

Mountain Top Strings of California



Italy 2026

JUNE 14 - JULY 5, 2026



About Us

The MountainTop Strings of California, created in 2011, is based in Big Bear Lake and is under the direction of cellist and music educator Sharon Rizzo. We are a small ensemble of string musicians created for the purpose of educating youth to concertize locally and tour abroad. These young musicians ranging from 13–17 years of age, along with mentors and strings teachers joyously rehearse and perform in an artistic and inspiring small mountain community in Southern California, located 100 miles northeast of Los Angeles and surrounded by the San Bernardino National Forest.

Since the first concert tour to Italy and Austria in 2013, the MountainTop Strings of California has grown in popularity both on and off the mountain, having performed many concerts and community events, contributing to the overall cultural vision and enhancement of our mountain community. They have performed in concerts and workshops in prestigious venues in Italy over the past 13 years, as well as performing in the National Youth Concert in the world famous Carnegie Hall in New York City.

The MountainTop Strings are most known for their unique performances of a wide range of eclectic musical styles. Our repertoire varies from Vivaldi, Corelli and Bach, plus folk music from around the world including Latin Tangos and Italian favorites, to jazz and rock selections by Duke Ellington, Led Zeppelin, Sting, Coldplay and many more.

Our Musicians have developed lifelong friendships and a unique bond with each other through the successes and challenges of music, world travel and hard work. In addition to music, MTSC musicians juggle heavy academic commitments and are also extremely high achievers in many other areas.

The award winning MountainTop Strings of California remains an integral part of the mountain communities as an exceptional expression of their commitment toward achieving excellence in the development of music in our youth.

We are very excited to share our music with the people of Italy this Summer, and so grateful to Anna and her Stop in Italy Team for creating many beautiful experiences for us over the years.

June 14 - July 5, 2026

- Sunday, June 14** ITA Non-Stop Flight Los Angeles to Rome. All Travelers Arrive LAX at 11:00am
Check-in.
- Monday, June 15** Arrive Rome - 3 nights at Hotel Genio - Panoramic Tour of Rome by E-Bike -
Welcome Dinner sponsored by Barbara King at "La Rotunda Trattoria" near the Pantheon
- Tuesday, June 16** **Concert # 1 Basilica di Santa Maria sopra Minerva** -
Sponsored Dinner at "Da Meo Patacca" in Trastevere. 3
- Wednesday, June 17** Tour the Roman Coliseum, Roman Forum & Palatine Hill
Concert #2 Basilica dei Santi XII Apostoli 4
- Thursday, June 18** Tour of St. Peter's Basilica & Dome climb. Motorcoach to Tuscan Farmhouse
(Fattoria) Vinci, Agriturismo Il Piastrino, the home of Leonardo da Vinci - 7 Nights
Dinner of Local Products & food from the farm 6
- Friday, June 19** **Concert # 3 Parco Aquaria, Vinci** - Among the olive trees where a young
Leonardo da Vinci first became inspired about nature and the arts.
- Saturday, June 20** Half Day trip to Volterra, San Miniato or San Gimignano
Concert #4 Sant'Ermo, during Flower Festival -Chiesa di Sant'Emerete
Buffet Dinner after concert.
- Sunday, June 21** **Concert # 5 Vinci - Chiesa di Santa Croce** - Leonardo da Vinci was baptized
in this church - Fête de la Musique, now known as "Make Music Day" is celebrated
today.
- Monday, June 22** Leonardo da Vinci Bike Tour & Lunch at Cafe del Castello & Museum
- Tuesday, June 23** Pizza Making Class - **Concert # 6 Casciana Terme**
- Wednesday, June 24** Tour Pastificio Martelli (Renowned Pasta Family,) Tour Castello di Lari
Concert # 7 Castello di Lari
- Thursday, June 25** Motorcoach to Montecatini - 4 Nights at Hotel Settentrionale Esplanade
Concert #8 Terrace of Hotel Settentrionale Esplanade
- Friday, June 26** **Concert #9 Camugliano - Chiesa di San Frediano**
- Saturday, June 27** Train to Florence - Tour of Duomo - Climbing the Brunelleschi Dome
- Sunday, June 28** Half Day Trip to Pisa - Free Time in Montecatini
- Monday, June 29** Motorcoach to Cremona for a 3 night stay at Hotel Impero
Concert #10 Cortile Federico II "Cremona Summer Festival"
- Tuesday, June 30** Free time to explore Cremona. Afternoon trip to Mantua (where Romeo was
banished to after he killed Tybalt in Verona)
- Wednesday, July 1** Guided tour of Parma - **Concert #11 Chiesa di San Giovanni Evangelista**
- Thursday, July 2** Motorcoach to Venice. Boat to All'Angelo Art Hotel - Attend performance of
Vivaldi's Four Seasons by "I Musicisti Veneziani" at Scuola Grande San Teodoro
dressed in period costumes
- Friday, July 3** **Concert # 12 Chiesa della Pietà (Vivaldi's Church)** - Gondola ride through the
Venice Canals - Farewell Dinner at Ristorante Dallo Zio sponsored by Kennie Jo Rizzo
- Saturday, July 4** Short flight back to Rome for 1 night at Hotel Genio - Free time in Rome
- Sunday, July 5** Arrivederci Italia! Wave goodbye as this Incredible Tour of a Lifetime comes to
an end - ITA Non-Stop Flight from Rome to Los Angeles

Trip Itinerary

Our Music

BAROQUE & CLASSICAL:

Adagio – *Tomaso Albinoni*
Ancient Aires & Dances – *Ottorino Respighi*
Concerto for Two Violins – *J.S. Bach*
La Folia – *Arcangelo Corelli*
Concerto Grosso in D Minor – *Antonio Vivaldi*
Autumn from “The Four Seasons” – *Antonio Vivaldi*
Spring from “The Four Seasons” – *Antonio Vivaldi*
Winter from “The Four Seasons” – *Antonio Vivaldi*
Summer from “The Four Seasons” – *Antonio Vivaldi*
St. Paul’s Suite – *Gustav Holst*

SACRED, SPIRITUALS & MEDITATIVE:

Adagio – *Tomaso Albinoni*
Amazing Grace – *Traditional Hymn*
But the Greatest of These...(is Love) – *Douglas Wagner*
Deep River – *African American Spiritual*
Postcard from Tuscany – *Doug Spata*
Shenandoah – *American Folk*
Slane (Be Thou My Vision) – *Traditional Hymn*

AMERICANA & JAZZ:

Adventure on Bainbridge Island – *A.L. Silva*
American Fiddle Triptych – *Traditional American*
Deep River – *African American Spiritual*
Fly Me to the Moon – *Bart Howard*
Hoedown – *Aaron Copland*
It Don’t Mean a Thing – *Duke Ellington*
Its Only a Paper Moon – *Harold Arlen*
Shenandoah – *American Folk*
Take 5 – *Paul Desmond*
Western Dawn – *A Silva*



FOLK, TANGOS & REGIONAL:

A Time for Us – *Nino Rota*
Blue Tango – *Leroy Anderson*
Celtic Dreaming & Dance – *Stephen Chin*
Italian Folk Festival – *Traditional Folk*
Libertango – *Astor Piazzolla*
Murphy’s Jig – *Debora Monday*
O Sole Mio – *Eduardo di Capua*
Por Una Cabeza – *Carlos Gardel*
Postcard from Tuscany – *Doug Spata*
Serenata – *Michael McLean*

LIGHT ROCK & OLDIES:

21 Guns – *Green Day*
Best Day of My Life – *American Authors*
Clocks – *Coldplay*
Eleonor Rigby – *Beatles*
Fields of Gold – *Sting*
Happy Together – *The Turtles*
I Don’t Want to Miss a Thing – *Aerosmith*
Kashmir – *Led Zeppelin*
Moondance – *Van Morrison*
My Girl – *Smokey Robinson*
Stand By Me – *Ben E. King*
Starlight – *Muse*
Viva la Vida – *Coldplay*



ROME

Concert #1

This Performance was made possible
by a generous gift from
Arrowhead Arts Association

Rome is the perfect starting point for our 2026 tour. The historic and picturesque sites make for some fantastic memories. Perfect for an E-Bike tour. Santa Maria sopra Minerva, our first venue, is one of the major churches of the Dominican order in Rome, Italy built between 1280-1370 CE.



BASILICA DI SANTA MARIA SOPRA MINERVA



ROME

Concert # 2

This Performance was made possible
by a generous gift from

The Warren Family Foundation

The Basilica del Santi XII Apostoli (Basilica of the Holy Twelve Apostles) is the site of our second concert appearance. It was built in the 6th century CE. There is little to compare to performing at such a historic venue. Through the years this church has been restored and adorned. It even housed the remains of Michelangelo for a time.



BASILICA DEI SANTI XII APOSTOLI



PARCO ACQUARIA

The area where Leonardo da Vinci grew up—specifically around Vinci in the Tuscan hills of Italy—is now celebrated for its direct influence on his deep fascination with the natural world. Leonardo spent his earliest years exploring the rugged, terraced hillsides, olive groves, and streams of Vinci and the nearby Mount Albano. This specific environment shaped his lifelong artistic and scientific philosophy.

Concert # 3



PARCO ACQUARIA

SANT'ERMO

Concert # 4



CHIESA DI SANT'ERMETE

Sant'Ermo is a beautiful hilltop hamlet near Pisa in Tuscany. The Flower Festival in Sant'Ermo is an annual community event where locals decorate the ancient stone streets with stunning, colorful floral displays.



VINCI

Concert #5



VINCI

Nestled in the rolling hills of Tuscany, about 30 kilometers west of Florence, lies the charming town of Vinci – a place that captures hearts with its medieval streets and Renaissance legacy. What makes Vinci truly special isn't just its stunning countryside views, but its claim to fame as the birthplace of one of history's greatest minds: Leonardo da Vinci. The Chiesa di Santa Croce was built in the 12th century. Although it has been redesigned, this is where Leonardo was baptized in 1462.

CASCIANA TERME

Concert #6

Casciana Terme is a spa town in the Province of Pisa, set among the rolling hills of central Tuscany where vineyards, olive groves, and wooded valleys shape the surrounding countryside. The settlement has a compact historic center of stone streets, small piazzas, and elegant villas, with the gentle landscape of the Pisan hills providing a calm rural backdrop.



CASCIANA TERME

CASTELLO DI LARI

This Performance was made possible
by a generous gift from
Duane & Karen Bergmann

Concert #7



CASTELLO DEL VICARI DI LARI

The Castello dei Vicari in Lari is situated in the center of the town of Lari (in the province of Pisa), an ancient medieval village that was inhabited as far back as Etruscan times (800 BCE to 200 BCE.) The architecture of the Castle remains almost unchanged since it was built as the seat of government. It was built on the top of the hill, from which vantage point it was possible keep watch over the entire valley of River Arno. Inside there was a prison, Chancellery, the residence of the Vicario, and the Magistrates' Court.

MONTECATINI TERME

Concert #8

The largest and most famous of Tuscany's spa towns, Montecatini Terme has been revered for its curative waters since at least the 16th century, when the first baths were built here. Two centuries later, neighborhood royalty began to take note after the opening of the town's first grand spas, putting Montecatini Terme firmly on the aristocracy's radar.



MONTECATINI TERME

CAMUGLIANO *Concert #9*

The Music Festival in Camugliano (often referred to as the "Musica in Camugliano" series) is a traditional summer event held within the picturesque Tenuta di Camugliano in the municipality of Ponsacco, near Pisa.



CHIESA DI SAN FREDIANO



CREMONA

Cremona, Italy's "Violin City" was founded by the Romans in 218 BCE. The Cremona Summer Festival serves as a hub for educational activities related to violin making. There are over 300 violin making shops in Cremona where trades people learn and hone their crafts.

Concert #10

This Performance was made possible by a generous gift from
**The Colburn School of Music
& Layne Pinkernell**



CREMONA

PARMA

The Church of San Giovanni Evangelista in Parma is one of the city's most precious jewels. This Benedictine church dates back to the 10th century. The monastic complex is not limited to the church, but also includes a monastery, a cloister, and a historic library. Strolling through the complex, you're transported back in time, amid ancient apothecaries and quiet courtyards. Where do you think Parmesan cheese originated?

VENICE

Known for its islands and canals, our concert tour of Italy would feel incomplete without a stop-over in Venice plus and an opportunity to perform in Vivaldi's own *Chiesa della Pietà*. Then let's enjoy a Gondola ride through the canals of Venice.



Concert # 11

This Performance was made possible by a generous gift from **Bob Angilella**



CHIESA DI SAN GIOVANNI EVANGELISTA

Concert # 12

This Performance was made possible by a generous gift from **The Lighthouse Project**



CHIESA DELLA PIETÀ



Orchestra Roster



SHARON RIZZO MUSIC DIRECTOR & CELLIST

Sharon Rizzo has been teaching strings in the Southern California mountains for 26 years. Through the Bear Valley Unified School District, the Lighthouse Youth Orchestras and the Arrowhead Arts Youth String Ensembles, her programs have grown to over 200 students. Because of the dedication of her students, and the help of many community members and parents, these programs continue to improve and thrive. Her orchestras and individual students have won awards for their outstanding performances, and are regularly recognized in

Southern California for their excellence in Strings. Sharon and her students can be seen performing all genres of music from Bach to Rock in many unique venues both on and off the mountain. An accomplished and professional cellist, Sharon holds a Bachelor of Music from the University of Connecticut, a Master of Music from the University of California, Irvine, and an Artist Certificate from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas where she was accepted on a full scholarship as the only American in the program for that year. In addition, Sharon holds a California State Teaching Credential in Music from the University of Redlands. Sharon has performed in many professional symphony orchestras, and can be found performing regularly with the Redlands Symphony Orchestra. Sharon's specialty is chamber music, as she is the cellist and one of the founding members of the quartet Bella Musica. Her affiliation with these professional ensembles has allowed her to not only practice her craft at an extremely high level, but to set an example of excellence for her students, set a high artistic standard, and share musical experiences with them.

Violino 1:

James Phillips, Co-Concertmaster
Erin Zhou, Co-Concertmaster
Katelynn Azevedo
Josh Cantu-Wang

Violino 2:

Adam Merrall, Principal
Hallie Joy Thomas
Gracie Dorantes-Lopez
Mark Horner
Jonah Petteruto

Viola:

Nina Cantu-Wang, Principal
Oryan Knisley
Catherine Horner

Violoncello:

Sharon Rizzo, Principal
Oliver Mendez
Emily Torres

KATELYNN AZEVEDO, ARTIST/TEACHER & VIOLIN



Katelynn Azevedo, 26, is a music educator, composer, and instrumentalist. She loves learning new instruments and began with the violin 18 years ago. She received her BA in Music Education from California Baptist University (CBU) in 2022 and has studied under Sharon Rizzo, Linda Wilson, Noemy Wheeler, Dr. Joshua Rodriguez, and Dr. Gene Moon. Her musical journey began in the Big Bear Strings Program and continued through Mountain Top Strings (MTS). As a member of MTS, she was presented with opportunities to perform in Italy (2013, 2016, and 2024) and in the prestigious Carnegie Hall, NYC (2017).

After her time in the Big Bear programs, she continued her studies at CBU (2017–2022). During this time, she was a member of several stylistically different ensembles. She participated in studio recordings for Lifeway Worship, toured several states, and was a Teaching Artist for the Riverside Arts Academy. During this time, she found a passion for teaching and composing music. Her ultimate goal is to use music to serve and help others. She believes it is a gift to share with everyone.

She is the general music teacher for the K–5 students of the Bear Valley Unified School District, has a private lesson studio, is a member of the Riverside Community College (RCC) Symphony, and serves as a mentor for the string students of MTS. She is forever grateful to MountainTop Strings for changing and shaping her career goals. When she isn't teaching or performing, she enjoys baking, crocheting, hiking, video games, and painting.

JOSH CANTU-WANG, VIOLIN

Josh Cantu-Wang, 13, is an eighth grader at Big Bear Middle School and will attend Big Bear High School in the fall. He began playing the violin in fourth grade and later joined advanced ensembles such as the Lighthouse Sinfonia, Chamber Strings, and YAE (Young Artists Ensemble), all directed by Mrs. Rizzo. Josh has been performing with regional orchestras for the past five years, including the San Bernardino County Honors Orchestra. He has also attended Arrowbear Music Camp every summer for the past three years. He currently serves as concertmaster of Chamber Strings and plays first violin in YAE. In addition to music, Josh enjoys athletics and has made the varsity teams in both basketball and soccer. He has played soccer since fifth grade and began playing basketball in his final year of middle school. Josh is especially excited to travel abroad for the first time on this summer's tour to Italy.



NINA CANTU-WANG, PRINCIPAL VIOLA



Nina Cantu-Wang, 16, attends Big Bear High School as a sophomore. Nina is currently studying viola under violist Kira Blumberg at the University of Redlands. Nina began playing violin when she was 8, but later switched to viola at age 12, taking it on as her main instrument. She has played viola in various ensembles, including the San Bernardino County Honors Orchestra, Lighthouse Youth Orchestras, and MountainTop Strings. Nina has also completed the Royal Conservatory of Music certificate for viola in her freshman year and plans to do it for the rest of her high school career. For 2 years, Nina has been playing viola at the Arrowbear Music Camp during the summer. In addition to viola, Nina enjoys playing the piano, which she has been playing since age 5. Aside from music, Nina is also a varsity basketball player and a JOAD archer, both of which she plans to continue for the rest of her high school career. This is her second time going on an Italy tour, and she's very excited to play music and to eat the food again.

GRACIE DORANTES-LOPEZ, VIOLIN

Gracie Dorantes-Lopez, 18, is a senior and Valedictorian at Big Bear High School. She plans to attend Columbia University, New York after high school, with the intent of becoming a lawyer. She started playing the violin in the Big Bear Strings program in fourth grade under Mrs. Rizzo. She is also a varsity golfer and the president of clubs such as "Interact". She enjoys music and has grown up with it, especially rock. She is filled with gratitude for being able to join the MountainTop Strings of California and is so grateful to have had the opportunity to tour Italy in the summer of 2024, an experience she knew she wanted to repeat.

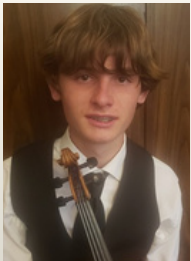


CATHERINE HORNER, VIOLA

Catherine Horner, 13, will be an eighth grader at Big Bear Middle School in the Fall. Catherine is in her fourth year of playing the viola, and she first joined the MountainTop Strings program in 5th grade when she joined the Big Bear Lighthouse Sinfonia. Catherine plays in the Lighthouse Chamber Strings and in the Young Artists Ensemble. She is currently studying privately with Heather Netz. When Catherine is not at rehearsal, she is running with the track team or playing volleyball with her friends. She is so grateful to be a part of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to fly across the world and play in many churches and other majestic places in Italy.



MARK HORNER, VIOLIN



Mark Horner, 17, violinist. As a musician in the MountainTop Strings group, Mark found this journey to be both fun and educational. He learned a lot about how to play properly with his instrument, and also learned how to be a lot more responsible about reading his emails and organizing his music (even though he has some room to improve). However, as they got closer to the final trip, he came to a sense of appreciation for how much dedication has gone into this group. Every rehearsal, concert, and meeting has been planned out to perfection, and they even threw a dinner rotation into the schedule! But, even though this tour was a lot of work, he knew that it would be worth it because memories of the last tour flooded his mind when he thought of places like Rome, Florence, and Venice. So, sharing his musical experience with the rest of the group and the country of Italy will prove to be a truly memorable experience.

ORYAN KNISLEY, VIOLA

Oryan Knisley 15, is a devoted and talented violist who has spent the past 7 years honing his craft with the Lighthouse Youth Orchestra. Oryan's musical journey started in 3rd grade and includes active participation in music forums and distinguished performances with the Redlands Youth Orchestra and San Bernardino County Honours Orchestra. This June 2026, Oryan has the extraordinary opportunity to join a three-week music tour in Italy, performing in the culturally renowned cities of Rome, Tuscany, Cremona, and Venice. This journey will enrich Oryan's artistry, provide international collaboration, and offer immersion in musical traditions at the heart of Europe. Oryan plays in a duet with his best friend, Nina Cantu-Wang, and they have both worked really hard on it.



OLIVER MENDEZ, CELLO



Oliver Mendez is a 15-year-old cellist who has been playing for seven years with the Bear Valley Unified School District Strings Program and the Lighthouse Youth Orchestra. His dedication to music has led him to perform with the San Bernardino County All-County Orchestra and the Forum Festival for several years. Oliver currently performs with the Chamber Strings Orchestra and the Young Artists Ensemble, continuing to refine his artistry and love for the cello. His musical journey has been both fun and rewarding, and he looks forward to continued growth and new experiences—especially during the exciting Italy Concert Tour in 2026.

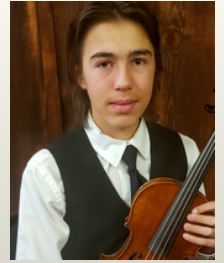
ADAM MERRALL, PRINCIPAL VIOLIN II

Adam Merrall, 16, has been playing the violin for 7 years with the Arrowhead Arts Association and the MountainTop Strings of California. He has experience performing with the San Bernardino Honors Orchestra and the California State University Summer Youth Orchestra. He has also played private events and fundraisers across the mountain communities. Adam is also a member of the Rim of the World high school ski team where he recently competed at the state championships.



JONAH PETTERUTO, VIOLIN

Jonah Petteruto, 15, has studied violin under Sharon Rizzo's direction for six years. He is a member of the Lighthouse Youth Orchestra and currently performs with both the Chamber Orchestra and the Young Artists Ensemble. Jonah has also performed with the San Bernardino County Youth Honors Orchestra, where he collaborated with outstanding young musicians from across the region. This will be Jonah's first tour to Italy, and he is excited for the opportunity to perform in historic venues while exploring the country's rich musical heritage, culture, and history.



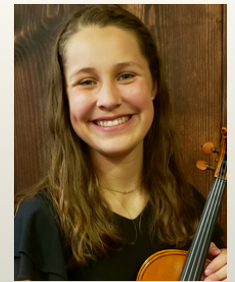
JAMES PHILLIPS, CO-CONCERTMASTER



James Phillips, 15, is currently a freshman at Rim of the World High School in Lake Arrowhead, CA. He has been playing violin for 4 years, and he currently studies under Mui-Yee Chu-Barry, who is a phenomenal violinist and teacher. James has had the honor of playing on the MountainTop Strings Italy Tour in the summer of 2024. This time, he is taking the reins as Co-Concertmaster and Soloist along with his colleague, Erin Zhou. In addition to two Italy Tours, he has also been in four Honors orchestras, and has done two performance seasons with the Redlands Youth Symphony, and more, all under the age of 16. He has been training for the tour by performing many chamber and solo works with the MountainTop Strings all over the mountain. He is performing a movement of Summer from Vivaldi's Four Seasons and is doing other solos and features as well. James says he values hard work; without effort, you won't get anywhere. James' big dream is to become a violin Soloist and share his love for music with the world. He believes music is one of the most beautiful things we have, and we need to cherish it.

HALLELUJAH JOY THOMAS, VIOLIN

Hallelujah Joy Thomas, 13, has been playing the violin since she was 6 years old. She joined Arrowhead Arts in 4th grade and joined the Young Artist Ensemble with Mrs. Rizzo in 6th grade. She has performed all over the mountain, including multiple solo concerts. She enjoys playing different instruments and performing with other musicians. She has worked hard baking sourdough bread to fundraise to go to Italy for the first time.



EMILY OLIVIA TORRES, CELLO



Emily Olivia Uribe Torres, 14, Cellist. She has been playing for 3 years. Since then she has received invitations to consider in San Bernardino, Riverside, and LA County. She is currently a part of multiple string ensembles and orchestras, including Arrowhead Arts Association's Young Artists Ensemble, and Chamber Strings, MountainTop Strings Orchestra (Italy group), Azure Hills Orchestra, CSUSB, and Redlands Community Orchestra. She has had the privilege to work with extremely talented directors such as Mui-Yee Barry, Michael Leno, Dr. Esther Back, James Benanti, and is playing in several groups under the direction of Sharon Rizzo. Her other passions extend to playing tennis since age 3, and plans to compete in USTA. She is a swimmer with multiple medals in USA Swim. Currently, she is in 9th grade, an honor student, a college student, recipient of the presidential service award, and was the 2025 chosen speaker, representing the entire middle and high school class. She is a songwriter with 6 songs releasing next year. She is an ambitious cello student who aspires to double major in Music and Sports Medicine. Emily credits her accomplishments to many in her life. "Thanks, and thanks, and ever thanks." *Shakespeare*

ERIN ZHOU, CO-CONCERTMASTER

Erin Zhou, 14, began studying violin at the age of 6 under the instruction of former MountainTop Strings player Neva Hidajat before continuing her studies with Linda Wilson at age 8 and Mui-Yee Chu Barry at age 11. She joined MountainTop Strings at the age of 9 and has since been an active and dedicated member of the ensemble. Since 2022, Erin has performed annually at Walt Disney Concert Hall with the audition-based Los Angeles Youth Philharmonic, serving as principal second violin. In the summer of 2025, she was selected through a competitive audition and application process to participate in the prestigious Honors Performance Series, where she performed at Carnegie Hall in New York as a first violinist. In the winter of 2026, she will return to Carnegie Hall after being invited to perform with a different ensemble. Erin has also performed as a first violinist in the Chamber Music Series hosted by the Los Angeles Youth Orchestra and was featured as a soloist at Thayer Hall at the Colburn School of Arts. In addition, she has been selected to participate in the San Bernardino Honors Orchestra multiple times.





OUR SUPPORTERS

MAJOR BENEFACTORS

\$10,000 & up

The Lighthouse Project of Big Bear
The Pettit Foundation ~ Aspen, CO

\$5,000-\$9,999

Arrowhead Arts Association ~ Lake Arrowhead, CA
The Warren Family Foundation ~ Bristol, TN

MAESTRO'S CIRCLE \$1,000-\$4,999

Barbara King ~ North Bend, WA
Captain's Anchorage, Patti Scriven ~ Big Bear, CA
Christine Elliott ~ San Diego, CA
Duane & Karen Bergmann ~ Big Bear, CA
Gabriel & Maria Rojas, Sonora Cantina & Old Country Inn
James McGrew ~ Big Bear, CA
Jonah Petteruto ~ Big Bear, CA
Kennie Jo Rizzo ~ Newport Beach, CA

Lance Eldred & Rita Stec ~ Indian Wells, CA
Layne Pinkernell ~ Eastvale, CA
Rick Rey, Social 572 ~ Big Bear Lake, CA
Robert Angilella ~ Big Bear, CA & Florence, Italy
The Colburn School of Music ~ Los Angeles, CA
The Lions Club of Big Bear Lake
The Lodge, Big Bear: Deron, Yari & Murphy
The Robinson Foundation ~ Los Angeles, CA
The Shirt Shanty, Matt & Claudia Scriven ~ Big Bear, CA

MOUNTAINTOP ANGELS up to \$999

Barbara Thibault ~ Newport Beach, CA
Big Bear Professional Firefighters
Bob Perry & Beth Meyer ~ Big Bear, CA
Brad & Sally Rice ~ Big Bear, CA
Darrel & Carol Mulvihill ~ Rancho Mirage, CA
Debra Price ~ Burbank, CA
Dino & Ramona DeMarco ~ Big Bear, CA
Doves of Big Bear Valley ~ Big Bear, CA
Dr. Eric Saidi ~ Big Bear, CA
Elizabeth Harris ~ Big Bear, CA
Elizabeth Wheat ~ Big Bear, CA
Gelato & Teahouse ~ Big Bear, CA
Gerald Smetts ~ Joshua Tree, CA
Geiger Supply ~ Big Bear, CA
Jack Williams ~ Big Bear, CA
James Buchta ~ Fairfield, CT
James & Concetta Buchta ~ Norwalk, CT
John & Diane Grady ~ Running Springs, CA
Joseph & Natalie Tremonte ~ Norwalk, CT
Joya Melissa ~ Simi Valley, CA

Keenan & Lindy Warner ~ Big Bear, CA
Lake Arrowhead Communities Republican Women
Lake Arrowhead Chamber of Commerce
Lorraine Taylor ~ Big Bear, CA
Maggio's Pizza ~ Big Bear, CA
Margo Iverson ~ Newport Beach, CA
Margo Penardi ~ Big Bear, CA
Michael & Maria Buchta ~ Trumbull, CT
Mountains Community Hospital ~ Lake Arrowhead, CA
No Name Pizza ~ Big Bear, CA
Open Sky Music Foundation ~ Big Bear, CA
Paul & Jill Zamoyta ~ Big Bear, CA
Robert Melissa ~ S. Pasadena, CA
Scott & Lisa Waner ~ Big Bear, CA
Simeon & Dana Prophet ~ Big Bear, CA
Soroptimists International ~ Big Bear, CA
Steve & Liz Sebestyan ~ Big Bear, CA
Terry & Maria Knisley ~ Big Bear, CA
Tom Bonetto ~ Big Bear, CA

THE LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT TEAM

Simeon Prophet, President
Dana Prophet, Vice President
Beth Wheat, Executive Director
Lisa Patterson, Financial Manager

PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS & STAFF

Bob Perry: Videography & Photography,
Graphic Design & Publicity
Jill Zamoyta & Bob Perry: Website Design & Maintenance
Barbara King, Co-Founder, Former Pianist & Liaison
Lance Eldred, Grants, Attorney & Consultant
TW Creations, Tori Waner
Andy Cantu & Xiaoying Wang, Event Representatives
Steven & Jill Merrill, Grant Writers
Mendez & Horner families - Event Volunteers

Rehearsal Coaches: Katelynn Azevedo, Marina Demarco,
Addy Epstein & Heather Netz
Rehearsal Facilities: Big Bear Middle School,
Lake Arrowhead Community Church, Mount Calvary
Lutheran Church, Community Church Big Bear
Private Teachers of Our Musicians: Heather Netz,
Mui-Yee Chu Barry, Kira Blumberg, Ian Kaminski,
Axel Rojas, Sakura Tsai, Linda Wilson,
Katelynn Azevedo, Francisco Rangel

TOUR STAFF

Sharon Rizzo, Music & Program Director
Anna Bernabei, "Stop in Italy"
Katelynn Azevedo, Artist Teacher & Tour Assistant
Karen Zhou, Mountain News Staff Writer

Chaperones: Dr. David & Carrie Horner, Katie Petteruto,
Juliet Thomas, Veronica Uribe-Torres, Xiaoying Wang,
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Flight Leaders: Katelynn Azevedo & Xiaoying Wang

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