

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Holly Hickman
hhickman@newwestsymphony.org
303.507.7392

Download high-res photos [here](#)



NEW WEST SYMPHONY PRESENTS FESTIVE WINTER SPECTACULAR CONCERTS ON DECEMBER 7 & 8

Concerts feature the Los Robles Children's Choir and vocal soloists

Oscar-nominated animated short film, "The Snowman," to be presented with live orchestra

Winterfest pre-concert dinner to support the Symphony's artistic and education programs



Thousand Oaks, CA, November 12, 2024 – On December 7 and 8, New West Symphony (NWS) presents the **Los Robles Children's Choir** and **vocal soloists** in a winter-inspired concert filled with musical light! Oscar-nominated for Best Animated Short Film, *The Snowman*, based on Raymond Briggs' picture book with music by Howard Blake, is presented with the orchestra, alongside symphonic masterworks and holiday songs and carols.

"Winter holidays are some of the most treasured aspects of family traditions, personal reflection and aspiration for the future. As our NWS family gathers to mark the beginning of the holiday season, I invite our community to join us as we feature our longstanding partners at Los Robles Children's Choir, remarkable vocalists and an array of music and sights for all ages," said Music Director **Michael Christie**.

Meet the Artists

Prior to the weekend performances, NWS hosts **Meet the Artists on Friday, December 6 at 11 a.m.** at **University Village Thousand Oaks**. Meet the Artists provides a unique "behind the scenes" experience hosted by Maestro Christie with four guest vocalists: Alaysha Fox, soprano; Julia Metzler, mezzo-soprano; Ashley Faatoalia, tenor; and Patrick Blackwell, bass. The free event begins with a brunch reception at 10 a.m. Reservations are required by calling University Village at 805.241.3300 at least 48 hours in advance. The event is also livestreamed on the NWS Facebook page and YouTube channel. More info at newwestsymphony.org/meet-the-artists.

Winterfest 2024

On Saturday, December 7 prior to the Winter Spectacular concert, NWS hosts **Winterfest**, a dining experience highlighting winter solstice foods from around the world. This culinary journey starts at 4 p.m. at the Bank of America Performing Arts Center in Thousand Oaks. The proceeds from tickets, sponsorships and silent and live auctions support NWS' artistic and education programs. Cost for the dinner and concert combined is \$325 per person; cost for the dinner only (for subscribers/ticket holders) is \$275 per person. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit newwestsymphony.org/winterfest.

Winter Spectacular: Holidays of Light

Saturday, December 7 at 7 p.m. - Bank of America Performing Arts Center (BAPAC)
2100 E. Thousand Oaks Boulevard, Thousand Oaks

Sundays, December 8 at 3 p.m. - Rancho Campana Performing Arts Center (RCPAC)
4235 Mar Vista Drive, Camarillo

Michael Christie, conductor
Alaysha Fox, soprano
Julia Metzler, mezzo-soprano
Ashley Faatoalia, tenor
Patrick Blackwell, bass
Los Robles Children's Choir, Emma Roche, director

Grieg | "Morning Mood" from *Peer Gynt*
Haydn | Symphony No. 59, Mvt. I

Howard Blake | *The Snowman*

accompanied by the award-winning animated short film

Mozart | Serenade in G Major, "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik," Mvt. 1
Mozart | "A Musical Joke," Mvt. IV

Trad./O'Loughlin | *El Burrito Sabanero*
Trad./O'Loughlin | *Los Peces en el Río*

with Los Robles Children's Choir

Trad./arr. Jeffrey Biegel | *Hanukah Fantasy*
with vocal soloists

Leontovych | *Carol of the Bells*
John Rutter | *Silent Night*

with Los Robles Children's Choir

Various/arr. Gary Fry | *Snow Place So Jolly*
White Christmas, Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!, Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer, Winter Wonderland, Frosty the Snowman, Jolly Old St. Nicholas
with vocal soloists and audience sing-along

Anderson | *Sleigh Ride*

Ticket prices range from \$35-\$125. Tickets for students and children are \$15. The December concerts are generously sponsored by **AmaWaterways** and **Westlake Physical Therapy**. At these concerts, NWS honors its **Volunteer Leadership**: New West Symphony League, Board of Directors, National Charity League, and Winterfest and Summerfest Committees.

Note: New West Symphony is offering free tickets for the December 7 and 8 Winter Spectacular concerts to families and firefighters who have been impacted by the Mountain Fire in Camarillo. Please call the Box Office at 866.776.8400 to reserve. The offer is valid for up to 4 tickets per household; based on availability.

New **2025 Masterpiece Series** subscription packages and single tickets are on sale now. Season subscribers receive up to 20% off single ticket prices and other discounts, free ticket exchanges, invitations to exclusive events and other benefits. Choose-Your-Own packages with 3, 4 or 5 concerts are also available at a 10% discount.

For full performance details and to order tickets, visit newwestsymphony.org or call 866.776.8400.

#

About “The Snowman”

Originally published in 1978, *The Snowman*, created and illustrated by Raymond Briggs, has become one of the world’s most popular children’s books, selling in excess of 8.5 million copies worldwide and translated into over 15 languages. In keeping with the book, the film of *The Snowman* is wordless and free of dialogue, except for the now iconic, “Walking in the Air,” which is part of a now timeless musical score. Both song and score were written and composed by Howard Blake.

About Michael Christie

Named New West Symphony’s Artistic and Music Director in December 2018, GRAMMY® Award-winning conductor Michael Christie is a thoughtfully innovative conductor, equally at home in the symphonic and opera worlds, who is focused on making the audience experience at his performances entertaining, enlightening and enriching. Deeply committed to bringing new works to life, he has championed commissions by leading and emerging composers. Christie served as Music Director of the Minnesota Opera (2012-18), Phoenix Symphony (2005-13), Brooklyn Philharmonic (2005-10) and Colorado Music Festival (2000-13), and as Chief Conductor of the Queensland Orchestra (2001-04) in Australia. michaelchristieonline.com

About New West Symphony

Founded in 1995 and entering its 30th Anniversary season in 2025, the New West Symphony (NWS) is a professional orchestra that draws players from the rich talent pool of professional LA-area musicians. NWS is guided by the artistic direction of GRAMMY®-winning Maestro Michael Christie and CEO Natalia Staneva. NWS is a resident company of the Bank of America Performing Arts Center in Thousand Oaks and also performs at the Rancho Campana Performing Arts Center in Camarillo. The organization presents six Masterpiece Series concerts annually, performing major works from the symphonic repertoire with internationally-acclaimed guest artists. NWS also provides education and engagement opportunities for the communities it serves through [Symphonic Adventures](http://SymphonicAdventures) for youth and the [Laby Harmony Project](http://LabyHarmonyProject) for underserved students. newwestsymphony.org