

Zoe Barton, violin



Zoe Barton began her violin studies at age 3. She's been part of several Los Angeles ensembles, including the Los Angeles Youth Orchestra, Junior Chamber Music, and various groups at The Colburn School under Maxim Eshkenazy and their Advanced Chamber Music Institute. She's won multiple prizes in Music Teachers Association of California annual competitions, has attended the Advanced Suzuki Institute at Stanford University (2016-2018), the Center Stage Strings program at the University of Michigan (2019-2023), the Borromeo Music Festival (2023), and the Heifetz Institute in Staunton, VA (2021-2022). She has performed with the San Fernando Valley Symphony Orchestra in 2023 with Vitali's Chaconne and in 2020 with Beethoven's Romance in F. Zoe is a student of Joan Kwuon at The Colburn School, and lives in Rolling Hills Estates with two younger brothers and an even younger Labrador Retriever.

Natalie Kwok, cello



Cellist Natalie Kwok made her Carnegie Hall debut as first prize winner of the American Pro-tégé International Competition and has gone on to perform both as soloist and chamber musician nationally and internationally. She has appeared as soloist with the Seraphim Symphony Orchestra Orange County Cello Ensemble, Pacific Symphony Santiago Strings, and was prizewinner in other competitions including the Los Angeles Violoncello Society, Edith Knox Competition, and Grand Prize Virtuoso International Music Competition. Most recently, she was named a 2024 National YoungArts winner. Kwok also participated in NYO2 in 2022, served as principal cellist in 2023, and will be joining NYO-USA this summer on their tour to South America Under the baton of Marin Alsop. She is a scholarship awardee of Chamber Music OC's Pre-College Program, and a member of the American Youth Symphony. Natalie is a senior at Fairmont Preparatory Academy and is a member of her school's Advanced Science and Engineering Program. Her teachers include Wendy Liu and Sarah Koo.



The Bellflower Symphony Orchestra

Heriberto Ramos, Music Director

Presents



2024

Concert for Young Artists

April 20, 2024

William and Jane Bristol Civic Auditorium

7:00 pm

Composer Highlight

Max Bruch



Max Bruch was a German composer, teacher, violinist and conductor. He was born Max Christian Friedrich Bruch on January 6, 1838 in Cologne. He grew up in a middle class family in Cologne, where his father, an attorney, eventually became Chief of Police of Cologne.

He began his musical studies in Cologne with the composer and Pianist Ferdinand Hiller. (Interesting side note is that Robert Schumann dedicated his Piano Concert in A to Hiller.) During his early years, he composed several minor pieces, from motets to a full scale orchestra work which was to be a prelude to an operatic idea he had depicting Joan of Arc.

When he began attending university in Bonn, he studied Philosophy and art. These interests were to fall to the way-side in favor of his music career.

Max's first official appointment in music was as Kappellmeister in Koblenz (halfway between Frankfurt and Cologne). Two years later, he became Kappellmeister in Sondershausen (about 168 miles southwest of Berlin). He then traveled to Berlin to work as a Kappellmeister and later relocated to Bonn where he spent a large amount of time composing. His next two appointments were as Music Director/Conductor: first with the Sternscher Sangverein in Berlin, then with the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. After 3 years in Liverpool, he returned to the continent to become the Director of the Orchesterverein in Breslau, Poland.(the German Name for today's Warsaw).

Next, his career finds him back in Berlin where he took over master classes in composition (Respighi was one of his pupils). In 1911, he retired (still in Berlin) and concentrated on composition until his death on October 2, 1920.

He was a prolific composer, but his work was often overshadowed by his contemporary, Johannes Brahms. The violin concerto performed tonight is his most famous work (even during his life time) and is only one of 3 works still in the standard orchestral literature today.

Allen Wang, violin



Allen Wang, age 11, is currently studying violin at the Colburn School, pupil of Joan Kwuon. He began the violin at age 6 and at age 8, Allen became a Colburn School Zipper Scholarship recipient. In 2022, Allen won First Prize in the Bellflower Concerto Competition for Young Artists, Primary Division and performed Bach A Minor Concerto with the Bellflower Symphony. This season he won First Prize in the Junior Division and is performing Mendelssohn Concerto on the April Winners Concert. In 2023, Allen won First Prize in the ASTA

(American String Teachers Association), Southern California Finals. He is participating in the Colburn Youth Orchestra, the Chamber program as a member of a Piano Trio and studying piano with Micah Yui. He has performed on numerous Friday Night Recitals as well as at the California Club. Allen joined the Los Angeles Children's Concert Choir last year and is currently in rehearsal for Puccini's 'Turandot' and will be performing in Dorothy Chandler Pavilion with LA Opera in May and June of this year. Recognized for sharing his violin playing with the public, Allen busks to help contribute to his studies and to support Artist Year, which helps other young music students. Allen is a 6th grader at Plaza Vista K-8 School, where he plays percussion in the school band. This year he was selected to join the Irvine School District Honor Band. When not engaged in his musical activities, Allen enjoys reading, surfing, skateboarding, snowboarding and baseball.

Intermediate/Senior Division Winners

Ella Cho, piano



Ella Cho began her musical journey at the age of six and has performed in venues such as Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall, the Herbert Zipper Hall in Los Angeles, and has performed with the Camerata Orchestra in Seoul, Korea. Ella has participated in numerous Regional, State, and International competitions. Most recently, she was awarded top prizes at The Piano League International Piano Competition, Enkor International Piano Competition, the Pacific International Piano Competition, the Aloha International Piano Competition, and the Chopin International Piano Competition in Hartford.

Ella was chosen as a semi-finalist at the International Young Artist Concerto Competition and was awarded a performance with the SEEN orchestra under the Baton of Conner Covington. In her home state, Ella has taken part and won First Prize in the Music Teachers' Association of California (MTAC) State Solo and Contemporary Festival and the Kathryn Garwatin Chopin Competition. Ella would like to sincerely thank Dr. Ran Dank and Jenny Shin for their musical guidance and unwavering support.

Junior Division Winners

April Zhang, Piano



April Zhang, 12, made her debut at age 8 with the National Repertory Orchestra on Mozart Concerto in F Major, K459 at the Breckenridge Music Festival in Colorado. April started to play the piano at age five with Jasmine Lee Steadman and later with Jenny Shin after relocated in California. Currently, she is a student of Dr. Judy Huang. April has won numerous local and state piano competitions in Colorado, Delaware, and California. Recently, she was the Grand Prize winner (Category II) at the Satori Summer Music Festival (2023), and the Bronze Medalist (Solo Level A) at the 2023 International Keyboard Odyssey® and Festival. Besides piano, April also studies the flute with Kathy Marsh. She holds positions as a pianist and flutist in the Pacific Academy Foundation Orchestra. Last year she was a member of the Young Artists Orchestra of Los Angeles and was selected in the Irvine Unified School District's Elementary Honor wind band to perform at the Segerstrom Concert Hall. April enjoys collaborating with other young musicians and has performed in numerous community concerts. She received The President's Volunteer Service Gold Award by White House in both 2022 and 2023.

Minji Choi, Violin



Minji Choi, 14, is a violinist studying under Chloe Chiu. She has received masterclasses from Jinjoo Cho, Paul Kantor, Qian Zhou, Margaret Batjer, and Bing Wang, and has performed with orchestras such as the Southern California Philharmonic and Sierra Vista Chamber Orchestra. Minji was solely awarded honorable mention in the 2024 The Music Center's Spotlight Competition, being the youngest participant and given scholarship. Her awards also include Young Artist Award at the Singapore Violin Festival, second in the Music Teachers National Association California State Competition, and first from numerous competitions including the American String Teachers Association Bowed String Solo Competition and the California Association of Professional Music Teachers Concerto Competition state round, where she also received the overall grand prize titled the Andrys Basten Award. Minji participates in Chamber Music OC Pre-College Program with scholarship, and was unanimously chosen as the only student of the program to be featured in its faculty showcase. She is also a member of the Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra, and was previously the concertmaster of the Pacific Symphony Santiago Strings, where she was selected for its quartet and picked as one of the ensemble soloists in their concert. Minji also contributes to Smile Train OC, where she performs to fundraise for children born with clefts. Last summer, Minji was selected as the youngest participant of the Encore Summer Institute with a merit scholarship. Minji will participate in Yellow Barn Young Artists Program and NYO2 this summer.

Tonight's Program

Symphony no 5 in D, Op. 107 "Reformation"
III. Andante, IV. Andante con moto
Felix Mendelssohn

Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor, Op. 26, III. Finale.
Allegro energico
Max Bruch
Ryan Noda, Violin

Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 35,
I. Allegro moderato
Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Zoe Barton, Violin

Presentation of Awards

Intermission

Violin Concerto in E minor, Op. 64
I. Allegro molto appassionato
Felix Mendelssohn
Allen Wang, Violin

Carmen Fantasy, Op. 25
Pablo de Sarasate
Minji Choi, Violin

Piano Concerto No. 1 in Bb minor, Op. 23
I. Andante non troppo e molto maestoso - Allegro con spirito
Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Ella Cho, Piano

Our next concert will be on Saturday, August 24th at 7pm. It will be held at the Caruthers Park. No tickets are necessary!

Bellflower Symphony Orchestra

First Violin

Dolores Loera**
 Carlos Arredondo
 Jeffrey Arredondo
 Benjamin Lau
 Liz Meripol

Second Violin

Tim Kunze*
 Frances Kermeen
 Benjamin Lau
 Amy Lumley
 Judy Peffers
 Donna Houston Sherrard

Viola

Allyson Bates*
 Xochi Blanco
 Joanna Millane
 Angelina Taylor

Concertmaster**
Principal*

Cello

Sean Stewart*
 Brittany Arredondo
 Margaret Asato
 Keili Eddow

Bass

Tony Correa*
 David Vokoun
 Bill Childs
 Marie Rodriguez

Flute

Sasha Mori
 Lindsey Wilcox

Oboe

Bennett Imai
 Cynthia Navarrett

Clarinet

Nancy Carr
 David Diaz

Bassoon

Anita Correa
 Eduard Mas Marin

French Horn

Frank Fox
 Lindsey Harnsberger

Timothy Moy
 Brian Smith

Trumpet

Carvell Hollaway
 William Lopez

Trombone

Peter Brown
 Albert Elegino
 Alvin Starks

Tuba

Joseph Jackson

Percussion

Nathan Buck
 Jim Thompson

Harp

Chiara Turner

Young Artists Concert Competition

This is the 34th year of our Young Artists Concert Competition. In 1990, Joseph R. Taylor, who became the orchestra's conductor a year later, revitalized the organization's emphasis on youth by founding the Bellflower Young Artists Concerto Competition, an event which has proven to be extremely successful. The first year saw four finalists that performed their chosen concertos with the orchestra. It has since grown to include contestants from all around California and even a few from out of state. Today, the orchestra gives 8 awards in 3 categories to deserving youth, with five of the top winners performing with the orchestra.

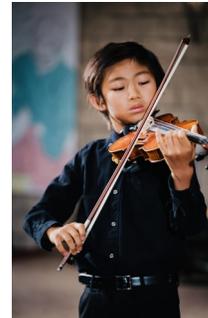
Primary Division Winners

Naomi Jones, Violin



Naomi Jones is a student of Aimée Kreston at the Pasadena Conservatory of Music. Naomi, 10 years old, began studying the violin at age 4 with Megan Shung at PCM and continues to explore music composition and production with her. Playing the violin is Naomi's passion. Naomi is Concertmaster of the Pasadena Youth Symphony Orchestra Overture Strings, which performs at the Ambassador Auditorium. Naomi is one of the youngest people to have been invited to participate in the Chamber Music Program at PCM, and has interpreted works by composers from Mozart to John Cage. Ms. Jones was one of the youngest musicians to participate in the PCM Intensive Music Camp led by Aimée Kreston in 2023. Naomi was a prizewinner in the 2023 Music Teachers' Association of California VOCE solo strings competition state finals and has advanced to the finals again in 2024. Naomi regularly performs in showcase recitals at PCM. In addition to music, Naomi enjoys singing, piano, reading, and drawing.

Ryan Noda, Violin



Ryan Yuto Noda, a 10-year-old, started his musical journey by learning the violin and piano at the age of 5. In 2022, at the age of 8, Ryan won the first prize in the CYOSC concerto competition, performing with an orchestra. Further accomplishments include winning the first-place award in the at the US International Open Music Competition and winning the first and grand prizes at the 2022 Satori Summer Music Festival. Additionally, he earned the first prize in the Baroque category at the 2023 Southwestern Youth Music Festival. Currently, Ryan is studying music under the guidance of Yuki Mori and Min Jung Park, both students of the legendary violinist Jascha Heifetz.

Thank You



LA COUNTY SUPERVISOR
JANICE HAHN
 representing the 4th district

State Senator
Bob Archuleta

State Assemblymember
Anthony Rendon



With support by the L.A. County Department of Arts and Culture as part of Creative Recovery Act, LA



**The Durbin Family thanks you for
your condolences and prayers!**



The entire remembrance service
is available to view online at
<https://youtu.be/rwZq0qIGnpU>



The Bellflower Symphony Association
Proudly Dedicates

The Concert for Young Artists 2024

In memory of Marcia Durbin
October 11, 1945 - January 10, 2024



Marcia Durbin's contributions to BSA:

Marcia Durbin joined the Bellflower Symphony Orchestra in the 1980. She joined the BSA board in 1991, and served as Vice President until 2022, when she took on the interim President position, until she resigned in the fall of 2023 due to failing health. During her 30+ years on the board, not only was she Vice President, but she also assisted Jane Bristol with treasury duties, and acted as General Manager and Secretary for the Bellflower Symphony Association.

During her time as VP, she handled and/or assisted with most of the administrative activities including requesting funding, handling the annual young artist competition, and many more activities.

During her 35+ years as an Orchestra Member she played both Violin I & Violin II parts.

She will be deeply missed.

Marcia Durbin's Obituary:

Marcia June Durbin was born in the Inglewood section of Los Angeles to Reverend C. Frederick Kinell, Pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, and Jean Bachman, musician and Opera singer, and 2 older brothers, Gale and Dale, on October 11, 1945. When she was 2 years old, her father accepted a pastorate at the First Baptist Church of Ottumwa, Iowa, a quaint little church in a farming community. Her mother became choir director and secretary of the church, and remained in these roles for a little over a decade.

When Marcia was 4 years old, her mother began teaching her to play the piano and read music. She began to play the violin in the 3rd grade, which she has continued throughout her life. As a child, her mother would give her the option of washing dishes or practicing her violin. She always chose to practice which left her older brothers to wash the dishes! Her youngest grandson, Tristan, is currently in 3rd grade and has begun playing violin, following in her footsteps.

When Marcia was 8 years old, her father died in a car accident. This was a traumatic experience for her family. Thankfully, FBCO allowed the family to continue living in the church home even though Reverend Kinell was no longer pastor.

When Marcia was 12, her family moved to San Diego, where she and her brothers finished high school. She started college at the University of Redlands and met Harold at the FBC Long Beach her Freshman year. Harold impressed her and loved her and she agreed to marry him. She transferred to Cal State University Long Beach and married Harold on February, 14th. 1965.

Harold moved to Rochester, New York to work for Taylor Instrument Company, and Marcia graduated with a degree in Sociology. Harold returned to Long Beach to help Marcia move to Rochester. With Harold's guidance, Marcia became one of the first female computer programmers, and worked for the Ritter Pfaudler Company. She pointed out some health insurance discrimination against female employees and was surprised by her manager who took this to upper management and the problem was resolved. Many other fortune 500 companies followed suite shortly after, removing the discriminatory policies regarding health insurance, allowing female employees the opportunity to provide health insurance for their families as was already provided for the families of male employees!

Marcia & Harold's first son, HE, was born in 1971. Shortly, thereafter, the young couple returned to the Long Beach area where they started Instrument Personnel. Marcia worked for several years as a programmer until Harry was born in 1977.

In 1974, Marcia and Harold bought their home in Artesia where they have lived for almost 50 years. Hope was born in 1978, Heather in 1982, and Heath in 1985. In 2023, the Durbin(s) passed out Cotton Candy for Halloween for the 49th year, serving between 300-800 people each year. If the tricker treater said a bible verse, they got a giant cotton candy.

Through the years, Marcia has enjoyed playing her violin 🎻 in many orchestras, including Crystal Cathedral, Cypress Pops, Bellflower Symphony, La Mirada Symphony, Whittier Regional Symphony, and various churches.

Three of Marcia's granddaughters had the opportunity to work side by side with her at C.I.T. It's a time that they will always cherish! Grandma continued to work at CIT until she died. She fought hard and lived life till the end! She went out on her own terms, cruising through the Panama Canal with Harold and their oldest and youngest sons, surrounded by love! On the evening of January 9th, modern technology allowed Marcia to FaceTime with all of her children and most of her other family members, including her two siblings, grandchildren and nieces. Marcia went to be with the Lord on January 10th, 2024, and is survived by her Husband, Harold Durbin, two brothers, Gale and Dale, Five kids, and seven grandchildren.

She was thankful for her churches, FBCA (First Baptist Church of Artesia) and NCF/FBCB (Neighbor Christian Fellowship/ First Baptist Church of Bellflower where we had Marcia's celebration of life and 78th b-day party on November 11, 2023.

More importantly, she contributed her own and the Durbin Family's life successes on this earth, to Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!