

# FIT FOR A *Queen*

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**MOZART & MAJESTY**



**SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2023**

**7:30PM**

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, PALO ALTO**

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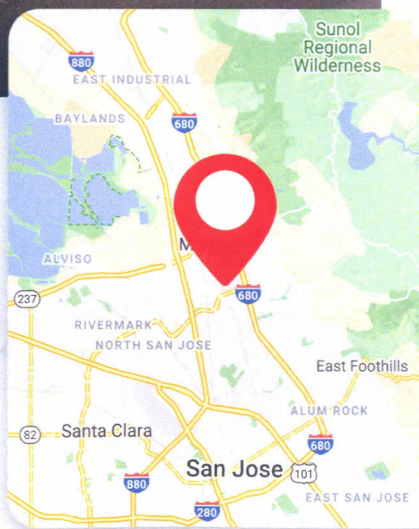


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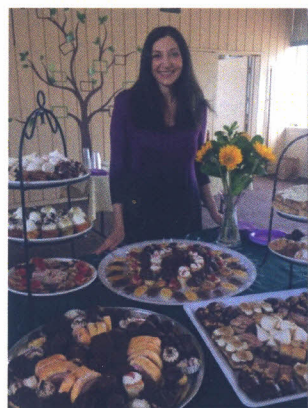
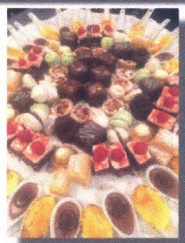
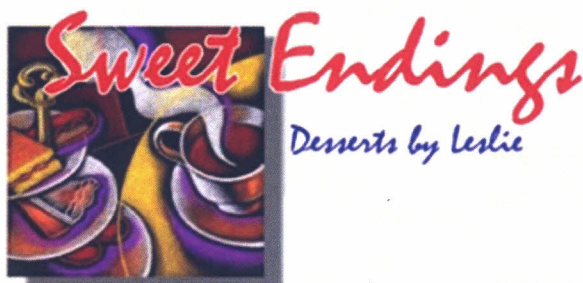






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## A message from the Board

Welcome to you all! When our wonderful Artistic Director, Dr. Jeffrey Benson, proposed his 2022-2023 program last May, who'd have ever thought that there might actually be a coronation in the world! Here we are, though, sharing with you, beautiful and interesting music in this "Fit for a Queen" concert. It has been such an exciting year, singing with 70+ voices, finally having our own Operations Manager, being able to continually learn from Dr. Benson, and experiencing the joy of learning and performing high caliber music together.

Tonight's concert features works that we will be taking to Europe next month, joining the SJSU Choraliers and other choral groups at music festivals in Seville and Lisbon! Your support allows us to offer stipends for our section leaders and the accompanist for this special trip, and throughout the year.

We hope that you will be dancing in your seats and enjoying the concert tonight! In addition, we invite you to walk around and bid on items in our silent auction before the concert and during the intermission. The reception during intermission has been provided by our singers, notably the desserts by Leslie Cardiasmenos; please be kind and nibble lightly so all may enjoy.

We are making changes to the silent auction this year as well, using a software solution (and app, called Galabid) that will make bidding more interactive and checkout significantly easier than in years past. Galabid may even ping your phone during the concert to let you know that you've been outbid! Please silence those phones and bid again! Most of the items this year are experiences, rather than "stuff", as we are all enjoying the new-found freedom to experience life again.

Peninsula Cantare continues to actively focus on inclusion and diversity. The grants that we wrote for last year (California Arts Council and California Nonprofit Performing Arts Program) enable us to commission works, employ, and sing with people who might not have been featured in years past, especially women and musicians of color.

This year we are writing grant applications for the California Arts Council and Silicon Valley Creates, hoping to continue this important work. If you have any interest in helping with these kinds of grant-writing efforts or connecting us with other organizations who are like-minded, please reach out to me, or to Dr. Benson.

We have also been able to provide for professional development in the form of conferences, such as Chorus America, held earlier this month in San Francisco. These kinds of learning and networking opportunities are invaluable, allowing us to continually improve our programming - for you, our audience, but also to keep our minds and spirits dancing with music.

Enjoy the concert and safe journeys this summer!

*Ginny Grant*

Chair, Board of Trustees, Peninsula Cantare

# Program

**Zadok the Priest, HWV 258**

G. F. Handel  
(1685-1759)

**Regina Coeli, K. 276**

W. A. Mozart  
(1756-1791)

*Jasmine Marie Diaz, Taylor Dunye, AJ Rodriquez, Brandan Sanchez, quartet*

**Mass in C, K. 317 "Coronation"**

W. A. Mozart

- I. Kyrie
- II. Gloria
- III. Credo
- IV. Sanctus
- V. Benedictus
- VI. Agnus Dei

*Jasmine Marie Diaz, Taylor Dunye, AJ Rodriquez, Brandan Sanchez, quartet*

## Intermission

**Kwangena Thina Bo**

arr. Lhente-Mari Pitout

**TaReKiTa**

Reena Esmail  
(b. 1983)

**No Fairy Tale Here**

Zanaida Robles  
(b. 1979)

*Patrick Fu, Truesten Tautolo, narrators*

**We Shall Walk Through the Valley**

arr. Undine Smith Moore  
(1904-1989)

**Yemaya**

arr. Diana Sáez  
(b. 1961)

**Somebody to Love**

Freddie Mercury  
(1946-1991)  
arr. Vince Peterson

*Simone Horne, soloist*

**Stomp on the Fire**

Andrea Ramsey

**Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal**

arr. Alice Parker  
(b.1925)

# Program Lyrics

You can find all of the lyrics and translations via this QR code:

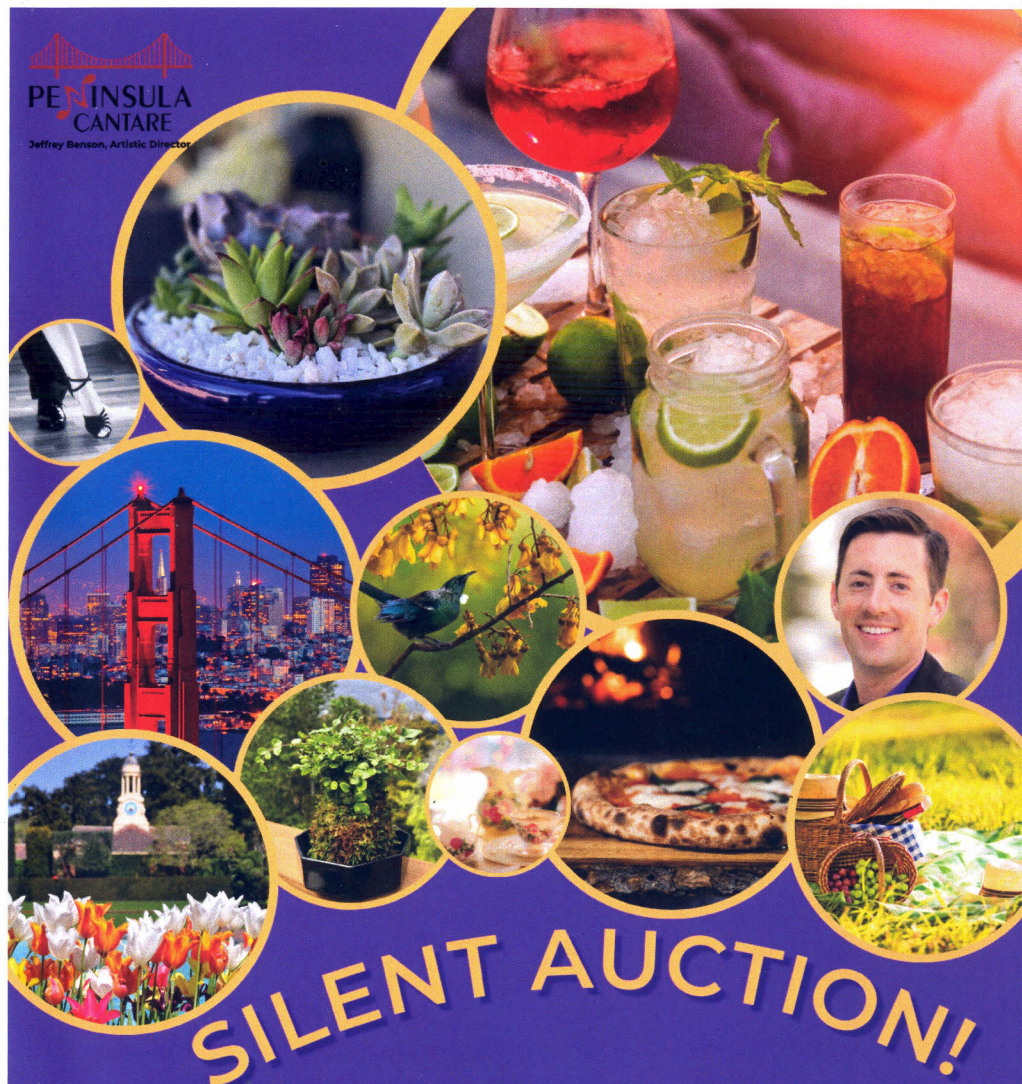


We'd love for you to follow along during our concert, but we ask you to remain courteous to the performers and other audience members.

Please turn your cellphones on silent or "Do Not Disturb" and consider turning your screen brightness down during the performance.

We hope you enjoy our performance!





# SILENT AUCTION!

SCAN THE QR CODE TO BID!



Our silent auction has over 25 lots and something in store for everyone! From happy hour with the maestro to a bay tour on a Cessna 172 to beautiful plant arrangements to a birding walk with an ornithologist, be sure to check it out and get your bids in before the end of our concert on May 20! Winners do not need to be present to win!

# Thank you for your support!

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Lou and Mary De La Rosa  
Donald Dillard  
Elmer Downs, Jr.  
Toby Goldberg  
John Hickson

Robert Janssen  
Torrey Lewis  
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## Acknowledgements

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# Peninsula Cantare

Jeffrey Benson, Artistic Director  
Emily Hsu, piano

## Sopranos

Arlie Aguirre  
Michelle Backer  
Amy Banks  
Marina Box\*  
Liz Brimhall  
Marisol De Anda  
Kira Dixon  
Melanie Flint  
Toby Goldberg  
Carla Gratta  
Shirley Gruber  
Victoria Hanson  
Silke Maier  
Elizabeth Matchett  
Emily Moore  
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Melanie Riblett  
Neerali Shah  
Lisa Shepherd  
Kyle Sofman  
Colleen Vandevoorde  
Amy Young  
Sara Zoroufy

\* Section Leader

## Altos

Angela Acosta  
Dee Bailly  
Jennifer Barnett  
Barbara Bellaire  
Olivia Borsje  
Leslie Cardiasmenos  
Holly Elizondo  
Ginny Grant  
Ellen Hill  
Simone Horne  
Anna Hubel  
Laura Jacques  
K.K. "Kay" Johnson  
Miriam Kaplan  
Holly Liberatore  
Laura Manno  
Michelle Montoya  
Robyn Peters  
Pia Satana\*  
Barbara Saxton  
Ellen Tauber Siminoff  
Livia Umeda  
Kristina Vetter

## Tenors

Larry Baer  
Joey Croft  
Hamilton Fong

## Tenors (cont.)

Patrick Fu  
Finn G  
Hunter Henderson  
Christopher Montoya  
Jeremy Ryan  
Cody Scott\*  
Richard Vaughan  
Paul Weidler  
Ruthie Wilkins

## Basses

Ian Aseltine  
Nathaniel Bergson-  
Michelson  
Matthew Blum  
Oliver Chiang  
Greg Doolittle  
Andrew Ford  
Geoff Hackman  
Andrew Hathaway\*  
Ronald Hodges  
Robert Janssen  
Konstantin Kunz  
Dave Peters  
Branson Stephens  
Truesten Tautolo  
Lu Tesarowski  
Joss Thomas  
Julia Vetter

## San Jose Chamber Orchestra

*Barbara Day Turner, director*

### Violin 1

Evan Price, concertmaster  
Marie Flexer-Parker  
Cindy Lin  
Sangeeta Swamy  
Ilana Thomas (viola)

### Violin 2

Rachel Patrick, principal  
Kiri Murakami-Loehmann  
Judith Kmetko  
Marian Yang  
Sam Nelson (viola)

### Cello

Robin Snyder, principal  
Eileen Moon  
Alana Shannon

### Bass

Michael Minor

### Oboe

Kyle Bruckmann, principal  
Emily Kupitz

### Bassoon

Dan Zimardi, principal  
Sean Martin

### French Horn

Stephanie Stroud, principal  
Cathleen Torres

### Trumpet

Guy Clark, principal  
Richard Roper  
Cortez Montalbo

### Organ

Emily Hsu

### Tympani

Artie Storch



# Guest Soloists

## Jasmine Marie Diaz



Jasmine Marie Diaz is a Filipina-American soprano from the San Francisco Bay Area. She graduated with her music degree in Vocal Performance at San José State University under the instruction of Jacque Wilson-Scharlach and Sandra Bengochea in May 2021. Jasmine has played Marzelline in *Fidelio* ("Jetzt, Schätzchen, jetzt sind wir allein", "O wär ich schon mit dir vereint"), Marie in *La fille du régiment* ("Le jour naissait dans le bocage"), and Flora in *The Turn of the Screw* ("The Lesson", "The Lake") in the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival Opera Scenes program under the direction of Rebecca Renfro. In her undergraduate studies, Jasmine played Despina in *Così fan tutte* ("Alla bella Despinetta"), Cunegonde in *Candide* ("Make Our Garden Grow"), and Zerlina in *Don Giovanni* ("La ci darem la mano") for San Jose State University's Opera Scenes program under the direction of Sandra Bengochea. She recently won First Place in her division for Opera Modesto's Kristina Townsend Memorial Competition in March 2023. Aside from her stage work, she is the worship leader and vocal director at her home church, New Life Church in Dublin, California.

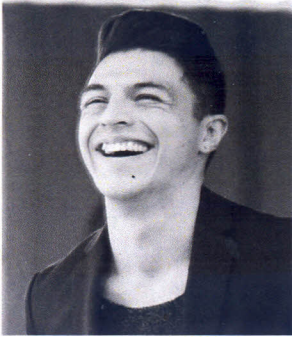
## Taylor Dunye

Taylor Lynne Dunye (she/her/hers) is a Bay Area based Mezzo-Soprano and music educator. Taylor can be seen actively performing with regional company Opera San Jose- most recently in *Falstaff* by Giuseppe Verdi and *Tosca* by Giacomo Puccini. In the past, Taylor has appeared in concert with numerous choral groups including the Santa Clara Chorale and the San Jose State University Choraliers. Taylor has had the privilege of traveling with the San Jose State University's many choral ensembles to incredibly captivating places such as Ireland, Finland, the Baltic states, and Carnegie Hall in New York City. Her love of performing has sparked into a lifelong passion for sharing music with everyone around her, especially with her 2 beautiful children and her students. Eternal gratitude to all family and teachers past and present who continue to support Taylor as an artist and educator, you are irreplaceable! ♡



# Guest Soloists

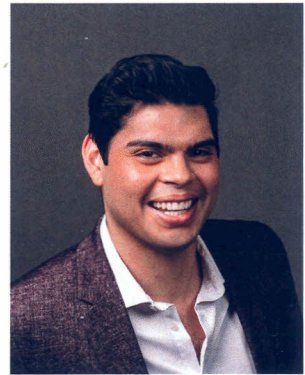
## AJ Rodriquez



AJ Rodriguez is a San Francisco Bay Area tenor who started his musical journey around the age of twelve. Having been a member, he is so very happy to come home to California to sing as a soloist with Peninsula Cantare! AJ has performed from coast-to-coast and has been praised for his "earnest lyricism." Within the past year, he has performed two world premieres: a chamber opera entitled, *It is a Comfort to Know* with Beth Morisson Projects at National Sawdust NYC and the *The Smallest Sound in the Smallest Space*, a interdisciplinary stage play involving opera-- a "plopera," if you will. Along with a passion for performing, he has a deep love for education and interdisciplinarian work. He has long-term goals to find ways to bridge a gap in the accessibility of music and arts in low-income/disadvantaged communities. He holds a Masters Degree from the Manhattan School of Music and currently resides in NYC. IG: [aj.r.music](#)

## Brandan Sanchez

Baritone, Brandan Sanchez has quickly built a dynamic and visible portfolio career having performed some of the most beloved operas, oratorios, and art song cycles popular with today's audiences. Roles include Schaunard (*La Bohème*), Belcore (*L'elisir d'amore*), Sergeant of Police and Samuel (*The Pirates of Penzance*). He has sung the role of The Celebrant in productions of Bernstein's *Mass* with both Indiana University and San José State University. Brandan has had the pleasure of singing with Symphony Silicon Valley, Peninsula Cantare, the Lafayette Master Chorale (IN) and internationally with the Ireland Limerick Sinfonia and the Cairo Festival Symphony. Brandan holds a Master of Music in Voice Performance and a Performance Diploma in Solo Voice Performance from Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music. Born and raised in the Bay Area, he holds a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from San José State University. He is a recipient of Mu Phi Epsilon Foundation's Liana K. Sandin Voice Scholarship. Brandan has participated in programs with Cedar Rapids Opera and the Mary Ragland Emerging Artists of Nashville Opera. Future engagements for the '23/'24 season will be with Florentine Opera as part of their Baumgartner Studio Artist program.





# Artistic Staff

Jeffrey Benson is Artistic Director of Peninsula Cantare and Director of Choral Activities at San José State University. The *Washington Post* hails his choirs for singing “with an exquisite blend, subtlety of phrasing, confident musicianship and fully supported tone.”



Dr. Benson made his international conducting debut with the Irish Chamber Orchestra and the SJSU Choraliers in Limerick, Ireland in 2016, and he made his Carnegie Hall conducting debut in 2015 with the SJSU Choirs and the New York Festival Orchestra. He has served as cover conductor for the Grammy award-winning Washington Chorus, where he helped to prepare the ensemble for Maestros Leonard Slatkin and Marvin Hamlisch.

Choirs under his direction have performed at multiple state and regional choral conferences and have toured throughout the United States and Europe, including invited performances at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, The White House and Washington National Cathedral. Recently Dr. Benson's choirs have been invited to perform with the Rolling Stones, Josh Groban, Andrea Bocelli, Sarah Brightman, the Los Angeles Festival Orchestra and the Skywalker Orchestra.

Dr. Benson is a published composer and arranger, and is editor of the Jeffrey Benson Choral Series with Gentry Publications. He has compositions published with Colla Voce Music and Santa Barbara Music Publishing, under the Charlene Archibeque Choral Series.



Emily Hsu began her piano and musical training at the age of three and had won several prestigious accolades by the age of ten. After moving from Taiwan to the Bay Area in 1996, she studied with renowned pianist Rebecca-Sen Chan. Since then, she's won numerous competitions including the U.S. Open Competition, Young Pianist's Beethoven Competition, and San Jose Jazz Society Piano Competition. Emily is a graduate of the University of California, Davis where she studied music and computer science.

In addition to having an extensive and accomplished solo career, Emily is a collaborative musician by nature. In addition to her work with Dr. Jeffrey Benson and the San Jose State University Concert Choir, Emily has served as the accompanist for the California All-State Choirs. She has arranged numerous choral repertoire for the Tzu Chi Foundation and Bo-Ai Chorus. She has also aided Dr. Jennifer McDowell on the completion of her songbook, *The Women's Basketball Songbook*, performed with the Cambrian Symphony under the direction of Maestro Scott Krijnen, and worked closely with distinguished music educator Jim Yowell for over a decade.



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