



## 2024 SCSBOA Concert Honor Group Conductors

(Click on the conductors' names to be linked to their picture and bio.)

- [Symphonic Band- Kevin Mayse](#)
- [String Orchestra- Dana Zimbric](#)
- [Full Orchestra- Michae Boitz](#)

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### **Symphonic Band: *Kevin Mayse*** Riverside City College



Kevin Mayse is currently the Wind Ensemble Conductor and Department Chair of Music at Riverside City College.

Mr. Mayse has been the conductor of the California Pops Band, The West Coast Pops Orchestra, The Hawk-Richard Jazz Orchestra, the Westminster Brass Ensemble and the Inland Empire Wind Symphony. He has conducted numerous Musical Theatre Productions, Honor Bands and Honor Orchestras throughout California. He is currently a clinician for the Disneyland Imagination Campus and is very active as a Wind Ensemble, Symphony Orchestra and Jazz Ensemble clinician.

As a performer, Mr. Mayse has toured the United States and Japan with Keith Brion and the New Sousa Band, Vince DiMartino and the New Columbia Brass Band, and the California Gold Rush Band. Mr. Mayse was one of the founding members of the Huis Ten Bosch brass ensemble in Nagasaki, Japan. Locally he has performed with Natalie Cole, Bob James, the Smithsonian Jazz Orchestra, the Nelson Riddle Orchestra, Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey's Circus, and numerous groups at Disneyland.

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### **String Orchestra: *Dana Zimbric*** California Chamber Orchestra



Dana Zimbric, a multi-award-winning orchestral conductor, and visionary music educator, is on a mission to reshape classical music, infusing it with vibrancy and relevance for today's discerning audiences. With an unwavering commitment to diversify the classical music landscape, Zimbric strives to elevate the art form to new heights. Since 2010, Zimbric has held the prestigious position of Artistic Director and Conductor at the helm of the California Chamber Orchestra in the heart of Temecula, CA. Under her dynamic leadership, the California Chamber Orchestra has garnered accolades and grants

from prestigious institutions like the California Arts Council, Women's Philharmonic Advocacy, and Partners in Performance, a foundation founded by the illustrious violinist, Midori.

Transforming into the sole professional orchestra of the Temecula/Murrieta region, this unique chamber ensemble boasts top-tier musicians hailing from across Southern California. Their forte lies in delivering accessible chamber orchestra experiences, forging meaningful educational partnerships with the Murrieta and Temecula school districts, and co-producing the widely acclaimed Classics at the Merc series in collaboration with the City of Temecula at the historic Old Town Temecula Community Theater.

A remarkable highlight in Zimbric's illustrious career is her annual December spectacle—conducting Tchaikovsky's iconic "The Nutcracker" with the world-class ballet company Golden State Ballet Company at the Civic Theatre. This spectacular production, featuring the San Diego Symphony, has become the region's grandest holiday tradition.

In her role as the Artistic Director and Conductor for Classics 4 Kids and the Classics Philharmonic Orchestra, Zimbric commands a fully professional adult orchestra, delivering over 30 captivating concerts each year to nearly 30,000 schoolchildren throughout San Diego County via the Classics 4 Kids program. Her tireless dedication extends beyond the stage, encompassing in-school assemblies, immersive workshops, engaging virtual "Musician Meet & Greets," and captivating livestreams. Zimbric's extraordinary contributions to music education were celebrated when she received the prestigious 2017 California Music Educators Association-Southern Border Section's Fortissimo Award for Music Industry Leadership. Furthermore, Classics 4 Kids received the coveted California Music Educator's State-level Music Industry Leadership Award in 2021 for its innovative virtual programs during the challenging pandemic-induced school closures.

Recognized as a finalist for the 2019 San Diego Magazine's Woman of the Year Award, Zimbric has also been a featured presenter at the Arts MEGA Conference in San Diego and the Association of California Symphony Orchestra's Annual Conference. She was a finalist for the San Diego Business Journal's prestigious Women Who Mean Business Awards. Additionally, her high school alma mater in Rockford, Michigan, honored her in 2014 by inducting her into their Foundation's Hall of Fame, recognizing her remarkable contributions as a conductor in the realm of classical music.

A sought-after guest conductor, Ms. Zimbric has directed performances for the San Diego Symphony Orchestra, San Diego State University Symphony Orchestra, and numerous Honor Orchestras throughout southern California. Her illustrious career has included conducting roles with Orchestra Nova San Diego (formerly the San Diego Chamber Orchestra), San Diego Youth Symphony, Avanti (Youth) Chamber Orchestra, and the University of Wisconsin Chamber and Symphony Orchestras. She frequently imparts her expertise as a coach, judge, and esteemed guest conductor at festivals and institutions across Southern California.

Zimbric's educational journey is equally impressive, with a Bachelor of Music from the University of Wisconsin, a Master of Music in Orchestral Conducting from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, and coursework toward a Master of Arts in Teaching degree through Point Loma Nazarene University.

Beyond her illustrious career, Ms. Zimbric finds joy in life in San Diego, CA, where she resides with her husband and two talented daughters. Dana Zimbric's magnetic presence and transformative impact continue to make waves, ensuring that classical music remains a dynamic and enduring force in the modern world.

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## Full Orchestra: *Michael Boitz* Saratoga High School



Michael Boitz is serving in his 26<sup>th</sup> year leading the Instrumental Music Program at Saratoga High School, of which he served as Department Chair for the Visual and Performing Arts for 21 years. Mr. Boitz taught in his native Minnesota before arriving to take over the program at Saratoga High School in August 1998. Being the only Instrumental Music Director his first 6 years at SHS, Mr. Boitz has served as Director of Bands 1998-2019, and Director of Orchestra's 1998-present. Saratoga High School Instrumental Music Ensembles have developed a reputation for excellence at the state, national, and international level under his leadership. Mr. Boitz continues to work with both Bands and Orchestras at SHS as he did upon arrival over 25 years ago.

Mr. Boitz has been awarded *Teacher-of-the-Year* by the Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District, the California Music Educators Association Bay Section *Gilbert T. Freitas Award* for Excellence in Music Education, the California Music Educators Association *Richard L. Levin Orchestra Educator of the Year Award*, the California Music Educators Association *Band Educator of the Year award*, the California Music Educators Association Bay Section *Music Educator of the Year Award*, the University of Chicago *Outstanding Educator Award*, and has been inducted into the *John Phillip Sousa Legion of Honor*. Mr. Boitz and his path at Saratoga High School is one of the featured chapters of author and lecturer Scott Lang's Book, *Leader of the Band*.

Mr. Boitz has led concert tours to Spain, Austria, Switzerland, Germany, Slovenia, Norway, Finland, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Australia. International festivals have included the WASBE (World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles) Conference in Prague, CZ in 2022, Utrecht, NL in 2017, the World Music Contest in Kerkrade, NL, twice the Mid-Europe Music Festival in Schladming, AT, twice the Jungfrau Music Festival in Interlachen, CH, twice the former Vienna Youth in Music Festival in Vienna, AT, and the IMAGO Music Festival in Ljubljana, SI. Performance venues have included the Musikverein in Vienna, AU, The Royal Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, NL, the Palau de Musica in Barcelona, SE, the Konzertsaal in Lucerne, CH, the Kursaal in Donostia/San Sebastian, SE, the Palau de la Musica in Valencia, SE, the Sydney Opera House in Sydney, AU, and Carnegie Hall in New York.

Under Mr Boitz's leadership, the SHS Symphonic Wind Ensemble has also performed at multiple state and regional conferences, and has earned consistent Unanimous Superior ratings

at all CMEA (California Music Educator Association) festivals since 1999. The advanced orchestra at Saratoga High School, *Saratoga Strings*, has performed twice at the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago (2014, 2018), and in December 2023 will become one of the few High Schools in the U.S. to perform three times at Midwest. The Saratoga High School Marching Band has performed at both the nationally televised Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade (2012), and the internationally televised Tournament of Roses Parade (2016), along with multiple Bands of America Regional Championships, of which Saratoga was the West Coast Regional Champion in 2015.

Mr. Boitz serves regularly as a Guest Conductor for High School and Junior High Regional Honor Bands and Orchestra's on the West Coast, presented Clinic Sessions for WASBE (World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles) in Hungary and the Czech Republic, presented Clinic Sessions and Rehearsal Labs at the Midwest Clinic, and serves as Adjudicator and Clinician for multiple associations throughout the U.S. He has been honored to conduct All-State Bands and Orchestra's in California, Nevada, Indiana, and Oregon. Mr. Boitz has personally been awarded Honorary Commendations from the City of Saratoga, as well as the Band Program and Orchestra Program at SHS have been awarded Honorary Commendations from the City of Saratoga.

Mr. Boitz completed undergraduate and graduate studies at Concordia College in Moorhead Minnesota and Northwestern University in Evanston, IL, respectively. His teachers and mentors of greatest influence have included Dr. Mallory Thompson (Northwestern University), Dr. Russell Pesola (Concordia College), Dr. J. Robert Hanson (Concordia College), Dr. Frank Bencriscutto (University of Minnesota/Concordia College), Dr. Lawrence Sutherland (CSU Fresno/UCLA), Dr. Ed Huttlin (Concordia College), Mr. John Burn (Homestead HS), Mr. Norm Dea (Acalanes HS), Mr. John Lace (Anoka HS), Mr. Mike Hiatt (Anoka HS), Mr. Gordon Nilsen (Fred Moore Jr High), and Mr. Peter Dahlstrom (Fred Moore Jr High). Michael Boitz was born and raised in Anoka, MN, and is a proud graduate of Anoka High School.