

A New Dome For Star Gazing



Photo by Joni Kelly

GEARING UP FOR IMPROVED STAR GAZING AND ALL THINGS SPACE RELATED, The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History is finishing its final steps to re-open The Palmer Observatory.

With the official Grand Opening slated for Monday, October 5th at 11am, work on the observatory has been brisk. Part of the effort included the arrival of a large crane that placed the 14-foot 6-inch, 2,250-pound re-purposed Ash-Dome hailing from near Tucson, Arizona onto the existing building footprint last month at the Museum's Mission Canyon campus at 2559 Puesta del Sol. The "new" telescope dome went onto the Observatory without a glitch and The Palmer Observatory is due to open this month for the first time since the mid-1980s.

This project was a labor of love for the many partners and donors who were involved. The Ash-Dome, originally from near Tucson, and was donated to the Museum. Volunteers with the Astronomical Unit, in collaboration with staff of the Geological Sciences Department of Santa Barbara City College, had the challenging task of disassembling, transporting, and re-assembling the dome. Along with other renovations to the Observatory, and the Planetarium, the Museum is poised to expand their Space Sciences Program.

Camerata Pacifica season opens in Santa Barbara September 18th

Violinist Paul Huang – Honey & Vinegar

AT AGE FOUR WE NEARLY LOST HIM. The 2015 winner of the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant, Taiwanese-

American violinist Paul Huang, whose gorgeous tone and exciting playing have been likened to the sweetness and snap of honey and vinegar, hated the first violin lesson foisted upon him by his parents, refusing to have anything more to do with the instrument until the ripe old age of seven.

"My parents took me to a violin recital and I was just so shocked and amazed by how this little wooden box, as I called it, can produce such a fantastic and glorious sound on stage without any microphones," Huang recalled of his youthful epiphany, during a recent SKYPE video interview with CASA. From that moment on, the acclaimed young virtuoso never looked back and on Friday, September 18th at 1pm (short program) and 7:30pm (full program) the New York City-based artist will join his colleagues, violinist Agnes Gottschewski, pianist Warren Jones, cellist Ani Aznavoorian, and violist Richard Yongjae O'Neill at Hahn Hall on the Music Academy of the West campus, for the opening concert in Santa Barbara of the 2015-2016 Camerata Pacifica season.

Next Friday's concert, performed earlier that week in Ventura (September 13th),

San Marino (September 16th), and Los Angeles (September 17th), will feature Huang playing Belgian composer Eugène Ysaÿe's *Sonata No. 3 in D Minor for Solo Violin*, "Georges Enescu" and Pablo de Sarasate's *Romanza Andaluza, Op. 22* with pianist Warren Jones. Also on the program, Johannes Brahms' *Sonata No. 2 in E Minor for Piano and Cello, Op. 38* with cellist Aznavoorian and pianist Jones, and César Franck's *Quintet in F Minor for Piano and Strings* with violinists Huang and Gottschewski, violist O'Neill, cellist Aznavoorian, and Jones at the keyboard.

This season is Huang's third as a guest artist with Camerata Pacifica. He and his colleagues arrive for rehearsals from all over the world only days before each set.

"Camerata Pacifica has been an amazing journey for me," Huang related. "I've been having a fantastic time, just to be with the musicians that Camerata Pacifica can offer. I think the musicians that Adrian (Adrian Spence, founder and Artistic Director) has brought together for the Camerata Pacifica are truly one of a kind. We really enjoy each other's company and



Violinist Paul Huang

we respect each other, on a personal level as well as on a musical level. We continue to make great music together."

Tickets are \$28 (1pm short recital) and \$56 (7:30pm full recital) and can be purchased online at www.cameratapacifica.org or by calling 884-8410.

To watch the SKYPE video interview visit www.bravocalifornia.com

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.

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