

# Westside Music Foundation

**Robert Turner**

Piano Concerto Competition  
Winners Concert



**St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Santa Monica**  
958 Lincoln Boulevard  
Santa Monica 90403

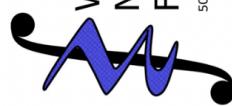
**Sunday, March 16, 2025 • 4:00pm**

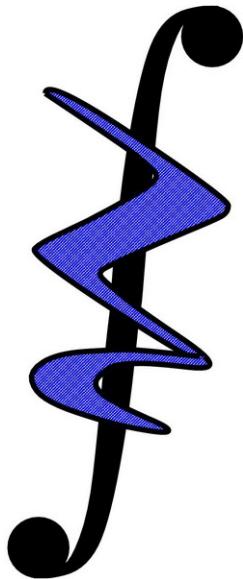


St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
All are welcome at God's table.



Westside  
Music  
Foundation  
501c3 public charity





## Westside Music Foundation

is a non-profit 501(c)(3) public benefit charity. Our mission is to promote musical culture and the pursuit of excellence in the field of music education in the Los Angeles Westside environs and community for people of all socio-economic backgrounds.

The Westside Music Foundation promotes musical culture and appreciation by providing high-quality musical concerts and activities to the public, featuring professional artists and leading educators, free of charge, by voluntary donation, or for a nominal fee to cover costs.

The Westside Music Foundation provides educational opportunities to the public, with a particular emphasis on youth programs, to promote the importance of music, and to help others develop appreciation, understanding, skill, and proficiency in music through music education.

Our goal is to provide high-quality musical education opportunities, particularly to youth who otherwise do not have access to top-caliber teachers and musicians as mentors due to financial means or lack of exposure due to socio-economic background. WMF also strives to offer inclusive musical learning environments, educational workshops, and concert programming for students with special needs.

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**[www.westsidemusicfoundation.org](http://www.westsidemusicfoundation.org)**



**Arlette Cárdenes, Conductor**

Cárdenes Family Conductor Chair

Kielor How Tung, Assistant Conductor

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## PROGRAM

### **J.S. BACH**

Concerto in D Minor, BWV 1052: I. Allegro

**John Xie** (student of Victoria Roizen)

### **CHOPIN** (arr. Iain Farrington)

Concerto No. 1 in E Minor, Op. 11: I. Allegro maestoso

**Reina Hewes** (student of Dr. Deborah H. How)

### • SHORT INTERMISSION •

### **BEETHOVEN** (arr. George Morton)

Concerto No. 1 in C Major, Op. 15: I. Allegro con brio

**John Wang** (student of Dr. Judy Huang)

### **CHOPIN** (arr. Kevin Kenner & Krzysztof Dombek, ed. Kielor Tung)

Concerto No. 2 in F Minor, Op. 21: I. Maestoso

**Mana Asaka** (student of Nobuyo Nishizaka)

### **RACHMANINOFF** (arr. Iain Farrington, ed. Kielor Tung)

Concerto No. 2 in C Minor, Op. 18: I. Moderato

**Ryan Jian** (student of Dr. Minji Noh)



## **Arlette Cárdenes, Conductor\***

Cárdenes Family Conductor Chair

Kielor How Tung, Assistant Conductor

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### **VIOLIN I**

Finn Bordal

Nathaniel Johnson

### **FLUTE**

Deborah H. How\*

Emily Senchuk\*

### **VIOLIN II**

Bernard Kane

Kielor How Tung

### **OBOE**

Zack Borowiec

### **VIOLA**

Debbie Ignacio-Birgean

Cecille Asuncion

### **CLARINET**

Arthur Naito

### **CELLO**

Wonsun Keem

Matthew Ignacio

### **BASSOON**

Christin Phelps Webb

### **BASS**

Hakeem Holloway

### **FRENCH HORN**

Jason Beaumont

### **TIMPANI**

Alyssa French

\* = WMF Board Member

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## **A SPECIAL THANK YOU**

### **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

Rev. James Boline

Kevin Anderson

### **Westside Music Conservatory**

Deborah H. How

Leilani Neder

Brian Tung

Kian How Tung

Sakura Suzuki

Kawai GX-6 Blak

(Orchestra Grand Piano)

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Jeff Dollente

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Jennifer French

### **Piano Movers**

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# Robert Turner Piano Concerto Competition

is made possible through the generous support of the

## Westside Music Foundation

*Robert Turner*

### Memorial Scholarship Fund

Since the 1980s, the Westside Music Foundation Robert Turner Piano Concerto Competition, formerly the MTAC-WLA Piano Concerto Competition, has presented highly gifted young pianists (through grade 12) as concerto soloists to audiences across Los Angeles with local community orchestra such as Orchestra Nova LA, Los Angeles Doctors Symphony Orchestra, and the Brentwood-Westwood Symphony Orchestra. This program has given hundreds of young pianists the unique opportunity not only to perform with orchestra, but to share their talent with the local community, their friends, families, and peers. Many of our Concerto Competition winners have gone on to earn undergraduate and graduate degrees in music from prestigious conservatories and colleges, including USC, Oberlin, New England Conservatory, Juilliard, Indiana, Cleveland Institute of Music, Northwestern, and Yale. This is the first year that the Robert Turner Concerto Competition Winners will perform with Passacaglia, WMF's new professional chamber repertory orchestra!

Robert E. Turner (February 13, 1914 – November 28, 2001), at the age of 16, won a fellowship to study at the Juilliard Graduate School with Josef and Rosina Lhevinne. He later earned a master's degree in composition from Princeton University, studying with Roger Sessions, and he studied conducting at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia with Fritz Reiner. In addition to having one of the foremost private studios in the country, coaching three generations of students to win scores of elite competitions and establish international careers of their own, Mr. Turner was on faculty at UCLA, USC, UCSD, and the University of Washington. In 1969, he founded the Repertoire Chamber Orchestra to showcase young Los Angeles-area soloists. As music director and conductor through 1981, he presented more than 50 concerts. A few months before his death, a concert in Mr. Turner's honor was given at the Herbert Zipper Hall of the Colburn School of Performing Arts in downtown Los Angeles, featuring 13 of his most outstanding students. At this concert, the Robert Turner Memorial Scholarship Fund (for piano concerto and chamber music performance) was established, and the MTAC-WLA Piano Concerto Competition was named in his honor starting in 2002. In 2006, the Westside Music Foundation, founded by two past presidents of MTAC-WLA, was established and took over guardianship of the Robert Turner Memorial Scholarship Fund to ensure that the fund would continue to grow through fund-raising events and investments, so that the Robert Turner legacy would continue for decades to come.

If you would like to make a donation to the  
Robert Turner Memorial Scholarship Fund, please visit us at

**[www.westsidemusicfoundation.org](http://www.westsidemusicfoundation.org)**

# *Note from the President*

## **WESTSIDE MUSIC FOUNDATION**

501(c)(3) public benefit charity

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**Dear Friends, Families, Colleagues, and Local Businesses,**

**PASSACAGLIA**, a project of the Westside Music Foundation in collaboration with St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Santa Monica, the Culver City Chamber Orchestra, and the Westside Music Conservatory, is a professional repertory chamber music collective on the Westside, whose purpose is to connect audiences of all ages to classical music in intimate settings through both small orchestral works and ensemble repertoire.

We provide high-quality music concerts—featuring professional artists and leading educators—free of charge, by voluntary donation, or for a nominal fee to cover costs. Our mission is to provide concert-going opportunities to community members, especially youths and seniors, who do not otherwise have access to live classical music.

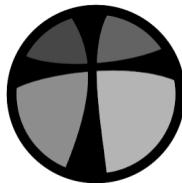
We are excited to present a program of 12 concerts in our inaugural year: five chamber orchestra concerts at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, five chamber music concerts at the Westside Music Conservatory (WMC), and two chamber orchestra concerts at the Moss Theater at New Roads School. The 10 concerts at St. Paul's and WMC are free to the public with suggested donations of \$20 for general admission and \$10 for seniors/students.

We invite you to be part of our growing Passacaglia community through tax-deductible donations and sponsorships, and through advertisements and tributes in the printed program books for our larger concerts. All proceeds go to the Westside Music Foundation Passacaglia Performance & Musicians Fund that supports this and future concerts. (Please select Passacaglia from the drop-down menu.)

Please visit <https://passacaglia.org>  
for more information about Donations,  
Sponsorships and Advertisements, and Tributes.

**Thank You for your support!**  
Deborah H. How, PhD, MBA  
WMF President & Co-Founder

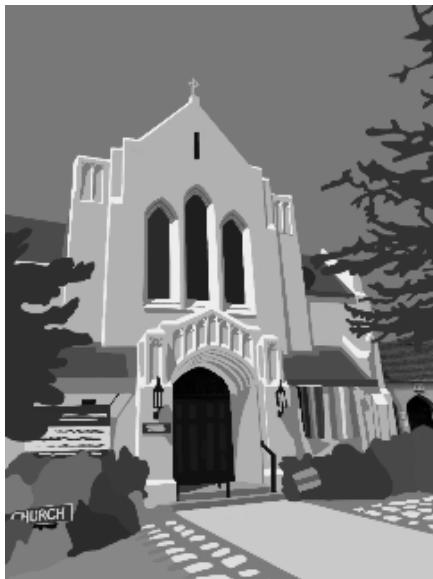




# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

All are welcome at God's table.

St. Paul's congratulates Passacaglia on this afternoon's performance and enthusiastically supports their mission to provide free concert-going opportunities to community members, especially youths and seniors, who do not otherwise have access to live classical music.



## St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Santa Monica

958 Lincoln Blvd  
Santa Monica, CA 90403  
(310) 451-1346

**Rev. James E. Boline**  
Pastor

**Kevin Anderson**  
Cantor & Parish Administrator

**Rachel Miller**  
Vicar

**www.stpaulsantamonica.org**

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On the campus of St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Santa Monica,

Palisades Preschool is a Reggio-inspired school community serving children, ages 24 months to 6 years of age, and their families.



**PALISADES PRESCHOOL**

**www.palisadespreschool.org**

# About the Concerto Soloists

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**John Xie** is a junior at Venice High School. He participates in the MTAC Certificate of Merit Piano Evaluations and has been invited to perform at the annual MTAC Convention for the past eight years. John has also passed the MTNA/CAPMT District 3 Level 10 Piano Auditions with a top score and has been invited to perform at the Southern Celebration Festival for the past five years. He currently studies with Victoria Roizen.

John's achievements include winning scholarships from LACESMA and LAUSD PTA. He has been a winner of the SCJBF WLA Bach Branch and Region IV Bach Festivals, MTAC Hollywood Branch Classical Era

Competition, and MTAC Hollywood Branch Winter Festival. Beyond competitions, he is dedicated to volunteer service, playing piano at church and participating in school club events that benefit his community, such as tutoring and fundraising. John also plays in musical performances at local retirement centers.

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**Reina Hewes** is a senior at Harvard-Westlake School and also attends Asahi Gakuen. She studies piano, music theory, and music history with Dr. Deborah H. How and harmony & counterpoint with Dr. Brian Tung and Kielor How Tung at the Westside Music Conservatory. Reina has been a winner at numerous piano competitions, including the WMF Robert Turner Piano Concerto Competition, MTAC Piano Concerto/Solo Competition, CAPMT Honors/Contemporary Competition, SYMF, SCJBF Complete Works Audition, and JMAC. As a 1<sup>st</sup>-place winner at the Elite, American Protege, and Golden Classical Awards International Music Competitions, she has performed at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall on several occasions.

Reina is fluent in Japanese and plays on the Harvard-Westlake tennis team. She recently received the Associate of the Royal Conservatory of Music (ARCT) in Piano Performance, a diploma program that includes a one-hour recital and written exams in Harmony & Counterpoint, Analysis, and Music History.



**John Wang** is a 5<sup>th</sup>-grade pianist from Irvine, CA, discovered his musical talent at a young age. Under the mentorship of Dr. Judy Huang, he has won numerous prestigious awards, including First Place and Grand Prizes at competitions such as the CAPMT State Finals Contemporary Competition, IAPMT Grand Concours Autumn 2024, Barum International Piano Competition, Bach International Music Competition, Great Composers Competition, Golden Classical Music Awards,

IAPMT International, Charleston International, Crescendo International Music Competition, and Little Mozart International Competition. He also received a Silver Medal at the 2024 SCJBF Complete Works Audition.

John has performed multiple times at Carnegie Hall and enjoys sharing his music with friends and seniors at local centers, bringing joy to his community. Outside of music, John loves playing golf, reading, solving challenging math puzzles, and exploring nature, which inspires his curiosity and creativity.



**Mana Asaka** is a freshman in the Pianist Program at the Orange County School of the Arts (OCSA). She began her piano studies at the age of four, and in her early years, she studied with Dr. Alex McDonald and Ms. Marcy McDonald in Texas. She currently studies with Ms. Nobuyo Nishizaka and formerly studied with Ms. Kaori Wada and Ms. Chiho Kimura in California.

Mana has won numerous piano competitions at the local, national, and international levels. She has also participated in international festivals and seminars, and she has had the opportunity to perform in many master classes with spectacular pianists and professors, such as the renowned concert pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet. She has been invited to perform at Carnegie Hall on three separate occasions. Besides the piano, her main instrument, Mana also enjoys playing flute and piccolo. She loves exploring and is fascinated by animals and nature.

**Ryan Jian** is freshman at Troy High School with a deep interest and attachment to classical piano music since starting his music studies at age five. Through his piano performances, he aims to convey his unique perspective and personal interpretation of the music. He studies piano under the guidance of Dr. Minji Noh.

Ryan is an active participant in the Junior Chamber Music program, where he collaborates with his friends in performing the Chausson Piano Trio. His numerous musical achievements include earning 1<sup>st</sup> place in SoCal International Piano Competition, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in The New York International Piano Competition, 1<sup>st</sup> place in Charleston International Piano Competition, and 4<sup>th</sup> place in London Classical Music Competition. He has given full program recitals in venues such as California Baptist University. Ryan also enjoys experimenting with technology, AI, and cooking; he is a member of his school's Cyberpatriot, Seaperch, Robosub, and junior varsity swim team.



# About the Conductors

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**Arlette Cárdenes, conductor**, has studied conducting privately with John Koshak. She has also studied at the Conductor's Guild Symposium (2005) with Lawrence Golan, Marin Alsop, and John Koshak; American Symphony Orchestra League (2006) with Michael Morgan, Daniel Lewis, and Elizabeth Schulze; Chorus America/Orchestral Conducting Masterclass (2007) with Otto Werner Mueller; Conductors Guild Workshop (2007) with Leonard Slatkin, Gustav Meier, and Emily Freeman; The Conductors Institute at Bard College (2007) with Harold Faberman, Apo Hsu, and Eduardo Navega; and Conductor's Guild Workshop (2008) with Harold Faberman and Raymond Harvey. She is the co-founder and conductor of the Culver City Chamber Orchestra. Ms. Cárdenes is also a cellist with a BM in Cello Performance from CSUN and an MM in Cello Performance from University of Michigan.

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**Kielor How Tung, assistant conductor**, is a senior at Swarthmore College, where he is pursuing a BA in Music and BS in Engineering. He currently studies conducting with Andrew Hauze and also studied conducting with Miguel Harth-Bedoya at The Conducting Institute in Fort Worth, TX in Summer 2023 and Summer 2024. Kielor is also a violinist, violist, and cellist, and studies violin with Joel Link of the Dover Quartet at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. Kielor is the concertmaster of the Swarthmore College Symphony Orchestra. He is also a singer and studies voice with Lara Nie. He is the bass co-section leader of the Swarthmore College Chorus and Garnet Singers.

# About the Chamber Musicians

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**Finn Bordal, violin**, a Santa Monica native, teaches strings at the SMMUSD schools he attended as a student; coaches ensembles through local nonprofit Elemental Music; and maintains a private studio. Finn performs regularly with Passacaglia and with the Westside Chamber Orchestra, and gigs locally in other capacities. In his spare time, you'll probably find Finn at a local climbing gym, or better yet, climbing outdoors on the lovely rocks that Southern California has to offer.

**Nathaniel Johnson, violin**, is based out of Los Angeles. He is a proud graduate of St. Olaf College, holding degrees in both chemistry and violin performance. At St. Olaf, he served as concertmaster for the orchestra and sang alto in the choir. Nathaniel is also a law student at UCLA, studying life-sciences patent litigation. In his limited free time, Nathaniel enjoys coaching Science Olympiad for his hometown high school in Madison, Wisconsin.

**Bernard Kane, violin**, is a Welsh-born violist, violinist, and composer for film, television, and the stage—he is a graduate of Yale, Royal College of Music, UBC, and UCLA. Bernard has performed and recorded with Quincy Jones, Natalie Cole, Ricky Martin, Manic Street Preachers, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, and Orchestra of Welsh National Opera. He is co-principal viola with The Novello Orchestra and his compositions have been performed on the BBC and at Carnegie Hall.

**Debbie Ignacio-Birgean, viola**, grew up in Romania with a big passion for music. She attended the National College of Art “Ion Vodă” in Timișoara and The Master’s University in Santa Clarita. Ms. Ignacio-Birgean was the principal violist for the Romanian National Youth Orchestra and The Master’s University Orchestra. She was the soloist for Herbert Howells’ Elegy (Viola, String Quartet, String Orchestra) with The Master’s University Orchestra in 2021.

**Cecille Asuncion, viola**, is a civil servant. In her spare time, she loves to play viola and take classes with Mick Wetzel of the LA Phil. For her main job, she works at the County of Los Angeles Office Emergency Management, alongside first response agencies, non-profits, private agencies and government partners regarding the January Wildfires. Cecille also serves as President of the Southern California Viola Society, a non-profit organization.

**Wonsun Keem, cello**, received her Bachelor of Music degree from Seoul National University in South Korea and Master of Music from Yale University. Since moving to Los Angeles, she has been a member of Dream Orchestra, Los Angeles Ensemble, and Fernweh Music Foundation Chamber Music Series—performing at numerous venues and events across Southern California. She also believes in giving back through music education and teaches the next generation of musicians throughout LA and Orange County.

**Matthew Ignacio, cello**, is a Los Angeles based native who works as a registered nurse by day and freelances by night. Having had a love to care for the health of others both medically and musically, he seeks to encourage others to rejoice in the Lord, who supplies everything needed in life. And if you have time after the concert, he would love to chat about music, life, and anything else.

**Hakeem Holloway, bass**, is a native of Los Angeles. His formal classical music education took him to the East Coast, Midwest, home in Los Angeles, and then to Berlin. Mr. Holloway held positions in the Heidelberg Philharmonic, Würtembergische Philharmonic of Reutlingen, Neubrandenburg Philharmonic, and Southwestern German Chamber Orchestra of Pforzheim. Since returning to California in 2019, he is active as a recording artist/freelancer for film scoring, popular music, and classical music ensembles across the country.

**Deborah H. How, flute**, received her BA from Swarthmore College, MA from UCLA Herb Albert School of Music, PhD from USC Thornton School of Music, and MBA from the Isenberg School of Management at UMass Amherst. She is the Executive Director/Owner of the Westside Music Conservatory in Brentwood, where she maintains an active piano, flute, chamber music, and music theory studio with national and international winners. She is the President/Co-Founder of the Westside Music Foundation.

**Emily Senchuk, flute**, is a versatile woodwind doubler who performs regularly with several ensembles including OSM Woodwind Quintet, Golden State Pops Orchestra, and Los Angeles Flute Orchestra, which has collaborated with artists such as Ali Ryerson, Jim Walker, and Sarah Jackson. She is also the Director of Operations & Programs for Elemental Music and has been a woodwind coach and private teacher for many years, working in numerous public and private schools in Los Angeles.

**Zack Borowiec, oboe**, originally from New York City, is a freelance musician and educator in Los Angeles. He is currently playing principal oboe with Orchestra Santa Monica and the Westside Chamber Orchestra. He previously held the position of principal oboe in the Orquesta Filarmónica de Boca del Río in Veracruz, Mexico. He holds a BM from Northwestern University and a MM from the University of Southern California. His professors include Allan Vogel and Toyin Spellman-Diaz.

**Arthur Naito, clarinet**, began his musical journey here in the Santa Monica Unified School District at Will Rogers Elementary School, John Adams Middle School, and Santa Monica High School. Deciding to continue with music, Arthur earned a BM with Mitchell Lurie at USC and an MM with Russell Dagon, Clark Brody, and Robert Marcellus at Northwestern University. Arthur plays with the Westside Chamber Orchestra and is enjoying his first concert with the Passacaglia Chamber Orchestra.

**Christin Phelps Webb, bassoon**, is a freelance chamber and orchestral musician based in Los Angeles. She is principal bassoon with the Westside Chamber Orchestra and often performs with many of LA's finest ensembles. A passionate chamber musician, Christin was featured on the critically acclaimed album "Postcards" with Ceora Winds and Jenni Brandon's album "Dreams of Birds." In addition to her position teaching bassoon at Pepperdine University, Christin gives masterclasses and maintains a private teaching studio.

**Jason Beaumont, French horn**, is a freelance musician in Los Angeles with a degree in Horn Performance from Missouri State University. He is the principal horn of Santa Monica Symphony and the Westside Chamber Orchestra. He is also the assistant principal horn of the San Luis Obispo Symphony and performs regularly with the Opera San Luis Obispo Grand Orchestra. When he's not playing his horn, he is also a professional photographer and video producer.

**Alyssa French, timpani**, is a collaborative pianist from Santa Monica, CA. She has performed internationally in Italy and China, as well as at Weill Hall (Carnegie) in NYC. She earned an AA in Percussion from SMC, BM in Piano Performance from CSUN, and is pursuing an MM in Collaborative Piano under Dr. Tali Tadmor. Alyssa has served as Assistant Music Director for CSUN opera productions and is an experienced music director for musical theater.

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## THANK YOU!

to George Morton  
and Steel City Music Publishing  
for the use of the chamber  
arrangement (wind quintet + string  
quintet) for the Beethoven Piano  
Concerto No. 1 in C Major, Op. 15.



## Steel City Music Publishing was

established in early 2021 to publish arrangements by composer and arranger George Morton. Using professional materials, equipment and techniques, SCMP can provide world-class materials to orchestras and ensembles across the globe. SCMP was established with support from Arts Council England and is a member of the Music Publishers Association.

A principal aim of SCMP is to broaden the repertoire available to ensembles (from professional to amateur, student and youth) by publishing arrangements and orchestrations of music by composers from backgrounds currently under represented on the concert platform. Most of our repertoire is for chamber ensemble or orchestra, with a small wind and brass section + chamber strings. Many pieces can be adapted and orchestrated for full orchestra or for a different instrumentation to the existing version. Recent clients have included London Philharmonic Orchestra, London Mozart Players, Opera on Location, Sheffield Youth Orchestra, London Chamber Orchestra, Royal Academy of Music and Wayzata High School (Minnesota).

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# Westside Music Conservatory



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