

MODESTO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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(From left to right: Nicholas Hersh, music director; Rob Patterson, clarinet; Modesto Symphony Orchestra)

MODESTO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENTS THE SYMPHONY IN A BRAND NEW WAY WITH SYMPHONIC SOUNDTRACK CONCERTS

March 15 & 16, 2024 - Modesto Symphony Orchestra presents *Symphonic Soundtrack*, an intermission-less concert featuring works by Stravinsky, Copland, and John Williams with a party after the concert.

MODESTO, CA – The Modesto Symphony Orchestra (MSO) presents [Symphonic Soundtrack](#) on March 15 & 16, 2024 led by **Music Director [Nicholas Hersh](#)**. The weekend’s concerts will be presented in a new format for the MSO. It will have no intermission and includes a program curated by Hersh and the MSO orchestra musicians that features their favorite, shorter pieces of symphonic repertoire. Another new addition is after the concert, all audience members are invited to join Hersh and the MSO orchestra musicians for a party in the Gallo Center for the Arts lobby featuring refreshments, appetizers, and the opportunity to mingle and celebrate the love of music.

“This concert features selections that have been chosen not only by myself—the conductor—but also our musicians,” says Music Director Nicholas Hersh. “When it comes to a typical symphony concert, usually it’s the conductor’s job to pick every piece on the program, which can be great and fun for me as a conductor, but often it can be lonely. It’s an exciting thing to be able to collaborate with our MSO musicians on picking pieces of music that they love to play and putting them all together in one program.”

The concert's program includes **Aaron Copland's Clarinet Concerto** featuring MSO's principal clarinet, [Rob Patterson](#). Other works include crowd-favorite **Stravinsky's *The Firebird***, alongside contemporary pieces such as 2024 Grammy-winning composer, **Jessie Montgomery's *Starburst* for string orchestra**, and **John Williams' "Princess Leia Theme" from *Star Wars***.

"If you've never been to the symphony and you're at all curious as to what it's like, this is a perfect concert for you to try out," says Nicholas Hersh. "Not only will it be an intermission-less, short program, but there will be an afterparty in the lobby where you can meet me and the musicians and have a great time."

MODESTO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, [SYMPHONIC SOUNDTRACK](#)

Friday, March 15, 2024, at 7:30 pm and Saturday, March 16, 2024, at 7:30 pm

[Nicholas Hersh](#), *conductor*

[Rob Patterson](#), *clarinet*

PROGRAM

Gioachino Rossini: Overture to *La Gazza Ladra*

Giovanni Gabrieli: Sonata pian' e forte

Jessie Montgomery: *Starburst* for string orchestra

Aaron Copland: Clarinet Concerto

Gabriel Fauré: Sicilienne from *Pelléas and Mélisande* Suite

Igor Stravinsky: Suite from *The Firebird* (1919)

John Williams: "Princess Leia's Theme" from *Star Wars*

Afterparty: All audience members are invited to join the orchestra and music director in the lobby after the concert for drinks, refreshments, and fun!

Gallo Center for the Arts, Mary Stuart Rogers Theater
1000 I Street, Modesto

TICKETS:

Pricing: \$20 / 36 / 52 / 72 / 94

\$12 student tickets available at the Gallo Center Ticket Office. Students can purchase two \$12 tickets with their student ID.

Ticketing Information:

Tickets are available online through [ModestoSymphony.org](#) or through the Gallo Center for the Arts Ticket Office at (209) 338-2100.

Group Prices available: Groups of 10+ receive a 15% discount on tickets. Call (209) 338-5064 for more information.

Gallo Center Ticket Office Hours: Monday through Friday 10:00am-6:00pm / Saturday 12:00pm-6:00pm

ARTIST BIOS:

NICHOLAS HERSH

American conductor Nicholas Hersh has earned critical acclaim for his innovative programming and natural ability to connect with musicians and audiences alike.

In the 2023-24 season, Hersh returns to the National, Houston, Baltimore, Colorado, and New Jersey Symphonies, while making debuts with the Springfield Symphony and Wintergreen Festival. Recent include engagements with the Detroit, Grand Rapids, New World, North Carolina, Phoenix, Portland (ME), Richmond, Tucson, Utah, and Winston-Salem symphony orchestras, Louisiana and Rochester Philharmonics, and the Florida and Sarasota Orchestras.

Over a remarkable tenure as Associate Conductor of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Hersh created the BSO Pulse series, through which he brought together indie bands and orchestral musicians in unique collaborations; he led the BSO in several subscription weeks, and concerts in and around Baltimore; and he directed the BSO's educational and family programming, including the celebrated Academy for adult amateur musicians. Hersh also maintains a close relationship with the National Symphony Orchestra, leading concerts throughout Washington, D.C. He stepped in to replace an indisposed Yan Pascal Tortelier, on subscription, to great acclaim.

Hersh is frequently in demand as an arranger and orchestrator, with commissions from orchestras around the globe for adaptations of everything from classical solo and chamber music to popular songs. His orchestration of Beethoven's Cello Sonata Op. 69 was premiered by the Philharmonie Zuidnederland in January 2022, while his symphonic arrangement of Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody continues to see worldwide success as a viral YouTube hit. He also serves as arranger and editor for the James P. Johnson Orchestra Edition.

Hersh grew up in Evanston, Illinois and started his musical training as a cellist. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Music from Stanford University and a Master's Degree in Conducting from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. Hersh is also a two-time recipient of the Solti Foundation Career Assistance Award. Nicholas lives in Philadelphia with his wife Caitlin and their two cats, and in his free time enjoys baking (and eating) sourdough bread.

ROB PATTERSON

Rob is Assistant Professor of Clarinet at Boston University's School of Music, founder of the online program The Clarinet Sessions, and Acting Principal Clarinet of the Modesto Symphony Orchestra. A passionate educator, Rob is on the faculty for Aria International Summer Academy and is a frequent coach with the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra. Rob has been a guest instructor at the Curtis Institute of Music and at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music.

Recent masterclass invitations have included the San Francisco Conservatory, Indiana University, University of California Los Angeles, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, Peabody Institute, University of North Texas, University of Toronto, Grieg Academy (Norway), Sibelius Academy (Finland), and Royal College of Music (Sweden). Rob has served on the faculty at the University of Virginia, where he was featured in recital and as soloist with the Charlottesville Symphony.

Rob has served as Acting Principal Clarinet with the Baltimore and Louisville Orchestras as well as Principal Clarinet with the Charlottesville Symphony and Lyrique-en-Mer Festival Orchestra in France. Additionally, he has served as guest Principal Clarinet for the orchestras of Albany, Chautauqua, Cincinnati, Richmond, Huntsville, Modesto, Pasadena, Peoria, as well as the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra and Cincinnati Pops Orchestra.

Rob's chamber music performances have taken him across North and South America, Europe and Asia. He has performed contemporary music as a member of the VERGE Ensemble in Washington, DC, with the San Francisco Contemporary Players, and was previously a member of the Philadelphia-based Ensemble 39, which was also invited to serve in residence at the Teatro del Lago in Frutillar, Chile.

Mr. Patterson has been the featured soloist in Copland's Clarinet Concerto with the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra and the Charlottesville Symphony as well as the Mozart Clarinet Concerto with the Lyrique-En-Mer (Le Palais, France) Orchestra, Binghamton Philharmonic, Middletown Symphony Orchestra, and the Howard County (Maryland) Concert Players. As a former Strathmore Music Center Artist in Residence, Mr. Patterson presented a series of solo recitals, masterclasses, educational concerts, and a recital at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, including the World-Premiere of John B Hedges' Three Pieces for Solo Clarinet.

Festival appearances include Moab, Mendocino, Festival Napa Valley, The Peninsula Music Festival, Bravo! Vail, Festival Lyrique-En-Mer, Garth Newel Music Center, Music from Angel Fire, and the Yellow Barn Music Festival.

Hailing from Cincinnati, OH, Mr. Patterson earned degrees from the Curtis Institute of Music and the University of Southern California. His principal teachers were Yehuda Gilad, Richard Hawley, and Donald Montanaro.

Mr. Patterson is proud to be a D'Addario and Buffet-Crampon performing artist.

Please visit www.robwpatterson.com for more information.

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*The Modesto Symphony Orchestra is a resident company of the Gallo Center for the Arts.
The DoubleTree Hotel is the official hotel of the MSO.*