



For Immediate Release

**MUSIC AT KOHL MANSION ANNOUNCES 2025-26 SEASON
8 CONCERTS OF CHAMBER MUSIC PERFORMED BY STELLAR ARTISTS
BEGINNING OCTOBER 19 WITH DEBUT OF THE BENNEWITZ QUARTET FROM PRAGUE;
SEASON 43 INCLUDES SPECIAL BAROQUE HOLIDAY PROGRAM DECEMBER 14**



www.musicatkohl.org

Burlingame, Calif. (June 17, 2025) — Hailed as one of the Bay Area’s most “prestigious chamber music presenters,” **Music at Kohl Mansion** (MAKM) proudly announces its 43rd season of outstanding chamber music. The 2025–26 season features eight Sunday evening concerts at 7 p.m., spanning October 19 to May 3, held in the stunning, acoustically rich Great Hall of Burlingame’s historic Kohl Mansion. The new season brings a dazzling lineup of some of the world’s leading chamber musicians, including five highly anticipated MAKM debuts, along with a festive Baroque holiday concert — all performed in the warmth and intimacy of this cherished Peninsula landmark.

“We are deeply honored to share our upcoming season, featuring extraordinary artists and programs that have been carefully curated over several years,” said Executive Director **Patricia Kristof Moy**. “By a fortunate confluence of events, this season celebrates the rich Czech musical tradition, with two exceptional ensembles from Prague and works by notable Czech composers. The entire lineup showcases some of today’s most exciting next-generation chamber musicians. Season 43 also marks the long-awaited return of a woodwind quintet to our stage for the first time in over 25 years, along with a festive Baroque Holiday program. Each concert reflects the diversity, depth, and joy of live chamber music at its finest.”

~~~~~ Music at Kohl Mansion 2025-26 Season ~~~~~

**Sunday, October 19, 2025**

**BENNEWITZ QUARTET\* (Prague, Czech Republic)**

**Jakub Fiser & Stepan Jezek, violins; Jiri Pinkas, viola; Stepan Dolezal, cello**

Joseph Haydn: String Quartet in F Major, Op. 77, No. 2

Leoš Janáček: String Quartet No. 2, "Intimate Letters"

Antonín Dvořák: String Quartet in A-flat Major, Op. 105

**"An ensemble that one could spontaneously count as one of the best ever heard." (Süddeutsche Zeitung)**

Founded in 1998 and based in Prague, the Bennewitz Quartet is one of the top ensembles on the international chamber music scene. After winning two prestigious competitions – Osaka Chamber Music and Festa 2005, and Premio Paolo Borciani, Italy 2008, the quartet quickly gained the acclaim of the critics. The ensemble has received various awards and in 2019 won the "Classic Prague Award" for the Best Chamber Music Performance of the year. Last season, the Bennewitz Quartet returned to several European venues, including Wigmore Hall London, Laeiszhalle Hamburg, and Konzerthaus Berlin, performing the string quintets by Dvořák and Brahms with guest violist Veronika Hagen. The quartet performed in the United States, making its debut in Providence, Houston, and Tucson, and returned to the Music and Beyond Festival in Ottawa and The Harvard Musical Association. In the Czech Republic, the Bennewitz Quartet presented the final concerts of Dvořák's string quartets as part of the Dvořák Prague Festival.

**Sunday, November 16, 2025**

**TRIO BOHÉMO\* (Prague, Czech Republic - founded in Budapest, Hungary)**

**Jan Vojtek, piano; Matouš Pěruška, violin; Kristina Vocetková, cello**

Joseph Haydn: Piano Trio in A Major, Hob.XV:35

Bohuslav Martinů: Piano Trio No. 2 in D minor, H.327

Jan Vičar: Cycle of folk songs, "From Moravia"

Bedřich Smetana: Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 15

**"... an immensely promising debut." (The Guardian)**

Shortly after its formation in 2019, the Trio Bohémo's talent and deep musicality became apparent. They received numerous awards beginning with the Gianni Bergamo Award in Lugano, Switzerland, where they were awarded second prize. Due to this success, the trio has rapidly won awards as "Ensemble of the Year in 2021," followed by critical recognition in Vienna including the audience prize at the "International Johannes Brahms Competition," and first prize at the "International Filippo Nicosia Award" in Italy. The trio's stunning successes on the competition circuit has led to a number of debut appearances including on BBC Radio, performances in Lithuania, returns to Austria for the "International Joseph Haydn Chamber Music Competition," and a debut in Melbourne, Australia. The trio's busy touring schedule counts successful appearances at Vienna's Musikverein, London's Wigmore Hall, the Prague Spring Festival, and in Ghent at the Festival van Vlaanderen.

**Sunday, December 14, 2025 - Baroque Holiday Program**

**MUSICA PACIFICA (San Francisco)**

**Judy Linsenberg, recorder; Ingrid Matthews, violin; Alexa Haynes-Pilon, viola da gamba; Charles**

## **Sherman, harpsichord**

*Hijinks of the High Baroque: Composers Behaving Badly*

Festive music of Handel, Telemann, Veracini, Rameau, Purcell punctuated with hilarious stories of the composers' misdeeds and shenanigans.

**"Perhaps the standout of the entire festival."** (*Early Music*, UK)

Musica Pacifica has, since its founding in 1990, become widely recognized as one of America's premier baroque ensembles, lauded for both the dazzling virtuosity and the warm expressiveness of its performances. They have been described by the press as "some of the finest baroque musicians in America" (*American Record Guide*) and "among the best in the world" (*Alte Musik Aktuell*). In the Bay Area, the artists perform with Philharmonia Baroque, American Bach Soloists, Berkeley Early Music Festival, and appear with many other prominent early music ensembles nationally and abroad. Recent performances include Music Before 1800 and the Frick Collection (NY); the Getty Museum (Los Angeles); the Cleveland Art Museum; the Pittsburgh Renaissance and Baroque Society; the Seattle Early Music Guild; the Houston Early Music Society; and the LA County Museum.

**Sunday, January 18, 2026**

## **BALOURDET QUARTET\* (Bloomington, IN)**

**Angela Bae & Justin DeFilippis, violins; Benjamin Zannoni, viola; Russell Houston, cello**

Béla Bartók: String Quartet No. 3

Amy Beach: String Quartet in One Movement, Op. 89

Eleanor Alberga: String Quartet No. 2

Johannes Brahms: String Quartet No. 3 in B-flat Major, Op. 67

**"Absolute musical perfection ... full, robust sound ... impeccable balance."** (*The Boston Musical Intelligencer*)

Established in 2018, the Balourdet Quartet is acclaimed for its vibrant energy and masterful blend of technical precision and emotional depth that brings a fresh perspective to both beloved classics and modern compositions. Its unique closeness and willingness to take creative risks earned the Balourdet the 2024 Avery Fisher Career Grant, as well as Chamber Music America's 2024 Cleveland Quartet Award. With more than 70 concerts per season, recent highlights include the Balourdet's debuts at Carnegie and Wigmore Halls, and the premiere of new string quartets by composers Karim Al-Zand, Paul Novak, and Nicky Sohn. They have recently been named the first ever Quartet-in-Residence at the Seattle Chamber Music Society and have just completed residencies at Indiana University and the New England Conservatory's Professional String Quartet Program. Highlights of the 2025-26 season include performances at Carnegie Hall, the Freer Gallery at the Smithsonian, Boston's Celebrity Series in Jordan Hall, and Chamber Music Houston. Recently, they have performed at the Kennedy Center, Buffalo Chamber Music, the Chamber Music Society of Detroit, the La Jolla Music Society, and Rockport Music.

**Sunday, February 22, 2026**

## **LYSANDER PIANO TRIO (Athens, GA – founded at Juilliard School, NY))**

**Itamar Zorman, Violin; James Kim, Cello; Liza Stepanova, Piano**

W. A. Mozart: Piano Trio in E Major, K. 542

Rebecca Clarke: Piano Trio  
Shulamit Ran: Soliloquy  
Antonín Dvořák: Piano Trio in F minor, Op. 65

**“...incredible ensemble, passionate playing, articulate and imaginative ideas and wide palette of colors.”**  
(*The Strad*)

The Lysander Piano Trio has spent over a decade performing around the US with more than 100 appearances at notable venues including The Kennedy Center’s Terrace Theater, Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, The Mostly Mozart Festival at David Geffen Hall, and a critically acclaimed recital at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. The Trio is devoted to inventive programming, exciting collaborations, and finding intriguing connections between works from all over the world. *The Washington Post* praised the Lysander Piano Trio for “an uncommon degree of heart-on-the-sleeve emotional frankness” and “vivid engagement carried by soaring, ripely Romantic playing.” The Trio’s debut recording *After A Dream* (CAG Records) was acclaimed by *The New York Times* for its “polished and spirited interpretations.”

**Sunday, March 22, 2026**

**WINDSYNC\* (Houston, TX)**

**Garrett Hudson, flute; Noah Kay, oboe; Graeme Steele Johnson, clarinet; Kara LaMoure, bassoon; Anni Hochhalter, horn**

Nadia Boulanger/arr. LaMoure: Prelude in F

Nadia Boulanger/arr. LaMoure: Three Pieces

Elliott Carter: Woodwind Quintet

Philip Glass/arr. LaMoure: Etude No. 17

Dieterich Buxtehude: Passacaglia in D minor, BuxWV 161

W. A. Mozart/arr. Rechtman: Serenade in C minor, K. 388

**“one of the most pleasing sounds between heaven and earth...”** (*All About the Arts*)

The wind quintet WindSync embraces the classics and growing contemporary repertoire with a fresh sensibility. Versatile and vibrant, the group plays “many idioms authoritatively, elegantly, with adroit technique, and with great fun” (*All About the Arts*). WindSync’s 2024-25 season included a residency at Ravinia’s Bennett Gordon Hall series; a residency at Shelter Island Friends of Music, New York; performances at Corpus Christi Chamber Music Society with pianist Jon Kimura Parker; Harvard Musical Association; the University of Vermont Lane Series, Burlington; Chamber Music Kelowna, British Columbia; Chamber Music Raleigh, NC; and a return to Chamber Music Northwest and Emerald City Music, in Seattle and Portland, for community residencies. The group celebrated its 15th anniversary season in 2023-24, with performances in New York City (Chelsea Music Festival), Houston, Miami, Portland, Phoenix, Charleston, Rochester, Syracuse, and Santa Rosa.

**Sunday, April 19, 2026**

**BEO STRING QUARTET\* (Pittsburgh, PA)** with guest artist **Michel Taddei\***, double bass

**Jason Neukom & Andrew “Gio” Giordano, violins; Sean Neukom, viola; Ryan Ash, cello**

J.S. Bach: Selections from *The Art of Fugue*, BWV 1080

Philip Glass: String Quartet No. 3, *Mishima*

Sean Neukom: *El Balcón*

Gabriela Ortiz: *Mictlán (Place of the Dead)*, from *Altar de Muertos*  
Antonín Dvořák: Double Bass Quintet in G Major, Op. 77

**“This is an ensemble whose music making speaks to the heart as well as the mind.”** (Grammy-winning composer Richard Danielpour, Curtis Institute of Music)

With 65 world premieres to its credit and 150 concert works played throughout the United States, South America, and Europe, the iconoclastic Beo String Quartet does what it loves best: playing classical repertoire, contemporary, rock, and experimental music. From the Latin “to make happy,” Beo started out as a lark. Two Mexican-American brothers, Jason Neukom and Sean Neukom, decided to record a song entitled “Happy, Happy,” composed by Sean, but for that they would need two more players. And so, in 2015 the Beo String Quartet was formed. The eclectic and highly polished Beo String Quartet has created a niche for itself as a daring, genre-defying ensemble. Rigorously trained in the classical tradition, the musicians also know their way around contemporary expression, including the use of electronics, live sound processing, and spatial audio manipulation. In 2023, the Beo Quartet made an auspicious New York debut at the famed J.P. Morgan Library in a concert that was hailed as “outstanding” by the *New York Classical Review*. Undaunted by artistic or logistical challenges, the Beo play the masters in a variety of settings, collaborate with living composers, and explore technology’s capacity to the fullest.

Joining the Beo Quartet for this concert is double bass musician Michel Taddei who is a founding member of the Left Coast Chamber Ensemble, and is Principal Bass of the Mendocino Music Festival, Berkeley Symphony, Bay Philharmonic, and San Francisco and Pacific Chamber Orchestras, and has performed with the San Francisco Symphony and New Century Chamber Orchestras. His credits include performances with Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble in the U.S. and in Central Asia.

**Sunday, May 3, 2026**

**CALIDORE STRING QUARTET (New York, N.Y.)**

**Jeffrey Myers & Ryan Meehan, violins; Jeremy Berry, viola; Estelle Choi, cello**

W. A. Mozart: Divertimento in F Major, K. 138

Erich Wolfgang Korngold: String Quartet No. 3 in D Major, Op. 34

Ludwig van Beethoven: String Quartet No. 9 in C Major, Op. 59, No. 3, “Razumovsky”

**“The kind of sublimity other quartets spend a lifetime seeking.”** (*LA Times*)

The Calidore String Quartet is recognized as one of the world’s foremost interpreters of a vast chamber music repertory, from the cycles of quartets by Beethoven and Mendelssohn to works of celebrated contemporary voices like György Kurtág, Jörg Widmann, and Caroline Shaw. For more than a decade, the Calidore has enjoyed performances and residencies in the world’s major venues and festivals, released multiple critically acclaimed recordings, and won numerous awards. The New York City based Calidore String Quartet has appeared in venues throughout North America, Europe, and Asia including Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, London’s Wigmore Hall, Berlin’s Konzerthaus, Amsterdam’s Concertgebouw, Brussels’ BOZAR, and at major festivals such as the BBC Proms, Verbier, Ravinia and Music@Menlo. Founded at the Colburn School in Los Angeles in 2010, the Calidore String Quartet has won top prizes at major US chamber music competitions, including the Fischhoff, Coleman, Chesapeake, and Yellow Springs.

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TICKETS

Subscription tickets for seven chamber music concerts, not including the Baroque Holiday program, are \$370 (Adult), \$355 (Seniors) and \$175 (Age 30 and below). Subscriptions for the full eight concert series, including the Baroque Holiday Program, are \$420 (Adult), \$405 (Seniors) and \$200 (Age 30 and below). Subscriptions go on sale Tuesday, July 1.

Individual tickets to all eight concerts will go on sale August 13 and are priced \$62 (Adult), \$60 (Seniors, Age 62 and older) and \$30 (Youth, Age 30 and below). To purchase tickets, visit www.musicatkohl.org or call the MAKM Box Office (650) 762-1130. Ticket holders are invited to a complimentary post-performance wine and sweets reception with the artists.

YOUNG CHAMBER MUSICIANS

Music at Kohl Mansion will once again proudly collaborate with founder **Susan Bates** and the award-winning **Young Chamber Musicians** organization to present free public masterclasses in the Kohl Mansion Library, featuring talented pre-college musicians before all eight season concerts at 5 p.m.

PRE-PERFORMANCE TALKS

Christopher Costanza, distinguished cellist and Stanford educator/coach, will offer an informative pre-concert lecture for ticket holders at 6 p.m. in the Kohl Mansion Library before all eight concerts.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Music at Kohl Mansion is the longest-running chamber music-only presenter on the San Francisco Peninsula. In addition to presenting concerts at Kohl Mansion, MAKM will continue its successful partnerships with numerous Bay Area organizations including the **San Mateo Public Library**; **City of Palo Alto Library**; the **Mechanics Institute Library** in San Francisco; the **Peninsula Jewish Community Center** in Foster City; the **Stratford** senior residence center in San Mateo; and extensive presentations in elementary, middle and high schools throughout San Mateo County. No fewer than 134 events are planned for Season 43 reaffirming Music at Kohl Mansion's diverse community engagement and mission to uplift, inspire and connect people through the power of music.

Music at Kohl Mansion gratefully acknowledges and thanks the following for their support: **Mervyn L. Brenner Foundation**, **Sam Mazza Foundation**, **Dragonfly Community Arts**, **Atkinson Foundation**, **Carlstrom Productions**, **Y & H Soda Foundation**, the **City of Burlingame**, the **Consulate of Israel to the Pacific Northwest**, **Broadway Grill**, and over 100 generous individual donors.

Music at Kohl Mansion presents Season 43 of international chamber music concerts in the Great Hall of the historic Kohl Mansion, 2750 Adeline Drive, Burlingame. Ample free parking is available. www.musicatkohl.org

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***Music at Kohl Mansion Debut**