

THE BOB COLE CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC AT  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH AND THE COLLEGE OF THE ARTS PROUDLY PRESENT:



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# BOB COLE CONSERVATORY SYMPHONY

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JACOB SUSTAITA, GUEST CONDUCTOR  
OLIVER CHAN & APOSTOLIA NIKOULI  
GRADUATE CONDUCTORS

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2022 7:30PM

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GERALD R DANIEL RECITAL HALL

PLEASE SILENCE ALL ELECTRONIC MOBILE DEVICES.

# PROGRAM

## ORCHESTRA I

Overture from *Barber of Seville* (1816)..... Gioachino Rossini (1792-1868)

Oliver Chan—conductor

*Pulcinella Suite* (1922) ..... Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971)

- I. Sinfonia
- II. Serenata
- III. Scherzino, Allegretto, Andantino
- IV. Tarantella
- V. Toccata
- VI. Gavotta (con due variazioni)
- VII. Vivo
- VIII. Minuetto-Finale

Apostolia Nikouli—conductor

# INTERMISSION

## ORCHESTRA II

Symphony No. 1 in D major, Op. 25 “Classical” .....Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953)

- I. Allegro
- II. Larghetto
- III. Gavotte: Non troppo allegro
- IV. Finale: Molto vivace

Concerto Grosso No. 1 (1976-77) ..... Alfred Schnittke (1934-1998)

- I. Preludio
- II. Toccata
- III. Recitativo
- IV. Cadenza
- V. Rondo
- VI. Postludio

Igor Veligan and Moni Simeonov—violin  
Matthew Garza—piano and harpsichord

# ARTISTS BIOGRAPHIES

## ABOUT JACOB SUSTAITA

**Dr. Jacob Sustaita** is the newly appointed assistant conductor of Pacific Symphony. Since 2015, he served as director of orchestral studies at Sam Houston State University. At Sam Houston State, he was responsible for conducting the symphony, chamber, ballet, and opera orchestras. In 2016, Sustaita and the orchestra performed the American premiere of Anton Bruckner’s Symphony No. 1 (original Linz version) with high praise from the American and European Bruckner Societies.

In 2018 Sustaita was named associate conductor of the Conroe Symphony Orchestra, and in May 2019, he became the orchestra’s fourth music director. He is a frequent guest conductor and clinician across the country, and he recently made his debut conducting the Juilliard Orchestra. During the 2016-2017 season, Sustaita made his debut with the BlueWater Chamber Orchestra in Cleveland, Ohio, and made his debut as cover conductor with the Houston Symphony, assisting David Zinman. In 2015, Sustaita was selected by Carnegie Hall’s Weill Institute to serve as assistant conductor for Charles Dutoit and the

National Youth Orchestra of America. Sustaita regularly conducted and coached the orchestra during its New York residency and on its seven-city tour of China and Hong Kong.

Sustaita's past positions include a three-year tenure as music director of the Minnesota Philharmonic, principal guest conductor for the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra, a three-year tenure as music director with the Southeast Texas Youth Symphony, and assistant orchestra director at Mayde Creek High School in Katy, TX. Music education has always been at the forefront of his conducting interests. He regularly conducts the Linked Up Concerts created by Carnegie Hall, and he continues to develop innovative platforms for youth and family concerts that provide a meaningful and exciting experience for all concertgoers. In addition to his responsibilities with the Conroe Symphony Orchestra and Sam Houston State Orchestra, he has conducted youth and collegiate orchestras including the Houston Youth Orchestra Symphony and Philharmonia, Akron Youth Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra, and multiple All-Region orchestras. He is also a regular presenter at conventions and for teacher in-service and development workshops.

A native of Texas, Sustaita completed his doctorate degree at the University of Houston, where he served as assistant conductor and guest music director for the Moores Opera Center for three seasons. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Houston and a Master of Music degree from both Penn State and Rice University. His honors include Schissler Conducting Fellowship, Rice University Prize and Provost Fellowship, and American Prize semi-finalist and finalist. His teachers and mentors include Charles Dutoit, Franz Krager, Brett Mitchell, Gerardo Edelstein, and Paavo Järvi. Koshak, and Neil Thomson. He is also an accomplished clarinetist and jazz saxophonist.

## ABOUT IGOR VELIGAN

**Igor Veligan** joined the faculty of the Conservatory of Music in the fall of 2006. He holds the Master of Arts in violin performance and chamber music from Odessa State Conservatory. His primary violin teachers include Zoja Istomina and Galina Gritzenko. Mr. Veligan has studied chamber music with Oleg Shkarptnuy and Natalya Buzanova, and has had master classes with Zakhar Bron, Liana Isakadze, and Igor Frolov.

As a chamber musician, Professor Veligan is currently performing with the L'Estro Armonico String Quartet, the Arlekin String Quartet, and has been a guest violist with the Argenta Trio. He is also a violist with the Chamber Music Society of Sacramento. As an orchestra performer, he is concertmaster of the San Francisco Choral Society Orchestra, principal viola of the Reno Philharmonic Orchestra, principal violist of the Lake Tahoe Summer Festival, and a member of the Monterey Symphony. Mr. Veligan recently performed as concertmaster of the Sacramento Philharmonic.

Professor Veligan has taught at the School for the Performing Arts in Ternopil, Ukraine and also currently teaches at American River College in Sacramento. In the Conservatory, he teaches violin, viola and chamber music.

Some of his significant musical achievements include being awarded CM Panel Finalist 2016, SYMF 1st place Open Solo in 2016, and 1st place Open Baroque in 2015. In 2018, he won 1st place in the CAPMT Concerto State Final and 4th place in the Los Angeles International Liszt Competition. This year, he won the MTAC State Open Solo competition, division IV. Also an avid lover of chamber music, he has played in various ensembles and performed on the JCM Honors Tour to Prague, Vienna, and Budapest. He enjoys sharing his love of music with his weekly piano students. Some of his favorite musical inspirations include Bill Evans, Vladimir Horowitz, Tom Waits, and Aphex Twin.

## ABOUT MONI SIMEONOV

A native of Bulgaria, **Moni Simeonov** began playing the violin at age 5, and ten years later, came to the United States on a full scholarship to the Idyllwild Arts Academy in California. He earned his DMA at USC's Thornton School of Music where he studied with Midori. An active member of the IRIS Orchestra, Mr. Simeonov also performs with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and Opera, Ensemble San Francisco, and until recently, served as the Concertmaster for the Sacramento Philharmonic. He has also served as a guest concertmaster with Reno Philharmonic and the Pacific Symphony. His doctoral studies included minor fields in Viola Performance, Schenkerian Analysis, Japanese Language, as well as an emphasis on the interpretation of Balkan folk music. On tour and in Los Angeles, Mr. Simeonov dedicates considerable time and energy to community engagement work and to musical activities and presentations for young people. Moni has performed and coached alongside Midori for her Orchestra Residencies Program American and International tours. Until 2014, he served as a director for the program. Outreach activities have taken him to places as diverse as homeless shelters in Los Angeles and at-risk centers in Tennessee, to Syrian refugee camps in Lebanon, and hospitals for the terminally ill in Sri Lanka.

Moni's first CD recording was a result of his winning the Idyllwild Arts Academy Concerto Competition. Upon graduation from Idyllwild, he was named Most Outstanding Musician of his class. He continued his education at the Eastman School of Music,

where he studied with Zvi Zeitlin on full scholarship, earned first prize at the school's concerto competition, and was awarded a Performer's Certificate. While at Eastman, Moni regularly performed on the school's Antonio Stradivari of 1714. He also served as concertmaster for the Eastman Symphony, Philharmonia, and Opera Orchestras. Having earned his Artist Diploma from Yale University studying under Ani Kavafian, Moni completed his master's in music there as well. He was the concertmaster for the Yale Opera, and Philharmonia Orchestras, as well as the New Music Ensemble. Following Yale, he earned his Graduate Certificate Degree from USC's Thornton School of Music, where he studied with Midori and received the Outstanding Student Award.

Mr. Simeonov has attended several performance festivals, including Tanglewood, the Music Academy of the West, Pacific Music Festival, the New York String Orchestra Seminar, and the Oregon Bach Festival.

In the summers, Moni Serves as a violin teacher at the Interlochen Summer Festival, the Singapore Violin Festival, and the Atlantic Music Festival. In 2021, he created Bulgaria's first chamber music festival "Quartet Intensive" in Sofia.

Mr. Simeonov has concertized and taught around the United States, South America, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. His recordings have been archived by PBS, NPR, KUSC, Bulgarian National Radio and TV, as well as Japanese Broadcasting Company—NHK. Upcoming tour destinations include Japan, England, China, Singapore, and Lebanon.

Past chamber music collaborations have involved concertmaster of Vienna Philharmonic, members of the Berlin Philharmonic, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and the Tokyo and Ying String Quartets, as well as Jerome Lowenthal, Giora Schmidt, Joseph Silverstein, Zvi Zeitlin and Midori.

Moni served as Adjunct Instructor of Violin and Chamber Music at USC's Thornton School of Music until 2014. That year, he was appointed Director of String Studies and Violin Professor with the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at California State University, Long Beach. Moni is also the Edelman Chair of Chamber Music with the Colburn School of Music and the creator of [zenviolin.com](http://zenviolin.com).

## ABOUT MATTHEW GARZA

**Matthew Garza** is a senior transfer student at the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music (BCCM) at California State University, Long Beach. A native of Fresno, CA, he had his first piano lessons at the age of five with Susan Harchenko. After he joined his school's band program, he experimented with different woodwinds, brass, and percussion instruments until he ultimately decided to play the horn in high school and continued throughout college/university as a secondary instrument. Throughout his time in school, he was on and off having piano lessons until he graduated from Clovis West High School in 2017 and started at Fresno City College, continuing with piano lessons under Dr. Brandon Bascom. During those times, he was a temporary member of the school's chapter of Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), and participated in two California Association of Professional Music Teachers (CAPMT) Honors Competitions. A Cole Scholar and active member of CSULB's MTNA chapter, he is currently studying under Craig Richey in pursuit of a B.M. in Piano Performance.

One of his hobbies includes arranging and transcribing music from various genres of repertoire. Some of his greatest wind band achievements include arrangements of Ravel's La Valse, Holst's Jupiter from The Planets, and various themes from video game soundtracks. His chamber accomplishments include clarinet choir arrangements of Ravel's Le Tombeau de Couperin, Rachmaninoff's Adagio from Symphony No. 2, and Stravinsky's Petrushka; as well as other instrumental chamber group arrangements of Beethoven's 6th Symphony, Ravel's Valses Nobles et Sentimentales, and Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite.

Mr. Garza's penultimate career goal is to become a conductor, already active in conducting the BCCM Clarinet Choir, Concert Band, and Wind Symphony. Some of his conducting mentors include Patricia DeBenedetto, Dr. Jacob Sustaita, and Dr. Jermie Arnold. He hopes to utilize these opportunities to further pursue higher-level education in Orchestral Conducting.

## ABOUT APOSTOLIA NIKOULI

**Apostolia Nikouli** postolia moved to the States in 2021 to start her masters in orchestral Conducting after finishing her masters in Systematic Musicology in Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. A native of Greece, Nikouli was assistant conductor with the Thessaloniki City Symphony Orchestra (2018-2020), the New Thessaloniki State Orchestra (2017-2018), the North College Choir (2019-2020) and was guest conductor with the Athens Symphony Orchestra, Contemporary Music Lab of Aristotle University and Youth Orchestra and Youth Choir in Catholic Church of Thessaloniki. Her great interest in contemporary music motivated her to make numerous first performances of contemporary pieces with the Contemporary Music Lab and the Thessaloniki City Symphony Orchestra.

Currently, she is musical director and conductor with "Orchestra at the Beach" in BCCM, assistant conductor with the Long Beach Symphony Orchestra, the BCCM Orchestra and the Opera Institute of BCCM. Lastly, some of her research as a musicologist specializes in 19th and 20th century analysis (Rephrase the tradition: The multifaceted role of symmetry in Symphony in C of Igor Stravinsky, Karlheinz Stockhausen: Stimmung, Philosophy, Human voice and Universe, Dimitri Mitropoulos: Analytical and aesthetic approach in Passacaglia, intermezzo & fuga).

# PERSONNEL / CONSERVATORY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA I & 2

Jacob Sustaita—guest conductor / Oliver Chan and Apostolia Nikouli—graduate conductors

## CHAMBER ORCHESTRA I

FLUTE/PICCLO:  
Saqtiel Orozco-Perez\*  
Lauren Cunio  
Miguel Mendez

OBOE:  
Bennett Imai\*  
Jennifer St. John\*  
Karen Hernandez  
Noel Takaya

CLARINET:  
Tomoya Sano\*  
Cole Bacani

BASSOON:  
Julianne Fung\*  
Lordsen Quiambao\*  
Brandon Whitehurst\*

HORN:  
Alex Liang\*  
Daniel Ota\*  
Josh Olson

TRUMPET:  
Nathan Kaplan\*  
Dylan Johnson\*  
Lauren Spring

TROMBONE:  
Eddie Patino\*  
Raphael Yap\*  
Pablo Castro  
Jaime Rodriquez

TIMPANI:  
Anna Dunford\*

PERCUSSION:  
Tanner Dunaway\*  
Joseph Chang  
Martin Bui

FIRST VIOLIN:  
Nathan Nguyen  
concertmaster  
Crystaline Tran

Robin Huang  
Brian Shih

Kana Luzmoor  
Greg Wesley  
Cole Perez  
Edward Pan

Joshua Rodriguez-Irons  
Eliza Hagy

SECOND VIOLIN:  
Aubrey Williams\*  
Kiana

Vincent Steger  
Nayeli Martinez

Zoe Oda  
Namiah Miller

Elijah Avila  
Morgan Burtner

VIOLA:  
Daisy Swanson\*  
David Brown

Kerry Walther  
Jayden Clark

Jacquelyn Su  
David Albrecht

Yuhee Bang

CELLO:  
Raymond Newell\*  
Will Kittinger

Ioannis Emmanouilidis  
Sebastian Lee

Debbie Lee  
Andrew Loveland

Mia Palacios  
Jasmin Cruz

Jewel Helligar  
Natalie Avila

BASS:  
Brian Slack\*  
Michael Parchaiski

Youngsun Choe  
Christopher Sterling

Matt Justo  
David Blakinton

## CHAMBER ORCHESTRA II

FLUTE/PICC:  
Jacob Cruz\*  
Lauren Cunio

OBOE:  
Bennett Imai\*  
Allison Fricke

ENGLISH HORN:  
Karen Hernandez\*  
Jennifer St. John\*

CLARINET:  
Abigail Martin\*  
Anthony Arias

BASS CLARINET:  
Andrew Ngyuen\*

BASSOON:  
André Bartalos\*  
Kyra Harris

HORN:  
Daniel Ota\*  
Josh Olson

TRUMPET:  
Matt Peskanov\*  
Brandon Butler

TIMPANI:  
Anna Dunford\*

PERCUSSION:  
Tanner Dunaway\*  
Joseph Chang  
Martin Bui

FIRST VIOLIN:  
Cole Perez,  
concertmaster  
Kana Luzmoor

Aubrey Williams  
Vincent Steger

Greg Wesley  
Nayeli Martinez

Kiana  
Morgan Burtner

Zoe Oda  
Eliza Hagy

SECOND VIOLIN:  
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Edward Pan

Nathan Nguyen  
Brian Shih

Joshua Rodriguez-Irons  
Robin Huang

Elijah Avila  
Namiah Miller

VIOLA:  
Kerry Walther\*  
Jayden Clark

Daisy Swanson  
David Albrecht

Jacquelyn Su  
David Brown

Yuhee Bang

CELLO:  
Debbie Lee\*  
Yosef Feinberg

George Rochelle  
Raymond Newell

Katrina Hawley  
Ethan Dwinell

Candice Oh  
Renee Fong  
BASS:  
David Blakinton\*  
Youngsun Choe

Christopher Sterling  
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Brian Slack  
Matt Justo

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