



Tiffany Brannan (Soprano)

The Pacific Lyric Association is one of my favorite opera companies in Southern California with whom to perform. They bring together talented artists of varying backgrounds, not just from San Diego but from all over the state. It's a really great opportunity to meet other artists from different areas. Being in two of their shows has been a huge step in my opera career, leading to lasting business relationships and friendships. The longer rehearsal process allows these relationships to form while the show is seasoning. PLA also offers North County audiences the great opportunity of seeing grand operas with full cast and chorus, fully staged and with a live orchestra, in their own backyard! This company is a great asset to the Southern California performing arts community."



Devon Glenn (Soprano)

The Pacific Lyric Association brought opera back into my life after 10 years of silence. There's always a moment during rehearsal when the beauty of the music hits me, and I remember why I became a singer. I love being a part of this community of musicians.

Each year I can count on seeing old friends and making new ones, because we draw in good singers from all over the world. The productions are so consistently good that I'm proud to invite family and friends to watch us perform with a full orchestra in two beautiful venues. Last year I got to talk to some of the children who came to see *Carmen*, and they loved it even more than the adults. I hope this organization will be around for years to come.



Robert Shaeffer (Baritone)

La Traviata is my fifth production singing with the Pacific Lyric Association. The PLA plays a valuable role in the cultural life of San Diego County. It is the only local company, other than the much larger and well-funded San Diego Opera, to regularly present full-scale productions of well-loved, classic operas like *Carmen*, *Tosca*, *La Traviata*, *Die Fledermaus*, etc. This creates many valuable opportunities for local singers to build their performance skills and prepare for future engagements in the opera world. It also provides the opportunity for local audiences to experience professional-quality opera performances at less cost, and in a more intimate setting, than in the larger opera houses. Thus the PLA plays a valuable role that benefits local singers, and local audiences as well.



Ella Yewoon (Soprano)

The support and dedication of PLA to local singers like me have been truly remarkable. PLA's commitment to developing local artists is evident in the numerous performance opportunities and auditions they organize regularly. Not only do they provide an opportunity for local singers to shine, but also their performances bring cultural and artistic inspiration to the community.



Jack Adkins (Tenor)

(I recently returned to San Diego after studying for my masters degree in vocal performance at the Jacobs School of Music in Indiana. I was thrilled to learn of the Pacific Lyric Association and their high quality regional productions. I jumped at the chance to audition and am thrilled to have joined the cast of La Traviata! Opportunities to perform with professional level directors, musicians and artisans such as PLA are essential to the development of emerging artists, like myself. Most of all, the community is served well by the inclusion of classical music education and performances that may reach a regional audience. Thank you for your support!



Emma Berggren (Soprano)

Pacific Lyric Association allows me to debut the amazing role of Violetta in La Traviata this fall while learning from wonderful colleagues in order to grow as an artist and performer. With Carlos Oliva as the president Pacific Lyric Association also creates a sense of community and family which you can tell by returning chorus members and enthusiastic singers driving from far distances to be a part of this group. I also love that the Pacific Lyric Association sees the importance of telling the story of an opera by providing adequate time for staging rehearsals and by choosing a stage director who focuses on bringing out the relationships between the characters. Pacific Lyric Association also places the opera in the time period and country that the composer intended which allows for all the artists and audience members to have a glimpse into the past and our history.



Lily Berthold (Soprano)

Southern California severely lacks affordable, high caliber arts that are accessible to the general public, and I see that Pacific Lyric Association is paving the way leading by example to bring first-rate classical music to its community. The work PLA does not only brings art to the community, but it also employs many local artists. PLA provides opportunities for singers of varying levels to develop their skills and network with other professionals in their field; working for a company at the caliber of PLA is an honor and joy as a young artist.



Emma Ginzel (Mezzo Soprano)

Pacific Lyric Association has provided me a place to explore what it means to be a professional level singer in a safe, nurturing, and professional environment. As a recent music school graduate, it can be difficult to make the transition from school into professional work, PLA has helped me bridge that gap and connected me to a vibrant community of singers and musicians. I feel so blessed to be apart of this organization and I am excited for the future ahead!



Hiroko Yoshinaga (Mezzo)

PLA is a very rare organization, which stays classy, strong, organized, and delivers the true beauty of opera. It's like a secret treasure which not many people know about, but it happens to be close to where I live. I live in Southern California where there are sports and beach culture but not really an artistic culture. PLA just blossoms its opera culture with classical orchestra music, professional opera singing, classy costumes, and opera productions by European composers.



Sara Frondoni (Soprano)

Pacific Lyric Association has helped me so much in my craft, artistry, and musicality. Every time I am at rehearsal, I learn something new about the art of opera singing. This organization has given me the opportunity to further develop as a classical singer. This company is professional, educational, and inspiring. I am excited about auditioning for more productions in the future. I am so grateful to be a part of this incredible organization.

## ORCHESTRA

Andrew Young (French Horn)

My conscious love for listening to music began at the age of 5 when I first watched Disney's Fantasia, shortly followed by Fantasia 2000, which had just been released at the time. Something about how the music was able to tell such imaginative stories and be interpreted in such amazing ways had me in awe. Coming from a non-musical family, it didn't occur to me whatsoever that I could someday be a part of creating the music I was hearing in those films. Fast-forward to 5th grade, and I found myself in the elementary school band room because my mother had suggested that I go try an instrument to see if I would be interested. Soccer was my primary focus at the time, but I figured it would be worth looking around. Trumpet, trombone, and drums were the instruments I had written down (mostly because those were the only ones I knew the names of), but the band director handed me a French horn to take home and said, "Play this one, you'll be good at it!" As a 5th grader, that's all it took to convince me, so horn it was, much to the confusion of my mother. My love for playing horn began at the end of my sophomore year of high school. I was still fully into soccer, but occasionally practiced horn when I had a solo to work on in band at school. One day toward the end of the school year, a recent graduate from Northwestern University came to coach the horns and brought us each a homemade mixtape CD of horn ensemble music. That man and his CD changed the course of my life. I had no idea that there was a world of musical possibility beyond the band room, and he opened my eyes. My mother gifted me four horn lessons for my birthday, each a few weeks apart over the summer, and I was immediately hooked. My horn teacher worked me hard and I was eager to improve. Since then, I have delved more deeply into teaching and want to lift up future generations of music performers and listeners to inspire and be inspired. I hope that my time in this orchestra can help to bring quality music to the community and support the teaching mission of our directors.

Darren Fujii (Trombone)

Originally from San Diego, I started on trumpet in 5th grade, taking inspiration from my older brother who played flute through high school. My parents have always been incredibly supportive and encouraging throughout my career, and helped get me started by fostering an active interest in music from a young age. They always had different kinds of music playing around the house and in the car, which definitely played a part inspiring me to pick up an instrument. Eventually, I switched to euphonium in middle school,

in part due to difficulties I was experiencing playing trumpet with braces on. I later picked up trombone in high school and continued to play it as a secondary instrument in various ensembles throughout high school and college, although I didn't receive regular lessons on it until grad school. In 2015 and 2016, I spent two summers marching in Drum Corps International (DCI) as a member of the Phantom Regiment Drum & Bugle Corps. After completing my undergraduate studies at University of Rochester in 2017, I attended the University of Oregon, graduating in 2020 with a Master of Music degree in Multiple Brass Instrument Performance in the areas of euphonium, tenor trombone and tuba. I currently coach low brass students at San Marcos High School, and during the fall season I worked as marching band instructor at a few different high schools. I plan to continue developing my teaching skills by working with students around the area, as a way of "paying it forward" in appreciation for everything I received from the various teachers I learned from over the years. In addition to freelancing and teaching privately, I've been taking auditions on euphonium for different military bands as they become available, with the goal of eventually winning a job with one of the Premier Bands based in Washington, D.C. Thank you so much for helping make this Youth Orchestra possible!

T'Yara Lesueur (Viola)

Every day for the past eight years, I have dedicated my life to the pursuit of my passion for music, ensuring every moment I spend bettering my musicianship contributes to my journey. When I started playing the viola at the age of nine, I majored in music at La Mesa Arts Academy Charter (LMAAC) before being accepted to The San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts for high school. It brings me great joy to collaborate with other musicians while learning new ideas. It's my ultimate goal to use these connections, as well as my education, to eventually become a post-secondary educator and chamber musician so I may inspire others to find joy in the beauty of sound like my professor did for me.

Eric Burke (French Horn)

I started in my 5th grade music program playing the trumpet. In middle school I played the trumpet and the euphonium under the instruction of Gary Mollenkopf, who taught me the fundamentals of reading music and having fun while playing. I was so fortunate to attend a school that supported a big music program. In the eighth grade I joined the San Diego Youth Symphony. In high school I was told they needed a French Horn player and was not really given a choice, looking back, I was very lucky. A very good memory I have is of being invited by a friend to attend an East County Youth Symphony concert under the direction of Alexandra Keegan. I was so impressed by the level of music they were playing, I auditioned and joined the group. In the ECYS I was given the most amazing opportunity to play full symphonies and my level of playing skyrocketed. My passion and love for music has grown into my adulthood, where I have created professional music connections, lifelong friendships, and a hobby that brings me so much joy and will last for the rest of my life. I hope the youths that are participating in the Pacific Lyric Association Youth Symphony can be inspired the way I was.

Ben Boyarko (Violin)

From a very early age music has been an activity that has put me in a state of flow, 'the state of heightened awareness and tunnel vision focus on the task at hand, where time subjectively slows down around you.' At the time I didn't know why I enjoyed playing, but now I can characterize the intense, incredible feeling of cleaning playing a Chopin Etude on the piano or being a part of a collective group of musicians playing a Beethoven masterpiece. I have been playing piano and violin for 12 years, previously studying piano with Odile Richart and Anna Stahl, and violin with Ondrej Lewit. I have previously played with Civic Youth Orchestra, UCSD Chamber Orchestra, Grossmont Symphony Orchestra, and Palomar Symphony Orchestra.

This is my first time playing with Lyric association orchestra, and I am excited to play two pieces which I have waited years to have the opportunity to play, Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet and Korsakov's Scheherazade. My future plan is to enter medical school in August 2022 (school TBD) with the career goal of becoming an emergency room physician or neurologist. Surprisingly, in my experience, music and medicine have many parallels. Good physicians are akin to orchestra conductors: they should be able to lead a team coherently, listen attentively to their patients, and keep their ship well-oiled and running smoothly. Music will always be a part of my life, and I hope to continue exploring the bridges and similarities between music and medicine-whether that be its ability to touch our souls or bring genuine human connection to those around us.

Andrew Pak (Trumpet)

I am a trumpet performance major here at San Diego State University. I aspire to be a part of the music industry whether it is playing in a symphony, teaching, or anything in the music business. Music congregates people with sounds and melodies and to be a part of that experience is very rewarding.

Reagan Ochalek (Violin)

My family and my teachers have been a huge source of inspiration for my music career. Along with them, seeing professional orchestras perform inspires me to become better at my craft. I enjoy seeing people do things they love, and being in an orchestra means I am surrounded by those who share my passion and love for music. In the future I hope to be a radiologist as I am fond of the medical field, though music is something I will carry with me throughout the rest of my life. My violin and bow have become extensions of myself and allow me to be who I am today and express the amazings that is music.

Corey Wickline (Trumpet Mentor)

As a young musician who recently graduated in 2019 from the University of Cincinnati, CollegeConservatory of Music (CCM), a leading conservatory in the country, I have developed a mission statement and purpose for my music that I am gradually living out each day as my career unfolds. My mission is to spread the joy of several different styles and genres of music to as many listeners as I can in as many spaces as I am able to in an effort to make the largest impact that I can. As a freelance musician in San Diego and Southern California, there are many opportunities for me to carry out this mission whether it be in churches, at bars/clubs, local parks or performing arts venues. I am constantly finding new spaces to play, new people to play for, and an ever expanding list of repertoire to perform all the time, and I am so thankful for the chance that I get to make a difference through performance. I also believe it is important to pass on excellence in music to the next generation(s) of musicians, and I intend to impart my knowledge to those who have the potential to be inspired like I was. I currently privately teach eleven young and old trumpet students and coach trumpet/brass sections around San Diego. The opportunity to play in a group like PLAYS, where older and more established musicians get to work with youth in San Diego, is invaluable to the development of young adults and musicians, and I am so grateful to get to be a part of their journey in all the ways that I can be.

Jason Rossi (Flute Mentor)

What I love most about music is that it brings people from all walks of life together. There is something about an orchestral performance that just brings music to life. Every performance has its own unique charm, passion and story to give to the audience. As an avid performer in the Southern California area and the Pacific Lyric Association, I love being able to help mentor those who have a passion for music and see

their excitement for performing whether that be great orchestral works like this program, smaller ensembles or as a soloist.