

# RENEWABLE ENERGY



**PALOMAR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

**Directed by Ellen Weller**



Plug into the first orchestra concert of the season featuring the electrifying energy of piano virtuoso Dr. Ching-Ming Cheng in Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5 "Emperor."

**October 19–20, 2024**

**Saturday at 7:00 p.m.**

**Sunday at 2:00 p.m.**

**Howard Brubeck Theatre**

DEC  
6-15



Tickets  
[www.PalomarPerforms.com](http://www.PalomarPerforms.com)



25-26  
OCT



NEXT FOUR SHOWS  
DEC 7  
OCT 23



# Take a Seat!

We invite you to sponsor a seat in the Howard Brubeck Theatre. With your donation to the Performing Arts Circle of \$500 for 3 years, with an option to review your plaque for \$100 each year after, you will receive your choice of an honorary seat, where a plaque with your name or memorial will be placed for the duration of that 3-year period. Let our patrons know that you are a true Performing Arts Circle supporter by **Taking a Seat!**

# Mosaic Reverberations

## Palomar Symphony Orchestra

Dr. Ellen Weller, Director

**Overture, La Forza Del Destino** . . . . . Giuseppe Verdi  
(1813-1901)

**Candom** . . . . . Valeria Pelka  
(World Premiere of the full orchestration) (b. 1973)

**Danse Macabre** . . . . . Camille Saint-Saëns  
(1835-1921)

### INTERMISSION

**Piano Concerto No. 5** . . . . . Ludwig van Beethoven  
**in E-flat Major “Emperor”** (1770-1827)

*Dr. Ching-Ming Cheng, soloist*

- I. Allegro
- II. Adagio un poco moto
- III. Rondo – Allegro ma non troppo

# Palomar Symphony Orchestra

Dr. Ellen Weller, Director

Christina Fuller, Webmaster

## Violin I

Ondrej Lewit\* – *Concertmaster*

Jesus Carreon-Rosas

Marina Gustavo

Delta Jordan

Stephen Stohs (Guest)

Virginia Thomas

## Violin II

Sarah Wolf, Principal

David Brann

Angelica Merritt

Jack Mitchell

Isabella Moncada

Daniel Stohs (Guest)

## Viola

Shannon Yandall, Principal

Grayson Bjork

Christina Fuller\*

Emily Nybo Higgs

Nancy Sanchez

## Cello

Michael Moore, Acting Principal

Sharon Taylor\*, Principal (on leave)

Simon Livingston

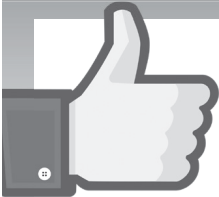
Antonio Pantaleon

## Contrabass

Laura Payne, Principal

Emiliano Strutton

## PALOMAR PERFORMING ARTS NOW HIRING: A Social Media Team



**Assist with social media campaigns,  
take lots of pictures/videos  
at events, upload to social media,  
have fun, and get paid!**

**Two positions are available to qualified  
Palomar Performing Arts student candidates.**

Knowledge and experience with social media platforms is required. To inquire, email your resume and cover letter to [Cthompson2@palomar.edu](mailto:Cthompson2@palomar.edu)



**Learn more: [www.palomarperforms.com](http://www.palomarperforms.com)**

## **Flute/Piccolo**

Alina Steele\*, Principal

Melinda Finn\*

Julie Shamon

Akino Tsuchiya

## **Oboe**

Jennifer St. John, Principal

Claire Tongpalad

Mikos Vuskovic

## **Clarinet**

Benjamin Miguel

Lilian Spock

## **Bassoon**

Susan Schoneman\*, Principal

Brooke Gonzalez

Sadhika Kumar

## **French Horn**

Matias Chavez

Gabby Cole (Guest)

Phoenix Pongun

Diego Gianni

## **Trumpet**

James Clement

Chantal Fradet

## **Trombone**

Raymond Lucero, Principal

Ted Meyers

## **Bass Trombone**

Sean Daugherty

## **Tuba**

Louis Almeida

## **Timpani/Percussion**

Chris Amaro, Principal

Heather Barclay\* (Guest)

Jocain Howard

Alex Kirby (Guest)

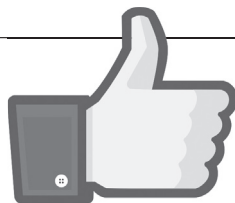
Bob Weller\* (Guest)

## **Keyboard**

Eduardo Garnica

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

**Follow Us or Like Us  
on Social Media**



**Stay Up to Date on Everything That is Happening at  
Palomar Performing Arts.**

On Sales for Shows and Special Events, Audition Updates, and So Much More...

**FACEBOOK**

PalomarPerformingArts

**INSTAGRAM**

palomarperformingarts

## Biographies

Argentinian composer **Valeria Pelka** began her musical journey as a guitarist in popular music, graduating from the Popular Music School of the Argentine Musicians' Union. In 2009, she ventured into composition and production, releasing her debut album “El tiempo borrará,” where she showcased her skills as a composer, vocalist, guitarist, and arranger.

Driven by her love for orchestral music, Ms. Pelka pursued a Bachelor's degree in Composition at the National University of the Arts, graduating in September 2023. Her aim is to fuse elements of academic music with Argentine and global popular music, evident in her premieres in the United States, Russia, and Argentina, with upcoming performances scheduled in Spain. Her extensive experience spans over 35 years, during which she explored various popular music genres. She seeks to bridge the gap between popular and academic music, composing pieces inspired by South American rhythms to evolve musical languages beyond traditional boundaries.

Ms. Pelka served as a jury member at the International Composition Competition “Nueva Música” in St. Petersburg, Russia, and her piece “Dársena Sur” was awarded the 3rd prize in the 1st Provincial Competition of Works for Symphony Orchestra ‘Marta Lambertini’. Her compositions provide orchestras and academic programs with opportunities for diverse programming, exploring new forms of expression, and celebrating the cultural richness of the world.

Originally from Taiwan, **Dr. Ching-Ming Cheng** started playing the piano at the age of five and won her first prize in Taipei Music Competition in early teens and more recent awards including a silver medal in International Keyboard Odyssey Piano Competition and a semi-finalist in the Second Chinese International Piano Competition in New York City, representing Taiwan. Dr. Cheng holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance, Master of Music degree and Doctoral of Musical Arts degree in Accompanying and Chamber Music from University of Miami. A devoted educator, she currently serves as Chair of the Music Department at CSU San Marcos and has dedicated herself to growing and expanding the Music Program. She successfully raised funds to build a smart music lab, and acquire a Steinway grand piano, and established the first All-Steinway piano school in the region. Dr. Cheng was the recipient of the CSUSM President's Outstanding Faculty Award in Service Leadership in 2021. In 2023, Dr. Cheng was inducted into the Steinway & Sons Teacher Hall of Fame, a prestigious designation recognizing the work of North America's most committed and passionate piano educators.

**Dr. Ellen Weller** joined the Palomar 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 UCSD. 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” and “Crazy for You.” 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. Dr. Weller has two CDs on the Circumvention label: “Spirits, Little Dreams and Improvisations (2004)” and “Point of Contact (2008).”

## **From the Director — Renewable Energy and the Arts Energized**

Welcome to the season of Arts Energized! Through live performance of Dance, Theatre and Music, the Performing Arts Department of Palomar College presents a series of exciting and uplifting events that will invigorate our audiences!

I love autumn! For some reason, the changing weather (such as it is in Southern California) fills me with possibilities, gets me moving, and I charge into my work with exuberance! Tonight’s program has this seasonal excitement in mind. Great musical works can fill us up with their lively and intriguing rhythms again and again—hence “Renewable Energy.”

Case in point—the Overture to Verdi’s epic 1862 opera, *La Forza del Destino*—The Power of Fate! In the overture to one of the most convoluted and complex opera stories of all time, Verdi introduces especially memorable themes, such as the opening four hammer-strokes of Fate and the rushing strings that follow, and a prayerful, lyrical melody introduced by the clarinet. In a spooky aside, the opera was thought to be cursed for many years because of illness in the cast!

If you find yourself in need of revitalization, then up and coming Argentinian composer Valeria Pelka has just the tonic (pun intended): *Candom*, a lively, percussively charged celebration of the *candombe*, a unique rhythm/dance from the Rio Plata region that straddles the Uruguay-Argentina border. Music students enjoyed meeting the composer in an exceptional presentation and master class in the first week of October. We are proud to be presenting the World Premiere of the orchestral version of this fantastic piece.

The composer writes: “Candom is a work written to capture the feelings produced by the color and speed of life in the two big cities of the Río de la Plata—Buenos Aires and Montevideo—taking advantage of the rhythm that unites them better than any other: the candombe. This rhythm with African roots, today undeniably Uruguayan, in other centuries was as much from Montevideo as it was from Buenos Aires. Composed in February, this work is influenced by the advent of the carnival. And since the Rio de la Plata carnival is surrounded by characters that evoke a mixture of joy and nostalgia, Candom goes through a lot of emotions, like every human being that goes through this existence with passion and commitment.

This piece was finished on March 1, 2022. During the last week of composition a war started on the other side of the world. I dedicate this work to all those human beings who fight for peace, to all those who contribute every day offering their own peace through the love of their actions, to all who believe in humanity, who respect people’s lives and who take care of all life forms on the planet. And I dedicate this work to childhood, hoping that some day the children of the world will not know the word “war” and be amazed to learn of its anachronistic meaning.”

We close the first half with perhaps the most iconic sound of Halloween—Camille Saint-Saëns’ somewhat manic *Danse Macabre* (Dance of Death). Originally a song with some rather ribald lyrics written in 1875, the story tells of the arrival of Death on Halloween to call forth the dead from their graves to dance while he plays his fiddle. Saint-Saëns creates the rattling sound of dancing skeletons with the use of the xylophone, a concept later used in countless cartoons.

Our second half plugs us into the chaos of Vienna in 1809, when the Napoleonic wars reached Beethoven’s home city of Vienna. He began work on his last piano concerto amidst the pounding of drums and cannons. We can hear the military brass fanfares and the overall heroic tone that is reminiscent of his third symphony, also in E-flat major. The opening powerful tonic chord from the orchestra is answered immediately by a virtuosic challenge from the piano,

spinning electrifying cadenza-like scale passages after each blast from the orchestra. When the dust settles, the strings take off on a thrilling propulsive expedition through several melodic sections. When the piano returns, it is in a quieter mode, but don't let that fool you! The battle is engaged, with formidable explosions from each party getting closer and closer, until the piano and orchestra are exchanging every other note! The second movement begins quietly, in the aftermath of the skirmish. A simple chorale theme is heard, like a point of meditation and reflection, allowing us to catch our breath. Then, just as the movement ends, the bassoon's long-held note is knocked down by the horns, and the piano picks us up off our feet for a robust celebratory and reconciling dance movement. Guest soloist **Dr. Ching-Ming Cheng**.

Autumn is full of energy! We are looking forward to this season of live performing arts and can't wait to see you at our next big adventure!

E. Weller, Ph.D.

October 2024

## FREE CONCERT HOUR SERIES

A music enrichment series presented for our students and the community. Enjoy a wide range of exciting guest artists and musicians.

Thursdays  
1:00 p.m.



Fall 2024  
and  
Spring 2025

Visit [www.PalomarPerforms.com](http://www.PalomarPerforms.com)

for venue and updated information on dates, artists, and parking.

# Palomar Performing Arts Staff

Department Chairpersons . . . . . Patriceann Mead, Michael Mufson  
House/Box Office Manager. . . . . Heather Murray-Mowery  
Instructional Support – Music. . . . . Tom Daily  
Marketing and Program Coordinator . . . . . Carl Thompson  
Performing Arts Technical Coordinator. . . . . Erik Montierth  
Technical Direction Specialist. . . . . Tony Cucuzzella  
Costume Loft Coordinator . . . . . Chelsea Marsh  
Costume Loft Assistants. . . . . Llewelyn Cruz, Kimberly Kocol

## Stage Crew

Patrick Nuzum and Dmitry Andreyev

**Advertise here to reach  
Palomar College dance, music, and theatre fans!**

Place your business ad in our Performing Arts event program.  
Contact Carl Thompson for details:  
**cthompson2@palomar.edu ★ 760-744-1150 x 3997**



# Performing Arts Circle Donors

As of 10/15/2024

## Patrons

Robert and Happy Moore  
Paul and Linda Kurokawa  
Tim and Alesia Pedone  
Bob and Ellen Weller

## Members

Aaron and Naomi Alter  
Lori Asaro  
Heather Barclay and Sue Schoneman  
Susan Batel  
Bruce Baumann  
Robert Bellfy  
Bruce and Jill Blackwell  
Ellen Blakeborough  
George and Ann Boggs  
Kathy Brombacher  
Jillia Brumidis  
Harry Bubnack  
Clair Burns  
Madelyn Byrne  
Heather Campbell  
Luene and Norm Corwin  
Francoise Dahod  
Tom Daily  
Lorrain Demi and Dan Paris  
Sonja DuFriend  
Rex and Tweet Edmonds  
Adrienne and Robert Feldner  
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund  
Melinda Finn and Peter Phillips  
Karen Floyd  
Yasuko Fosket  
Leslie Frank  
Debra Freeborn  
Maya Ginsberg  
Kumar Goloda  
Samantha Griest  
William and Sharon Griswold  
Susan Hall  
Azim Hariri  
Cynthia Heuer  
Trudy Howell  
Robert and Carolyn Hunter  
Mr. Robert Jaseph  
Connie and George Krell  
Jim and Nancy Kull

Steve Laverson  
Tony and Jan Lazzrus  
Guoya Lui-Simmons  
Eillen Luu  
Rudy Martinez  
Jon and Phylis McCain  
Laurel McMenamin  
Dr Jack and Norma Miyamoto  
Sari Morris  
Joanna Murphy  
Helene L. Nickel  
Linda Nyquis  
Hajime Ohno  
Thelma Pallanes  
Maria Parks  
Sandra Pettit  
Cynthia Poole  
Sanjiv Prabhakaran  
Mike and Minna Riber  
Dorothy Richardson  
Alex and Patricia Rinaldi  
Steven Silverstein  
Richard Simmons  
Genevieve Stepanow  
Jeanette Sullivan  
Virginia Thomas  
April Varga  
Aaron Wildberger  
Carolyn Wildberger & Wildberger Family  
Cecil Wilson  
Jim Yarger



## Join the Circle. Donate Today!

Enhance your **Palomar Performing Arts** experience by contributing to the **Performing Arts Circle**. Your generous donation helps ensure continuing quality in the work created by our inspired faculty, talented students, and dynamic community members. Contributions can be made online at [www.palomarperforms.com](http://www.palomarperforms.com).

# Join Our Mailing List



Join our mailing list and receive weekly news about upcoming shows and special discount offers!

*Ours is a 100% opt-in system; we will not share or sell your information with any other marketing concern.*

**Sign up at [www.palomarperforms.com](http://www.palomarperforms.com) today!**

## **NOW HIRING for work study jobs! GET PAID while you learn!**

**Acquire valuable skills with Palomar Performing Arts**



Learn valuable business/trade skills.  
Work in an exciting and fun environment.  
Get paid while building your resume.

### **Advertising & Community Outreach Assistant**

Carl Thompson  
[cthompson2@palomar.edu](mailto:cthompson2@palomar.edu)

### **Technical Theatre Assistant**

Tony Cucuzzella  
[acucuzzella@palomar.edu](mailto:acucuzzella@palomar.edu)

### **Computer Music Lab Assistant**

Tom Daily  
[tdaily@palomar.edu](mailto:tdaily@palomar.edu)

### **PAD Performance Box Office**

**Window Assistant**  
Heather Murray  
[hmurray@palomar.edu](mailto:hmurray@palomar.edu)

**Learn more: [www.palomarperforms.com](http://www.palomarperforms.com)**

**PALOMAR COLLEGE**  
1140 West Mission Road in San Marcos, CA 92069  
*Tickets and updated information can be found at*  
**[www.PalomarPerforms.com](http://www.PalomarPerforms.com)**



Palomar College is committed to providing a working and learning environment that is free from discrimination and harassment.