

## MODESTO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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(From left to right: Nicholas Hersh, music director; Tai Murray, violin; Modesto Symphony Orchestra)

## MODESTO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PERFORMS MENDELSSOHN'S VIOLIN CONCERTO THIS APRIL

April 12 & 13, 2024 - Modesto Symphony Orchestra performs the works of Bach, Farrenc, Mendelssohn, and Piazzolla in Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto concerts.

MODESTO, CA – The Modesto Symphony Orchestra (MSO) presents [Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto](#) on April 12 & 13, 2024 led by Music Director [Nicholas Hersh](#). The weekend's concerts will feature the MSO's debut of the works of Argentinian-composer **Astor Piazzolla's Tangazo (Variations on Buenos Aires)**, and French-composer **Louise Farrenc's Symphony No. 3 in G minor**. The program also includes an arrangement by Hersh of **Johann Sebastian Bach's Fugue in G minor**, also known as the "Little Fugue." The concert will conclude with **Felix Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E minor**, featuring world-renowned violinist, [Tai Murray](#) as the soloist.

"The centerpiece of this concert is Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto, a masterful blending of virtuoso violin technique and enchanting musical beauty," says Music Director Nicholas Hersh. "From the soaring melody of its first movement to the effervescent gallop of the finale, there isn't a moment that won't captivate and delight our Gallo Center audiences. With violinist Tai Murray bringing her indefatigable energy to the concerto, too, this is truly a musical event not to be missed!"

Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto will feature violin soloist, Tai Murray. Described by *Muso Magazine* as, "technically flawless...vivacious and scintillating," in her playing style, Murray has earned global recognition and fame. After debuting at the age of nine with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, she

went on to win the Avery Fisher Career Grant in 2004 and was named a BBC New Generation Artist (2008 through 2010). Murray has performed worldwide, including at BBC Proms, and with major ensembles such as the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

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## **MODESTO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, MENDELSSOHN'S VIOLIN CONCERTO**

Friday, April 12, 2024, at 7:30 pm and Saturday, April 13, 2024, at 7:30 pm

[Nicholas Hersh](#), *conductor*

[Tai Murray](#), *violin*

### **PROGRAM**

**Astor Piazzolla:** Tangazo (Variations on Buenos Aires)

**Louise Farrenc:** Symphony No. 3 in G minor

**Johann Sebastian Bach (arr. Nicholas Hersh):** Fugue in G minor, "Little Fugue"

**Felix Mendelssohn:** Violin Concerto in E minor, op. 64

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.

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**Ticketing Information:** Tickets are available online through [ModestoSymphony.org](http://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

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### **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.

### **TAI MURRAY**

Described as "superb" by The New York Times, violinist **Tai Murray** has established herself a musical voice of a generation. "Technically flawless... vivacious and scintillating... It is without doubt that Murray's style of playing is more mature than that of many seasoned players..." (Musos Magazine)

Appreciated for her elegance and effortless ability, Murray creates a special bond with listeners through her personal phrasing and subtle sweetness. Her programming reveals musical intelligence. Her sound, sophisticated bowing and choice of vibrato, remind us of her musical background and influences, principally, Yuval Yaron (a student of Gingold & Heifetz) and Franco Gulli. Winner of an Avery Fisher Career Grant in 2004, Tai Murray was named a BBC New Generation Artist (2008 through 2010). As a chamber musician, she was a member of Lincoln Center's Chamber Music Society II (2004-2006).

She has performed as guest soloist on the main stages world-wide, performing with leading ensembles such as the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Royal Liverpool Symphony Orchestra, and all of the BBC Symphony Orchestras. She is also a dedicated advocate of contemporary works (written for the violin). Among others, she performed the world premiere of Malcolm Hayes' violin concerto at the BBC PROMS, in the Royal Albert Hall.

As a recitalist Tai Murray has visited many of the world's capitals having appeared in Berlin, Chicago, Hamburg, London, Madrid, New York's Carnegie Hall, Paris and Washington D.C., among many others.

Tai Murray's critically acclaimed debut recording for harmonia mundi of Ysaye's six sonatas for solo violin was released in February 2012. Her second recording with works by American Composers of the 20th Century was released by the Berlin-based label eaSonus and her third disc with the Bernstein Serenade on the French label mirare. Tai Murray plays a violin by Tomaso Balestrieri fecit Mantua ca. 1765, on generous loan from a private collection.

Murray is an Assistant Professor, Adjunct, of violin at the Yale School of Music, where she teaches applied violin and coaches chamber music. She earned artist diplomas from Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music and the Juilliard School.

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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.*