

CABRILLO FESTIVAL

OF CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

147 South River Street, Suite 232, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

JULY 26–AUGUST 9, 2026

FESTIVAL SUBSCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE NOW!

Cabrillo Festival's 2026 season, *We the Dreamers*—spotlighting music that reimagines who we are, who we have been, and who we dream to become. Four mainstage orchestral concerts explore American identity in all its complexity, grappling with history, power, belonging, and the ongoing struggle to realize the promises of democracy, equality, and unalienable rights.

PRIORITY SEATING DEADLINE IS MAY 18!

Non-subscriber single tickets available June 2 (at noon).

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SUPPORTING COMMUNITY

Join us for Cabrillo Festival's beloved **free Family Concert!** Led by Conductor-in-Residence Octavio Más-Arocas, audiences of all ages will delight in **Paul Dooley's** *The Conductor's Spellbook*—an interactive musical adventure—alongside **Gala Flagello's** bold fanfare *Bravado*. A lively “Tour of the Orchestra” and performances by students from **El Sistema Santa Cruz/Pajaro Valley** make this a true community celebration.

We're committed to making music accessible for all. Our free open rehearsals, both in-person and online, invite the community to peek behind the musical curtain, while our summer Youth Ensemble program provides young musicians with professional-level training and performance opportunities, and our Conductors/Composers Workshop trains the next generation of new music leaders.

We are firmly committed to these educational programs, despite quickly changing funding landscapes. Please consider supporting the Cabrillo Festival's mission by giving at cabrillomusic.org or when you place your ticket order.

OUR FREE FAMILY CONCERT AND MORE

Join us in our work to champion **daring composers and groundbreaking works, pushing the boundaries of what orchestra can do by donating, hosting, or becoming a sponsor at cabrillomusic.org.**

& OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

Redtree Partners, L.P.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS ON SALE NOW: CABRILLOMUSIC.ORG

Order in person at the Civic Auditorium Box Office, 307 Church Street, or by phone: 831.420.5260 x5 Tuesday–Friday, 12–4pm

TWO FULL SUBSCRIPTION OPTIONS:

Premium Loge/Orchestra

Full Subscription: \$380

Terrace Full Subscription: \$320

All taxes and fees included!

PRIORITY SEATING DEADLINE IS MAY 18

SUBSCRIPTION BENEFITS:

- Priority access to the best seats in the house, year after year!
- Exclusive early ordering through Priority Seating Deadline: May 18

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION INCLUDES TICKETS TO:

- Four Orchestra Concerts (July 31+Aug 1; Aug 8+9);
- **PLUS, TWO** free 2-for-1 ticket vouchers to share with friends!

SINGLE TICKETS ON SALE JUNE 2 (AT NOON):

All Orchestra Concerts: **\$41 • \$80 • \$96**

Youth Tickets (age 35 & under): **\$26**

2026 Festival Merch Package: **\$50**

NEW! FESTIVAL MERCH PACKAGE

Elevate your Festival experience and support new music with our limited “Festival Merch Package”—a ticket add-on that secures you a commemorative 2026 Festival tote and t-shirt, along with an exclusive signed 2026 season poster!

SPECIAL THANKS TO THESE GRANTMAKERS:

Monterey Peninsula Foundation • The Aaron Copland Fund for Music, Inc. • Alice M. Ditson Fund of Columbia University Arts Council Santa Cruz County

BMI Foundation, Inc. • The Amphion Foundation
Nicholson Family Foundation • Community Foundation Santa Cruz County





LEARN MORE, GET TICKETS, AND MAKE YOUR ANNUAL FUND CONTRIBUTION NOW AT CABRILLOMUSIC.ORG!

The Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music embarks on its 64th season with remembering, reckoning, and collective imagining. Framed around the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, four orchestral concerts invite audiences to reflect on who we have been, who we are now, and who we dream to become, through the bold, uncompromising voices of today's composers. The 2026 season features all world, U.S., and West Coast premieres by a dynamic range of composers, from internationally celebrated icons to emerging artists standing at the threshold of their breakthrough. Composers are present throughout the Festival, engaging directly with musicians and audiences and making the creative process immediate, relevant, and profoundly human.

“We the Dreamers is both an invitation and a responsibility,” says Music Director Cristian Măcelaru. **“At this historic moment, we are asking how music can help us imagine a more expansive ‘we,’ one that listens deeply, embraces complexity, and dares to hope.”**

SAT JUL 25

7PM • ALL DONORS CONCERT

All Festival Donors are invited for an intimate pre-season chamber concert featuring members of the Festival Orchestra and some special guests, followed by a post-concert toast to the season.

SUN JUL 26

7PM • OPEN REHEARSALS BEGIN

Open Rehearsals are one of the Festival's most cherished traditions. Almost daily for two weeks, witness new music come to life as Cristi, our composers, guest artists, and the Festival Orchestra collaborate to discover and hone the sound of each new work ahead of performances. **FREE** in person & livestreamed online!

TUE JUL 28

7PM • IN THE WORKS CONCERT

A concert of works performed by the Cabrillo Festival Orchestra penned by four under-30 composers and conducted by emerging conductors, all participating in the Conductors/Composers Workshop. **FREE!**

FRI JUL 31

6:30PM • PRE-CONCERT PICNIC + TALK

A free outdoor pre-concert experience featuring a brass sextet and a special welcome by Music Director Cristian Măcelaru. Bring takeout or some snacks from home. Table seating available.

8PM • ON FREEDOM

The 64th Cabrillo Festival opens with a program confronting the fault lines between democratic ideals and lived reality. **Vivian Fung's** Festival commission (world premiere) challenges the tension between patriotic tradition and the struggle for true equality. **Philip Glass's** Symphony No. 15 *Lincoln* (West Coast premiere), featuring baritone Zachary James, weaves Abraham Lincoln's own words into music of urgent resonance. **Pedro Emanuel Pereira's** Clarinet Concerto (Festival Commission | world premiere), featuring clarinetist Carlos Ferreira, fuses Portuguese tradition with experimental innovation.

SAT AUG 1

7PM • DEFIANT DREAMS

The Festival's second concert centers voices of resistance and reclaimed identity. **Leilehua Lanzilotti's** *of light and stone* (West Coast premiere) honors Indigenous Hawaiian identity, inspired by Nā Lani 'Ehā—the “Heavenly Four” of Hawaiian royalty. **James Lee III's** *Shades of Unbroken Dreams* (West Coast premiere), featuring pianist Alexandra Dariescu, evokes the cadence and moral force of Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision. **Sarah Hennies's** Creative Lab Commission (world premiere) pushes orchestral boundaries with characteristic inventiveness.

SUN AUG 2

1PM • FAMILY CONCERT

Magic is in the air! Dive into **Paul Dooley's** *The Conductor's Spellbook* and **Gala Flagello's** *Bravado*, plus a special performance by El Sistema Santa Cruz—fun for all ages, interactive, and totally **FREE!**

SAT AUG 8

3:30PM • YOUTH ENSEMBLE CONCERT

Hear the future of new music in this free chamber concert of original works programmed, produced, performed and presented by our adventurous 16–24-year-old Youth Ensemble. **FREE!**

7PM • CONTROL

Clarice Assad's *Kontrol* (Festival commission | world premiere), featuring violinist Philippe Quint, is a genre-defying work for narrator, projections, violin, and orchestra probing technology and agency in modern life. **Jackson A. Waters's** *Defending Greenwood* (West Coast premiere), winner of the 2026 Cabrillo Emerging Black Composers Prize, reflects on the Tulsa Race Massacre through musical testimony. **Hannah Ishizaki's** *Spin* (West Coast premiere) fuses waltz and EDM, while **Dan Dediú's** Concerto for Orchestra (U.S. premiere) closes as a virtuosic showcase of the full ensemble.



SUN AUG 9

7PM • HOPE AS OUR BANNER—GRAND FINALE

The radiant season finale celebrates belonging, joy, and endurance. **Eunike Tanzil's** *Ascending Creatures* (West Coast premiere) explores individuality and unity through the flight of birds. Violinist Tessa Lark draws on her Appalachian roots in **Lisa Bielawa's** *Pulse* (West Coast premiere). **Elena Kats-Chernin's** *Rainbow Promise* (U.S. premiere) celebrates marriage equality with jubilant remembrance, and **Sean Shepherd's** *Wanderlust* (West Coast premiere) brings the season to an audacious close.

Post-Season Reflection: Former U.S. Poet Laureate **Rita Dove** joins the Festival for a special closing event, performing her original poetry honoring the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. alongside Barber's *Adagio for Strings*. The poetry receives its West Coast premiere, offering a profound coda to a season of remembering, reckoning, and hope. Block party to follow!

ALL EVENTS ABOVE TAKE PLACE AT THE SANTA CRUZ CIVIC AUDITORIUM, 307 CHURCH STREET, SANTA CRUZ – NOW WITH HANDRAILS!