

# NEWS NOTES

**LA Phil Affiliates**



## *A Farewell Note* **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

*As I come to the close of my term as President of COPW at the end of this fiscal year on May 31st, it is both a moment of reflection and of heartfelt gratitude.*

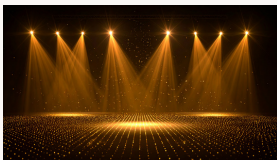
*It has been a true privilege to serve the members of COPW in support of the Los Angeles Philharmonic. What has made this journey especially meaningful is the extraordinary spirit of our community, the men and women of our membership, along with our fellow Affiliate Committees and the dedicated LA Phil staff, working together so seamlessly, like an extended family. Each of you brings your unique talents and generosity, united by a shared love of music and the arts.*

*Together, we have celebrated not only the beauty of great performances, but also the passion and vision of our beloved Music Director and Conductor, whose commitment continues to inspire our city and enrich its cultural life.*

*I am delighted to welcome Maria Moore as the incoming President of COPW. I have every confidence that under her leadership, COPW will continue to thrive and grow. I look forward to supporting Maria and the Board in my continuing roles as Ex-Officio President and Chair of the Nominating Committee, whenever I am not traveling!*

**Ratna Jones,  
COPW President**

## **BRAVO TO OUR VOLUNTEERS**



**April is Volunteer Appreciation Month**, and COPW is proud to celebrate the dedication and generosity of our members.

From supporting **Symphony for Youth and Schools** to **hosting events** and **building community** through music, our volunteers make a meaningful difference all year long.

Thank you for all you do. We are truly grateful.



## **Mark Your Calendar for a Memorable May Afternoon**

**Saturday, May 23**

Plans are underway for our upcoming **Installation Meeting and Silent Auction** on Saturday, May 23, and it promises to be a truly special gathering for our COPW community. Set in the outdoor patio at **A Food Affair**, the afternoon will feature fine French cuisine, time to connect with fellow members, and a festive Silent Auction. We are especially delighted to welcome flautist **Catherine Karoly of the Los Angeles Philharmonic**, who will provide beautiful musical entertainment for the occasion.

**The Silent Auction** is always a highlight of this event, and we warmly invite members to contribute items. *Experiences, gift items, services, and creative or handmade pieces are all welcome. Donations of all types and values help make the event both fun and successful in support of our mission.*

*To donate an item or learn more, please contact Cec at [cecschulman@gmail.com](mailto:cecschulman@gmail.com)*

*We hope you will plan to join us for this lovely afternoon of music, friendship, and celebration*



## RECENT COPW MUSICAL GATHERINGS

Over the past months, COPW members have enjoyed a wonderful series of musical gatherings, while also welcoming nine new members who bring fresh energy and a shared love of music and service.

On Saturday, January 31, 2026, members gathered at St. Bede's Episcopal Church for the Annual Meeting, followed by a beautiful Baroque organ concert performed by **Frank Basile**. The program also included 100+ Years of Stars, Under the Stars, an engaging presentation highlighting the rich history of the Hollywood Bowl and its lasting impact on Los Angeles' cultural life, presented by our own **Alison Maggart and Vito Shrivastava**. The afternoon concluded with a lovely Mediterranean lunch, graciously hosted by **Annette Colfax and Rea Crane**, offering members time to relax, connect, and enjoy one another's company.



On March 14, 2026, COPW welcomed prospective members and guests to a delightful afternoon at the historic home of Barbara Jones, graciously hosted by Rea Crane and Daphne Moote. The gathering featured a special performance by violist **Dana Lawson of the Los Angeles Philharmonic**.

The program included works by Johannes Brahms and Johann Sebastian Bach, including Brahms' Intermezzo for Piano, beautifully showcasing the rich, expressive sound of the viola. Performed in an intimate setting, the music created a warm experience, allowing guests to connect more closely with the artistry. Following the performance, guests enjoyed a lovely selection of savory and sweet refreshments provided by the Board. **Rea Crane** then shared highlights of COPW's history, and **Barbara Jones** spoke about the history of her home, adding a meaningful and personal dimension to the afternoon.



On February 1, 2026, several COPW members attended the **All Affiliates Gala, Boutique and Silent Auction at the Jonathan Club**.

This festive and well-attended event brought together LA Phil Affiliates in support of the organization's programs and community initiatives. Members shared a table with participants from the LA Phil Affiliates Speakers Bureau and enjoyed connecting with fellow supporters of music and music education.

All Affiliates Gala Chair Vikki Sung extended a heartfelt thank you to all those involved in the execution and sponsorship of this successful event. **She reported net revenue of \$141,750, including \$50,000 raised through a paddle raise benefiting YOLA.** The remaining \$91,705 will support the Los Angeles Philharmonic and its programs.



Members had the pleasure of meeting and taking a photo with violinist Ray Chen.



## MOMENTS FROM OUR RECENT GATHERINGS

### Annual Meeting and Organ Concert at St. Bede's



### Scenes from Our Prospective Members Event



#### COPW Board

President: [Ratna Jones](#)

Vice-president: [Mary Helen Ewan](#)

Secretary: [Taffia Kennedy](#)

Treasurer: [Inez Lopez](#)

Parliamentarian/Past President: [Bee Campbell](#)

#### COPW Committee Chairs 2025–2026

Activities – [Rea Crane](#)

Roster – [Ed Hirsch](#)

Symphonies for Youth Tickets - [Mary Helen Ewan](#)

News Notes – [Daphne Moote](#)

Membership – [Maria Moore](#)

Nominating – [Bee Campbell](#)

Friends of the LA Phil – [Open](#)

Volunteering – [Open](#)



# PASADENA SHOWCASE 2026

This year, the **Pasadena Showcase House of Design** will be held from **April 19 to May 17, 2026**. Once again COPW will be one of the many organizations providing volunteers for this very worthy cause.

The Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts is an all-volunteer organization, which began as the Pasadena Junior Philharmonic Committee in 1948, dedicated to supporting music education and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. As the name changed, the focus on youth music education endured and expanded to support more than 200 music and arts programs throughout Southern California.

Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts has established itself as one of the largest local funders for music and the arts, from the proceeds of the Pasadena Showcase House of Design. **COPW will be paid \$50 for every shift worked by our volunteers.** These funds go to support COPW's efforts to bring classical music to disadvantaged children. This volunteer opportunity is organized independently of the LA Phil.

**If you are unable to volunteer, please consider making a donation of \$50, or any amount, as these contributions are used for purchasing tickets for the LA Phil Concerts for Youth.**

Donations can be sent via **Zelle** to [laphilcopw@gmail.com](mailto:laphilcopw@gmail.com) or a **check** can be mailed to: **Inez Lopez, COPW's Treasurer, at: 939 Ridgecrest St., Monterey Park, CA 91754.** Please note on the check that the funds are for PSH donation.



## SHARING THE GIFT OF MUSIC WITH OUR COMMUNITY

COPW has been fortunate to have the opportunity to help children and their families enjoy the wonderful world of classical music for many years by donating symphony tickets to organizations that serve underserved communities.

**Below is a description of the agencies that have been recipients of concert tickets for the 2025 to 2026 Symphony for Youth concerts. COPW purchased 180 tickets for this season.**

**HillsidesCare** provides comprehensive mental health treatment for children and adolescents. They are located in Pasadena.

**Hathaway Sycamores**, now Sycamores, serves children, youth, and families in Southern California by offering behavioral health services, housing support, family resources, and foster care and adoption services. They are located in the Highland Park area of Los Angeles.

**1736 Family Crisis Center** offers lifesaving support for victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, homelessness, and poverty in the Los Angeles area. House of Ruth provides empowering transitional housing and supportive services for homeless battered women and children in the Los Angeles area.

**Upward Bound House** provides housing, supportive services, and advocacy, helping families with children access basic resources and transition into permanent housing.

**Hope Street Margolis Family Center** partners with **California Hospital Medical Center** and serves as an access point for educational, early childhood, social, and health care services for low income working families in downtown and South Los Angeles.

**International Institute of Los Angeles** provides refugees, immigrants, and low income individuals with skills and resources to become self sufficient.

Two of the above agencies have changed their programs and will no longer be working with children ages 5 to 11, the target audience for the Symphony for Youth concerts.

*Suggestions for agencies or organizations that might benefit from tickets for the 2026 to 2027 season are welcome.*

**Thank You, Mary Hellen**

# Introducing Our NEWEST MEMBERS



## Meet Laura Jane Kessner

Laura Jane  
Kessner: Attorney  
and Lover of the Arts

Laura Jane Kessner is an attorney with a deep love for the arts, including reading, ballet, opera, and documentary films. Her favorite place to enjoy the Los Angeles Philharmonic is at the Hollywood Bowl with a picnic basket, and she especially enjoys Baroque music.

Originally from Owensboro, Kentucky, Laura Jane came to Los Angeles for law school in 1990 and has called it home ever since. She is active in the community, serving on the boards of the Culver City Education Foundation and United Friends of the Children, and is a member of St. Bede's Episcopal Church.

In her free time, Laura Jane enjoys spending time with her husband and two cats while taking in as many arts experiences as possible.

## Meet Gail Roff

Gail Roff: Lifelong  
Arts Supporter and  
Community Advocate



We are pleased to welcome **Gail Roff** to COPW. Her lifelong appreciation for the arts and deep commitment to community make her a wonderful addition to COPW.

Originally from Cleveland Heights, Ohio, she moved to Los Angeles with her family in 1954. From an early age, her parents introduced her and her sister to classical concerts, theater, and jazz, instilling a lasting love of the arts through shared experiences. As an adult, she became a regular concertgoer and later a subscriber to the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

Today, she is a Legacy Donor and Clark Society member and values opportunities such as invitational rehearsals, special events, and supporting programs like YOLA. A retired teacher, she finds particular meaning in helping bring music to young people.

In addition to her involvement with COPW, she has a long history of service in the LGBTQ+ community. Alongside her late partner, she helped lead Friends of Project 10, Inc. for over 30 years, supporting LGBTQ+ youth through programs such as the nation's first LGBTQ+ Youth Prom, the Models of Excellence Scholarship program, and the Models of Pride conference. She remains active with Lambda Legal and continues to support organizations that advocate for equality.

In her free time, she enjoys traveling and has visited all seven continents. She also stays active walking her dog, playing pickleball, and attending concerts and plays. More recently, she has created a unique way of bringing people together by hosting monthly international dinner parties in her home, now connecting over 100 people through food and conversation.

**Enjoy this peek at COPW members volunteering with Symphony for Youth and Schools.**

It is always a joyful and rewarding experience, from welcoming students to helping everything run smoothly. Volunteers share in the excitement as young audiences experience live music, often for the very first time, and when space allows, volunteers often have the opportunity to attend the concert.” The energy, enthusiasm, and smiles of the students make it a truly special way to support the LA Phil’s mission.



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# NEWS FROM THE LA PHIL



## *Did You See This?*

*The LA Phil has announced that rising conductor **Anna Handler** will begin a three year term as Conductor in Residence starting in the 2026 to 2027 season. A former Dudamel Fellow, she has quickly become an exciting presence on the international stage and recently led performances at both Walt Disney Concert Hall and the Hollywood Bowl to great acclaim.*

*During her residency, she will conduct orchestral programs, participate in chamber music, and collaborate with YOLA, continuing the LA Phil's commitment to engaging new audiences. We look forward to seeing her continued work with the orchestra in the seasons ahead.*

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## DID YOU KNOW?

### Hidden Gems & Member Resources on our Website

Our website's Events page is the best place to stay up to date on upcoming COPW activities and gatherings. From concerts and special programs to social events and volunteer opportunities, it is your go-to resource.

You will also find photos from recent events, a great way to relive special moments and see what fellow members have been enjoying. Be sure to check back regularly for the latest details and updates as new events are added throughout the year.

<https://www.copw.org/events.html>



## **COPW SUMMER MUSIC WEEKEND IN SAN LUIS OBISPO**

Join fellow COPW members for a special summer getaway at the Festival Mozaic in San Luis Obispo, taking place July 31 through August 2, 2026.

The weekend features a Friday evening chamber concert, Saturday dinner at Buona Tavola followed by an orchestra performance at the Performing Arts Center, and a relaxed Sunday brunch at Novo Restaurant and Lounge along the creek. Optional Thursday events are also available for those who wish to extend their stay.

Set against the beautiful Central Coast, this promises to be a memorable weekend of music, friendship, and shared experiences.

**Learn more and reserve your spot:**

**<https://www.copw.org/mozaic-music-festival-.html>**

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### **SCOTT YOO NEWS: NOW HEAR THIS PREMIERES APRIL 10**

In addition to his work with Festival Mozaic and the Mexico City Philharmonic, **Scott Yoo** serves as host and executive producer of *Now Hear This*, a PBS series that blends travel, food, history, and music for audiences across the country. Scott returns this season to explore the lives and works of Johannes Brahms and Scott Joplin, along with musical journeys to Istanbul and Iceland. Along the way, he connects with performers, composers, and local traditions, offering a rich and engaging look at music in context.



Upcoming episodes:

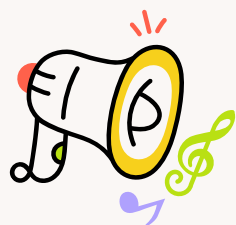
April 10 — Brahms: Free But Alone

April 17 — Everyone Loves Joplin

April 24 — The Call of Istanbul

May 1 — The Iceland Sound

Fridays at 9/8c on PBS. Episodes are also available on PBS.org and the PBS app.



## A Special Opportunity at Our Silent Auction

As we prepare for our upcoming Silent Auction, members will once again have the opportunity to bid on a COPW Founders Membership!

COPW holds five Founders Memberships, originally purchased many years ago for a total of \$25,000. Today, these memberships are valued at \$100,000, payable over five years, and include an annual fee of \$1,000.

Founders Members receive a preferential parking pass for the Music Center and Walt Disney Concert Hall parking lots, with access from the Hope Street side. Regular parking fees still apply. Members also have the opportunity to dine in the Founders Room at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Disney Hall, and the Ahmanson Theatre, with advance reservations and menu selections required.

Each spring, COPW members may bid on one of these memberships at our Silent Auction. A membership may be shared by two people, and the COPW President receives one half of a Founders Membership during their term.

This special opportunity will be available at our Silent Auction on Saturday, May 23, 2026.



## LA PHIL UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Thursday, May 7** – Learning Invited Rehearsal – Volunteer Opportunity
- **Thursday, June 9** – Invitational Rehearsal – Hollywood Bowl
- **Saturday, June 20** – Hollywood Bowl Opening Night
- **Friday, July 3** – *Affiliates Night at the Bowl*
- **Thursday, August 27** – Invitational Rehearsal – *Hollywood Bowl*



## COPW UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 23	Executive Board Mtg.
MAY 7	Full Board Mtg.
<b>MAY 23</b>	<b>INSTALLATION Meeting</b>
JUNE 13	In & Out Meeting
JULY 31-AUGUST 2	Mozaic Festival