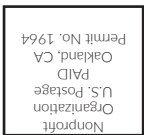


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1440 Broadway Ste 405
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Maestro Michael Morgan and musicians

Grace Notes is Edited by **Anne Cademenos** and Ty Walker * Written by **Andrea Sharkey** and Anne Cademenos * Designed by **Ty Walker** * Inspired by **Your Oakland Symphony Community**

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Grace Notes

Oakland Symphony | Oakland Symphony Youth Orchestra | Oakland Symphony Chorus



Teddy Abrams

Music As Passion

Teddy Abrams joined Oakland Symphony Youth Orchestra (OSYO) in the late 1990's, at age 10. He is now Music Director of the Louisville Orchestra and the Britt Festival in Jacksonville, OR. When asked to join the OSYO tour to Cuba, Mexico, and Costa Rica as the bass clarinetist, he was so small and the clarinet

was so large, he had to sit on phone books to perform.

"We performed side by side with the youth orchestra in Havana. They clearly loved playing music and were so free and talented and good. They made it fun instantly." He was dazzled by the music and its role in the lives of Cubans: "anywhere you went, there'd be a couple folks just playing or jamming."

OSYO is a formative experience for participants. Teddy says,

"If you find your real passion as a musician at that age, then you can convert that into what you actually want to do later on...the best preparation is to make sure that you have those magical moments as a youth, where you're just doing nothing but your art."

Music As Celebration

On January 17, Oakland Symphony and its partners in the arts and cultural community of Oakland presented **"Oakland Salutes Madame Vice President: A Virtual Inaugural Ball & Hometown Celebration."** More than 5,000 households viewed this event on YouTube and Facebook Live that day with thousands more watching since then.



Vice President Kamala Harris in Oakland, CA / The Chronicle

Dear Friends,

Welcome to 2021, a New Year full of hope and promise. On January 17, Oakland Symphony convened more than twenty artists and organizations to produce the streamed event, **"Oakland Salutes Madame Vice President: A Virtual Inaugural Ball & Hometown Celebration."** With thousands of local and far-flung viewers tuning in together, Oakland's rich arts and culture community celebrated Oakland-born Kamala Harris's achievement.

The project represents the most ambitious Symphony collaboration yet with partners spanning multiple disciplines, genres and generations. In these unprecedented times, your support enables Oakland Symphony to lead, unite and bring a vision of hope to our community through music and education.



Dr. Mieko Hatano

Thank you for championing the powerful work of Oakland Symphony. **You make everything possible.**

Gratefully,

Dr. Mieko Hatano
Executive Director

Meet the Musician: Ward Spangler



Ward Spangler

Ward Spangler, Principal Percussionist with Oakland Symphony, has been playing drums since the age of 9.

Born and raised in Alameda, he started in school and local rock bands, improvising and teaching himself to be a drummer. He didn't start formal education until college where he learned to read music.

What he loves about playing with Oakland Symphony is that the music and programs are accessible to all of Oakland.

He has been a MUSE mentor for 15 years. Teaching is challenging and since COVID, he has learned to shift his techniques and to be more patient.

The students are eager to learn and have come to feel the importance of communicating through music.

"I feel like I've become a better teacher because of this. It's very rewarding."

When not playing with the Symphony, Ward composes "sound baths" he originally created for his yoga practice. They help relax and immerses you in mindfulness. This has been a great creative outlet for him during these difficult times.

Music As Comfort and Joy

Whether it's for the love of singing or playing cello, music enriches the lives of chorister **Karen Ivy** and MUSE cellist **Quentin Collins**.

Karen Ivy in 1999 was given a flyer by a co-worker showing that Oakland Symphony Chorus (OSC) was to perform Joseph Haydn's Mass in Time of War. She always



Karen Ivy

wanted to sing that piece, so she auditioned and was accepted. She loves singing and has been singing with other choruses and groups since high school.

"I enjoy the feeling of performing with a large group. The Chorus provides me with not just music but fellowship, even now when we can't sing together in person."

Karen's involvement has deepened over the years to include countless volunteer hours and generously supporting Oakland Symphony as a donor. Supporters like Karen, who care deeply about Oakland Symphony and the Oakland Symphony Chorus, are ensuring the organization will emerge successfully—singing, playing, and teaching music.

Quentin Collins is a cellist in the MUSE Orchestra. When asked the other day if he was feeling good about his progress with cello, he shared,

"I have done singing before but cello and MUSE Orchestra feels like I have found my real thing."

Our MUSE students have taught us that music helps us engage with others. In their words:



Quentin Collins

"Music helps me feel more confidence, inside and out."

"Music has provided me solace, relief and comfort."

"My goal during this distant learning: Don't stop playing music."



Michael Morgan

A Note from the Maestro:

"Welcome to the new year! Let's make it a year of joyous music—one where we all come together again. Thank you for your support, which will make all of that possible."

In Memoriam:

Debra Wood Schwartz

In July 2020 we mourned the loss of a treasured supporter, volunteer, educator, violinist, and friend, Debra Wood Schwartz.

Her intelligence and adventurous spirit fueled a varied career that in-

cluded freelance musician (touring with Sammy Davis, the Temptations, Tony Bennett, Frank Sinatra, and Marlene Dietrich, and others), legal scholar, accountant, and internationally renowned violin teacher. Debra and her late husband, Robert, served as board members of this organization and were instrumental in recruiting Michael Morgan to join Oakland

Symphony in 1990. Michael has said of her **"she was the greatest teacher of young violinists I ever met."**

She will be missed.



Debra Schwartz