



MUSICA VITALE PRESENTS

MUSICA VITALE

AND FRIENDS

*20th Anniversary Season
Finale*

**MUSICA VITALE
VOX HUMANA
GHUKASYAN STRING ORCHESTRA**

**ST PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
700 D ST, CORONADO**

SAT - 9 MAY 2026 - 7:00 PM

TEXT AND TRANSLATIONS

MEDIA VITA

Composer: Kerensa BRIGGS (b. 1991)

Text: Antiphona de Morte, att. NOTKER (c840-912)

Media vita in morte sumus.	In the midst of life we are in death.
Quem quaerimus adiutorem	Whom can we seek as our helper
nisi te, Domine,	but you, O Lord,
qui pro peccatis nostris	who for our sins are
juste irascaris?	justly angry?
Sanctus Deus.	Holy God.
Sancte fortis.	Holy and strong.
Sancte et misericors Salvator,	Holy and merciful Saviour,
amarae morti ne tradas nos.	deliver us not to the bitter pains
	of death.

TIME

Composer: Jennifer Lucy COOK (b. 1988)

Time, you can spend it, when you spend it then you're running out of
Time, you can save it but to save it is to take a little
Time, in a minute, when you're in it, can you feel the passing
Time is an illusion, there's confusion when they tell you now it's
Time to get older, time to work and time to waste and there's no
Time left to hold her, time to tell him how you feel while there's still
Time, three two one eleven thirty, two AM, then dinner
Time now to kill, I said I will and still it flies and flies, oh
Time...

THREE SACRED HYMNS

Composer: Alfred SCHNITTKE (1934-1998)

Text: Sacred (Russian)

I. BOGORODITSE DEVO

Bogoroditse Dyevo,
raduisya,
Blagodatnaya Mariya,
Gospod's Toboyu;
blagoslovyenna Ty v zhenakh,
i blagoslovyen plod
chreva Tvoego,
yako Spasa rodila yesi
dush nashikh.

I. HAIL MARY

Hail to the Holy Virgin,
Mother of God,
be joyful, o Blessed Mary,
God is with Thee;
blessed art Thou among wives,
And blessed is the fruit
of Thy womb, for Thou hast Given
birth to the Saviour
for the sake of our souls.

THREE SACRED HYMNS (CONT.)

II. GOSPODI

Gospodi, Gospodi IIsusye,
Gospodi IIsusye Khristye,
Synye Bozhii, pomilul mya,
pomilui mya greshnago.

III. OTCHE NASH

Otche nash,
Izhe yesi na nebesyekh!
Da svyatitsya imya Tvoye,
da priidet Tsarstviye Tvoye,
da budyet volya Tvoya
yako na nebesi i na zemli.
Khleb nash nasushchnyi
dazhd' nam dnes',
i ostavi nam dolgi nasha,
yako zhe i my ostavlyayem
dolzhnikom nashim.
I nye vvyedi nas vo iskusheniye,
no izbavi nas ot lukavago.
Yako Tvoye yest' Tsarstvo
i sila i slava vo vyeki.
Amin'

II. THE JESUS PRAYER

O Lord, o Lord Jesus,
O Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of God, Have mercy upon me,
have mercy upon me, a sinner.

III. OUR FATHER

Our Father
Who art in Heaven!
Hallowed be Thy name,
for Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done
on earth as in Heaven.
Give us this day
our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them
that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom,
the power and the glory forever.
Amen.

LA BLANCHE NEIGE

Composer: Francis POULENC (1899-1963)

Text: Guillaume APOLLINAIRE (1880-1918)

Les anges les anges dans le ciel	Angels, angels in the sky.
L'un est vêtu en officier	One is dressed as an officer,
L'un est vêtu en cuisinier	one is dressed as a cook,
Et les autres chantent	and the others are singing.
Bel officier couleur du ciel	Oh handsome sky-coloured officer,
Le doux printemps longtemps	the sweet springtime long after
après Noël	Christmas
Te médaillera d'un beau soleil	will give you a medal:
D'un beau soleil	a beautiful sun.
Le cuisinier plume les oies	The cook is plucking geese.
Ah ! tombe neige	Ah! let the snow fall
Tombe et que n'ai-je	and fall, and if only
Ma bien-aimée entre mes bras	I held my beloved in my arms!

LA NUIT LE FROID LA SOLITUDE

Composer: Francis POULENC (1899-1963)

Text: Paul ÉLUARD (1895-1952)

La nuit le froid la solitude
On m'enferma soigneusement
Mais les branches cherchaient
leur voie dans la prison
Autour de moi
l'herbe trouva le ciel
On verrouilla le ciel
Ma prison s'écroula
Le froid vivant le froid brûlant
m'eut bien en main

The night, the cold, the loneliness
They shut me in tightly
But the branches sought a way
into my prison
Around me
the grass found the sky
The sky was locked up,
My prison crumbled
The living, burning cold
had me in its clutches

EXULTATE DEO

Composer: Francis POULENC (1899-1963)

Text: Psalm 80 (Latin)

Exultate Deo,
adjutori nostro
Jubilate Deo Jacob.
Sumite psalmum,
et date tympanum
Psalterium jucundum
cum cythara
Buccinate in neomenia tuba
Insigni die solemnitis vestrae.

Sing joyfully
to God our strength;
Rejoice to the God of Jacob.
Raise a song
and sound the timbrel,
the pleasant harp
and the lute;
blow the trumpet at the new moon,
on our solemn feast day.

FROSTIANA

Composer: Randall THOMPSON (1899-1984)

Text: Robert FROST (1874-1963)

1. THE ROAD NOT TAKEN

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

FROSTIANA (CONT.)

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I --
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

2. THE PASTURE

I'm going out to clean the pasture spring;
I'll only stop to rake the leaves away
(And wait to watch the water clear, I may):
I sha'n't be gone long.
You come too.

I'm going out to fetch the little calf
That's standing by the mother.
It's so young,
It totters when she licks it with her tongue.
I sha'n't be gone long.
You come too.

3. COME IN

As I came to the edge of the woods,
Thrush music, hark!
Now it was dusk outside,
Inside it was dark.

Too dark in the woods for a bird
By sleight of wing
To better its perch for the night,
Though it could still sing.

The last of the light of the sun
That had died in the west
Still lived for one song more
In a thrush's breast.

Far in the pillared dark
Thrush music went
Almost like a call to come in
To the dark and lament.

FROSTIANA (CONT.)

But no, I was out for the stars:
I would not come in.
I meant not even if asked,
And I hadn't been.

4. THE TELEPHONE

"When I was just as far as I could walk
From here to-day,
There was an hour
All still
When leaning with my head against a flower
I heard you talk.
Don't say I didn't, for I heard you say -
You spoke from that flower on the window sill -
Do you remember what it was you said?"
"First tell me what it was you thought you heard."
"Having found the flower and driven a bee away,
I leaned my head,
And holding by the stalk,
I listened and I thought I caught the word -
What was it? Did you call me by my name?
Or did you say -
Someone said 'Come' - I heard it as I bowed."
"I may have thought as much, but not aloud."
"Well, so I came."

5. A GIRL'S GARDEN

A neighbor of mine in the village
Likes to tell how one spring
When she was a girl on the farm, she did
A childlike thing.

One day she asked her father
To give her a garden plot
To plant and tend and reap herself,
And he said, "Why not?"

In casting about for a corner
He thought of an idle bit
Of walled-off ground where a shop had stood,
And he said, "Just it."

FROSTIANA (CONT.)

And he said, "That ought to make you
An ideal one-girl farm,
And give you a chance to put some strength
On your slim-jim arm."

It was not enough of a garden,
Her father said, to plough;
So she had to work it all by hand,
But she don't mind now.

She wheeled the dung in the wheelbarrow
Along a stretch of road;
But she always ran away and left
Her not-nice load.

And hid from anyone passing.
And then she begged the seed.
She says she thinks she planted one
Of all things but weed.

A hill each of potatoes,
Radishes, lettuce, peas,
Tomatoes, beets, beans, pumpkins, corn,
And even fruit trees

And yes, she has long mistrusted
That a cider apple tree
In bearing there to-day is hers,
Or at least may be.

Her crop was a miscellany
When all was said and done,
A little bit of everything,
A great deal of none.

Now when she sees in the village
How village things go,
Just when it seems to come in right,
She says, "I know!

It's as when I was a farmer--"
Oh, never by way of advice!
And she never sins by telling the tale
To the same person twice.

FROSTIANA (CONT.)

6. STOPPING BY WOODS ON A SNOWY EVENING

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To [watch]; his woods fill up with snow.
My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farm-house near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.
He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.
The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

7. CHOOSE SOMETHING LIKE A STAR

O Star (the fairest one in sight),
We grant your loftiness the right
To some obscurity of cloud-
It will not do to say of night,
Since dark is what brings out your light.
Some mystery becomes the proud.
But to the wholly taciturn
In your reserve is not allowed.
Say something to us we can learn
By heart and when alone repeat.
Say something! And it says, 'I burn.'
But say with what degree of heat.
Talk Fahrenheit, talk Centigrade.
Use Language we can comprehend.
Tell us what elements you blend.
It gives us strangely little aid,
But does tell something in the end
And steadfast as Keats' Eremité,
Not even stooping from its sphere,
It asks a little of us here.
It asks of us a certain height,
So when at times the mob is swayed
To carry praise or blame too far,
We may choose something like a star
To stay our minds on and be staid.

PERFORMERS

Musica Vitale

Elena Vizuet, Artistic Director

Soprano

Rachel Fields
Mariana Flores Bucio
Catherine Marshall
Lisa Parente Kamon
Seonjeong Park
Anne Whattoff

Alto

Julia Cordani
Sarah-Nicole Ruddy
Laurel Styner
Evangeline Woo

Tenor

Samuel Buse
Richard Dawes
Brad Fox
John Yokoyama

Bass

Shelby Condray
Allen Pace
Michael Sokol
Nathan Villamor
Paul Young

Vox Humana

John Yokoyama, Artistic Director

Allen Pace, Artistic Director

Catherine Marshall
Stephanie Smith
Antonia Fuenzalida
Chloe O'Mara

John Yokoyama
Samuel Buse
Allen Pace
Hunter Rhoades

Ghukasyan String Orchestra

Nonna Alakhverdova, Artistic Director

Violin I

Nonna Alakhverdova
Erik Ghukasyan
Violeta Heredia

Violin II

Yanelli Millán
Karla Alcocer

Flute

Pam Martchev

Oboe

Noah Quessenberry

Clarinet

Ella Heinecke

Bassoon

William Propp

Viola

Ronaldo Laztra
Ricardo Areola
Allari Ruiz

Cello

Rubén Ghukasyan
Yolanda Millán

Double Bass

Owen Cruise

Horn

Barry Toombs

Harp

Stefan Wendel

Saturday, 9 May, 2026 | 7:00pm
PROGRAM

WELCOME

Dawn Richards, speaker

ADAGIO FROM SPARTACUS Aram KHACHATURIAN

**WALTZ
FROM SERENADE FOR STRINGS** Pyotr I. TCHAIKOVSKY

MEDIA VITA Kerensa BRIGGS

TIME Jennifer Lucy COOK

THREE SACRED HYMNS Alfred SCHNITTKE

I. BOGORODITSE DEVO

II. GOSPODI

III. OTCHE NASH

LA BLANCHE NEIGE Francis POULENC

LA NUIT LE FROID LA SOLITUDE Francis POULENC

EXULTATE DEO Francis POULENC

- INTERMISSION -

FROSTIANA Randall THOMPSON

1. THE ROAD NOT TAKEN

2. THE PASTURE

3. COME IN

4. THE TELEPHONE

5. A GIRL'S GARDEN

6. STOPPING BY WOODS
ON A SNOWY EVENING

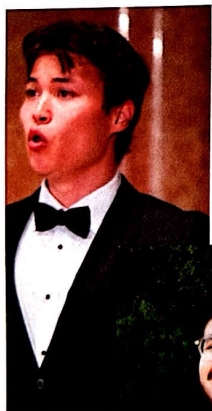
7. CHOOSE SOMETHING
LIKE A STAR



Elena Vizuet is an International Music Educator and Performer with more than 30 years of experience. Mrs. Vizuet earned an MA degree in Choral Conducting and an MA in Music Education from the prestigious Ural Conservatory, Russia. She also has a BA, Cum Laude, in Choral Conducting and Music Education from Chelyabinsk Music College, Russia. She has performed internationally in venues such as Tchaikovsky Concert Hall, Rachmaninov Hall of Moscow Conservatory, Chelyabinsk Opera Theater, Vidago Concert Hall in Budapest, Casa de Cultura in Mexico, and in more than 100 productions with the San Diego Opera, USA. She is the Founder and Artistic Director of Vocal Ensemble Musica Vitale, a non-profit art organization.



Nonna Alakhverdova holds a Doctorate in Violin and Chamber Music. She was the youngest winner of the Armenian Republican Competition. She was part of the National Chamber Orchestra of Armenia with which she made numerous artistic tours as a soloist, in countries like France, Germany, Greece, the United States, Belgium, Russia, Georgia, etc. She was the creator of the Yerevan String and Piano Quintet. As of 2008, she joined the Faculty of Arts of the Autonomous University of Baja California as a professor of violin and chamber music, where she is still working. She was a principal violinist in the Baja California Orchestra from 2010 to 2022.



John Yokoyama is a Junior at SDSU studying vocal performance. He is a founding member of Vox Humana - San Diego. John attended the Summer Aims Music Program in Graz, Austria in 2025 and has been accepted again for 2026. He is a section leader at St. Paul's Cathedral and he recently played John Brooks in The Opera Theater Little Women at SDSU.



Allen Michael Pace is a Hispanic Baritone, Conductor, and Educator from Brownsville, Texas where he started as an alto. Allen has had the pleasure of working with esteemed ensembles such as SACRA/PROFANA, Musica Vitale, San Diego Opera Chorus, La Jolla Symphony & Chorus, and St. Paul's Cathedral Schola. Soloist appearances have included Faure's Requiem, Duruflé's Requiem, Bach's BWV 147, Schubert's Mass in G, Haydn's Missa in Angustiis, Saint-Saëns's Christmas Oratorio, and Susa's Carols and Lullabies. Outside of music, Allen loves to read, experience nature, and try new foods.

Allen and John work with local schools, churches and choral groups, demonstrating the versatility of their skills as conductors, organists, singers and composers. John and Allen's strong passion for choral music manifested in the birth of Vox Humana.



Musica Vitale, founded and directed by Elena Vizuet, is one of the artistic gems of Coronado and the San Diego region. The organization's mission is explicit in its name: to "bring to life" unheard or underappreciated vocal music from around the world. The professional choir was established in 2005, originally to raise funds for victims of Hurricane Katrina; its core membership is comprised of singers from San Diego Opera and other vocal soloists from the San Diego-Tijuana region.



Vox Humana is an eight-voice ensemble formed in 2025, made up primarily of friends who met while studying at San Diego State University. What began as a shared love of singing quickly grew into a dedicated collaborative group. Since its founding, one member has gone on to pursue early music studies at McGill University, reflecting the ensemble's continued connection to both scholarship and performance. At its core, Vox Humana remains a group of friends brought together by a genuine joy in making music with one another.



Ghukasyan
String Orchestra

The **Ghukasyan String Orchestra** is the evolution of the ANRE String Quartet, originally formed by Maestros Ara Ghukasyan and Nonna Alakhverdova, along with their children Erik and Ruben Ghukasyan. Under the artistic direction of Dr. Nonna Alakhverdova, this orchestra is comprised of talented musicians, most of whom are graduates of the Bachelor of Music from the Faculty of Arts at UABC in Ensenada, Mexico.

Musica Vitale is a 501(c)(3).

Programs like this are made possible by your generous donations.

**To make your tax-deductible donation, visit
www.MusicaVitale.com/donate or use this QR code.**

**This event and the 2025-26
concert season is
sponsored in part by:**

Carol and Mike Kearney

**Special thanks to:
St. Paul's UMC**

