



THE ROAD TO JOY ~

# JOYFUL DISCOVERIES

**PALOMAR  
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

**Directed by Dr. Ellen Weller**

**Saturday  
April 4, 2026  
7:00 p.m.**

**Howard Brubeck Theatre**

# The Road to Joy — Joyful Discoveries

## **PALOMAR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

**Dr. Ellen Weller, Director**

*featuring*

## **CRESCENDO YOUTH ORCHESTRA**

**Shannon Yandall, Director**

### **Crescendo Youth Orchestra**

**A Festival Rondo** ..... Richard Meyer (ASCAP)

**El Toro** ..... Don Brubaker

*Joel Angeles, conductor*

### **Palomar Symphony Orchestra**

**An American Port of Call** ..... Aldophus Hailstork  
(b. 1941)

**Violin Concerto in A minor BWV 1041** ..... J.S. Bach  
(1685-1750)

*Jesus Carreon Rosas, violin*

*Angelica Merritt,\* conductor*

**Viola Concerto in C minor** ..... Henri Casadesus  
**in the style of J. C. Bach** (1879-1947)

*Nancy Sanchez,\*† viola*

**Légende, Op. 17** ..... Henryk Wieniawski  
(1835-1880)

*Delta Jordan,\*† violin*

**String Quartet n. 1** ..... Alex Laubach\*†  
(student composer)

*Brennan Ray and Bryson Schink, violins*  
*Edward O’Barr, viola; Johanna Ellett,† cello*

**Horn Concerto Op. 91** ..... Reinhold Glière  
(1875-1956)

*Diego Yanni,\*† horn*

## INTERMISSION

**Woodwind Quartet** ..... Kevin Anderson  
I. Time Marches Slowly (student composer)

II. The Pendulum Swings

*Julie Shamon, flute; Cynthia Outlaw, oboe*  
*Mikayli Hickerson, clarinet; Brooke Gonzalez, bassoon*

**Trumpet Concerto in Eb Major, . . . . .**Johann Baptist Georg Neruda  
**Movement II Largo** (c. 1708-c. 1780)

*James Clement, trumpet*

**Horn Concerto No. 1 in Eb Major, Op. 11** ..... Richard Strauss  
(1864-1949)

*Phoenix Pongun,\*† horn*

**Zeffiretti lusinghieri** ..... Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
**from Idomeneo K. 366** (1756-1791)

*Katherine Lawrence,\*† soprano*

**Cello Concerto in D Minor** ..... Édouard Lalo  
(1823-1892)

*Simon Livingston,\*† cello*

**Academic Festival Overture, Op. 80** ..... Johannes Brahms  
(1833-1897)

\*Completed or receiving an Associate of Arts or Associate Degree for Transfer in Music by this spring

† Transferring to a four-year university this Fall

## Zeffiretti lusinghieri (*Gently Caressing zephyrs*)

*Gently caressing zephyrs,  
oh fly to my beloved  
and tell him I adore him  
and to keep his heart true to me.  
And you plants and tender flowers  
which my bitter tears water,  
tell him that you never saw  
a love more rare beneath the sky.*

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## Palomar Symphony Orchestra

Dr. Ellen Weller, Director  
Angelica Merritt, Orchestra Manager  
Christina Fuller, Webmaster

### **Violin I**

Ondrej Lewit,\* Concertmaster  
Delta Jordan  
Brennan Ray  
Jesus Carreon Rosas  
Jill Rosenberg  
Bryson Schink  
Virginia Thomas

### **Violin II**

Sarah Wolf, Principal  
Chance Burchett  
Bridget Dolkas  
Marina Gustavo  
Naomi Guyette  
Lisa Hagerman  
Miles Reusch  
Ruby Reusch  
Cody Scalzo

### **Viola**

Shannon Yandall,\* Principal  
David Brann  
Emily Nybo Higgs  
Edward O'Barr  
Nancy Sanchez

### **Cello**

Sharon Taylor,\* Principal (on leave)  
Tarquin Bomberger  
Johanna Ellett  
John Paul Kraus  
Simon Livingston

### **Contrabass**

Laura Payne, Principal  
Julianne Morales  
Emiliano Strutton

## **Flute/Piccolo**

Alina Steele,\* Principal

Melinda Finn\*

Julie Shamon

Akino Tsuchiya

## **Oboe**

Claire Tongpalad, Principal

Cynthia Outlaw

## **Clarinet**

Benjamin Miguel, Principal

Mikayli Hickerson

## **Bassoon**

Susan Schoneman,\* Principal

Jonathan Sarpy

## **French Horn**

Gabby Cole

Matias Chavez

Phoenix Pongun

Diego Yanni

## **Trumpet**

James Clement, Principal

Johann Bautista-Salgado

## **Trombone**

Adam Dominguez

Peter Phillips\*

## **Bass Trombone**

Ted Meyer

## **Timpani/Percussion**

John Drelick, Principal

Jocain Howard

Ciaran Schink

John Villarín

*\*Denotes Palomar faculty, staff, or emeriti*

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# Crescendo Youth Symphony

Shannon Yandall, Director and Intern Supervisor

## Violin

Melody Aguilar  
Nataly Aguilar  
Amelia Bak  
Joseph Blancas  
Arlene Alejandri Bracamontes  
Alex Cardenas\*\*  
Luna Carranza  
Itzel Diaz  
Cecilia Lopez  
Ailey McNally  
Angelica Merritt\*\*  
Dalina Rojas  
Gabriella Tierrablanca  
Dominica Zuart

## Viola

Arely Mejia Garcia  
Roxanne Garcia  
Emily Olascoaga Lopez  
Kimmy Porras

## Cello

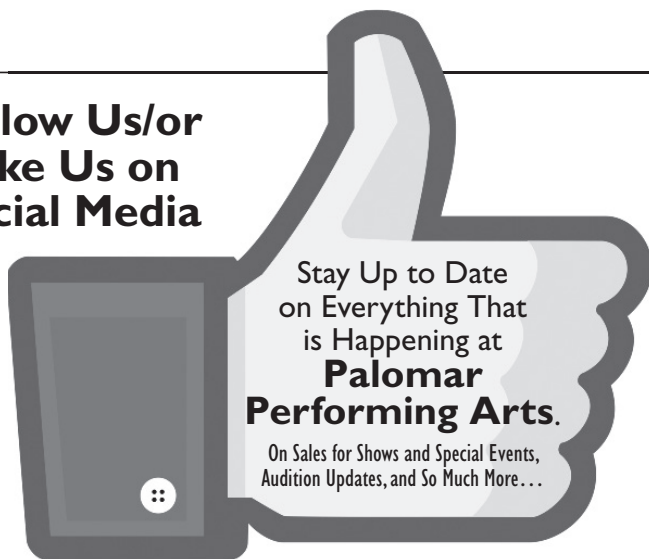
Ava Griffith\*\*  
Adelina John

## Bass

Johanna Gaytan Garcilazo\*\*  
Alexandra Salamanca

*\*\*Palomar College intern*

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## From the Director

As we continue our year-long journey to reach our May performances of Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, with its famous setting of Schiller's Ode to Joy, we stop to appreciate the dedication and talent of Palomar College students who are currently in or have completed the Applied Music Program. This is a rigorous two-year commitment to private lessons, a fixed number of on-campus practice hours, and participation in our Performance Studies Masterclass on Fridays. Each soloist who is performing tonight has faced a rigorous audition process (one of many in their lifetimes) to be accepted into the Applied Music Program. This is the first time since I have been the Director of the Palomar Symphony Orchestra that an entire concert is dedicated to showcasing the work of these fine musicians and composers. Most of these soloists are either completing or have completed the Applied Program and their Associate of Arts in Music at Palomar College, and most are successfully transferring to music conservatories and four-year Bachelor's programs.

Be sure to get your tickets early for our final performance of the season on May 21, 23, and 24, when the Palomar Symphony Orchestra will be joined by the Palomar Chorale, Palomar Chamber Singers, and guest choirs for the conclusion to this extraordinary journey towards what many consider to be the masterpiece of the 19th century: *Beethoven's Symphony No. 9*.

— Dr. Ellen Weller

## Director's Biography

**Dr. Ellen Weller** joined the Palomar College Performing Arts Department in 2005, where she teaches classes in music theory, ear-training, music literature, and directs the Palomar Symphony Orchestra. She earned her B.A. and M.A. in Music Composition from Queens College of the City University of New York and completed her Ph.D. studies at UC San Diego. She studied conducting with Peter Jaffe, Donald Portnoy, David Chase, Martin Canellakis, and Harvey Sollberger, and was an invited Fellow at the 2012 Conductors Institute of South Carolina. Over the past 30 years, she has participated in numerous local musical theatre productions as pianist and woodwinds and was Music Director for the Palomar College productions of *Mamma Mia*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Crazy for You*, and *Into the Woods*. Her compositions include works for solo piano, flute, voice, and chamber ensembles, and have been performed in New York, Detroit, San Diego, and Los Angeles. Recent compositions include an arrangement of *O Vos Angeli* by Hildegard von Bingen for computer music

track, choir, and soprano saxophone (performed over Zoom); *Intervals of Peace* for viola and orchestra; *Pine Apple Rag* for piano soloist and orchestra; and an arrangement of *Bei Mir Bist Du Shein* for orchestra and klezmer ensemble. Weller has two CDs on the Circumvention label: *Spirits, Little Dreams and Improvisations* (2004) and *Point of Contact* (2008).

## Soloists and Composer Biographies

**Kevin Anderson** has been composing music since age two and has been honing this craft with the guidance of the Palomar College music faculty for the last three years. He regularly performs as a drummer and guitarist in multiple bands and has had compositions played by multiple different chamber ensembles. His dream is to instill a love of composition and the art of creating music in the next generation of prospective musicians. This three-movement woodwind quartet is an exploration of the feelings of inspiration and burnout and how the time spent in these different states can warp and change your music and your perspective of the art form as a whole.

**Jesus Carreon Rosas** is majoring in music and violin and looks forward to earning an Associate of Arts Transfer degree and transfer to a university. He has been playing the violin for eleven years, studying with Lucy Guañuna for 2 years and has been studying with PSO Concertmaster Ondrej Lewit for five years. He concurrently in the Grossmont Symphony Orchestra, has played in the Lamb of God for two years, played in the pit orchestra for *Into the Woods*, and performed with the Costa Mesa Choir. His dream is to be a professional violinist in an orchestra, perhaps as soloist or concertmaster, and play chamber music.

**James Clement** is currently studying trumpet at Palomar College under Professor Jonathan Ingber. Throughout his time at Palomar College, he has gained a profound appreciation of music due to the guidance of the instructors involved in the music program. He aspires to share his love of music with others: whether that be through private lessons, or in grand concert halls, James illustrates his passion through the artistry of the trumpet. James is excited to perform the second movement of the *Trumpet Concerto in Eb Major* by Johann Baptist Neruda, an elegant composition filled with delicate ornamentation that demonstrates the trumpet's tender quality.

**Delta Jordan** is in her final semester at Palomar College as a music major, having studied violin under Professor Ondrej Lewit for the last two years. When she's not studying and practicing, Delta loves teaching her violin and piano

students, performing for weddings and as part of the folk band The Mailroom, and playing keyboard in her church band. She plans to earn her Bachelor's degree in Violin Performance in 2028 and hopes to establish her own violin teaching studio in the near future. Delta is thrilled to join the orchestra to perform *Wieniawski's Légende, Op. 17*, which was written as a deeply personal piece expressing love and longing for his future wife, Isabella Hampton, helping to secure their engagement after her parents initially disapproved.

**Alex Laubach** is a student composer based in Vista, CA. He currently studies composition with Dr. Madelyn Byrne at Palomar College and has studied piano for two years with Dr. Michael Munson. He has applied to attend UC Santa Barbara in Fall 2026 and hopes to major in Music Composition there. His *String Quartet No. 1* is an attempt to square the easy energy of Beethoven's early string quartets with the harmonic complexity of modernist composers like Schoenberg and Boulez.

**Katherine Lawrence** has been studying classical vocal technique and literature for five years and aspires to sing opera professionally. Mozart is one of her favorite composers to listen to and perform, and she is thrilled to be singing an aria from one of his operas with the Palomar Symphony Orchestra. *Zeffiretti lusinghieri* is an aria from his opera *Idomeneo*, sung by the character Ilia, who calls upon the breezes to carry her sentiments of affection to the man she loves. This is Katherine's last semester at Palomar College, and she would like to thank the faculty for all the guidance and support they have given her during her time in the music program.

**Simon Livingston** obtained his Associate of Arts in Cello Performance from Palomar College in Spring 2025 and is transferring to complete his Bachelor's degree this Fall. He has studied under Catherine Godden and Sharon Taylor and is currently studying under Jacob Thompson. Simon enjoys teaching at the Temecula Conservatory of Music, and plans on pursuing advanced study, as well as a career that combines performance, research, and most of all, teaching. He is performing the dramatic *Cello Concerto in D minor* by Édouard Lalo

**Angelica Merritt** works as a piano instructor and is an accompanist at the Fundamental Baptist Church of Escondido as well as at the chapel services of Casa de las Campanas in Rancho Bernardo. Recently, she was Assistant Music Director and Rehearsal Pianist for Palomar College's production of *Into the Woods*. She is a music intern with the Crescendo program at Joli Ann Leichtag Elementary School. Angelica is currently studying piano with Professor Ruth Weber and conducting with Dr. Weller. Upon completion of her studies at Palomar College, she plans to further her education in music at UC San Diego.

**Phoenix Pongun** first started playing the horn in high school at Fallbrook High School under the direction of Derek Lee. Since coming to Palomar College he has been studying with former San Diego Symphony hornist Warren Gref. This Concerto by Richard Strauss is the first of two that Strauss wrote. This first movement showcases the lyrical beauty and technical range of the horn. The piece was written in the middle of the romantic period in 1883 when Strauss was 19 years old. Phoenix will transferring to CSU Fullerton in the fall of 2026 to continue chasing his passion in music performance.

**Nancy Sanchez** has played viola for 12 years now. Her musical journey began in the string program formally known as Fortissimo—now called “Crescendo.” She is currently studying under Ondrej Lewit and in the future hopes to become a music educator. She will be transferring to CSU Long Beach and work on her long-term goal to bring orchestra to school districts. *The Concerto in C minor* is known to be a piece that caused the confusion of the century as the composer, Casadesus, passed it on as a newly discovered piece by Johanan Christian Bach, it is now considered as a beloved repertoire that features the sound and beauty of the viola.

**Diego Yanni** began playing the French horn at Fallbrook High School. He joined the Palomar Symphony Orchestra in the fall of 2024 and has studied with horn professor, Warren Gref. Reinhold Glière composed this concerto in 1951 for Valery Polekh, a horn player who asked him to write one. The first movement highlights both lyrical and technical aspects of the horn, because Glière was amazed by the horn as a solo instrument. Diego will be transferring to CSU Fullerton in the fall and aspires to perform with a professional orchestra one day, because he loves collaborating with others to create music.

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directed by Brad Demme and the San Marcos High School Studio Jazz Ensemble.  
Directed by MacKenzie Leighton and Geoff Radant  
Wednesday, May 6, 2026  
at 7:00 p.m.  
Howard Bruback Theatre

**MAY 6**

**Latin Nights**  
Directed by Patricann Mead  
Friday, April 17, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.  
Howard Bruback Theatre Courtyard  
Doors open at 5:00 p.m.  
Sales class begins at 5:45 p.m.  
Solo band and open dance floor starts at 6:45 p.m.  
Performances/Demonstrations Feature Big Afro-Cuban/Brazilian Drum and Dance 7:00 p.m.  
Cuban food/aperitifs will be served.  
LATIN NIGHTS IS A FREE EVENT!

**APR 30**

**VIBES**  
A STUDENT COMPOSERS' RECITAL  
Directed by Madelyn Byrne  
Thursday  
April 30, 2026  
at 7:00 p.m.  
Performance Lab (D40)

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