

# Welcome

In the spring of 2008, Dr. Ernie Garcia and I presented a proposal to the board of the San Bernardino Valley Concert Association, to begin a youth orchestra for strings for middle and high school age students in our community. It was overwhelmingly supported and, through a generous grant from the Frank Plash Endowment, and under the auspices of SBVCA, "Symphonie Jeunesse" was established.

Frank Plash was an ardent supporter of classical music and fine arts in our area, lecturing for symphony concerts, promoting live music, and always in attendance at concerts and the theatre. To commemorate his memory and his wish that live arts continue to flourish, the *Symphonie Jeunesse* orchestra has adopted this motto:

**P**reserving **L**ive **A**rts **S**ymphonic **H**eritage

Michèle Tacchia  
Founder & Director

# Thank You

The members of *Symphonie Jeunesse*, along with founder and director Michèle Tacchia, wish to express their deepest appreciation to First Congregational Church for providing the venue for this concert.

## *Symphonie Jeunesse Members* in alphabetical order

### Violin

Zoë Beach  
Nicole Cabilao  
Gemma Coronel  
Kellie Deaver  
Krystel Garcia  
Corina Jimenez  
Rachael LaChance  
Archibald Lai  
Natasha Ann Mariano  
Theodore Nguyen\*  
Tatiana Oropel  
Joshua Rodriguez-Irons  
Charlotte Ruttner  
Tendo Sematimba  
Mattison Solgan  
Tapua Sukuta

Thandiwe Sukuta  
Johann Velasquez  
Emma Ward

### Viola

Alejandra Davila  
Katerina McCauley  
Andrew Polley  
Charlotte Ruttner  
Miranda Stuart

### Cello

Nicholas Ainsworth  
Gabriel Melendrez  
Dana Polley\*  
Joy Rittenhouse

### Bass

Isaac Cabrera  
Jasmine Cardenas\*

### Piano

Mr. Michael Tacchia

### Saxophone

Aaron Ainsworth

\*Denotes principal chair  
for this concert.

*Symphonie Jeunesse  
is affiliated with the  
San Bernardino Valley  
Concert Association.*

# Symphonie Jeunesse

Youth Orchestra for Strings  
Michèle Tacchia, Founder & Director

## Music for a Sunday Afternoon

Sunday, April 10, 2011  
3:00 pm

First Congregational Church  
3041 N. Sierra Way  
San Bernardino, CA 92405

# Program

Wood Splitter Fanfare	Brian Balmages (b. 1975)
Viking Ships of Old	Susan H. Day
Remembrance	Sarah Elizabeth Gibson (b. 1986)
Seven Scottish Airs	Gustav Holst arranged by Bob Phillips
Postcards from Russia	Carrie Lane Gruselle
Canzona Bergamasca	Samuel Scheidt (1587 - 1654) arranged by Bob Lipton
Momentum	Richard Meyer
Iditarod	Soon Hee Newbold (b. 1974)



Symphonie Jeunesse is a non-profit entity. Donations allow us to keep this program free.  
You can mail your tax-deductible donation to P.O. Box 21077, San Bernardino, CA 92406-1077.

# Program Notes

**Wood Splitter Fanfare** was written for 8th grade violist, Brett Pepowski and the Deer Path Middle School orchestra in Lake Forest, Illinois. This composition was written following an incident witnessed by the composer while attending one of their concerts. He was to premiere a new work of his with them and, just as the performance started, a young violist lost her chin rest and her grip on her instrument. The viola fell to the ground and was cracked all the way down. During the piece, she calmly picked up the injured instrument, held it, and waited for the piece to finish. Another viola was found for her to use for the duration of the concert. After seeing her resolve, maturity, and focus, Mr. Balmages composed this piece and dedicated it to her.

**Viking Ships of Old** was inspired by the composer's trip to Sweden and Norway. The piece captures the drama and excitement of seeing the Viking Ships in person. It was written for a large District Festival and won an ASCAP Award. It uses techniques such as tremolo, pizzicato, col legno (to play with the wood of the bow), accents, tenuto, and legato styles.

Ms. Gibson wrote **Remembrance** at the age of 15 in the two months following the tragedy of September 11, 2001. It was published in December of that year. She has dedicated it to all those who innocently lost their lives and those who lost their lives heroically trying to save others. "By remembering them, we are able to show love to others, unite with people we have never met before, and maybe learn to forgive more easily." This piece was purchased and given to Symphonie Jeunesse by founding member, Erica Polley, as a way to give back to the group as she embarks on her musical journey at the University of Redlands.

**Seven Scottish Airs**, originally written for string quartet and piano by Gustav Holst, has been faithfully transcribed for string orchestra and piano by Mr. Phillips. The seven songs contained in this work are "The women are a'gane wud," "My love's in Germany," "O how could ye gan, lassie," "Stu Mo Run," "We will take the good old way," "O gin I were where goddie rins," and "Auld Lang Syne."

**Postcards from Russia** is a study in articulation, dynamics, and tempo changes within the context of three energetic Russian folk melodies: Minka, Meadowland, and Korobushka (The Peddler). Musicians are asked to differentiate among staccato, legato, accented, and tenuto bowings as well as pizzicato. The piece explores a wide range of dynamics and gradual tempo changes.

A canzona is an intensely polyphonic form in which each musical line imitates and echoes another. **Canzona Bergamasca** is a Renaissance piece written in the early 1600's, originally for strings, but brass groups often play it as a transcription.

When asked to write this piece, the composer was interested in finding out more about this inspirational educator. Through comments of former students and with the help of her co-worker, Marilyn Kesler, Meyer saw two words that kept coming up in reference to Burchman's teaching style: "energy" and "enthusiasm," which became the springboard for this piece. The title **Momentum** refers both to the driving rhythmic pulse that permeates throughout and a representation of the results achieved by Burchman. Her influence as a teacher and the energy that she brought to each lesson can be thought of as the "momentum" that continues to live on in her students and their musical accomplishments. The piece incorporates two diverse moods - a highly rhythmic first section in b minor, built on rising and falling thirds followed by a simple chorale in folk song style, first presented in the violins and then passed throughout the ensemble. As the slow section winds down, the energy is once again established with the re-introduction of earlier material. The chorale is then heard again, this time coupled with the energetic figures that started the piece.

Known as the Last Great Race on Earth, the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race stretches over 1,150 miles of Alaska's wild terrain from Anchorage to Nome. Mushers and their dogs endure harsh conditions, frozen lakes, extreme temperatures, and rugged landscapes to run the race that can take anywhere from 10 to 17 days. The Iditarod commemorates an event where dog sleds rushed to deliver the diphtheria serum to Nome from Anchorage during an epidemic in 1925. Currently, more than 50 teams participate in this grueling race every year. **Iditarod** was commissioned by the Zionsville West Middle School Orchestra in Whitestown, Indiana.

Program notes by Michèle Tacchia  
Program designed by Wendy Polley