



Nova Vista  
Symphony

Anthony Quartuccio  
Music Director

# Piano Greats

Featuring Kwok Kuen Koo

**Beethoven:**

**Piano Concerto No. 3**

**Rachmaninoff:**

**Piano Concerto No. 2**



**Saturday, November 4, 2023**

**7:00 P.M. pre-concert talk**

**7:30 P.M. concert**

**Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts**

**500 Castro Street, Mountain View, CA — Free parking**



## Anthony Quartuccio

### Music Director

Anthony Quartuccio is associate conductor of the San Jose Chamber Orchestra and is music director of the Gavilan College / South Valley Symphony in Silicon Valley. Quartuccio is also founding music director of the Bay Shore Lyric Opera in Capitola, where he conducted critically acclaimed productions

including *La Bohème*, *Rigoletto*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *La Traviata*, and *Die Fledermaus*. Some of his appearances include the Santa Clara Chorale, the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, the Winchester Orchestra of San Jose, The Japanese Choral Federations of Northern and Southern California, and The Rimrock Opera in Montana. His commitment to the arts in the Bay Area is evident in his having received an Honorary Doctorate degree from Santa Clara University in 2006, representing 150 years of arts graduates. The same year he was given a lifetime achievement award in the arts from the Italian-American Heritage Foundation in conjunction with commendations from the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and the California State Senate.

Quartuccio is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where he studied conducting with Otto-Werner Mueller, and was awarded a personal career grant from David Packard, benefactor of the Packard Foundation, for advanced studies. While at Curtis, he served as an assistant to eminent conductor of the Metropolitan Opera and Cincinnati Symphony Max Rudolf and also completed studies in piano and music theory. As a member of the Curtis conducting department, he actively participated in frequent master classes and seminars with some of the world's leading conductors, including Zubin Mehta, Riccardo Muti, Andre Previn, Kurt Masur and David Zinman. Gary Graffman, the Institute's former president, describes Quartuccio as "Gifted and serious with the highest standards of excellence, both musically and personally."

Quartuccio graduated *cum laude* from Santa Clara University and soon after joined Gunther Schuller to study at the 1987 Festival at Sandpoint. Mr. Quartuccio, the youngest member of the conducting class, made his professional conducting debut at age twenty-two leading Copland's *El Salon Mexico* with the Spokane Symphony Orchestra. Soon after, he was appointed as assistant conductor of the award winning San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra, an apprentice position created for him, and later accompanied the orchestra on a highly praised tour of Asia in 1989. Subsequent training in conducting includes studies at the International Workshop for Conductors in the Czech Republic with the Bohuslav Martinu Philharmonic, advanced classes with the Czech Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra, and classes at the Tanglewood Music Center under Gustav Meier.



Nova Vista  
Symphony

58th Season  
Saturday, November 4, 2023 at 7:30 P.M.

## Piano Greats featuring Kwok Kuen Koo

### Piano Concerto No. 3

Ludwig van Beethoven

- I. Allegro con brio
- II. Largo
- III. Rondo: Allegro — Presto

INTERMISSION

### Piano Concerto No. 2

Sergei Rachmaninoff

- I. Moderato
- II. Adagio Sostenuto — Più animato — Tempo I
- III. Allegro scherzando

**Nova Vista Symphony**  
P.O. Box 60312 Sunnyvale CA 94088  
408-624-1492 • [info@novavista.org](mailto:info@novavista.org)  
[www.novavista.org](http://www.novavista.org)

# Nova Vista Symphony Thanks Its Patrons!

## **Patron's Circle** \$1000 or more

Patricia and John Blackie  
Gerald Brady  
Carl and Eva Ching  
Alfred and Dori Mendoza  
Christine and Mike Mendoza  
Edward and Jean Ranck  
Rick Shinozaki  
Nancy Sitton  
Anonymous

## **Director's Circle** \$500–\$999

Ruth Duncan and Robert Cook  
Richard Gillam  
David Lee  
Kent Peacock  
George Yefchak  
Claudia Zornow

## **Concertmaster's Circle** \$300–\$499

Karmen Peng  
Sachiko Mori

## **Musician's Circle** \$150–\$299

Doug Hawk  
Lopes Family  
Hisashi and Yoko Masui  
Sibyl and Tom Snyder  
Linnea and Andrew Shieh  
John Thomson

## **Contributor** Less than \$150

Mike Bondi  
Lani and Richard Cliff  
Laura Hipp  
Yimmon Ho  
Takanori Kato  
Babette McKay  
Makiko Mizukami  
Wendy Sachs  
Sally Schroeter  
Nadine White  
Laurie Willhalm

## **Corporate Donors**

Amazon Smile • Apple • Facebook • Google  
Hewlett Packard Enterprise • IBM • Intel • Nvidia • Salesforce  
SVCREATES • Sephora • TIBCO Software • VMware

*The listings above reflect donations made in the past 12 months.  
Nova Vista apologizes in advance for any errors or omissions.*

**Nova Vista Symphony wishes to thank the following  
people and organizations who helped make this concert happen:**

Nadine White & Lani Cliff: *Music librarians*  
George Yefchak: *Associate Conductor*  
Christine Mendoza & Lani Cliff: *Venues*  
David Lee: *Personnel* • Joyce Jones: *Website*  
George Yefchak, Nancy Sitton: *Design and marketing*

## Soloist

**Kwok Kuen Koo** was born in Shanghai, China and began studying the piano at an early age. He attended the Music Elementary and Music Middle School, both affiliated with the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. His teachers were Professor Su-ning Yang and Professor Si-sun Ma and he was later selected to be a student of Professor Ji-sun Fan of the Shanghai Conservatory.

Koo became a principal pianist of Zhejiang Philharmonic between 1968 and 1977. Upon moving to Hong Kong, he frequently appeared on the local TV and radio stations as a guest soloist with the Hong Kong Philharmonic, the CCP Philharmonic, the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, the Hong Kong City Philharmonic, and the Hong Kong Pan-Asia Philharmonic.

After immigrating to the United States, Koo was invited to be the Music Director and Conductor of the Dragon Singers in Berkeley from 1984 to 1993. He was also a guest conductor of the Palo Alto Philharmonic and the Winchester Orchestra. Koo attended the Music and Arts Institute of San Francisco in 1983 where he studied with Professor Peter Black and Professor Ross McKee. Black introduced him to the high level of American university and conservatory musical analysis, and gave him an understanding of 20th century music which Koo had not studied before coming to the U.S. In 1984, Koo entered the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and graduated in 1985 with the degree of Master of Music. Koo studied with Professor Mack McCray, winner of the silver medal in the Enescu International Piano Competition. McCray described Koo's playing as "wonderful, exciting and powerful".

As a recording artist for Hong Kong Records, Koo's series of albums of Chinese contemporary piano music were recorded in Japan and distributed in many countries. Well-known composer Professor Li-san Wang praised Koo by saying, "You really are a gifted pianist with a meticulous interpretation of my works. You are the first Chinese pianist who interpreted a piano piece composed in the 12-tone system. Your contribution will not be forgotten."



**Mr. Koo would like to thank Mark Wong, his collaborative pianist in preparation for today's performance.**

## Program Notes

In tonight's concert we explore the world of piano concertos through two magnificent works by two of the most renowned composers in classical music history: Sergei Rachmaninoff and Ludwig van Beethoven. While both concertos are celebrated for their virtuosity and emotional depth, they offer striking contrasts in style, temperament, and historical context.

### **Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)** **Piano Concerto No. 3 in C Minor, Op. 37**

Allegro con brio — Largo — Rondo: Allegro

Beethoven's third piano concerto, composed between 1796 and 1803, marks the transition from the Classical to the Romantic era. Beethoven, a musical revolutionary, pushed the boundaries of form and expression. Beethoven himself premiered the concerto during one of his "Akademien" on April 5, 1803.

Although he had been working on the piece for several years, he still did not have the

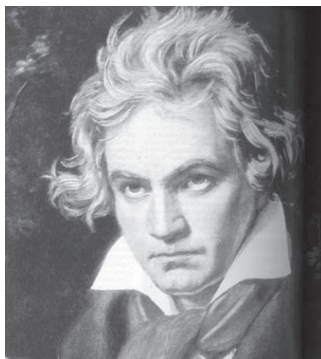
piano part finished at the performance. His page turner described the manuscript as "nothing but empty leaves; at the most, on one page or the other a few Egyptian hieroglyphics wholly unintelligible to me scribbled down to serve as clues". Although Beethoven did finally write out the piano part and wrote out the cadenza in the first movement, many other pianists including Clara Schumann and Bedřich Smetana wrote alternative cadenzas and tonight's cadenza is the one written by Franz Liszt.

The first movement, "Allegro con brio," opens with a long establishing statement from the orchestra. A full three minutes later the piano responds with its own contrasting theme. This back and forth continues through the whole movement and showcases Beethoven's innovative approach to the concerto form.

The second movement, "Largo," is a serene and introspective contrast to the energy of the first movement. Beethoven's lyrical melodies and rich harmonies create a sense of profound contemplation.

The final movement, "Rondo: Allegro," is a lively rondo featuring playful themes and a spirited dialogue between the piano and the orchestra, bringing the concerto to a triumphant close.

Piano Concerto No. 3 was premiered on April 5, 1803 with the composer as soloist in a concert that included his First Symphony, the premiere of his Second Symphony, and the premiere of the oratorio "Christ on the Mount of Olives."



**Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873–1943)**  
**Piano Concerto No. 2 in C Minor, Op. 18**

In 1897 Sergei Rachmaninoff's First Symphony had a disastrous premiere. Rachmaninoff went into a deep depression and although he had planned his next major work to be his second piano concerto he found himself unable to compose anything. In his Memoirs he wrote "I did nothing and found no pleasure in anything. Half my days were spent lying on a couch and sighing over my ruined life." After three years of spiralling depression, an aunt suggested he consult with a psychologist who had helped her, Nikolai Dahl. Dahl was himself an amateur musician who used hypnotherapy and supportive therapy to help Rachmaninoff which included suggesting over and over that "You will begin to write your concerto ... You will work with great facility ... The concerto will be of an excellent quality". The Second Piano Concerto is dedicated to Dahl and was a resounding success, fully redeeming Rachmaninoff's career as a composer.



Rachmaninoff composed his Piano Concerto No. 2 in 1900–1901 and revised it later in 1907. This concerto stands as a testament to the late Romantic era, a time when composers were known for their lush melodies and intense emotional expressiveness.

The first movement, "Allegro moderato," opens with a dramatic and unforgettable melody on the piano, setting the tone for the entire concerto. The contrast between the bold, assertive themes and the more lyrical, introspective passages creates a captivating dynamic.

The second movement, "Adagio sostenuto," is often regarded as one of the most achingly beautiful pieces in the piano concerto repertoire. It contrasts sharply with the previous movement by its lyrical and dreamlike qualities, providing a moment of reflection and introspection. The solo clarinet plays a melody that was later used by singer Eric Carmen for his 1975 ballad "All by Myself," made even more popular by Celine Dion's version in 1996.

The final movement, "Allegro scherzando," is a lively and exuberant contrast to the previous movement. It showcases Rachmaninoff's brilliant pianism and brings the concerto to a thrilling conclusion. The second theme of the third movement was used in the ballad "Full Moon and Empty Arms", recorded by Frank Sinatra in 1945.

The second and third movements were first performed on December 15, 1900 and the full piano concerto was premiered in its entirety on November 9, 1901 at the Moscow Philharmonic Society with the composer as soloist and his cousin Alexander Siloti conducting.

Enjoy the virtuosity, contrast, and brilliance of these two remarkable piano concertos, as we embark on a journey through time and emotion with these masterful compositions.

*– Program notes by Nancy Sitton*



### **Nova Vista Symphony Association Board of Directors**

Christine Mendoza, President *flute*  
Kenin Coloma, Vice President *flute*  
Karmen Peng, Treasurer *cello*  
Cathy Olsen, Secretary *flute*  
Pat Blackie *violin*  
Lani Cliff *clarinet*  
Joyce Jones *violin*  
Richard Lamb *horn*  
David Lee *violin*

Brian Lowery  
Thomas Mykytyn, *bass*  
Kent Peacock, *flute*  
Nancy Sitton *bass*  
Nadine White *violin*  
George Yefchak *oboe*



Supported by SVCreates, in partnership  
with the County of Santa Clara



Silicon Valley Arts Coalition Nova Vista Symphony is a member of Silicon Valley Arts Coalition,  
a group of arts organizations that promotes high quality arts at  
affordable prices throughout Silicon Valley.  
[www.artssiliconvalley.org](http://www.artssiliconvalley.org)

**Sponsored in part by the California Coronavirus Relief fund and  
the California Non Profit Performing Arts Grant Program**



# Nova Vista Symphony

Anthony Quartuccio, Music Director

## **Violin I**

Rick Shinozaki  
*concertmaster*  
David Lee  
*associate concertmaster*  
Diane Baker  
*assistant concertmaster*  
Sunhwa Choi  
Samson Huang  
Daniel Huang  
Fan Kong  
Kwok Ping Koo  
Grace Leung  
Susan Shi

## **Violin II**

Linnea Shieh  
*principal*  
Albert Chiang  
Carl Ching  
Eva Ching  
Joyce Jones  
Casey Madsen  
John Thomson  
Tamara Uçar  
Nadine White

## **Viola**

Joshua Kaye  
*acting principal*  
Laura Hipp  
Nana Kuo  
Makiko Mizukami  
Karen Salzer  
Sally Schroeter  
Yujun Xie

## **Cello**

Harris Karsch  
*principal*  
Anna Bartley  
Jennifer Chou  
Alex Holmes  
Deb Kelly  
Ray Kuo  
Oshagan Merjanian  
Thomas Shoebotham

## **Bass**

Thomas Mykytyn  
*principal*  
John Braunreuther  
Solange Emsallem  
Chun-Ping Lin  
Ella Liu  
Nancy Sitton

## **Flute**

Kenin Coloma  
*principal*  
Christine Mendoza

## **Oboe**

Bill Gay  
*principal*  
Babette McKay

## **Clarinet**

Claudia Zornow  
*principal*  
James Aldous

## **Bassoon**

Adam Williams  
*principal*  
Juliet Hamak

## **Horn**

Steve Padgett  
*principal*  
Kelly Hanson-Schaefer  
Doug Hawk  
Roger Romani

## **Trumpet**

Richard Woodbury  
*principal*  
Ken Morse

## **Trombone**

Haruki Mizukami  
*principal*  
Steve Reneker  
Dave Papay

## **Tuba**

John Whitecar

## **Timpani**

Richard Gillam

## **Percussion**

John Blink  
Carolyn Manning

## **Associate Conductor**

George Yefchak

# South Bay Philharmonic

George Yefchak, Music Director

**November 10, 2023 at 7:30 P.M.**

**Rachmaninoff: Piano Concerto No. 2**

**with Russell Hancock**

**Schubert: Symphony No. 8, "Unfinished"**

**Rachmaninoff: Vocalise, with Kathryn Benedicto**



**1980 Hamilton Avenue, San Jose**

**Tickets: \$20** (children 12 and under FREE)

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

*The South Bay Philharmonic seeks to provide a friendly and welcoming atmosphere for orchestral musicians from a wide range of backgrounds and skill levels, and to present familiar as well as lesser-known repertoire for the enrichment of our members and the audience.*

## Upcoming Nova Vista Symphony Concerts

### **Holiday Celebration: Berlioz and Saint-Saëns**

Sunday, December 3, 2023 7:30 p.m., Church of the Ascension  
12033 Miller Avenue, Saratoga, CA

**Berlioz:** Selections from L'enfance du Christ with San Jose Symphonic Choir

**Saint-Saëns:** Symphony No. 3 ("Organ") with Adrien Cotta, organist

**Saint-Saëns:** Selections from Oratorio de Noël

### **Young and Young at Heart: Brahms and Barber**

Saturday, February 24, 2024 7:30 p.m., Mountain View Center for the  
Performing Arts, 500 Castro Street, Mountain View, CA

**Barber:** First Essay for Orchestra, conducted by George Yefchak

**Haydn:** Symphony No. 88

**Brahms:** Violin Concerto with Dustin Breshears, violin

### **Roses from Vienna: Mozart and R. Strauss**

Saturday, April 20, 2024 7:30 p.m., DeAnza Visual & Performing Arts Center  
21250 Stevens Creek Boulevard, Cupertino, CA

**Mozart:** Piano Concerto No. 20 with Jon Lee, piano

**Hsieh:** *A new work, to be announced*

**R. Strauss:** Der Rosenkavalier Suite

### **Pops Concert**

Sunday, June 2, 2024 3:00 p.m., McAfee Performing Arts Center  
20300 Herriman Avenue, Saratoga CA

Works by Leonard Bernstein, John Williams and more

Want to hear about our upcoming concerts? Send us your email  
address using the handy form at **[www.novavista.org](http://www.novavista.org)**.  
(Click on "Contact Us.") You can also email **[info@novavista.org](mailto:info@novavista.org)**  
or call **408-624-1492**.

LIVE PERFORMANCE.  
IN YOUR HOME.



**THE WORLD'S FINEST HIGH RESOLUTION PLAYER PIANO**

Enjoy performances captured by great pianists — played with such nuance, power, and passion that they are utterly indistinguishable from a live performance.

**STEINWAY PIANO GALLERY - LOS ALTOS**

316 STATE STREET, LOS ALTOS, CA 94022

TEL. 650.559.7888



STEINWAY & SONS  
SPIRO