



Home for the Holidays

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2023

| Pops Series | Home for the Holidays

Saturday, December 16, 2023
William Saroyan Theatre

Rei Hotoda, conductor
Jennifer DeDominici, mezzo-soprano
Fresno Master Chorale
Anna Hamre, director

Krogstad (arr.)

The Bells of Christmas

Bass (arr.)

Christmas Flourish

Adam (arr. Luck)

Cantique de Noel (O Holy Night)

Prokofiev	"Troika" from <i>Lieutenant Kije Suite</i>
Wilberg (arr.)	I Saw Three Ships
Dunn (arr.)	Los Peces en el Rio
Mariah Carey (arr. Bisbano)	All I Want For Christmas Is You
Wendel (arr.)	Little Bolero Boy
Torme (arr. McKenzie)	The Christmas Song
Herman (arr. Wendel)	We Need A Little Christmas
Anderson	Sleigh Ride
Stephenson (arr.)	A Holly and Jolly Sing-Along!

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Artist Biographies



Rei Hotoda

Music Director and Conductor

Now entering her seventh season as Music Director of the Fresno Philharmonic, conductor Rei Hotoda has been hailed as an inexhaustible dynamo with a deep commitment to reimagining the 21st century concert experience. Her vision can be seen through her thought-provoking programming, passionate allyship to marginalized artists, advocacy for arts education, and an unwavering commitment to presenting the music of our times.

Her success as the Music Director of the Fresno Philharmonic since 2017 has resulted in the extension of her tenure through the 2025 season. She has worked tirelessly to build first-time and unique connections with the Fresno community with an eye toward reaching different audiences with a new music concert series, *Proxima*, and special concerts at Bitwise South Stadium. She has reimagined the post-concert experience by creating the ever popular *Stay Tuned* series, and her programming continues to push through the preconceived notions of the classical concert-going experience, offering audiences works by often marginalized composers and today's leading voices in the field. Through her efforts, she has successfully broken down the barriers that often exist between artist and listener and reestablished the Fresno Philharmonic as a leader in the community it serves.

Rei has appeared as a guest conductor with many of today's leading ensembles, including the Symphony Orchestras of Baltimore, Chicago, St. Louis, Dallas, Detroit, Toronto, Winnipeg, Louisville, Hawaii and Utah as well as the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, among others. Her interpretations of such epic centerpieces of the classical canon such as Shostakovich's Symphony No. 8 and Britten's War Requiem, make her one of the most sought-after conductors of today. She is a tireless advocate for the music of our time, and most recently conducted the world premieres of Derek Bermel, John Wineglass, Kenneth Froelich, Cynthia Lee Wong, Kevin Day, Dinuk Wijeratne as well as works by seminal composers such as Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate, Jessie Montgomery and Hawaiian composer, Michael-Thomas Foumai to much acclaim. As a champion of today's living composers and an artist that is dedicated to amplifying marginalized voices, Rei's innovative programming and interdisciplinary collaborations continue to position her as a leader in the industry.

Rei is also an active and critically acclaimed keyboardist and embraces her time conducting from the piano and harpsichord. One of her many recent highlights was leading the Fresno Philharmonic from the piano in Beethoven's monumental Triple Concerto as part of the orchestra's *Beethoven @250* celebration and from the harpsichord in Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 as part of their Digital Masterworks series. In the 2021-22 season, she conducted both the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and the Fresno Philharmonic from the keyboard in Mozart's Concerto for Two Pianos

in E-flat major.

Rei is the proud recipient of several prestigious awards, including the 2006 Taki-Alsop Conducting Fellowship, created by Marin Alsop to mentor women conductors. Additionally, she has received a Peabody Career Development Grant, the Women's Philharmonic Scholarship, and an Illinois Arts Council International Arts Exchange Grant. Her teachers and mentors include Gustav Meier, Marin Alsop, Jaap van Zweden and Thierry Fischer.



Jennifer DeDominici

Mezzo-soprano

Jennifer DeDominici is gathering impressive reviews for her work on some of the country's finest stages in portrayals of the favorite heroines of musical theatre and operatic repertoires. Her appearances as some of the most iconic leading ladies of classical musical theatre have earned her critical acclaim.

DeDominici's Maria in *The Sound of Music*, "...lifted the entire production from the ordinary... her portrayal of this aspiring nun turned governess for the Von Trapp family was her best yet. She was totally infectious and lit up the stage at every moment. Her singing was always beautiful as she effortlessly transitioned from her chest voice (mostly associated with popular music) to her head voice (where opera singers usually reside)."

About her Henry-winning performance in *The Bridges of Madison County*: "As Fran, DeDominici is as graceful as she is alluring...Every line and movement flow effortlessly. The audience absorbs her troubled soul: devoted wife and mother, yet unfulfilled woman...Equally talented as an actor and vocalist...her breathtaking vocals speak passionately to the voids in Francesca's life." ~ *OnStage Colorado*

For her interpretation of the title character in Bizet's *Carmen*: "DeDominici was indeed as beautiful, fiery, and sexy a Carmen as the preshow buzz promised — or at least that's the impression I got before my opera glasses fogged up. DeDominici has a sultry lower register and a smooth, silky tone that can turn angry and shrill when the drama requires it. She's also a convincing actress, whether seductive or raging." ~ *The Gazette*

She was awarded the Marlowe Awards' "Outstanding Lead Actress in a Musical" and was nominated for a Henry Award, a True West Award, and a BroadwayWorld.com Award for *Man of La Mancha*, in which she was, "...a tour de force as the feisty Aldonza and her voice was so powerful and gorgeous, especially in 'What Does He Want of Me,'" and "...luminescent as Aldonza, a woman embittered by a life of hardships."

Jennifer's recent performances include Jake Heggie and Gene Scheer's *Camille*

Claudel: Into the Fire, Mother in Amahl and the Night Visitors, Franca in The Light in the Piazza, and Carrie Pipperidge in Carousel with Central City Opera; Mother in Ragtime with Piedmont Opera; and Madame in Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella with the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College.

Ms. DeDominici's other musical theater roles include the title role in Mary Poppins, Guenevere in Camelot, Judy in 9 to 5, Chairy Barnum in Barnum, Grace in Annie, Sarah Brown in Guys and Dolls, Nellie in South Pacific; Vanessa in Sondheim on Sondheim, Claudia in Nine, and Nimue in Camelot.

A seasoned concert artist in high demand with symphony orchestras, Ms. DeDominici is regularly featured in engagements with orchestras: My Fair Lady with Milwaukee Symphony and North Carolina Symphony; Lois Lane/Bianca in Kiss Me, Kate with Phoenicia International Festival of the Voice; Hattie in Follies with Fort Collins Symphony Orchestra; Baroque in the Garden, a critically-acclaimed performance of Les nuits d'été, and a new commission by composer Ingrid Stölzel entitled Soul Journey: Three Whitman Songs for Mezzo Soprano and Chamber Orchestra with Chamber Orchestra of the Springs; soloist for "Topilow Pops," "An Elegant Evening," and a Hollywood Classics concert on behalf of National Repertory Orchestra; Grand Pianola Music by John Adams and Stravinsky's Les Noces as a guest artist for the Colorado College Summer Music Festival; "Some Enchanted Evening," Madame Euterpova in Help, Help, the Globolinks and a New Year's Eve Gala with the Colorado Springs Philharmonic; Das Lied von der Erde with Lamont Symphony Orchestra; Schubert's Magnificat in C Major, Mozart's Mass in C minor, and Beethoven's 9th Symphony and Choral Fantasy with Denver Philharmonic; and concerts with the Cleveland Pops and Fresno Philharmonic.



Anna Hamre

Director, Fresno Master Chorale

Anna Hamre, Fresno State Professor Emerita, serves as Artistic Director of Fresno Community Chorus, Inc. where she conducts the Master Chorale, Coro Piccolo, and Coro Solare. While each ensemble mounts its own performances, the Master Chorale frequently collaborates with the Fresno Philharmonic Orchestra.

Dr. Hamre took over the Fresno Community Chorus in 2002. With the collaborative leadership of an active board, the large ensemble Master Chorale has become the premier symphonic chorus in the Fresno area. In recent years, multiple performances of the Master Chorale have been included by Donald Munro in "Top Cultural Arts Events" in the Fresno area. The chamber ensemble Coro Piccolo, most noted for its holiday performances at St. Anne's Chapel, presented the Fresno premiere of Ron Kean's *The Journey of Harriet Tubman* in March 2019. In 2016 FCC, Inc. added to its organization a new classical choir, Coro Solare, which is designed to rehearse and perform only during daylight hours. The treble-voice ensemble Coro Vox Aeterna was created for the recording of *Mother of Light*, the CD featuring international star Isabel

Bayrakdarian. It was nominated for a 2018 JUNO (Canadian Grammy) Award. The mixed-voice ensemble Fresno Coro Vox Aeterna is performing with Bayrakdarian this season in Fresno, Burbank, and San Francisco.

Dr. Hamre has accumulated an extensive list of guest engagements as a conductor, adjudicator, clinician, and presenter, including two Carnegie Hall appearances conducting on the MidAmerica series. She has presented various choral-conducting and music-education sessions at the local, state, and national levels. Her articles have appeared in state and regional music magazines, plus the *International Choral Bulletin*, *The Choral Journal*, and *Spotlight on Teaching Chorus*. Her extensive experience conducting choirs in school, church, and community settings has given her the opportunity to conduct numerous new works such as Joungmin Sur's "Like Streams We Gather," Anna DeFoe's "A God and Yet a Man," Bradley Nelson's "This Central Garden," and the American premiere of Philip Wilby's reconstruction of Mozart's *Mass in C*. She has performed with her groups in Mexico, China, Italy, Austria, England, Greece, France, Spain, and Poland.

Dr. Hamre is the author of *The High-School/University Sight-Singer* (Masterworks Press), a music literacy method in use in every state plus the District of Columbia, Guam, British Columbia, Hong Kong, and Indonesia. *The Weekly Sight-Singer: An Abbreviated and Accelerated Method*, was released in 2011.

Dr. Hamre holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in vocal and instrumental music education from Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD, where she was inducted into their Performing and Visual Arts Hall of Fame in 2017. She earned a Master of Music degree in choral music from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in choral literature and performance from the University of Colorado in Boulder.

Recent honors include the Fresno Arts Council Horizon Artist Award (2007), the California Association for Music Education (CMEA) President's Award (2013), the CMEA Choral Conductor Award (2006), the CMEA Central Section College/University Music Educator Award (2006), Fresno County Office of Education Roy Klassen Award for Excellence in Choral Music Education (2015), the Fresno State College of Arts and Humanities Excellence in Teaching Award (2003), the Fresno-Madera Counties Music Education Association Choral Educator Award (2003), and recognitions from Fresno State music fraternities.

After holding numerous positions on local, state, and national boards, Dr. Hamre currently serves as Past President of the American Choral Directors Association, Western Region. She is a member of the Community Advisory Council for Valley Public Radio in Fresno.

VIOLIN

Jay Zhong, *Acting Concertmaster*

Lianna Elmore

John Morrice

Erin Adams

Brandon Morris

Yuliya Hess

Kim Hain

Joseph Galamba

VIOLIN II

Caitlin McSherry, *Principal*

Cynthia Stuart

Gaylene Debra Joe

Jay Gunasekera

Daniel Jang

William Chen

Lisa Lhee

VIOLA

Roz Gratz, *Acting Principal*

Martha Brody

Matthew Smoke

Tianna Heppner

Alex Navarro

Claudia Shiu

CELLO

Dieter Wulfhorst, *Acting Principal*

Judy Robinson

Emma Hill

Nicholas Anton

Eric Sheaffer

Erin Wang

BASS

Bruce Bransby, *Acting Principal*

Heidi Franklin

Keith Biondi

Sheldon Schlesinger

FLUTE

Janette Erickson, *Principal*

Theresia Gaffney

Henry Woolf

OBOE

Marissa Honda, *Acting Principal*

Issac Chyun

CLARINET

Larry Honda, *Acting Principal*

Steve Madden

Anne Hendrickson

BASSOON

Ashlea Sheridan, *Acting Principal*

Emily Prather

HORN

Elisha Wells, *Acting Principal*

Jennie Blomster

Richard Hembree

Maya Norman

TRUMPET

Nathan Sobieralski, *Acting Principal*

Ron Franklin

Nathan Johnson

TROMBONE

Erik Dewhirst, *Acting Principal*

Gary Jones

Russ Zokaites

TUBA

Cody Forcier, *Acting Principal*

TIMPANI

Soojin Kang, *Acting Principal*

PERCUSSION

Corey Ritter, *Principal*

Tammy van der Paardt

Craig Cory

Harp

Laura Porter, *Principal*

Piano

Kathryn Eames, *Principal*

| Chorus Roster

Ron Appling

Margaret Arguelles
Morgan Armas
Janet Baker
Jeanne Behnke
Linda Bennett
Mary Benotti
Roger Bergman
Christine Billingsley
John Billingsley
Jennice Bourdase
David Boyd
Sarah Brickey
Renata Briones
Keith Brown
Darla Bussey
Jayson Camaquin-Vigil
Joe Camaquin-Vigil
David Cao
Cheryl R. Chandler
Steven Chao
Joan Claassen
Cameron Clarno
Lisa Clay
Dan Comelli*
Mary Comelli
Laverne Cottet
Roxanne Cousins
Celeste DeMonte
Jim Doe
Erin Stafford Dormedy
Betty Jane Dunia
John Elliott
Hyaesun Esler
Valerie Fiala
Jan Flanagan
Ron Fletcher
Jan Forbes
Delores Friesen
Edwin Gaje

Riley Garcia
Linda Gillis
Teresa Gipson
Matthew Haltom
Ben Hensley
David Hensley
Tami Hensley
Adeline Hollingsworth
Sheilagh Hughes Luna
Holly Jamison
Susan McQuirk Jensen
Susan Juliusson
Marion Karian
Steve Lam
Vivian Lam
Bernadette LaMontagne-Schenck
Greg Lapp
Elizabeth Layous*
Jerry Lee
Claire Leong
Gina Leong
Josh Leong
Leslie Liles
Tom Lindstrom
Terry Long
Juan Lucero
Brian Lummis
Gary Lynn
Rod Lyon
Rachel MacAgy
Victoria Malko
Sharon Matson
Katharine McGregor
Laura Mendes Moore
Cameron Mendez
Ramiro Merino
Priscilla Metry
Geraldine Montanez
Cheryl Montgomery
John Montgomery

S. Matthew Mott
Tony Mowrer*
Debbie Nagy*
Matthew Nannini-Hei
Bob Olcott
Ryan Ourique
Robert Pankratz
Marianne Pansa
Jacob Pasalakis
Viktor Perez
Alan Peters
Rene Ponce
Carol Presley
Nancy Price
Jean Raymond
Skyla Rayne
Janyce Regier
Priscilla Rippetoe
Sharon Robert
Kirsten Rocha
Terry Rommereim
Glady Ruiz
Ida Ruiz
Clare Ann Ruth-Heffelbower
Duane Ruth-Heffelbower
Christie Sartor
Nicole Saunders
Sabrina Schick
Ximena Schimpf
Sarah Sherwood
Mary Beth Shields
Scott Silveira
Chris Simmons
Mary Smith
Theresa Souza
Brian Strickland
Joungmin Sur
Jasmine Swalef
Valerie Swalef
Linda Sward

Chanda Taylor
Cynthia Tilghman
Daniel Townsend
Danny Valdez
Anne Webster
Donald Yamakawa

**Section Leader*



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<p>SUNDAY APRIL 28, 2024 2:30 PM Fresno Master Chorale</p>	<p>ILLUMINARE BY ELAINE HAGENBERG</p>  <p>OF THE NOTEBOOKS</p> <p><i>Leonardo da Vinci</i> BY JOCELYN HAGEN</p>
 <p>SUNDAY MAY 12, 2024 2:30 PM Coro Piccolo</p>	<p>SAINTNICOLAS BY BENJAMIN BRITTEN</p>



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