

## MODESTO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Nicholas Hersh, Music Director

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[FOR COMPLETE ARTIST BIOS AND HI-RES PHOTOS, PLEASE CLICK HERE](#)



## THE MODESTO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PERFORMS TIM BURTON'S "THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS" LIVE IN CONCERT TO FILM

**Concert features Composer Danny Elfman's Complete Score Performed Live to Picture  
Conducted by Ryan Murray Celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Film Release**

**MODESTO, CA** – The Modesto Symphony Orchestra (MSO) will perform [Tim Burton's "The Nightmare Before Christmas"](#) featuring a screening of Disney's timeless holiday classic with Grammy®-winning composer Danny Elfman's musical score performed live to the film. The concert will be led by Principal Pops Conductor [Ryan Murray](#) on **Friday, November 3rd, 2023 at 7:30 pm** and **Saturday, November 4th, 2023 at 2:00 pm** at the Gallo Center for the Arts in Modesto. Tim Burton's *The Nightmare Before Christmas* will be celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this October.

"We are so excited to bring *Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas* back to the stage with our Modesto Symphony Orchestra," says Caroline Nickel, President and CEO of the Modesto Symphony Orchestra. "We last performed this concert in two sold-out performances in 2017, and it was such a

thrilling experience to see our audiences be swept up in the magic of Danny Elfman’s score. It was amazing to see the creativity and enthusiasm the audience showed by dressing up in costume for the event. We hope to recreate the experience this year and I look forward to seeing everyone dress to impress!”

First released in 1993, Tim Burton's “The Nightmare Before Christmas” was directed by Henry Selick (“James and the Giant Peach”) and based on a story and characters by Tim Burton. The film follows the earnest-but-misguided adventures of Jack Skellington, Halloween Town's beloved Pumpkin King, as he attempts to take over the Christmas holiday. Against the advice of Sally, a lonely rag doll who has feelings for him, Jack enlists three mischievous trick-or-treaters – Lock, Shock, and Barrel – to help him kidnap Santa Claus. The film is rated “PG.”

Tim Burton’s “The Nightmare Before Christmas” Live in Concert is presented by the Modesto Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Ryan Murray and will be performed at the Gallo Center for the Arts on November 3, 2023 at 7:30 pm and November 4, 2023 at 2 pm. For tickets and further information, visit [www.modestosymphony.org](http://www.modestosymphony.org).

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**MODESTO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, [Tim Burton’s The Nightmare Before Christmas in Concert Live to Film](#)**

Friday November 3, 2023 at 7:30 pm

Saturday, November 4, 2023 at 2 pm

**Ryan Murray**, conductor

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

*Tim Burton’s The Nightmare Before Christmas in Concert Live to Film* is presented by Disney Concerts.  
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**TICKETS:**

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

*\*Limited seats are available.*

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 10:00 am-6:00 pm / Saturday 12:00 pm-6:00 pm

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**ARTIST BIOS:**

## **Ryan Murray**

American conductor **Ryan Murray** has found steady acclaim as a compelling, dynamic and unflappable presence on the podium. Ryan is currently Principal Pops Conductor for the Modesto Symphony, Music Director of the Auburn Symphony, and Artistic Director of Music in the Mountains. An award-winning opera conductor, Ryan spent his early career working as an assistant conductor and répétiteur, and is currently the Music Director of Opera Modesto. He has served as an assistant conductor at the Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera, is the past Music Director of Fresno Grand Opera, and previously worked as a staff conductor for the Bay Area Summer Opera Theater Institute (BASOTI) and The Opera Academy of California in San Francisco. Effortlessly moving between genres, Ryan currently enjoys a wide range of performance genres & platforms, including traditional orchestral and operatic repertoire, pops performances, movies in concert, and a notable emphasis on contemporary American operatic works.

Ryan was the winner of the Vienna Philharmonic's prestigious Ansbacher Fellowship for Young Conductors, and spent the summer in residence alongside the Vienna Philharmonic at the 2014 Salzburg Festival. Ryan was also awarded second place in the 2019 American Prize for Professional Orchestral Conducting for his work with the Modesto Symphony, and has garnered national recognition for his dynamic, compelling performances of contemporary opera as the winner of the 2017 American Prize in Opera Conducting for his highly lauded production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*. He was a 2016 semi-finalist for the Ernst Bacon Memorial Award for the Performance of American Music for his production of Jake Heggie's *Dead Man Walking*.

A charismatic pops conductor, Ryan has worked with prominent artists such as Storm Large of Pink Martini, SuperDiamond and the phenomenal symphonic tribute to David Bowie. He was recently engaged to step-in at the last minute as assistant and cover conductor for Andrea Bocelli's Believe Tour with the Sacramento Philharmonic where he conducted rehearsals to acclaim. He has led some of the top vocalists from Broadway and beyond, including Ben Crawford (Broadway's *The Phantom of the Opera*), Ashley Brown (Broadway's *Mary Poppins*), and Alli Mauzey (Glinda from *Wicked*), as well as some of today's top young jazz vocalists including Tony DeSare and James Tormé. With an enthusiasm for film scores, Ryan enjoys the unique challenges of conducting movies in concert and was recently added to the the Disney & ICM Approved Conductors list. Recent and upcoming performances include Disney's *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*, Pixar Animation Studios' *Pixar in Concert*, *Star Wars: A New Hope* and *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back*.

Ryan holds degrees, summa cum laude, in Bassoon Performance and Voice Performance from California State University, Sacramento and also holds a master's degree, with distinction, in Music Business from the Berklee College of Music where he studied with industry professionals to develop tools for success in the modern music industry, including new technology, policy, law and finance. Ryan has a strong commitment to education and currently serves as the Director of Symphony Orchestra & Opera at California State University, Sacramento, and as the conductor for the Sacramento Youth Symphony's premier orchestra. Driven by a lifelong passion for learning, Ryan has attended conducting masterclasses and seminars around the world. Ryan recently conducted the Romanian Chamber Orchestra in concert and was one of just eight conductors worldwide to be invited to the Musiikin aika Summer Festival Masterclass in Finland led by Susanna Mälkki. He has previously attended the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music's Conductors Workshop; the contemporary music symposium led by Alan Gilbert featuring the New York Philharmonic; the Aurora Chamber Festival in Sweden, where he

studied under Maestro Kurt Masur; the Lucerne Festival Academy's Conducting Masterclass in Switzerland; and the Eastman School of Music's Summer Conducting Institute. Widely praised for his tireless work ethic, natural poise, and impassioned, inspired performances, Ryan continues to connect deeply with orchestras and audiences alike, and has proven to be a formidable presence on the podium.

## **ABOUT DISNEY CONCERTS**

Disney Concerts is the concert production and licensing division of Disney Music Group, the music arm of The Walt Disney Company. Disney Concerts produces concerts and tours, and licenses Disney music and visual content to symphony orchestras and presenters on a worldwide basis. Disney Concerts' concert packages include a variety of formats, such as "live to picture" film concerts and themed instrumental and vocal compilation concerts, and range from instrumental-only symphonic performances to multimedia productions featuring live vocalists and choir. Current titles include the *Star Wars Film Concert Series (Episodes IV-VII)*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Fantasia*, *Pixar In Concert*, *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, *Alice In Wonderland*, *Frozen*, *Ratatouille*, *The Pirates of the Caribbean series (Episodes I-IV)*, and *Silly Symphonies*, which last year collectively accounted for over 400 performances in many of the world's top concert venues, including Lincoln Center, Royal Albert Hall, Sydney Opera House, Tokyo Forum and the Hollywood Bowl. Numerous new concert packages and touring productions from Disney's portfolio of studios, including Disney's feature animation and live action studios, Pixar, Lucasfilm and Marvel, are currently in development.

**2023-2024 SEASON PARTNER:** Boyett Petroleum

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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.*