teachers. We are very proud of them!



Benjamin Jiang, 2018-19 Youth Audition winner

Children's Concerts

Associate Concert Sponsors



Not open to the public. Schools/Classroom Teachers may make reservations for their 4th grade students through MCOE for the concerts in Merced on January 17th, 2020. Los Baños area schools reserve through LBUSD Office of the Superintendent for the Children's Concerts at Pacheco HS Theater on January 16th, 2020. These programs are designed to be interactive with students and pique their interest in music and band.

Your contributions help us to continue providing these orchestral experiences for our local students. You can sponsor students through a specified donation. Please refer to the Order Form.



2019 – 2020 Season

Auspicious Beginnings

October 5, 2019 | 7:30 pm
Merced Theatre

Season Opener



Photo by Roger J. Wyan

Hebrides Overture

Felix Mendelssohn

World Premiere

Heather Pinkham

Ralph van Raat, Piano

Symphony No. 1

Ludwig van Beethoven

We start the season off with auspicious beginnings. Mendelssohn's gorgeous Hebrides Overture is based off the movements of the sea and lyrical melodies ebbing back and forth in this timeless classic. This concert also features the world-premiere of Heather Pinkham's piano concerto with the world-renowned Ralph van Raat as soloist.

Holiday Candlelight

November 24, 2019 | 7:30 pm
Merced Theatre

Fall Concert



Photo by Roger J. Wyan

Join the Merced Symphony in our first Holiday Candlelight! Nothing gets one into the holiday mood like some of the timeless classics played by a symphony chamber orchestra. From *What Child is This*, to some of your favorite holiday carols, to beautiful solo singers, this is a concert not to miss!

2019 – 2020 Season



Pops Concert

Jazz and more!

January 17, 2020 | 7:30 pm
Merced Theatre



Rhapsody in Blue

George Gershwin

An American in Paris

George Gershwin

and more!

Merced local Jenni Samuelson joins the Merced Symphony with pianist Patrice Nelson to present some of our favorite works of jazz legend George Gershwin. Patrice delights us with the famous Rhapsody in Blue while Jenni sings several of Gershwin's most popular songs. This concert is sure to leave you snapping your fingers and humming on the way out!

Beethoven's Ninth

Season Finale

April 11, 2020 | 7:30 pm
Merced Theatre



Concerto For Violin And Cello in A Minor

Johannes Brahms

Cordula Merks, violin

Amos Yang, cello

Symphony No. 9

Ludwig van Beethoven

Merced College Community Chorus

Philip J. Smallwood, Music Director

We close out the season with two momentous works, Beethoven's grand Symphony No. 9 and the Brahms Double Concerto for Violin and Cello. One of the most famous works of all time, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and the Ode to Joy features four vocal soloists and a large chorus.



2019 – 2020 Season

Support Your Symphony

The Merced Symphony's artistic and educational programs would not be possible without the generous support of many individuals, foundations, and corporations. Donors receive special access to events and artists throughout the season, depending upon their donation level. For the perks within each level, check our website: www.mercedsymphony.org

The MSA Board will schedule one or more fundraisers during the season along with other events, such as soirees to meet the musicians and chat with our music director. If you are on our e-mail list, you will receive advance notice about any special events for planning purposes. We will also put a notice on our website.

Please consider supporting the Merced Symphony Association (MSA) to allow us to continue our mission of bringing to Merced the finest professional musicians for great symphonic programs. Our musicians are highly trained and sought after for performances in major orchestras. Many make solo appearances and perform throughout northern California.

We bring the Bay Area Music Scene to Merced! No need to drive long distances to hear exceptional music. MSA provides it right here!

Thank you for supporting music in the central valley!

Note: All donations are tax deductible. [IRS Tax ID #94-1541775]

Donor Opportunity

Names are listed in programs and on the website. Gifts at any level are appreciated:

Season Sponsor (\$10,000+)

Concert Sponsor (\$5,000+)

Associate Sponsor (2,500-\$4,999)

Platinum Level (\$1,000-\$2,499)

Gold Level (\$500-\$999)

Silver Level (\$250-\$499)

Patron Level (\$100-\$249)

Supporter Level (\$50-\$99)

ENDOWMENT FUND: Please talk with a MSA Board Member for more information.

Subscriber & Donor Form



Season tickets feature tiered pricing with reserved seats selected prior to general sale to the public. The Merced Theatre will contact you to select your seat(s) for the season, so be sure your contact information is correct.

Name(s): _____ (as you wish listed in the program)
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
E-Mail: _____

Season Tickets = 15% savings from individual ticket prices for 4 concerts.
Tier 1: ____ @ \$153.00 each (Front Middle section, rows A-O)
Tier 2: ____ @ \$119.00 each (Front Sides to Row O)
Tier 3: ____ @ \$85 each (Side and Middle Back from Row P on)
Student/Child: ____ @ \$34.00 each (may sit with parent or guardian)

FIRST TIME Season Ticket Buyers get a 30% discount from individual tickets:

Tier 1: ____ @ \$126.00 Tier 3: ____ @ \$70.00
Tier 2: ____ @ \$98.00 Student*/Child ____ @ \$23.80

Additional, Individual concert tickets (specify concert on lines below)

____ Adult Tier 1 Tickets @ \$45 each for _____ \$ _____
____ Adult Tier 2 Tickets @ \$35 each for _____ \$ _____
____ Adult Tier 3 Tickets @ \$25 each for _____ \$ _____
____ Student*/Child Tickets @ \$10 each _____ \$ _____

*Fulltime Students 25 and under with school ID. Children under 12 do not need an ID.

Total Tickets \$ _____

I will sponsor ____ students at the Children's Concerts: (Optional) \$ _____

This donation helps defray the cost of the free concert for 4th grade students in Merced County.

I wish to support the MSA Programs with my donation of: \$ _____

Grand Total \$ _____

Paid by Check

Credit Card

(Specify: Amex/VISA/MC/Disc/Other: _____)

CC# _____

Exp. Date: ____/____ CCV# _____

For season tickets:
Merced Symphony Association
PO Box 894
Merced, CA 95341-0894

For Individual Tickets contact
Merced Theatre Box Office
301 W Main St, Merced
or call 209-381-0500
AFTER August 30, 2019



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