

CALIFORNIA  
SYMPHONY

# FRESH LOOK

## « REWIND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## CALIFORNIA SYMPHONY PROVIDES AN ACCESSIBLE ENTRY POINT TO CLASSICAL MUSIC WITH INNOVATIVE ONLINE COURSE **FRESH LOOK**

*Five-part introductory online lecture series with award-winning instructor Scott Foglesong aims to fill the hole left by waning public school arts education access and open up classical music enjoyment to a broader audience.*

Available online now at [californiasymphony.org/rewind](https://californiasymphony.org/rewind).

WALNUT CREEK, CA (February 15, 2022) – Leading Bay Area regional orchestra **California Symphony**, led by Mexican American music director **Donato Cabrera**, presents **FRESH LOOK: REWIND**, a virtual, on-demand music education course offered across five 75-minute sessions for classically curious adult learners. This fun, fast-paced lecture series guides viewers through music from Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, and right up to the vibrant state of orchestra music today.

The **FRESH LOOK** series was created in response to [in-house research](#) aimed at removing the barriers that inhibit enjoyment of orchestra concerts for new attendees. Many orchestras—including California Symphony—offer adult education through pre-concert lectures, which is helpful only *after* someone has already decided to attend a concert and purchased a ticket. **FRESH LOOK** was therefore devised as a gateway to classical music, to inspire concert attendance, and to ensure a more enjoyable experience for those who come.

The pioneering lecture series was launched in 2018 and pivoted to a virtual format in summer 2020, prompting a 4X increase in participation, and attracting participants from as far away as Illinois and Ohio. **FRESH LOOK: REWIND** is developed by Music Director Cabrera with award-winning instructor **Scott Foglesong** (Chair of Musicianship and Music Theory at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music). Cabrera has a dedication to adventurous programming and a deep interest in programming works that reflect the communities California Symphony serves. The Consulate-General of Mexico recognized Cabrera in San Francisco as a Luminary of the Friends of Mexico Honorary Committee for his contributions to promoting and developing the presence of the Mexican community in the Bay Area.

Access **FRESH LOOK: REWIND** for \$25-\$30/household at [californiasymphony.org/rewind](https://californiasymphony.org/rewind).

The classes, which were originally recorded in July 2021, are online now and remain available on-demand for eight weeks after purchase. To better serve Contra Costa County's 25% Hispanic population, the course is also available with Spanish subtitles.

### CLASS DETAILS

1. "ORCHESTRA 101—YOU COULD GOOGLE IT, OR"  
We'll start by tackling a pressing question: *just what does a conductor do, anyway?* After we've shone some light on that issue in addition to exploring their range and diversity (with the aid of many conductors and orchestras), we'll explore the orchestra from its early days to the present, culminating in a trip through the orchestra's sections and instruments.
2. "CLASSICAL MUSIC—COMING INTO ITS OWN"  
Classical music began to take shape in the Baroque Era (1600-1750) with masters such as Vivaldi, Bach, and Handel, but it really came into its own with the Viennese Classical (later 18th century) with Haydn and Mozart. We'll dive into music from both those eras (and maybe a little later), expanding to composers beyond the usual suspects, including those of African heritage and from Asia.
3. "BEETHOVEN—SHIFTING INTO HIGH GEAR"  
Beethoven not only expressed the spirit of an era—artistic, political, and personal—but also served as an inspiration and model to future generations of composers. We'll start with him, then go on to explore some early 19th-century Romantics who followed his lead.
4. COMPOSERS—POLITICAL ANIMALS  
Beethoven's influence continued well into the later 19th century, as composers created works that were both politically charged and imbued with the spirit of adventure and exploration. We'll look at some late Romantics who, like Tchaikovsky and Mahler, brought folk music into their works, as well as Brahms, who summed up the century while simultaneously bringing about a rebirth of the symphony.
5. MUSIC OF OUR TIME—A KALEIDOSCOPE  
Beginning in the early 20th century and continuing to the present day, the music of the modern world offers a rich and multi-varied array of styles. We'll begin with Claude Debussy and move through jazz-inspired composers such as George Gershwin, reaching the 21st century with works written within the past few years. Professor Scott Foglesong and California Symphony Music Director Donato Cabrera will close out the course with a discussion about the past, present, and future of orchestral music.

### ABOUT SCOTT FOGLESONG

Scott Foglesong is a pianist, musician, teacher, writer, cat-lover, music history devotee, occasional computer geek and sometime programmer. He has been on the faculty of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music since 1978; nowadays he serves as a department chair in addition to enjoying the honor of educating some of today's most promising young musicians. In 2008 he was named recipient of the Sarlo Family Foundation Award for excellence in teaching. He has taught Music 27 (Introduction to Music) for the Fall Freshman program at UC Berkeley since 1991, is associated with the San Francisco Symphony, both as a Contributing Writer and as an "Inside Music" lecturer for the Symphony's weekly subscription concerts, and is Program Annotator for the California Symphony, after formerly serving in

the same capacity for the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, New Hampshire Music Festival, and Las Vegas Philharmonic Orchestra. Professor Foglesong was formally educated at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore and the San Francisco Conservatory, but his informal education continues everywhere, without cease.

#### ABOUT DONATO CABRERA

Mexican American conductor Donato Cabrera is Music Director of the California Symphony and the Las Vegas Philharmonic. He served as the Resident Conductor of the San Francisco Symphony and the Wattis Foundation Music Director of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra from 2009-2016 where Cabrera was recognized by the Consulate-General of Mexico in San Francisco as a Luminary of the Friends of Mexico Honorary Committee, for his contributions to promoting and developing the presence of the Mexican community in the Bay Area.

Since Cabrera's appointment as Music Director of the California Symphony in 2013, the organization has reached new artistic heights by implementing innovative programming that emphasizes welcoming newcomers and loyalists alike, building on its reputation for championing music by living composers, and committing to programming music by women and people of color. Cabrera also advises and oversees the Symphony's music education programs and community engagement activities.

#### ABOUT CALIFORNIA SYMPHONY

Under the leadership of Music Director Donato Cabrera, California Symphony is distinguished by its vibrant concert programs that combine classics alongside American repertoire and works by a variety of living composers. The orchestra membership includes musicians who perform with the San Francisco Symphony, San Francisco Opera, San Francisco Ballet, and other orchestras throughout the Bay Area.

The Symphony has launched the careers of some of today's most well-known artists, including violinist Anne Akiko Meyers, cellists Alisa Weilerstein and Joshua Roman, and pianist Kirill Gerstein. California Symphony also hosts the highly competitive [Young American Composer-in-Residence program](#) and its current, tenth composer is Viet Cuong (2020-2023). Past composers include Mason Bates, Christopher Theofanidis, and Kevin Puts.

Outside the concert hall, California Symphony actively supports music education as a driver for social change through its El Sistema-inspired [Sound Minds program](#) which brings intensive after-school music instruction and academic enrichment to disadvantaged elementary school children at no cost to participate, and its innovative adult education program Fresh Look, aimed at further expanding access to and understanding of this artform.

In 2017, California Symphony was the first professional orchestra to publish a public **Commitment to Diversity**. For more information, please visit [californiasymphony.org](http://californiasymphony.org).

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