

CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECONDARY HONOR CONCERT

2026

Tuesday, March 31

7:00 p.m.



Good evening, and welcome to the CUSD Secondary Honor Concert.

A concert like this does not happen by chance, nor does it happen alone. The countless hours of practice, dedication, passion, and focus required to step onto this stage speak volumes about the character and commitment of our musicians. Their success is made possible by the encouragement and support of those around them. Take a moment to truly enjoy this evening — it is an accomplishment shared by all of you.

In CUSD, our mission is to provide a world-class education that nurtures every aspect of student growth, and that commitment extends beyond the classroom and into the arts. Hosting this concert at a premier venue like Segerstrom reflects the caliber of instruction and performance across our programs. Creating beautiful music requires discipline, creativity, and mastery of theory, composition, and technique. We are proud to cultivate our students' musical talents — whether they pursue careers in the arts or carry their love of music with them into other paths. Music remains a cornerstone of students' cognitive, emotional, and social development.

Thank you to the parents, educators, students, and everyone who helped make this evening possible. I hope you enjoy the performance and leave feeling inspired by the power of music.

Chris Brown, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Capistrano Unified School District

Welcome to the Capistrano Unified School District Secondary Honor Concert.

This evening, we celebrate the exceptional talent, commitment, and achievement of nearly 500 student musicians representing the very best of our secondary programs. Each student on this stage has demonstrated extraordinary dedication, perseverance, and a deep passion for music.

Music education plays a vital role in the growth of the whole child. Through participation in the arts, students develop discipline, teamwork, self-expression, resilience, and an appreciation for excellence and beauty. These experiences extend far beyond the performance stage. The lessons learned through music will serve our students throughout their lives as learners, leaders, and contributing members of their communities.

Our Visual and Performing Arts Department remains steadfast in its belief that arts education is for all students and that every student is capable of achieving extraordinary outcomes when provided with opportunity, support, and high expectations.

An ensemble succeeds only when each individual fully commits to a shared purpose. Every musician plays an essential role. The harmony you will hear is the result of collaboration, trust, and collective effort. In the midst of demanding academic schedules and many daily responsibilities, these students chose to remain dedicated to their craft. That commitment is both impressive and inspiring.

To our parents, teachers, and directors, thank you for the unwavering encouragement and guidance you provide. Your partnership makes evenings like this possible and helps our students realize their full musical potential.

Tonight, we invite you to celebrate their achievement, take pride in their accomplishments, and enjoy the powerful impact of music performed at the highest level.

Jeff Jones
Executive Director, Secondary Curriculum and Instruction

Welcome

Albert Jeung, Master of Ceremonies

Middle School Honor Band

Dr. Jermie Arnold, Conductor

Sunchaser - Carol Brittin Chambers

Chasing Sunlight - Cait Nishimura

Red Giant - Jorge Vargas

Middle School Honor Orchestra

Henry Miller, Conductor

Harvest Ritual - Jeffrey Hart

Cherry Tree - Yukiko Nishimura

Carpe Diem! - Richard Meyer

Middle School Honor Choir

Michael Ushino, Conductor

Oye - Jim Papoulis

This Little Babe (from *A Ceremony of Carols*) - Benjamin Britten

Elijah Rock - arr. Rollo Dilworth

INTERMISSION

High School Honor Choir

Désirée La Vertu, Conductor

Old Joe Clark - arr. Dwight Bigler

Set Me as a Seal - Rene Clausen

Praise His Holy Name - Keith Hampton

High School Honor Symphony Orchestra

Dr. Marshall T. Fulbright III, Conductor

Overture to Candide - Leonard Bernstein

Rodeo - Aaron Copland

I. Buckaroo Holiday

II. Corral Nocturne

III. Saturday Night Waltz

IV. Hoe-Down

Finale

Directed by Dr. Marshall T. Fulbright III

America the Beautiful - arr. Mack Wilberg

MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR BAND

Flute

Lilyanna Andrade
Dainin Chien
Bella DiMatteo
Sophia Farmakis
Ann Nelson
Aryella Orrego

Oboe

Thomas Curtis
Elisa Smith

Bassoon

Natalie Cain

Clarinet

Max Bachtinov
Anagha Balaji
Joie Branch
Joseph Campopiano
Franco Diaz
McKenzie Fenn
Claire Herrera
Bradley Hull
Henry Milward
Nicholas Minter
Cirilo Nicolas
Evelyn Tran
Sam Whitaker

Bass Clarinet

Cyra Farzan
Andrew Greene

Alto Saxophone

Jackson Barbee
Yana Jackson
Mia Mao
Thomas Wilverding

Tenor Saxophone

Arman Muradyan
Brandon Soohoo

Baritone Saxophone

Arrabella Newton
Andrew O'Leary

Trumpet

Haruto Adams
Matteo Bensadoun
Joshua Chickering
Tyler Kerfoot
Oryn Mahanta
Tyler McNulty
Johnathan Ng
Donovan Seyler
Brayden Wales
Zachary Wyman

French Horn

Abigail Julian
Madison Kuhlmann
Marcus Santiago

Trombone

Sutton Brougher
Connor Grable
Elliott Kartchner
Ashley Parker

Euphonium

Ezekiel Ng

Tuba

Omar Martinez
Niko Smith

Percussion

Aradhya Bajpai
Iris Chen
Axton Mutuc
Yuzuki Togi
Angelina Yang
Shilah Yoshimura

MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ORCHESTRA

Violin I

Lullaby Anderson
Cody Areson
Ryan Chou
Isabella Copeland
Ian Fitchett
Ashton Grier
Orion Hsieh
Daigo Kihara
Taylor King
Tristen Lee
Mia Sewell
Giacomo Sleeper
Keira Sorenson
Sloane Swiontek

Violin II

Isabella Chen
Lola Devitt
Alexa Hashemi
Lucca Kolb
Alesso Kolb
James Lee
Madison Lee
Audrey McLeod
Rodean Mirzabeigi
Liam Ngata
Nathan Nguyen
Christiana Ocampo
Miles Park
Sophia Tang
Salina Tsutsumi
Brandon Wang
Tylon Zhou
Maxwell Lander
Felix Ying

Viola

Aaron Chung
Elise Curtis
Henry Dochia
Emma Gao
Katelyn Gettman
Mina Houshyar
Catherine Ji
Joelle Kim
Quintina Loreto
Jack Morrow
Ryan Paye
Maxwell Tse
Elias Williams
Lucas Won

Cello

Adelyn Chang
Evan Farivar
Katelyn Flores
Noah Gleason
Kynan Huynh
Connor Lee
Arin Na
Lea Ocampo
Micah Song
Jonah Stetson
William Tse
Eva Walrath
Darryl Yang
Evan Yang

Bass

Jade Chairez
Scarlett Keller
Matteo Kolb
Luke Reyes
Mallory Schwartz

MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR CHOIR

Claire Abbott
Jenna Abul
Kimberly Alday
Cataleia Aliaga
William Attreed
Spencer Barton
Gabby Bell
Airlie Cheetham
Audrey Chen
Emery CoBilyard
Eisley Collier
Olivia Conrad
Ashlyn Cox
Olive De La Rosa
Brooklynn Edwards
Abbey Egan
Olivia Forsythe
Kammilah Galeana
Juliette Genereux
Skylar Geselowitz
Melanie Gil
Brooklyn Hall
Siyi Hao
Lola Harden
Sasha Hariharan

Chase Harris
Katelyn Hieger
Ashley Hill
Emma Insko
Avery Irving
Ellie Jenrette
Reina Joulain
Sophie Juarez
Shrihaan Karfa
Maryn Knecht
Maya Kotschedoff
Avrielle Krivoy
Evander Lawson
Alex Lewis
Parker Lewis
Evan Li
Megan Liu
Morgan Luke
Gaby McNaughton
Izabelli Mejia
Cora Moore
Maya Nabi
Aditi Nair
Maryam Nalakath
Eli Nguyen

Luna Osorio
Ava Panish
Elliot Parks
Alina Patel
Anasa Pickett
Zoya Rahman
Lila Reynolds
Ember Rieve
Amelia Rodrigues
Autumn Rose
Anabella Scarpone
Riley Schlarb
Ava Schmalle
Lexi Shood
Avery Stotler
Emma Taylor
Mikayla Thomas
Natasha Thomas
Olivia Torres
Shea Voss
Noah Wajner
Lila Wallace
Emily Wang
Arielle Wexler
Abbey Yeh

HIGH SCHOOL HONOR CHOIR

Camila Abarca
Emiliano Abarca
Aurora Affonso Biriba
Rhys Aida
Zacharia Alweheiby
Lekha Ananth
Stephanie Anderson
Alicia Arambarri
Isabella Arbour
Sophia Artemov
Deeksha Arunkumar
Mallory Banfield
Sidney Barter
Isaac Baxter
Douglas Beaver
Gwenalyn Beck
Gunnar Bercot
Lilah Blackwell
Dexter Blanco
Brigham Bourne
Michael Boynton
Jason Brown
Penelope Brown
Dylan Bruette-Riordan
Anya Bryan
Olivia Calkins
Nadia Camerino
Cambria Campbell
William Carlson
Nina Cassia
Michaela Chapman
Sai Chintamaneni
Evie Chong

Maddy Chu
Delaney Cicon
Celeste Cohen
Alex Coleman
Mayah Collins
Alx Cruz
Hailey Curtis
Lily Darougar
Sophie DeLaura
Lila Devine
Ellie Diaz
Dixon Douglas
Talia Doyle
Tori Draper
Sophia duPont-Moore
Spencer Edwards
Addy Engelken
Dylan Firoved
Yasmin Fluss
Kylee Foster
Jewliana Fowler
Mickey Freeman
Zach Frost
Ava Gange-Brown
Kayla Garcia
Leah Gargantiel
Ayla Gelsinger
Lucy Geyer
Mia Gilad
Jacob Goodwyn
Sydney Gordon
Payton Gray
Piper Gubman

Joel Hancock
Hitesh Hariharan
Curren Hawkins
Wyatt Hendrix
Liam Herd
Emma Hoefnagels
Will Hougan
Stella Humphrey
William Hur
Nora Jahromi
Zaid Jarrad
Isaac Jauregui
Magnus Johansson
Aarya Joshi
Tray Kamal
Kasey Kamerschen
Rizan Khan Muhammad
Alexia Kim
Shreya Konidana
Penelope Krueger
Madeline Lai
Mikah Lai
Levi Lanting
Toby Larwin
Colin Lau
Seth Lau
Kade Laucik
Camille Lawrence
Kira Lawton
Haiven Le
Sunshine Lee
Nahla Lemtouni

HIGH SCHOOL HONOR CHOIR

Elle Levesque
Mariah Lewis
Gabriel Lilley
Addison Lim
Madyson Macabale
Scarlett Madsen
Scotlin Malkin
Kate Martin
Kiana Marumoto
Juno Massimei
Konnor McElfish
Isaiah Medina
Alison Meisenzahl
Audrey Molyneux
Sophia Morrison
Madison Morton
Sophie Moss
Camren Motamed
Makayla Naffziger
Derek Neff
Ciela Nelson
Annabel Nguyen
Gwen Nicholas
Gwendolyn Nishti
Kacey O'Brien
Emma Obleas
Taylor Padilla
Amoret Paskowitz

Lucas Pena
Albert Perkins
Ulysses (Uly) Pettigrew
Cooper Petty
Cameron Pham
Kenzee Phillips
Moon Ponce
Owen Pothier
Emalia Probert
Isabella Radmanesh
Bridget Reasoner
Alysa Reichner
Daniel Riberos
Jacob Richards
Aiden Rodriguez
Atticus Rodriguez
Ava Rotz
Susana Rubio-Ruiz
Matthew Ruskin
Calvin Rydell
Alex Santos
Brynn Savage
Ava Schumacher
Marcy Shabanets
Emma Somers
Anayli Soto
Ella Spencer
Maddie Stamer

Alexa Stein
Kona Steinle
Taylor Storie
Soren Swift
Blake Tanner
Nash Tanner
Ash Telford
Marlee Thomas
Jackson Thurman
Maritza Trejo De Leon
Logan Trojak
Katie Trustee
Rockwell Turner
Nicole Valdez
Cade Van Weelde
Aubrey Vaughan
Laila Vetter
Isai Villalobos
Olivia Viscount
Hailey Whelan
Oliver Wilcox
Hayden Wislocki
Charlie Woffinden

HIGH SCHOOL HONOR SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA

Violin

Olivia Bang
Katelyn Besmonte
Chloe Chafin
Olivia Chao
KariAnne Chien
William Chow
Kiyang Ghaffari
Justin Gruita
Zofia Gruszka
Nishka Harish
Izzy Hernandez
Aiden Huang
Claire Huang
Milyne Huynh
Daphne Karr
Timothy Kim
Seth Lau
Caiden Lee
Yuri Lee
Sophia Lee
Diego Lopez-Lopez
Sebastian Mejia
Samuel Missik
Saoirse Murray
Celine Nguyen
Maxwell Nguyen
Benjamin Park
Lana Pholkosol
Elyse Pieratt
Isabella Quijano
Caitlyn Ritchie
Remi Shahriary
Luna Tanaka
Ethan Taylor
Kyle Tsou
Tyler Volpe
Ryan Waung
Charlotte Wheaton
Tom Zhang

Viola

Lucy Contino
Rishabh Dutta
Jonathan Jacquemart
Christian Jenkins
Ethan Lin
Charlotte Love
Kristyn Martinez
Olivia Morrow
Mika Takeuchi

Cello

Elika Bazshushtari
Amelia Chen
Evan Chung
Ida Cohl
Penelope Eckstein
Cameron Golba
Surina Hue
Valerie Kim
Athena Liu
Anna McClory
Emilia Mendoza
Joshua Nieves
Hannah Oh
Evan Putica
Kimiea Shahriari
Kaveh Shahriari
Kian Shirazi
Kevin Thi
Sofia Titus
Andrew Wang
Nathan Wood

Bass

Arran Beckman
Sartaj Benipal
Siloé Bouscatié
Gabriel Campos Fernandez

Tyriq Dao
Leisha Manchanda
Alexandria Ng
Grace Nguyen
Calvin Rydell

Flute

Mayah Castillo
Claira Fragassi
Ryan Kolahdooz
Yuni Yang

Oboe

Jaxson Amari
Immanuel Smith

Clarinet

Mailey Huynh
Ethan King
Sophia Lavenstein Bendall
Shea Luboviski

Bass Clarinet

Aubrielle Elliott
Emily Saw

Tenor Saxophone

Christopher Nichols

Alto Saxophone

Elias Frey
Nicholas Nordby

Bassoons

Brandon Radensky
Noah Shaner

French Horns

Brandon Berry
Declan Campbell
Julianne Heiden
Athen Huynh
Ellie Monahan
Karina Pancholy
Julien Zysman

Trumpets

Jay Hoang
Ayame Huber Munemura
Daylan Jacobs
Noah Kim
Max McKee
Luke McKee
Megan Parker

Trombones

Cooper Adversario
Camille Brady
Matteo David
Matthew Ruskin
Kylee Salagubang

Tubas

Jason Garcia
Jack Steele

Percussion

Maxwell Bustarde
Grayden Donsker
Thomas Healy
Neil Sunny
Spencer Waldron

Piano

Zachary Williams



Dr. Jermie Arnold is the Director of the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music. He was appointed Director of Bands in 2022. As Director of Bands, he is the principal conductor of the Wind Symphony and teaches courses in conducting, and wind band literature. Dr. Arnold completed his DMA in 2014 from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia where his primary mentors were Mark Camphouse, Anthony Maiello, and Dennis Layendecker. Dr. Arnold received his master and bachelor's degrees in music education from Brigham Young University.

Dr. Arnold has presented at State and National conferences around the country. He is published in the *Journal of Band Research*, the *Instrumentalist*, and the *National Band Association Journal*. He has conducted the Bob Cole Conservatory Wind Symphony at National and International conferences and festivals. Dr. Arnold's public-school teaching experience includes 7 years as Director of Bands at American Fork Jr. High School in American Fork, Utah. There his ensembles performed at the National MENC Conference, and the Inaugural Music for All National Middle School Festival. The Utah Music Educators Association recognized Dr. Arnold twice, first with the Superior Accomplishment Award in 2006 and second with the Outstanding Junior High-Middle School Music Educator Award in 2008.



Since graduating from California State University, Long Beach in 1990, Henry Miller has taught instrumental music in the Irvine Unified School District. Currently, he is the Director of Instrumental Music at Sierra Vista Middle School where he teaches three bands, three orchestras, and jazz band. Mr. Miller was recognized as Teacher of the Year by the Irvine Unified School District Fine Arts Department in 1999 and by Sierra Vista Middle School in 2016. Also in 2016, he was designated as the IUSD Middle School Teacher of the year and was a finalist for the Orange County Teacher of the Year. He has been recognized twice by the Orange County Music and Arts Administrators with an "Outstanding Arts Educator Award", and in 2013 received the "Irene Schoepfle Lifetime Achievement Award". In 2017 and 2019, he was one of ten finalists for the National Grammy Foundation Music Educator Award and a 2019 recipient of the Country Music Awards "Music Teacher of Excellence" award. Mr. Miller has presented workshops for several professional organizations on the subjects of trumpet pedagogy and teaching methodology. He has also conducted a variety of ensembles from small community youth groups to those at the university and professional level and honor groups in the Irvine, Long Beach, Capistrano, ABC, and Ocean View School Districts.



Michael Ushino received his Masters in Music in Choral Conducting from the Bob Cole Conservatory at California State University, Long Beach. His conducting mentors include Professor Emeritus Joseph Huszti, Dr. Jonathan Talberg, and Keith Hancock. Michael serves as the director of the San Juan Hills High School Choral/Vocal Arts Department and Vocal Music Conservatory. Under his direction, the San Juan Hills High School Chamber Singers have performed at the California All-State Music Educators Conference in 2023 and 2026. Additionally, the SJHHS Chamber Singers performed at the American Choral Directors Association Western Region Conference in 2024. He has also taken the San Juan Hills High School Choirs on numerous concert tours across the United States and Europe with notable performances at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, France, Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, Spain, and St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. He serves as President of the Southern California Vocal Association and as the Artistic Director of the Men in Blaque. Under his direction, the Men in Blaque received first prize in male voice choirs at the International Musical Eisteddfod in Llangollen, Wales in July 2025.



Désirée LaVertu is a conductor, voice teacher, soprano, and pianist in Los Angeles. She is the Director of Choral & Vocal Activities at Occidental College, where she conducts the Glee Club and College Chorus and teaches voice classes/lessons and conducting. Previously, she was the Glee Club Director at Caltech, and was on the voice faculties of Chapman University and CSULA. She was a member of the Idyllwild Arts Summer Festival Choir from 2004 to 2022. She began her teaching career at the secondary level, teaching middle school and high school for ten years. LaVertu made her Walt Disney Concert Hall debut as soprano soloist in Poulenc's Gloria, conducted by Grant Gershon. Other solo performances include Vaughan-Williams/Dona Nobis Pacem and Fauré/Requiem at Disney Hall, Brahms/Ein Deutches Requiem, Handel/Messiah, and Haydn/Lord Nelson Mass.

LaVertu maintains a busy private studio; her students have sung in professional companies of Rent, Hamilton, and Wicked, and at Frankfurt, Seattle, and Austin Operas, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Opéra National de Bordeaux, Les Arts Florissants, and LAMC. She also works in film/TV, most notably with cast members of Amazon Prime's The Boys. LaVertu received the B.M. in Accompanying from CSU Fullerton and the M.M. in Choral Conducting & Voice from University of Nevada, Reno.



Marshall T. Fulbright III currently serves as the Superintendent/President of Monterey Peninsula College in Monterey, California. Prior to his executive leadership career, he was a full-time tenured music instructor and orchestral conductor, dedicating his early professional life to teaching and performing.

Dr. Fulbright holds a bachelor of music degree in music education and performance from Chapman University and a master of music degree in performance/conducting from the University of California, Santa Barbara. He later earned a doctorate in education from Azusa Pacific University. His teaching career began at the elementary school level and eventually spanned every educational tier, including high school, community college and four-year institutions.

For 11 years, Dr. Fulbright served as Professor of Music and Director of Orchestras at Long Beach City College, where he conducted orchestral ensembles and cultivated student musicianship across a wide range of experience levels. Following his time in the classroom, he transitioned into academic leadership, serving as Dean of Arts and Letters, Vice President of Academic Affairs, and ultimately college president. Throughout his career, he has remained committed to the arts as a powerful vehicle for student development, discipline, collaboration, and expression.

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

We are deeply grateful to our incredible guest conductors—Dr. Jermie Arnold, Marshall T. Fulbright III, Désirée La Vertu, Henry Miller, and Michael Ushino—for the care, time, and artistry they shared with our students.

Thank you to Albert Jeung, our Master of Ceremonies, for your steady support of music and the arts and for always showing up for CUSD students in such meaningful ways.

We are so thankful for our ensemble lead teachers—Elena Benefield, Jason Ezquerro, Keith Hancock, Dean McElroy, Ashley Stevens, and our logistics lead, Andy Waldukat, whose countless hours and dedication made this experience possible for our students.

A huge thank-you to Justin Barnes for everything you do behind the scenes. Your calm leadership and attention to every detail keep our performance running smoothly.

Thank you to Clark Fisher, Director of Performing Arts Center Facilities, for your continued support of the Honor Concerts and the performing arts throughout the district.

We are grateful to the amazing team at Segerstrom for being such wonderful partners and for helping create an unforgettable experience for our students.

Special thanks to Rob Gaul of Brand U for providing our Honor Concert souvenir wear.

To all of our Capistrano Unified music educators—thank you for the passion, care, and commitment you bring to your classrooms every day. Your work changes lives.

Middle School Music Educators:

Elena Benefield, Amber Block, Ashley Bowman, Nancy Enriquez, Jason Ezquerro, Pierre Flores, Alexandra Forester, Ryan Jesch, Jason Ma, Jennifer Maitino, Jeff McGinnis, Richard Perez, Valerie Petty, Elena Rodriguez, Don Schultz, Ashley Stevens

High School Music Educators:

James Caestecker, Jonathan Chen, Yeon Choi, Caroline Dike, Natalie Do, Keith Hancock, Jason Harney, Dean McElroy, Ray Medina, Tony Soto, Michael Ushino, Andy Waldukat, Ella Wyatt

And to our parents and guardians—thank you for your constant encouragement and support of your children's musical journeys. We truly could not do this without you.

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Thank you to the Capistrano Unified Board of Trustees and Administration for continued support of Music Education for all students.

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