



2026 VILLA MUSICA SUMMER ENSEMBLES

Villa Musica Wind Ensemble
Thursday, July 23 at 7:00 pm
Grossmont College Performing Arts Center
El Cajon CA

Villa Musica Full-Orchestra
Saturday, August 14 at 7:00 pm
PLNU Crill Performance Hall
San Diego CA



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Welcome to the 13th season of Villa Musica's Summer Ensembles!



Did you know Villa Musica is a 501(c)(3) non-profit? Our mission is to make music accessible through education, performance, and community engagement. Earlier this Summer, we opened our new Fletcher Hills location, where we can continue to offer private and group lessons to even more of San Diego County. We have grown from a tiny studio with a big dream into a strong, dynamic organization with more than 500+ students enrolled in weekly private lessons, 400+ students enrolled in a group class or ensemble, and another 4,000+ participating in Community Programming at 30 schools, 15 senior centers, and 5 satellites hosted by libraries in low-income neighborhoods across the county. And a portion of those participants are the people you see on stage today.

The Villa Musica Summer Ensembles are made up of a community of musicians aged between 18 and 85. The participants in this program represent a wide range of backgrounds; from amateur players through to emerging professionals. Each player shares a passion for ensemble playing and is especially inspired to gather each summer to share in their joy of making music together.

At Villa Musica, we believe music making creates space for self-expression, creativity, and skill development. But most importantly, music making creates community. Each member plays a crucial role, and by collectively sharing a musical piece, they engage in active listening and the support of one another. This is why students and musicians join our ensembles each summer – to be a part of something greater than themselves and to create harmony with other humans.

Everything we do at Villa Musica is centered around the goal of access to music education. We aim to provide a space for people to explore music in their lives across all facets of the artistic experience – from inspiration to mastery, listening to performing, we seek to nurture personal growth and a connection to a vibrant musical community.

We are thrilled to have you here this evening to enjoy this wonderful program. We hope you will enjoy the concert. And if you are inspired to get involved as more than a listener, please do not hesitate to reach out. We are always looking for new volunteers, board members, and ambassadors who can spread the word of the work we do.

In Music,

Dr. Fiona L. Chatwin
Founder and Executive Director
Villa Musica | San Diego's Community Music Center
E: fchatwin@villamusica.org



<https://villamusica.org/donate>



JAMES BEAUTON — CONDUCTOR, FULL-ORCHESTRA

Conductor and Percussionist James Beauton is currently the Director of Orchestra and Classical Music Studies at the Ruth Asawa School of the Arts in San Francisco. 2023-24 marked his debut season as the Music Director and Conductor of the Winchester Orchestra of San Jose. He also holds the percussion faculty position at San Francisco State University.

Beauton emerged on the orchestral podium in 2019, conducting a performance of Stravinsky's Firebird Suite with the Villa Musica Summer Orchestra in San Diego. Shortly following, he became assistant conductor of the Coachella Valley Symphony, a position that included directing the Buddy Rogers Youth Symphony. James has also held music director positions with Mt. San Jacinto College Concert Band and the UC San Diego Wind Ensemble, and founded and conducted the Villa Musica Chamber Players.

As a concert percussionist, James was the grand prize winner of the 2012 Southern California International Marimba Competition, and performed as a member of Steven Schick's renowned percussion ensemble, red fish blue fish, from 2015-2020. He continues to perform the most demanding music in the solo and chamber percussion repertoire, while advocating for the exploration and commissioning of new works.

Equipped with a mastery of percussion playing, a theoretical background in media theory, and a robust practical application of recording technology, James' scholarly work includes a published dissertation that explores the symbiotic connection of classical musicians and 21st century life.

James earned his Doctorate in Contemporary Music Performance from UC San Diego, a Masters in Percussion from SUNY Stony Brook, and a Bachelors of Music from Michigan State University. James is a Yamaha Performing Artist.



WILLIAM GILMER — CONDUCTOR, WIND ENSEMBLE

William Gilmer, a music educator, bassoonist, and conductor, moved to San Diego after living in the Chicago area for 35 years. He retired from a career as a music educator in Illinois for 33 years, the last 28 spent as the Director of Bands at Willowbrook High School in Villa Park, IL. At Willowbrook he was responsible for the direction of three levels of concert band, a jazz band, the Marching Warrior Band, and the pep band. Further, he guided all of his students as they prepared chamber music and solo performances. The band program at Willowbrook was recognized as one of the outstanding programs in the state and was selected to perform at the conferences of the ASBDA, the NBA, the CBDNA as well as the ILMEA. The band also performed at the Bowling Green State New Music Clinic, the Western Illinois University Band Showcase, and the University of Illinois Superstate Band Festival. The band at Willowbrook was also active in commissioning

several works for band including music by Augusta Read Thomas, Jonathan Newman, William Himes, and Robert Bradshaw. Bill was presented the Mary Hoffman Award for Outstanding Contribution to Music Education by the ILMEA in January 2014.

Following retirement he served as an adjunct professor at Concordia University in River Forest, IL and as the music director for the Des Plaines Community Band, Des Plaines, IL. As a bassoonist, Bill played bassoon and contra bassoon with the Tulsa Philharmonic, the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the West Suburban Community Band, and the Salt Creek Chamber Orchestra. In San Diego is the principal bassoonist with the North Coast Symphony Orchestra and the New City Sinfonia. Bill serves as the president of the Board of Directors for the North Coast Symphony and is the Chair of the Board for Villa Musica.

Bill holds both a Bachelor of Music Education degree and Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Tulsa where he was named the Presser Scholar in music education. He earned his Master of Music degree from Northwestern University and has done post-graduate work at the University of Illinois, Vandercook College of Music, and Northwestern. Bill moved to San Diego when his wife Martha was appointed the CEO of the San Diego Symphony Orchestra.



VILLA MUSICA SUMMER ORCHESTRA

Kaleidoscope of Colors

James Beauton, Conductor

PROGRAM

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*

Donkey Kong Country Symphonic Suite

David Wise (b. 1967), Robin Beanland, Eveline Fischer (b. 1969)
arr. Andrés Soto & James Beauton

INTERMISSION

Les Biches, FP.36

Francis Poulenc (1899–1963)

- I. Rondeau*
- II. Adagietto*
- III. Rag-Mazurka*
- IV. Andantino*
- V. Final*

Pines of Rome

Ottorino Respighi (1879–1936)

- I. The Pine-Trees of the Villa Borghese*
- II. Pine-Trees Near a Catacomb*
- III. The Pine-Trees of the Janiculum*
- IV. The Pine-Trees of the Appian Way*

ENSEMBLE ROSTER

FLUTE

Valerie Chereskin
Erica Gamble (Alto Flute)
Jasmine Mikesell (Piccolo & Pan Flute)

OBOE

Michael Gaby
Eric Guizar (English Horn)
Jenny Shippee

CLARINET

John Dearden
Fran Tonello
James Llamas (Bass Clarinet)

BASSOON

Cullen Blain
Sloan Quessenberry
Dan Weiss (Contrabassoon)

SAXOPHONE

Robert Castro (Soprano)
Brandon Wenning (Alto)
Irving Hernandez (Tenor)
Amin Rahimi (Bari)

FRENCH HORN

Alex Crosthwaite
Audrey Freeman
Liesl Hansen
Monica Palmer
Sandra Petersen

TRUMPET

Alex Brown
Dirk Koman
Keith Laroche
Julie Lees

TROMBONE

Margo Redford
Scott Wooster
Ronald Scipio (Bass Trombone)

TUBA

Derek Lee

HARP

Stefan Wendel

VIOLIN

Peter Clarke, Concertmaster
Aram Akhavan
David Bracher
Gary Brown
Susan Brown
Catherine Chyi
Yi Fu
Judy Gaukel
Patricia Lin
Bryce Newall
Richard Rushton
Roman Virata
Alexander Wang

VIOLA

Franklin Au
Penny Bridges
Gene Fielden
Abigail Meehan
Ariel Schwartz

CELLO

Ed Annavedder
Gabrielle Carr
Erik Hinterbichler
Ava Johnson
Mark Sawyer
Theresa Sze
Cliff Thrasher
Stacey Urbin

STRING BASS

Leif Andersen
Sarah Habib
Elida Kocharian
Jac Ostrie

PERCUSSION

Chris Amaro (Principal)
Liam Doran
Owen Hertz
Matthew LeFebvre
Ari Shiller
Juan Soto

PIANO & ORGAN

Richard Rushton
Jack Wang

ELECTRIC GUITAR – Donkey Kong

Lucas Alston

BASS GUITAR – Donkey Kong

Kikka Aisu

OFFSTAGE BRASS – Pines of Rome

Richard Almanza
Rachel Doolittle
Dirk Koman
Steven Nguyen
Sandra Petersen



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Season 18: CONVERSATIONS

Save the dates:

One Dialogue, Two Conversations

Saturday, September 19 2026
7pm San Dieguito United Methodist

Mysterious and Magnificent

Sunday, December 6 2026
4pm San Diego First United Methodist

The Light Between Us

Sunday, February 28 2027
4pm Chapel at Liberty Station

Love Letter to the Earth

Saturday, April 24 2027
7pm Clairemont Lutheran Church

Love Oriented in the Same Direction

Sunday, June 6 2027
4pm Chula Vista First United Methodist

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2832 Fletcher Parkway,
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Lessons offered in:

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- Voice
- Drums
- Violin
- Viola
- Clarinet
- Guitar
- Electric Bass
- Saxophone



★ FLETCHER HILLS

Email: adminfh@villamusica.org

POINT LOMA

Lessons held: Wednesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays

All Soul's Episcopal Church
1475 Catalina Blvd, San Diego, CA 92107

Lessons offered in:

- Piano
- Voice
- Violin
- Viola
- Double Bass
- Guitar
- Electric Bass



★ POINT LOMA

Email: adminsv@villamusica.org

REGISTER NOW!



FLETCHER HILLS

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A special thanks to
Grossmont College Music Department and
Point Loma Nazarene University Music Department
for hosting our rehearsals

OUR TEAM:

Aram Akhavan – VMSO Founder

Aaron Bullard – Director of Community Partnerships

Dan Weiss – Ensembles Manager

Alexandra Huryn – Music Librarian/Admin Support

Ciara Dabkowski – Poster Art



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And our amazing musicians...



Without music, life would be a mistake.

– Fredrich Nietzsche



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