



Westside Music Conservatory
12424 Wilshire Blvd Ste 100
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Westside Music Foundation

Culver City Chamber Orchestra

Opera Night

Arlette Cárdenes, Music Director & Conductor



St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Santa Monica

958 Lincoln Boulevard
Santa Monica 90403

Sunday, April 27, 2025 • 7:00pm

Passacaglia

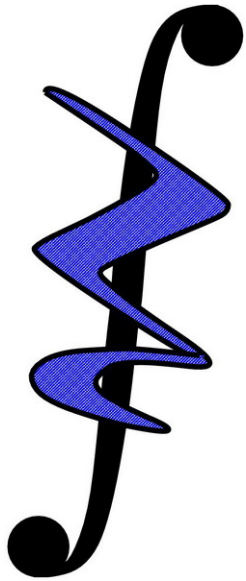
Westside Music
Conservatory

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



Culver City
Chamber
Orchestra

Westside
Music
Foundation
501(c3) 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.

Board of Directors

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www.westsidemusicfoundation.org

Join Us for this Special Event!

<https://passacaglia.org>



Sunday, May 18, 2025
4:00pm

Westside Music Conservatory
12424 Wilshire Blvd Ste 100
Los Angeles (Brentwood) 90025

SPECIAL EVENT

Suggested Donations: \$25 general admission | \$15 students/seniors

Parking information: <https://tinyurl.com/bddf398s>



CHRISTOPHER O'RILEY

J.S. Bach: Well-Tempered Clavier II

Nos. XIII–XXIV



About the Conductor



Arlette Cárdenes, conductor, has served as the resident conductor of the Culver City Chamber Orchestra since 2005. In 2024, she also became the associate conductor of the Beach Cities Symphony. She co-founded the Culver City Chamber Orchestra in 1997 with the support of her brother, renowned internationally acclaimed violinist Andrés Cárdenes, and her family.

Ms. Cárdenes has studied conducting with several distinguished mentors, including private studies with John

Koshak and participation in esteemed programs such as the Conductor's Guild Symposium with Lawrence Golan, Marin Alsop, and John Koshak; the American Symphony Orchestra League with Michael Morgan, Daniel Lewis, and Elizabeth Schulze; the Chorus America/Orchestral Conducting Masterclass with Otto Werner Mueller; and workshops with Leonard Slatkin, Gustav Meier, Emily Freeman, Harold Faberman, Apo Hsu, Eduardo Navega, and Raymond Harvey.

In addition to her work on the podium, Ms. Cárdenes is an active cellist, performing with the Peninsula Symphony and the Beach Cities Symphony, while also freelancing throughout the greater Los Angeles area. She began her cello studies at age 10 at El Marino Elementary School before joining the Meremblum Orchestra, advancing through its three levels: Pathfinder, Pioneer, and Junior Symphony. She later attended the prestigious Interlochen Music Camp and, at 17, became a member of the American Youth Symphony under the esteemed guidance of Mehli Mehta father of the great conductor Zubin Mehta.

A highlight of Ms. Cárdenes' academic journey was earning her Master of Music in Cello Performance from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, on a full scholarship. There, she studied under the renowned cellist Jeffrey Solow, receiving in-depth training that further refined her artistry. She previously earned her Bachelor of Music in Cello Performance from California State University, Northridge (CSUN), where she won the university's concerto competition and performed Ernest Bloch's *Schelomo: Rhapsodie Hébraïque* for Violoncello and Orchestra with the CSUN Symphony Orchestra.

Following her graduate studies, Ms. Cárdenes toured Europe with both an American theater group and a German company before returning to Michigan, where she performed with more than five different orchestras throughout the state. In 1991, she relocated to San Bernardino, where she worked as both a manager and cellist for the Inland Empire Symphony. In 1994, she returned to Culver City and established her private cello studio, where she has been teaching for over 30 years. In recent years, she has expanded her reach by offering online lessons to students across the country, continuing to inspire the next generation of musicians.

PROGRAM

Soloists

Catherine Card, Soprano
Lesili Beard, Mezzo Soprano
Todd Wilander, Tenor



Arlette Cárdenes, Conductor

Alceste Gluck

Overture

"Divinités du Styx" — Catherine Card, Soprano

Il Trovatore Verdi

"Stride la vampa" — Lesili Beard, Mezzo Soprano

Tosca Puccini

"Ah, quegli occhi!" — Catherine Card & Todd Wilander, Tenor

"E lucevan le stelle" — Todd Wilander

"Vissi d'arte" — Catherine Card

~short intermission~

L'elisir d'amore Donizetti

Introduzione dell'Atto Secondo

"Una furtiva lagrima" — Todd Wilander

Lakmé Delibes

"Sous le dôme épais" — Catherine Card & Lesili Beard

Turandot Puccini

"Nessun dorma" — Todd Wilander

Cavalleria Rusticana Mascagni

"Voi lo sapete" — Lesili Beard

Les contes d'Hoffmann Offenbach

"Belle nuit" — Lesili Beard & Catherine Card

La Traviata Verdi

"Brindisi" — Todd Wilander, Catherine Card, Lesili Beard



Arlette Cárdenes
Music Director
Conductor

VIOLIN I

Ken Aiso
Finn Bordal

VIOLIN II

Bernard Kane
Nathaniel Johnson

VIOLA

Debbie Ignacio-Birgean
Cecille Asuncion

CELLO

Wonsun Keem
Matthew Ignacio

BASS

Jeff Schwartz

FLUTE

Navelle Houk

OBOE

Zack Borowiec

CLARINET

Brad Cohen
Nancy Carr

BASSOON

Alex Burns-Chay

FRENCH HORN

Jason Beaumont

TIMPANI

Alyssa French

PIANO (HARP)

Kevin Anderson

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 Tung

Videographer

Michael Greene

In addition to her performance career, Lesili is an esteemed music educator, dedicated to teaching and mentoring learners of all ages. She has produced award-winning music education programs at Walt Disney Concert Hall for one of the most prestigious non-profit organizations in Los Angeles. She is sought after as a voice actor and by soloists and choir directors as a performance coach, particularly for her extensive, deep knowledge of Negro Spirituals.

Outside of music, Lesili has many interests – among them she enjoys Garden Design, women's basketball, table tennis, and martial arts. She is happily married to Dr. Iris Levine, Founder and Artistic Director of VOX Femina Los Angeles. Together, they create beautiful music, and they love spending time with their vocalizing cats.



Todd Wilander, tenor, a California (Pasadena) native, has sung over 80 opera roles throughout the USA and in 16 countries. He is heading to Germany to sing the role of Rodolfo in Puccini's *La Bohème* in Erfurt as part of their summer festival. He also sings yearly with the Verdi Opera Chorus under the direction of Anne Marie Ketchum in Santa Monica.

Praised by *Opera News* for his "clear and sweet lyrical tone" and "brave, vocally assured portrayals" (*New York Times*), he is one of America's most sought-after leading tenors. Since winning The Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, he has appeared with the company as Arturo (*Lucia*), Harry (*La Fanciulla del West*) and Ensemble 15 (*The Nose*—HD Movie); and covered lead roles of Don Alvaro (*La Forza del Destino*), Riccardo (*Un Ballo*), Erik (*Der Fliegende Holländer*), Almaviva in (*Barbiere*), Wozzeck, Hamlet, Gambler, Macbeth, and *From the House of the Dead*. He was recently at Royal Opera House Covent Garden London covering the title role of *Samson*, Canio (*Pagliacci*), and the Prince (*Rusalka*). For New York City Opera he sang Charles (Stephen Schwartz's *Séance on a Wet Afternoon*, Harry (*La Fanciulla del West*) and Uberto (*La Donna del Lago*).

He received his undergraduate degree in Music and Speech Communications from CSULA, MM in opera performance and literature from Northwestern University, and an Artist Diploma from the University of Missouri, Kansas City Conservatory. He is grateful to the support of his operatic coaches and teacher, and his family, especially his father Roger, and his partner, Tiffanie.

www.toddwilander.com

About the Soloists



Catherine Card, soprano, is a versatile and expressive artist whose performances span intimate art song recitals, orchestral concerts, and choral productions. A native of Jacksonville, Florida, she has also sung with the acclaimed women's choral ensemble VOX Femina Los Angeles, further showcasing her vocal artistry and adaptability.

Ms. Card holds a MM in Voice Performance from Bowling Green State University, a BM in Voice and Opera, magna cum laude, from Jacksonville University, and an Associate of Arts in Music from Florida School of the Arts. She also pursued doctoral studies in Voice Performance at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

An accomplished concert soloist, Ms. Card has appeared in recitals and has performed with a variety of ensembles, including the Culver City Chamber Orchestra, the Glendale Community College Orchestra, the University of California, Riverside Orchestra, the San Bernardino Symphony, the Toledo Symphony, and the Jacksonville Symphony. A passionate advocate for contemporary music, she is dedicated to championing works by American composers. In 2014, she sang the West Coast premiere of *Mother Earth: Songs of a Strong Woman* by Dr. Gwyneth Walker; and she plans to include this set of songs in her next recital.

Beyond her performance career, Ms. Card is a devoted educator. She previously served as a Lecturer in Voice at UC Riverside, where she taught both private and group voice lessons. She has been an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Music at Glendale Community College for many years now, and she also serves as the Music Lab Supervisor, mentoring students and fostering their artistic development.

Lesili Beard, mezzo-soprano, is an Ohio-born active and versatile musician in today's music scene. A Grammy-winning vocalist, Lesili has performed for many years with the Los Angeles Master Chorale, Los Angeles Opera, and as a session singer. She has sung on film soundtracks for Walt Disney studios, MGM, and others. She is also a flutist and a proud member of SAG-AFTRA, AGMA, and Broadcast Music, Inc. where her compositions range many genres and styles.

Based in Los Angeles, Lesili's performances have taken her to Spain, Switzerland, Germany, Mexico, and Canada. She has worked under notable conductors such as Gustavo Dudamel, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Michael Tilson Thomas, Grant Gershon, and Zubin Mehta; toured extensively with the internationally renowned Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers; and is a founding member of the premiere women's ensemble, VOX Femina Los Angeles.



Arlette Cárdenes, Music Director & Conductor
Andrés Cárdenes, Artistic Director

The Culver City Chamber Orchestra was founded in 1997 as a non-profit organization by the Cárdenes family with three of their children, Andrés, Arlette, and Alys, who all grew up in Culver City and began their music lessons at El Marino Elementary School.

After 28 wonderful musical years, the Culver City Chamber Orchestra has decided to merge with the Passacaglia Westside Chamber Music Collective, a project of the Westside Music Foundation, 501c3 public benefit charity based in Santa Monica/Brentwood. This merge will give CCCO musicians the opportunity to perform for audiences on the Westside almost every month—instead of once or twice a year—to audiences at venues such as the Westside Music Conservatory Recital Hall in Brentwood with two magnificent semi-concert grand pianos, including a 7'6" Fazioli F228; St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Santa Monica with an Abbott & Sieker pipe organ and a double-manual French harpsichord; and the Moss Theater at New Roads School in Santa Monica, with a state-of-the-art, 350-seat theater.

We cordially invite you support our musicians through donations to the Westside Music Foundation. We believe that making music and listening to music can heal the mind, the soul, and the spirit; as well as rebuild our community first devastated by the Covid-19 pandemic, then by the Palisades and Eaton Fires.

Respectfully,
Arlette Cárdenes

Note from the President

WESTSIDE MUSIC FOUNDATION

501(c)(3) public benefit charity

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.

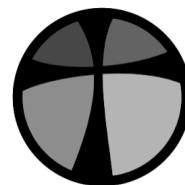
We are excited to present a program of 12 concerts in our inaugural year: five chamber orchestra concerts at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, five chamber music concerts at the Westside Music Conservatory (WMC), and two chamber orchestra concerts at the Moss Theater at New Roads School. The 10 concerts at 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 tonight'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

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.

www.palisadespreschool.org