



Sunday, October 19, 2025, 2:00 PM  
Lesher Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek, CA

# OF LOVE & OTHER DEMONS

With gratitude and admiration, this concert is dedicated to the memory of John Pangia.

La Forza del Destino *sinfonia dall'opera* ..... Giuseppe Verdi  
Arr. by Franco Cesarini

Pablo! ..... Richard Meyer

Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral from *Lohengrin* ..... Richard Wagner  
Trans. by Lucien Cailliet

## INTERMISSION

Of Sailors and Whales ..... W. Francis McBeth  
*Ishmael – Queequeg – Father Mapple - Ahab – The White Whale*

Joy in All Things ..... Brian Balmages

Suite from the Ballet *Romeo & Juliet* ..... Sergei S. Prokofiev  
*Introduction: The Montagues and Capulets – Tableau: The Street Awakens – Morning Dance*  
*At Friar Laurence's – Departure of the Guests (Gavotte) – The Montagues and Capulets*  
Arr. by Johan de Meij

Giuseppe Verdi's overture to *La Forza del Destino* ("The Force of Destiny") is one of his most powerful and dramatic concert works. Premiered in 1862, the opera tells a tale of love, tragedy, and fate, and the overture captures that spirit from the very first notes. Its famous "fate" motif, with bold brass fanfares and surging strings, embodies the struggle of characters caught between passion and destiny. Even apart from the opera, the overture has become a concert favorite, admired for its energy, grandeur, and emotional sweep.

Richard Meyer's *Pablo!* is a lively and colorful work that celebrates the bold imagination of artist Pablo Picasso. Written for wind band, it bursts with rhythmic energy, playful harmonies, and unexpected shifts of mood and color, much like Picasso's groundbreaking art. The music paints a vibrant soundscape that is at once whimsical, dramatic, and inventive. In its own way, *Pablo!* reflects the joy, eccentricity, and restless creativity that can spring from the human heart's passions and contradictions.

Richard Wagner's *Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral*, from his opera *Lohengrin*, is a radiant and noble work that depicts Elsa's wedding procession. Written in 1850, the music builds gradually from a quiet, reverent beginning to a majestic and triumphant climax, symbolizing hope, devotion, and joy. Though drawn from the opera, it has become a favorite concert piece in its own right. With its grandeur and beauty, the procession reminds us of love's power to uplift us even in the face of uncertainty.

*Of Sailors and Whales* by W. Francis McBeth is a powerful five-movement work inspired by Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*. Each movement portrays a character or scene from the novel, with soaring melodies, dramatic tension, and moments of quiet reflection. From Captain Ahab's obsession to the awe of encountering the great white whale, McBeth brings Melville's story vividly to life. This seafaring epic explores the darker side of passion — ambition, obsession, and the demons that drive us to our fate.

*Joy in All Things* by Brian Balmages is a bright and uplifting work that celebrates the simple beauty of everyday happiness. Commissioned in 2005, the piece bursts with energy, shifting between moments of playful rhythm and warm, lyrical lines. Its spirited themes and colorful scoring capture a sense of optimism that feels both fresh and timeless. The music reminds us to cherish the joy and light that balance life's struggles and soften its darker demons.

*Suite from Romeo and Juliet* by Sergei Prokofiev takes Shakespeare's famous love story and brings it to life with bold, colorful music. Written first as a ballet in 1935, the score is filled with contrasts — soaring melodies for the young lovers, playful dances for the townspeople, and thunderous drama in the battle scenes. One of its most recognizable moments, "The Montagues and Capulets," has become a concert favorite around the world. In this suite, Prokofiev gathers the most memorable highlights, offering a dramatic musical journey through love, conflict, and fate.



**Luis Zuñiga** is a conductor, saxophonist, and educator. He attended the National Conservatory in his native Panama. After graduating from high school, Zuñiga received degrees in audio engineering, MIDI production, and performance from Shoreline Community College in Seattle. In addition, he completed his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Miami, Florida; a Master of Musical Arts degree in saxophone performance at UCLA; and a master's degree in conducting from California State University, Los Angeles. In 2010, during his graduate research, Zuñiga was a member of the world-renowned saxophone class of Jean-Yves Fourneau in Paris. In 2011 he received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in saxophone performance and pedagogy from the University of Colorado, Boulder. Besides being a professional musician and educator, Zuñiga holds a college degree in automotive technology and enjoys car restoration and car racing.

## CONTRA COSTA WIND SYMPHONY PERSONNEL

### Flutes

*Sarah Lombardo*  
Lisa Maher \*  
Martha Rosenberg (Piccolo) \*  
Genevieve Pastor-Cohen  
Liselle Belusa  
Jocelyne Gardner

### Oboes

*Tim Meals*  
Tracy Randolph  
Amy Kahn (English Horn)

### Bassoons

*Tim Machajewski\**  
Lisa Gerbracht \*

### Saxophones

*Eric Lim*  
Evan Zaitz  
Robert Kaplan (Tenor)  
Andy La (Baritone)

### Clarinets

*Christy Bailes*  
Rita Zigas-Brown \*  
Kimberly Paternoster (Eb) \*  
Kay Leong  
Brian Khoo  
Megan Kravitz  
Elisa Park  
Brinley Nearon  
Christina Bowerman  
Jude Watson (Alto)  
Karyn Weber (Bass)  
James Hashman (Contrabass)

### Trumpets

*Benjamin Loomer*  
Sue Leonardi  
Tony Ligouri  
Shannon Valdez  
Krystel Segovia  
Steve Mullins

### French Horns

*Kalyn Jang*  
Parker Hampson  
Jon Betts

### Trombones

*Hunter Richison*  
Richard Concepcion  
Larry Grabow

### Euphoniums

*Mike Shannon*  
Brooke Bartley

### Tuba

*Bill Bunyan*

### String Bass

*Aaron Shaul*

### Principal in italics

### Percussion

*Gordon Gore*  
Ben Bresler  
Bill Taylor  
Bob Grigas \*  
Brittany Patterson \*  
Naomi Fukumori  
Theresa Srch Nelson

### Harp

*Carla Gee*

### Piano

*Roberto Garcia-Leiva*

### Cello

*Dan Chang*  
Nathan Feng  
Sophia Mendez

\* Board of Directors

# THANK YOU!

We are extremely grateful to our audience and patrons (you!) who support us through your attendance at our concerts. We particularly wish to thank those listed below who helped make tonight's concert possible.

## CELESTIAL (\$2,000+)

In Memory of John Pangia, Anonymous  
Dean & Margaret Lesher Foundation  
Susan & Gordon Gore Living Trust

## TYPHOON (\$500-\$999)

Ben Turner  
Kim Paternoster & David Parker  
Kalyn Jang & Ben Bresler  
Loren Lewis & Elisa Park  
Marilyn Raia  
Rita Zigas-Brown  
Tim Machajewski

## CYCLONE (\$300-\$499)

Amanda Smith & Paul Schneider  
David J. Alltop  
David & Ingrid Bellman  
Michael Basta

## TORNADO (\$100-\$249)

Allison Thomason  
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Judy Locker  
Lisa Johnson

## GALE (\$50-\$99)

Mary Catherine Kelly  
Paula Ridley  
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Viola Pena

## BREEZE (\$25-\$49)

Patrick Doherty

## GIFTS IN KIND

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Or visit <https://ccwindsymphony.org>

# JOHN VINCENT PANGIA, 1936-2025



John Pangia played clarinet with the Contra Costa Wind Symphony for over 30 years. Many of you will remember our concertmaster sitting in the front row of the clarinet section. Having lived a long life rich in music, John died in early May in Walnut Creek, California. He was 89.

We (especially the clarinet section) will miss you, John. You will always be well loved and remembered. ❤

# 2025-26 UPCOMING CONCERTS



## Winterfest

Sunday, December 14, 2025

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm • Alhambra High School, Martinez, CA

This FREE holiday concert features a festive program blending traditional carols with contemporary arrangements. The concert offers a joyful start to the holiday season for the local community!



## MEGAband with California High School

Sunday, March 15, 2025

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm • Lesher Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek, CA

Come celebrate the power of wind ensemble music while we combine efforts with San Ramon's California High School. Mega fun with our MEGAband!



## Postcards from Broadway vol. 2

Sunday, May 3, 2026

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm • Lesher Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek, CA

Experience the energy and drama of Broadway through iconic melodies, vibrant rhythms, and heartfelt ballads performed by a full wind ensemble. Celebrate the season's finale in style at the glorious Lesher Center for the Arts.

Buy tickets, join our newsletter, donate & learn more about the Contra Costa Wind Symphony at <https://ccwindsymphony.org> or at the code below:

