

CAMA presents Orpheus Chamber Orchestra

Collaboration, Outreach, and Democratic Leadership

DO ORCHESTRAS REALLY NEED A CONDUCTOR? Countries need heads of state; ant colonies require a queen; a murder of crows has but one top bird. Even restaurants employ a *chef de cuisine*. But the New York City-based Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, which will perform at the Granada Theatre on Monday, November 30th at 8pm as part of Community Arts Music Association's International Series, eliminated the job description "conductor" 43 years ago and is none the worse for the insult. "We're a democratically led ensemble," explained violist and rotating Artistic Director Dov Scheindlin, during a recent SKYPE video interview. "We don't have a

conductor, so unlike most ensembles, we don't have one person directing information in a unidirectional way. Instead, we communicate with each other, we listen to ideas from every performer, and we form a collective consensus on how we are going to make music. Everybody gets a chance to speak out, have their input and investment. We employ the prodigious talents of every single one of our members."

Sounds good on paper, but what happens when there is a serious artistic impasse? "About musical decisions in a particular piece we all feel free to speak out," Scheindlin, who was elected by orchestra members to the rotating Artistic Director triumvirate in 2013, said reassuringly. "We have three people who act as a kind of artistic committee for all

artistic issues with the orchestra. The three of us make major decisions. I have a lot of colleagues who were formerly in this position and understand perfectly well what I'm going through and have really helped me through all the decisions that have to be made."

The ensemble will be performing music by Handel (*Concerto Grosso Op.6 No.5*), Stravinsky (*Divertimento* from *The Fairy's Kiss* in an arrangement commissioned by Orpheus for violin and orchestra by Dmitry Sitkovetsky), Tchaikovsky (*Valse-Scherzo in C Major, Op.34*), and Respighi (*The Birds*).

Having been involved in selecting the music and soloist for Monday's concert in Santa Barbara, Scheindlin bubbled with enthusiasm about what the audience will hear: "It's a program that shows the way musical

influence can be transmitted several different ways. One of the pieces (*The Fairy's Kiss*) is music Stravinsky took from Tchaikovsky and arranged for another combination. We have combined Stravinsky's orchestra version for ballet and his violin and piano version. The distinguished violinist/conductor Dmitry Sitkovetsky has arranged it for us for violin and orchestra, so we have created a new violin concerto. Soloist Augustin Hadelich is an amazing artist; very interested in new music, very interested



Soloist **Augustin Hadelich**

in creating new experiences, but also deeply immersed in the classics. He and I came up with this suggestion, this idea of combining those two versions to make this new concerto."

The group will finish with Respighi's piece, *The Birds*, a collection of five pre-existing Baroque pieces. "Respighi orchestrated them in a modern style, but with respect to the musical milieu they came from," explained Scheindlin. "He put it together in a fascinating way. Even though all the notes had technically all been written, the effect is so original, it's an incredible composition."

Scheindlin's particular profile is Programming Coordinator. "I come in with suggestions, they get batted around, they get changed, this and that happens, but eventually it all comes together... We make decisions as a team."

Daniel Kepl has been writing music, theatre, and dance reviews for Santa Barbara publications since he was a teenager. His professional expertise is as an orchestra conductor.



Orpheus Chamber Orchestra

Around Town

MTV Stars Visit UCSB for Perfectly Imperfect Campaign



THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA, was recently visited by MTV stars Carly Aquilino and Nessa in support of the "Perfectly Imperfect" initiative, sponsored by Plan B One-Step.

The goal of the campaign is to spark conversations about the pressure to be perfect and the many misperceptions surrounding emergency contraception so women are prepared in case their birth control plan doesn't go as expected.

Carly and Nessa spent time in front of the University Center at UCSB interacting with students, taking pictures at the "Perfectly Imperfect" video/photo booth, and quizzing a couple lucky students about the rumors vs realities of emergency contraception.

Later in the day, Carly and Nessa, along with nationally recognized OB/GYN and expert in women's health, Dr. Diana Ramos, hosted an in-depth educational session for a select group of students and media. During the session they discussed new survey results, what it means to them to be "Perfectly Imperfect".

perfectlyimperfectandme.com

Rotary Club Selects Peabody Teacher for Special Recognition

MARCO SILVA HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED by the Rotary Club of Santa Barbara for his contributions to public education. Silva was presented with an award at the club's luncheon meeting in October. He teaches kindergarten at Peabody Charter School in the Santa Barbara Unified School District.

Since 1986, the club has honored outstanding teachers from South Coast schools, giving them a \$1,000 check to spend on classroom needs.

Silva has been at Peabody for eleven years. He earned an undergraduate degree from CSU Northridge, and received his teaching credential from UCSB in 1995. In addition to teaching at Peabody, he has also worked in the Santa Barbara Unified School District as an instructional aide and a long-term third grade substitute.

Silva is the first in his family to attend college, and he is the first to earn a graduate degree. Another "first" is this public recognition by the Rotary Club. "My students and their parents are always very supportive of me," Silva shared, "as are my school administrators. But this honor, coming from such a distinguished group, is both humbling and gratifying. It says a lot about how the Santa Barbara community values education."

santabarbararotary.com



Kathleen Blake, Rotary Club president; **Marco Silva**, Recipient; **Brian Sarvis**, Rotary Club Teacher Recognition Coordinator

Visiting Nurse & Hospice Care Honors Key Supporters



Board Chair **Herb Geary**, **Jill Levinson**, **Neil Levinson**, President & CEO
Lynda Tanner, Executive Director of Foundation **Rick Keith**

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF VISITING NURSE & HOSPICE CARE recently honored members of its Chairman's Council and Samaritan Society at a special appreciation reception hosted by Jill and Neil Levinson.

The event thanked patrons for their financial support and for their commitment to making it possible for Visiting Nurse & Hospice Care to provide its services.

www.vnhcsb.org

Please send CASA your good news about promotions, changes, new family members, anniversaries, and all important occasions (60 to 80 words only). We'll do our best to spread the word. Email info & pictures to People@CasaSB.com