

samohi:orchestras
Presents

ONCE
UPON A
TIME...

A Magical Evening of Music & Film

Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025 | 4pm

Barnum Hall | Santa Monica High School

DEAR ORCHESTRA FAMILIES AND SUPPORTERS,

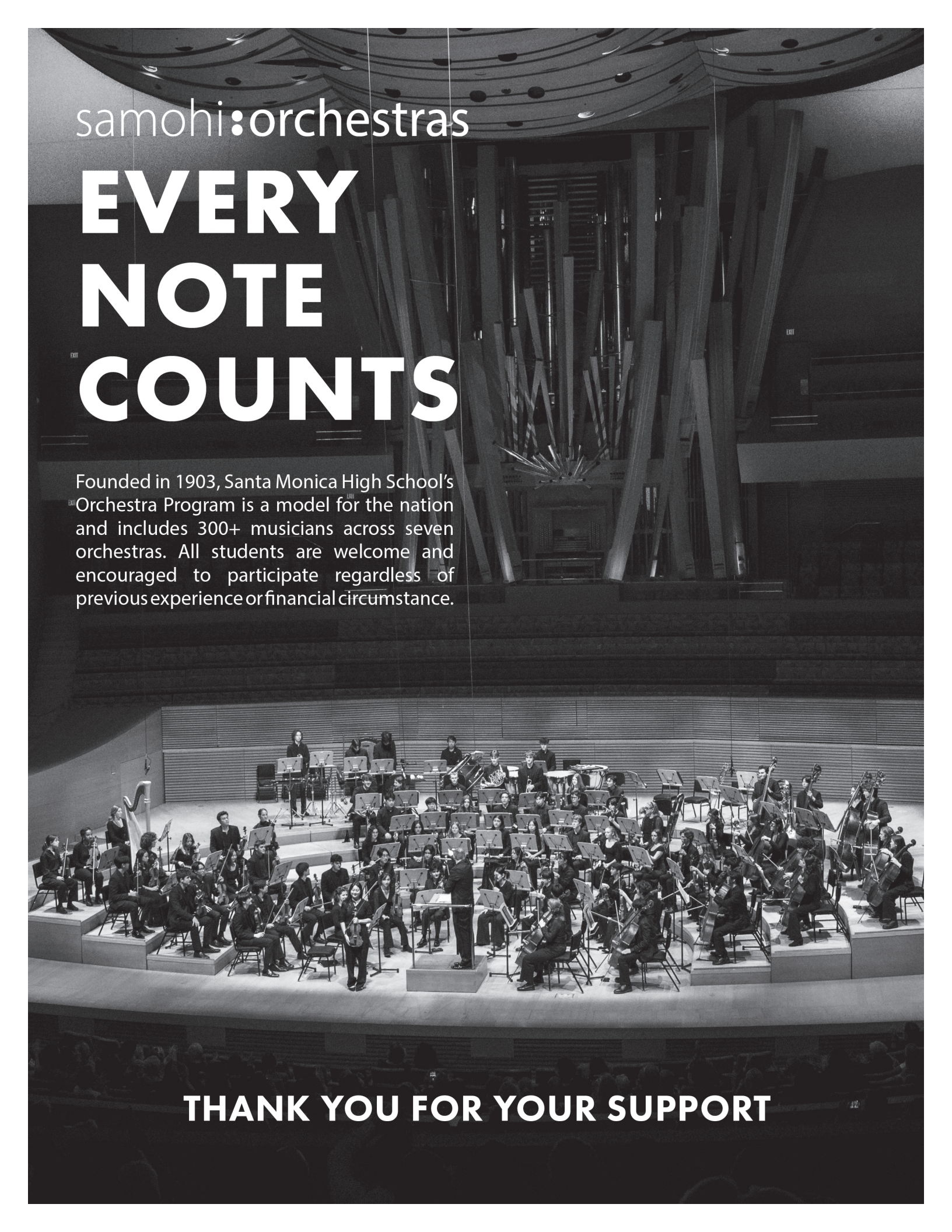
Welcome to our Fall Benefit Concert, "Once Upon a Time..."! Your support is key to allowing us to help students reach their musical goals and the continued success of this orchestra program. Music and storytelling always go hand in hand, but never is this more prevalent than in the wonderful soundtracks you will hear today. As you listen to our performances, we hope you will let yourself be taken away to the magical worlds of Neverland and Narnia through the colors of sound created by the orchestras. We hope the music moves you to feel both the conflict and ultimate triumph of Moana and Aladdin. And we would even be okay with some tears of sadness and joy as you relive the stories of Simba in The Lion King and Aang in Avatar: The Last Airbender! Most of all we hope you enjoy yourself and the musical stories being told by the talented young musicians on stage today. A special welcome to the elementary and middle school students in the audience, not too long from now, it will be you performing on this stage!

Putting on a performance this early in the school year is no easy feat, and today's concert would not have been possible without the support of so many volunteers. Thank you to our Orchestra Parents Association Executive Board, who oversaw the many logistical details for tonight's event and kept everyone on track! We encourage you to please take a moment to read the Acknowledgments page as this has truly been a team effort with so many lead volunteers pitching in to help make this a special event. Also, thank you to everyone who has volunteered today by contributing to and helping with the bake sale, ushering, decorating, and cleaning up afterward; these concerts truly are a community effort! Finally, thank you to the entire Orchestra Parents Association, led by our President, Cindy Fitzgerald, who continually works to find creative ways to support the education and musical growth of the nearly 300 Samohi orchestra students.

Sincerely,

Jason Aiello & Emily Taylor
Directors, Samohi Orchestras





samohi:orchestras

EVERY NOTE COUNTS

Founded in 1903, Santa Monica High School's Orchestra Program is a model for the nation and includes 300+ musicians across seven orchestras. All students are welcome and encouraged to participate regardless of previous experience or financial circumstance.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



2025 CONCERT REPERTOIRE

Directed by Jason Aiello and Emily Taylor

SINFONIA ORCHESTRA & INTERMEZZO COMBINED ORCHESTRAS

Highlights from MoanaLin-Manuel Miranda, Mark Mancina and
Opetia Foa'i, arr. by Larry Moore

Themes from The Sorcerer's ApprenticePaul Dukas, arr. by Jim Higgins

PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

The Chronicles of Narnia
The Lion, The Witch And The WardrobeHarry Gregson-Williams and Steve
Barton arr. by Stephen Bulla

Suite from "Avatar - The Last Airbender" Jeremy Zuckerman, orch. by Chris Rozé

INTERMISSION

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Flight to Neverland from "Hook"John Williams

Disney's The Hunchback of Notre Dame Orchestral Suite Alan Menken
orch. by Michael Starobin

The Orchestral Suite from Disney's Aladdin.....Alan Menken, orch. by Danny Troob

Disney's The Lion King Orchestral Song Suite Elton John, arr. by Brad Kelley



SAMOHI ORCHESTRAS

SINFONIA ORCHESTRA

Violin

Zenna Evangelista**
Sarah Lee**
Julian Arias
Laila Barranco
Uzai Bautista-Ramirez
Scott Boyd
Jacqueline Campos Robles
Haley Cruz
Mirna Garmakani
Ariel Johnson
Malina Lau
Sophie Lefevre
Clementine Lloyd
Diego Lopez
Hannah Margulis
Maya Marrero-Howieson
Isaac Maximo
Daisy Moe
Reef Mendinueto
Emma Ramirez
Rowan Sellers
Sophie Sharafi
Xochitl Vargas
Allison Velasquez
Aaron Williams
Emanda Worku

Viola

Elena Policarpo*
Areaella Adera
Layla Chavez
Rayne De Leon
Sarah Kreakous
Raina Mehta
Leora Norman
Cole Soja
Evan Walker

Cello

Mavrick Farkas*
Shane Akahoshi
Jack Hagen
Elleri Klein
Vida Lopez Santiago
Naomi Sassoon
Jayde Smith
Freida Walzer Martinez
Layla Wiley

Bass

Valeriia Volovikova*
Brynlee Baker
Tate Daley
Genesis Mateo
Noya Tewodros

INTERMEZZO ORCHESTRA

Violin

Katie Lee**
Lulu Vecore**
Alyssa Adatao
Elena Avila
Nyah Bishop
Micah Blume
Stella Callen
Izel Cermenio
Tanya Cortes
Alexander De Blasi
Aliyah Delgadillo
Rosita Garcia
Mia Kondratyeva
Angela Liang
Yared Lopez
Charlie Loughlin
Aaliyah McGee
Briana Negrete
Genevieve Oppenheim
Yahir Santiago Ruiz
Mario Scaduto
Meyla Sigbaum
Alexandra Tsirlin
Luke Werner

Viola

Neve Garcia-Langley*
Erin Arita
Ryan Chambers
Eva Gutierrez
Mia Johnson
Max Jordan
Erini Kreakous
Gabriel Lamm
Melina Martinez
Alejandro Poza

Cello

Eleanor Cadena*
Olivia Choe
Yungbihn Douglas
Adelaide Ged
Aija Kadish
Griffin Kay
Adali McArthur
Ren Newhall
Juna Prizzi
Asher Spearman

Bass

Daniel Esteban Garcia*
Nicolas Froech
Salma Salib
Kainoa Waxman

PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

1st Violin

Ryan Hajmomenian**
Amanda Camacho*
Loa Garcia-Lopez*
Maya Jarmakani*
Alex Alvizo
Sydney Chan
Evelyn Gelfand
Finnegan O'Brien
Arli Segall
Payton Smith

2nd Violin

Leo Bernknopf**
Selin Kocataskin*
Ava Brara*
Kaitlyn Eggers*
Lohan Barnes
Madeline Chen
Julian Luis
Jade Martinez
Andrew Walzer-Martinez
Selina Zhang
Micah Zund

Viola

Ryan Gillespie-Breslo*
Owen Adams-Mao
Miriam Bijur
Kosei Cannon
Sara Lord
Mia McTeigue
Mateo Peterson
Nicole Rojas

Cello

Luke Shimahara*
Ridley Beck
Jason DeBeech
Rafael Hackman Garcia
Adele Jouffret
Shai Painter
Lewis Smith
Orly Wilkinson

Bass

Ramona Gutierrez*
Lucie Demmer
Ian Oakes
Nina Slavonia

Flute

Noah Hagooli Bolanos
Matthew Oleynikov
Pietro Reidy

Piccolo

Noah Hagooli Bolanos

PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA CONT.

Oboe

Liam Fitzpatrick
Otis Sloan

Clarinet

Madeleine Forrer
Lucas Larez
Bryce McArn
Asher Zaczepinski

Bass Clarinet

Teddy Forrer

Bassoon

Reed Walker
Sohrab Zarin

French Horn

Giana Aimonetti
Alex Brandenburg
Ethan Crawford
Benicio De Oliveira
Tiago Duarte Silva

Trumpet

Elle Guggenheim
Aayan Lakhani
Luis Zambrano

Trombone

Aiden Lin
Gabriella Trachtenberg
Emily Wessling

Tuba

Ulises Becerril Ruiz

Percussion

Jefferson John Bieber
Samir Hirji-Johnson
Xavier Mollo
Rohan Shah
Amity Williams

Harp

Cole Huang Angelina
Knight-Weber

Piano

Jason DeBeech

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

1st Violin

Marina Shickler**
Shayl Khatod*
Oriane La Chapelle*
Kyle Wang*
Feben Ayele
Benjamin Clark
Oscar Hughes
Grant Jensen
Athena Miller
Vasily Sahrai
Naomi Xia

2nd Violin

Clara Percus**
Oliver Deutsch*
Adam Orshansky*
Eleanor Cadena*
Kendi Cunningham
Guadalupe De Pablo
JoJo Deutsch
Megan Kovac
Michael Kuzma
Hannah Rapoport-Kamman
Tennessee Sullivan
Marie Zucco-Reynolds

Viola

Alex Sebastian*
Sofia Ally
Camille Choe
Oscar Hughes
Eleanor Kim
Jackson Mayeda
Brooke Merriam
Adeline Rader
Georgia Rowe
Annelise Sebastian
Neve Toren
Fiona Vader

Cello

Gregory Gee*
Liam Shapouri*
Mason Gravelle
Hanako Gross
Sarah Hajmomenian
Calum Hurwitz
Josephine Kim-Pearson
Daniel Ostrovsky
Ian Rhie-Kim
Soren Thanawalla
Caspian Tidmore

Bass

Grayson Fitzgerald*
Carlin Joensen
Patrick Linskey
Ilan Shapiro
Lilla Valenzuela

Flute

Arianna French*
Amber French
Avalon Purdy

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONT.

Piccolo

Amber French*

Oboe

Ekrem Afsar*
Silas Tropea-Lester

English Horn

Silas Tropea-Lester*

Clarinet

Nathaniel Chin*
Teddy Forrer
Leo Kelty
Eli Tobel

Bass Clarinet

Teddy Forrer*

Bassoon

Sohrab Zarin*
Graham Gorman

Contrabassoon

Sohrab Zarin

French Horn

Alex Brandenburg*
Ethan Crawford
London Leslie
Charles Nord

Trumpet

Elle Guggenheim*
Matti Scott*
Alex Dimitrov

Trombone

Alex Beekman*
Nikolas Senchuk

Bass Trombone

Noah Pust*

Tuba

Emilien Ged*

Percussion

Eli Boreth*
Coby Hagooli Bolanos
Samir Hirji-Johnson
Govind Raman

Harp

Xylia Criswell*

Piano

Max Jacobs
Clara Percus

** Concertmaster

* Principal



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Symphony

Gregory Gee, Ethan Crawford



ORCHESTRA DIRECTORS



Jason Aiello

Director of Orchestras

Jason Aiello began teaching orchestra at Santa Monica High School in 2006, after graduating with honors from UCLA as the recipient of the Joyce Fahlman Fellowship. While at UCLA, he studied music education with Dr. Frank Heuser and cello with Antonio Lysy.

In addition to his work at Santa Monica High School, Mr. Aiello teaches cello sectionals and conducts the Sinfonia Orchestra for Elemental Strings, a youth orchestra program for elementary school students in Santa Monica. In past summers, Mr. Aiello has served as the Senior Camp Orchestra Director at the La Honda Music Camp in Northern California.

As a guest conductor, Jason has worked with honor orchestras sponsored by CMEA (California Music Educators Association) and SCSBOA (Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association). Currently, he serves on the board of the California Orchestra Directors Association, where his primary responsibilities have included creating and maintaining the CODA website and auditioning junior high and high school cellists for various CODA sponsored honor orchestras.



Emily Taylor

Director of Orchestras

Emily Taylor, a proud alumna of Santa Monica High School, graduated from UCLA with a degree in Music Education, where she studied violin with Margaret Lysy and pedagogy with Dr. Johanna Gamboa-Kroesen. She has taught strings and general music across elementary to high school levels throughout LAUSD, Manhattan Beach Unified, and Santa Monica, including work with

Elemental Music, SOL-LA Music Academy, and Saint Anne School.

Her experience includes leading ensembles, coaching sectionals, teaching private lessons, and developing inclusive, student-centered curriculum. As a Gluck Fellow at UCLA, she also brought chamber music outreach performances to diverse communities across Los Angeles.

Ms. Taylor has presented at the California All-State Music Education Conference and contributed research on belonging and cultural identity in school music programs. She is passionate about fostering technical excellence, expressive musicianship, and a lifelong love of music in her students.

SECTIONAL COACHES



Ryan Baird, Bass Coach

Dr. Ryan Baird earned his DMA in Double Bass Performance from the University of Southern California, studying with David Allen Moore. He regularly performs with Delirium Musicum, the Santa Barbara Symphony, and serves as Principal Bass of the Downey Symphony. A strong advocate for contemporary music, Ryan is

also Principal Bass of the Cabrillo Festival in Santa Cruz each August. He performs with orchestras across Southern California, including the Pasadena Symphony, Long Beach Symphony, Santa Barbara Opera, and Musica Angelica Baroque Orchestra. In addition to performing, Ryan teaches private lessons and directs the Bass Ensemble at the Colburn Community School for the Performing Arts. Each summer, he also teaches at the Idyllwild Arts music programs for pre-college musicians. Outside of music, Ryan enjoys running in the mountains..



Finn Bordal, Violin Coach

Santa Monica native, violinist Finn Bordal teaches strings at the SMMUSD schools he attended as a student, coaches ensembles through local nonprofit Elemental Music, and maintains a private studio of students. Finn performs regularly with Passacaglia and with the Westside Chamber Orchestra, and gigs locally in other capacities. In his spare time, you'll probably find Finn at a local climbing gym, or better yet, climbing outdoors on the lovely rocks that Southern California has to offer!



Josephine Moerschel, Viola Coach

Dr. Josephine ("Dr. Jo") is the Executive and Artistic Director of Elemental Music and directs the Elemental Strings Chamber Orchestra. She has served on the faculties of the Bob Cole Conservatory at CSU Long Beach and Long Beach City College and co-directed Junior Chamber Music Los Angeles and ViolaFest LA. She has also sat on the boards of the Southern California Viola

Society and ASTA's Greater LA branch. As a violist, Josephine performs with the New West Symphony and has played with the LA Philharmonic, LA Opera, Pacific Symphony, and more. A sought-after teacher, she has maintained a violin and viola studio on the westside for 20 years and worked extensively with Santa Monica-Malibu schools. Her students have performed in top youth orchestras, conservatories, and festivals. Josephine earned a DMA in viola performance from the University of Texas at Austin, studying with Roger Myers, Donald McInnes, Masao Kawasaki, and Catharine Carroll.

SECTIONAL COACHES



Reiko Nakano, Violin Coach

Reiko Nakano is a violinist, educator, and co-owner of Sound Roads Music in Santa Monica. She earned her Bachelor of Music degree from Berklee College of Music, specializing in Jazz and World Music, while also developing as a classically trained violinist. Known for her versatility, Reiko has performed with acclaimed artists and contributed to projects including the Grammy-nominated soundtrack for

Becoming by Kamasi Washington and GNX by Kendrick Lamar. Alongside her performance career, Reiko is passionate about teaching. With years of experience, she brings creativity, discipline, and inspiration to her lessons, encouraging students to explore styles they enjoy. Believing every student is an artist, she tailors her approach to build both confidence and technical skill, inspiring the next generation to connect with their passion for music.



Christopher Parise, Percussion Coach

Christopher Parise is a freelance percussionist and clinician based in Los Angeles. Graduating from UCLA's Herb Alpert School of Music in 2010 with a B.A. in percussion performance, Chris's versatility as a musician has led him to tour throughout the United States with a variety of artists including Grammy-nominated baritone Jubilant Sykes, Harriet

Brown, Rare Times, Liphemra, Total Blue, The Mark Allen Group, and south Florida rapper Denzel Curry.

Besides teaching out of his private studio his own studio, Chris serves as a percussion coach at John Adams Middle School, Lincoln Middle School, and Santa Monica High School and is a certified Social Emotional Arts Facilitator for LAUSD and SMMUSD.



Layla Shapouri, Viola Coach

Layla Shapouri graduated from the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music in June 2025 with a degree in viola performance. Her musical journey began sixteen years ago with piano and music theory, later expanding to viola, voice, and teaching. Layla has taught private students in viola, cello, and piano, and has worked closely with young orchestra musicians.

She has performed in numerous solo and chamber recitals and participated in masterclasses with Carla Rodrigues, Yizhak Schotten, Iman Khosrowpour, and Blaise Magniere. Her orchestral and ensemble experiences include performances across the United States, Argentina, and Uruguay. While her main focus has been chamber and solo performance, Layla has also pursued pre-medical studies and tutored STEM students. She currently works as a viola sectionals coach at Santa Monica High School (SAMOHI) and at a residential mental health facility, combining her passions for music, teaching, and service.



Eric Shetzen, Bass Coach

Double bassist Eric Shetzen maintains a multi-faceted career as a performer, teacher, and recording artist. He received both his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees at the Juilliard School in New York City and for three years served as Principal Bass of the Hyogo Performing Arts Center Orchestra in Osaka, Japan. He also spent several seasons as a Fellow in the New World Symphony, America's Orchestral Academy directed by Michael Tilson

Thomas. When Eric is not performing on stage in various SoCal orchestras and chamber music groups, he can be found teaching his studio of private bass students or recording the music of Hollywood's most iconic composers for film and television.



Charlie Tyler, Cello Coach

Cellist Charlie Tyler has built a dynamic career as a soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral performer. He won the Cleveland Institute of Music's Concerto Competition, the Osaka International Music Competition, and the Atwater Kent Strings Competition. As co-principal cello of Japan's Hyogo Performing Arts Center Orchestra for three seasons, he also

performed in chamber and solo recitals. Charlie has appeared at the Tanglewood Music Center, Castleton Festival, and as principal cellist of the National Repertory Orchestra. In Southern California, he performs regularly with leading orchestras and in series such as Jacaranda, Dilijan, Hear/Now, and Salastina. Each winter, he plays with the Arizona MusicFest Orchestra in Scottsdale. In addition to live performances, Charlie maintains an active recording career in Los Angeles, contributing to numerous film and television scores.



Laila Zakzook, Viola Coach

A passionate chamber musician, violist Laila Zakzook won the 2014 Lillian Fuchs Chamber Music Competition and the Colburn School's Honors Quartet Scholarship. Dedicated to new music, she premiered Caroline Shaw's In Manus Tuas in Canada and performed Steve Reich's Duet with Mika and Richard Stoltzman at Carnegie Hall. Laila has held principal and assistant principal positions under conductors like Leonard

Slatkin and Philippe Entremont in ensembles including the Banff Festival Orchestra and The Royal Conservatory Orchestra. She also performed and recorded Sumeida's Song by Mohammed Fairouz at Carnegie Hall. She has participated in festivals such as Banff, Rockport, Heifetz, and Music by the Sea. A graduate of The Glenn Gould School, Manhattan School of Music, and Oberlin Conservatory, she has collaborated with the Grammy-winning Attacca Quartet and artists like Steven Dann and Osvaldo Golijov. A Santa Monica High alum, she is thrilled to work with young violists.

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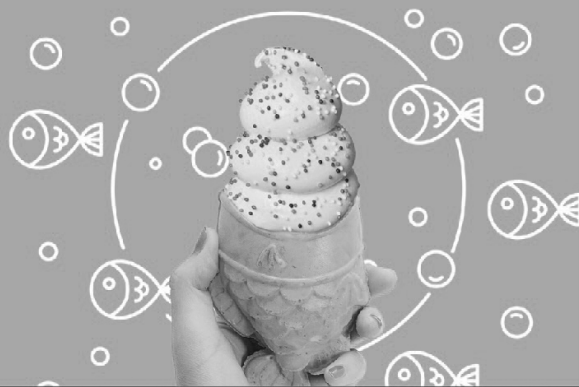


Group Name | Samohi Orchestras

Location | Sawtelle, CA

Fundraiser Duration | 10/25/25
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samohi:OPA

ORCHESTRA PARENTS ASSOCIATION

WELCOME TO THE 2025-2026 PERFORMANCE SEASON!

Kicking off with tonight's Fall Benefit Concert, we are in for a year of great fun watching the students grow both musically, and as people. A big part of what makes this program so special is the community that is created when we all come together to witness and celebrate the passion and dedication of these students. Performing for you in this beautiful and historic theater is one of the most memorable parts of a student's Samohi experience. Being a Samohi Orchestras musician is no easy feat, given their busy schedules and academic pressures. We have much to be proud of and grateful for as members of this community.

None of this would be possible without the support of orchestra families, sectional coaches, private teachers and of course, our inspiring, tireless Orchestra Directors. On behalf of the OPA Executive Board, and the team of dedicated volunteers who make our events possible, we thank you for supporting the Samohi Orchestras program through your enthusiastic attendance, and your generous donations.

We hope you enjoy the show!

Cindy Fitzgerald
President, OPA



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Funds raised ensure an equitable and rich musical experience by providing sectional coaching, private lesson and activity scholarships, instrument maintenance and replacement, and orchestra classroom supplies.

This list includes donations received through September 30, 2025. We are grateful for your support.

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WINTER CONCERT
Tuesday, December 9, 2025
6:30pm
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Emily Taylor, Director of Orchestras
Naomi Sato, Instructional Assistant, Orchestras

SAMOHY ORCHESTRA COACHES

Violin: Finn Bordial, Reiko Nakano, Emily Taylor
Viola: Josephine Moerschel, Layla Shapouri, Laila Zakzook
Cello: Jason Aiello, Charles Tyler
Bass: Ryan Baird, Eric Shetzen
Percussion: Chris Parise

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Kevin McKeown, Director of Bands
Terry Sakow, Director of Bands, Jazz Band Director
Ryan Rowles - Jazz Band Director
Inna Ganelis, Choir Accompanist

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Maia Zander, Director of Orchestras

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Salvador Munoz, Director of Bands
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Orchestra Directors - Jason Aiello, Emily Taylor
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Student Video Editors - Jackson Mayeda, Finn O'Brien
Costume Contest - Beth DeBeech
Livestream - Louis Ng

samohi:chamber orchestra

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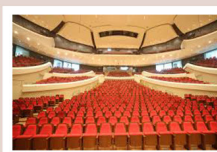
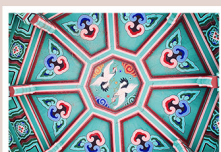
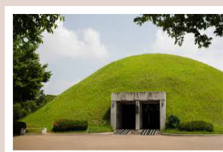
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