

Santa Barbara Symphony to Bridge Past and Present

Mozart's Requiem

By Daisy Scott / VOICE

CELEBRATING MOZART'S SOUL-STIRRING *REQUIEM* by uniting 100 local voices on the Granada Theatre stage, the Santa Barbara Symphony will deliver its next long-anticipated choral concerts on November 15th and 16th. One of the most hauntingly beautiful works in the classical music canon with great potential for modern connections, Mozart's *Requiem* will be thoughtfully paired with the Symphony's premiere of its specially-commissioned *Double Trombone Concerto*.



SB Symphony Music & Artistic Director **Nir Kabaretti**

While the two works may seem wholly distinct, Music & Artistic Director Nir Kabaretti explained during the season's preview event that the works complement each other by centering dynamic pairings. In commissioning the concerto, he asked composer Andrea Tarrodi if she could engage with Mozart's *Requiem*.

"I asked if it would be possible to touch in your music the *Tuba mirum*, which she did," said Kabaretti. "It is sort of a dialogue between two instrumentalists. It is beautiful and also looks back to Mozart; it's really exciting."

Requiem's history is as complex as the composition itself. Mozart was commissioned to compose the *Requiem* to honor a count's wife after she died at the age of 20. Yet, as fate would have it, Mozart himself died before he could finish the work. *Requiem* was ultimately completed by Franz Xaver Süssmayr and promoted by Mozart's widow, ensuring that this tour de force was not lost to time.

Its blend of choral and orchestral harmony has elevated the *Requiem* to become one of the most memorable and best recognized classical works, especially where its compelling *Lacrimosa* is concerned. So that all audiences may enjoy the work's lyricism, the Symphony will use supertitles translating Mozart's Latin.

The orchestra will join forces with the Santa Barbara Symphony Chorus, a singular group of community members united by their shared love of choral music.

Nicole Callahan, who also sings with the Quire of Voyces, jumped at the chance to be a part of the Symphony Chorus. A singer since her days with the Santa Barbara High School Madrigals, she has now returned to her hometown from New York, where she taught at Columbia University. She is eager to once again sing with Kabaretti's expert direction alongside community members, many of whom are also participants in regional choirs.

"I'm just so blown away I get to be doing this, to be performing this caliber of music with this caliber of musicians in a town as small as Santa Barbara," shared Callahan, who is now Board Vice President for State Street Ballet.

After singing with the Symphony Chorus for Brahms' *A German Requiem* last spring, she is eager to once again experience the thrill of



One hundred community members make up the **Santa Barbara Symphony Chorus**, who will perform Mozart's *Requiem* on November 15th and 16th

rehearsing with the whole orchestra and chorus.

"All of a sudden, you're inside the music, and it's so loud and intense and beautiful, and I find myself standing up there singing a requiem—a Catholic mass for the dead—and I'm grinning ear to ear, because I'm so happy and excited and moved by the music that I get to sing," she laughed. "And then I have to remember during the performance, don't smile!"

For Dillon MacIntyre, the Symphony's principal trombonist, the concert will also mark a full circle moment as he plays alongside Christian Lindberg, an internationally-

celebrated trombone master who he has long admired. A renowned soloist, Lindberg has premiered hundreds of works for the trombone and played with orchestras around the world.

MacIntyre is an established trombonist, having worked with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Denmark's Prinsens Musikkorps in addition to Southern California studios for film scores. He has taught at CSU Los Angeles and CSU Northridge.

"It is one of my life missions to show audiences, and also composers, that the trombone can play very lyrically and play soft, delicate melodies just as well as any other instrument can," shared MacIntyre.

In addition to referencing *Requiem*, Tarrodi's *Double Trombone Concerto* reflects the music she heard in her childhood—including pieces such as *Flight of the Bumblebee*, which her father, Lindberg himself, has famously performed.

The result is an innovative work that provides what MacIntyre calls "a textural journey," adding that he feels "Andrea Tarrodi creates paintings through musical imagery."

Part of this effect rests in the layered entrances of the orchestra's various instruments as they accompany the central trombones.

"At some points, it's almost like they're competing with each other," said MacIntyre. "One trombone comes in after the other, or one trombone is playing the thematic idea number one, and then the second one kind of interjects with the thematic idea number two. Then, at the end of the piece, we come together."

The Symphony will also present Kernis' *Musica Celestis*, completing the program's ethereal energy.

For tickets visit thesymphony.org



SB Symphony Principal Trombonist **Dillon MacIntyre**



SB Symphony Chorus member **Nicole Callahan**



Internationally-acclaimed trombonist and guest artist **Christian Lindberg**



Photo by Nik Blaskovich