

# BEVERLY HILLS *COURIER*

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Happenings—Pacific Serenades To Present Commissioned ‘String Theory,’ And Much More...

## FILM

### ***Besa-The Promise, Tales Of Courage In Nazi-Occupied Albania, To Be Screened At MOT***

The Museum of Tolerance and See Fest-The South East European Film Festival, will screen director Rachel Goslins’ *Besa-The Promise*, at 7 p.m., Sunday, May 5 at the Museum of Tolerance, 9786 W. Pico Blvd.

The film tells the never-before-told story of courageous individuals in Nazi-occupied Albania who saved the lives of thousands of Jews during WWII, witnessed through the prism of two men on a quest: a renowned Jewish-American photographer determined to record the bravery and compassion of the Albanians; and a Muslim-Albanian toy-shop owner who sets out to return three precious books to the last surviving member of the Jewish family his father sheltered 60 years before.

“Their meeting sets in motion an extraordinary and unexpected drama that bridges generations and religions,” Goslins said.

Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors, and include a Q&A with Goslins following the screening.

Tickets are available online at [www.museumoftolerance.com/besa](http://www.museumoftolerance.com/besa) or by calling 310-772-2505.

## MUSIC

### **Pacific Serenades’ ‘Vibrations’ To Feature New Commissioned *String Theory***

Pacific Serenades will present its 109th commission with Gernot Wolfgang’s *String Theory*, for string quartet, in a concert that will also feature Smetana’s *String Quartet No. 2 in D minor* and Haydn’s *String Quartet in B minor, Op. 64 No. 2* at 8 p.m., Tuesday, May 7 at the UCLA Faculty Center, 480 Charles Young Dr. East.

Titled “Vibrations,” the concert will feature Roger Wilkie and Connie Kupka on violin, Roland Kato on viola and David Speltz on cello.

From the standard repertoire, Smetana’s first string quartet is often performed. Haydn wrote 68 string quartets and the *String Quartet in B minor* is among the most popular.

Wolfgang prepared for writing his new quartet by studying and listening to the first five string quartets of Bartók. “I always do that—spend two-three days just listening to music for the instruments I am about to write for,” he said.

In fact, the first movement is called *Béla*. The second is an all-pizzicato movement called *Cartwheels*. The third is a slow movement, *Northern Lights*, with extensive viola solos. The final movement is *Nashville*, named after the TV series of which Gernot is a big fan. This is his first string quartet, but his second piece for Pacific Serenades.

Tickets are \$34 and available online at [www.pacser.org](http://www.pacser.org) or by calling 213-534-3434.

### **Salastina Music Society Explores Schoenberg In Two Concerts**

The Salastina Music Society will present the fifth set of concerts of its third season in two 8 p.m. concerts next month.

- The Friday, May 10 concert will be at the Edye Second Space at the Broad Stage, 1310 11th St. Santa Monica.
- The Saturday, May 11 concert will be at the Colburn School, 200 S. Grand Ave., L.A.

Classical KUSC’s Brian Lauritzen will host an in-depth exploration of Schoenberg’s *Verklarte Nacht*, in its original version for string sextet.

Salastina Music Society Artistic Directors/violinists Kevin Kumar and Maia Jasper are joined by Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra Principal Cellist Andrew Shulman, UCSB Cello Professor and chamber musician Jacob Braun, Pacific Symphony Assistant Principal violist Meredith Crawford, and Lyrus Quartet violist Luke Maurer.

“There’s so much to explore, both musically and poetically, in Schoenberg’s setting of Richard Dehmel’s poem” said Jasper.

“We often think of Schoenberg as the pioneer of atonal, 12-tone music, but in his younger days he attempted to reconcile the romanticism of both Brahms and Wagner in this unrestrained and generous depiction of transformational love,” said Kevin Kumar, co-artistic director. “The romantic musical language is sophisticated, but completely approachable and understandable even on first hearing.”

Discounted tickets (\$28) are available at [www.salastinasociety.org](http://www.salastinasociety.org); regular-priced tickets (\$35) will be available at the door. Students with valid ID may purchase tickets for \$10.

The audience is invited to mingle with the artists at receptions following each concert.

### **Acclaimed Cellist Weilerstein In LACO’s Season Finale**

The Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra's 44th season concludes with a flourish as Alisa Weilerstein performs Shostakovich's *Cello Concerto No. 1 in E-flat major, Op. 107*, originally composed for legendary cellist Mstislav Rostropovich, in two upcoming concerts.

- At 8 p.m. Saturday, May 18 at the Alex Theatre, 216 N. Brand Blvd., Glendale, and
- At 7 p.m., Sunday, May 19, at UCLA's Royce Hall, 340 Royce Dr.

Music Director Jeffrey Kahane, who conducts the program and who has championed artists early in their careers, also presents the US premiere of up-and-coming French composer Hugo Gonzalez-Pioli's *The Love of Zero*, a bassoon concerto, featuring LACO Principal Bassoonist Kenneth Munday and played with Robert Florey's avant-garde 1927 short silent film of the same title.

Gonzalez-Pioli is a 2012 graduate of USC's Scoring for Motion Pictures and Television program.

The program opens with Beethoven's *Coriolan Overture, Op. 62*, and also includes *Within Her Arms*, an elegy for 15 strings.

"Concert Preludes," talks held one hour before curtain at each concert and free for ticket holders, will feature Gonzalez-Pioli and Kahane to discuss *The Love of Zero*.

Tickets (\$25 – \$110) may be purchased online at [laco.org](http://laco.org), by calling LACO at 213 622 7001, or at the venue box office on the night of the concert, if tickets remain.

Discounted tickets are also available by phone for seniors 65 and older and groups of 12 or more. College students may purchase student rush tickets (\$10), based on availability, at the box office the day of the concert.

## **RADIO**

### **Frank Lloyd Wright's Controversial Life Topic Of Next Theatre Works Broadcast**

L.A. Theatre Works' Radio Theatre Series will air Jeffrey Hatcher and Eric Simonson's *Work Song: Three Views of Frank Lloyd Wright*, directed by Simonson and Brendon Fox, and starring Amy Brenneman and Robert Foxworth, from 7-9 p.m., Thursday, April 25 on KPFK 90.7 FM and streamed on demand at [www.latw.org](http://www.latw.org).

Master architect Frank Lloyd Wright's lifestyle, personality, and even his work were the subjects of great controversy during his lifetime. He designed innovative American homes to human proportion, but his own life was filled with large-scale triumph and tragedy.

Tensions between Wright's work and his tempestuous relationships are explored in this uniquely prismatic view of one of the great architects of the modern era.

The broadcast includes a conversation with Foxworth, co-director Fox, and Harold Zellman, a Los Angeles-based architect and the co-author of *The Fellowship: The Untold Story of Frank Lloyd Wright and the Taliesin Fellowship*.

## **THEATRE**

### **Theatricum Botanicum To Celebrate 40th Anniversary With Free Open House**

Will Geer's Theatricum Botanicum will celebrate its 40th anniversary with a free open house from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, May 4 at the famed outdoor theater, 1419 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd., midway between Pacific Coast Highway and the Ventura Freeway.

In 1973, Geer and his family established a theater company in the heart of Topanga Canyon. Forty years later, they continue to offer an annual season of live entertainment and a variety of arts education programs for children, teens and adults.

The anniversary celebration will feature food, games, theater and fun for all ages.

Activities will include guided tours with costumed characters that include the gardens, archival photo gallery, stories of Theatricum's history, and a peek at a company rehearsal; theater games such as stage combat, Elizabethan dance, fencing, juggling and more; showcases and theatrical presentations from Theatricum's Academy teachers and students, a "sneak peek" preview of the 2013 five-play summer repertory season on the main stage at 3 p.m, followed by comedy improv from Off The Grid; food and beverage vendors, music and special one-day-only ticket offers.

For more information, call 310-455-3723 or visit [www.theatricum.com](http://www.theatricum.com).

### **Reading of Mamet's *Glengarry Glen Ross* Next For L.A. Theatre Works**

L.A. Theatre Works will record readings of David Mamet's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama *Glengarry Glen Ross*—about small-time real-estate brokers who vie for the hot leads at a Chicago firm selling shoddy properties—next month at UCLA's James Bridges Theater.

Joe Mantegna will reprise his Tony Award-winning role as Richard Roma from the original (1984) Broadway production; Gordon Clapp returns with his Tony-nominated portrayal from the 2005 Broadway revival; and Richard Schiff stars as George Aaronow, the role he played in the most recent, 2012 Broadway production.

The cast also features Richard Dreyfuss and Bruce Davison.

With money, egos and jobs on the line, the cut-throat salesmen will stop at nothing to get their fair share of the American Dream.

All performances will be recorded live in front of an audience (without sets or costumes) to air on L.A. Theatre Works' syndicated radio theater series, which broadcasts weekly on public radio stations nationwide and can be streamed on demand at [www.latw.org](http://www.latw.org).

The readings will be at 8 p.m., Thursday, May 16 and Friday, May 17; at 6 and 8:30 p.m., Saturday, May 18 and at 4 and 7:30 p.m., Sunday, May 19.

Reserved seating is \$60-\$100; student rush is \$15 (cash at the door 1/2 hour before performance, subject to availability).

Tickets may be purchased by calling 310-827-0889 or visiting [www.latw.org](http://www.latw.org).

Get to the theater by entering UCLA from Hilgard just south of Sunset Boulevard, park in Lot 3 on the lower level.