The CSUSB Department of Music
Proudly Presents
The CSUSB

Symphony
ORCHESTRA IN CONCERT

OPENING NIGHT!



Featuring Edgar Melendez, *alto saxophone*,
Susan Barnes, *guest conductor*, and
Lucy Lewis, *violin*

Thursday, October 22, 7:00 PM
CSUSB Performing Arts Center

CSUSB
PERFORMING
ARTS CENTER
COLLEGE OF ARTS & LETTERS

10-22-2026 Symphony Orchestra Program.indd 1 10/15/26 1:00 PM









Welcome

Good evening, and *welcome* to our first CSUSB Symphony Orchestra performance for the 2026-2027 season in our gorgeous, brand new Performing Arts Center Theatre! This concert has been curated to celebrate this momentous milestone that has been so many years in the making, and we are just so thrilled that you are here with us tonight.

The all-new **Performing Arts Center at CSUSB** represents a bold investment in creativity, collaboration, and community engagement. The facility serves as a dynamic hub for artistic excellence and expands the university's capacity to present high-quality performances and educational experiences. At the heart of the center is a state-of-the-art 478-seat main stage, engineered to deliver exceptional acoustics, sightlines, and technical flexibility. This premier performance venue supports a wide range of musical, theatrical, and interdisciplinary productions, providing students with professional experience and audiences with an immersive entertainment destination. Complementing the main stage are multiple rehearsal halls and practice rooms, thoughtfully designed to accommodate individual study, ensemble work, and full-scale production preparation.

The Performing Arts Center also features a modern recording studio, enabling students and faculty to engage in audio production, composition, and recording projects within a controlled, industry-relevant environment. Multiple student lounges create welcoming spaces for collaboration, reflection, and informal learning outside of the classroom. The center will host a diverse calendar of music and theatrical performances throughout the academic year, showcasing student talent, faculty artistry, and the work of visiting professionals. In addition to serving the campus community, the facility will also offer regional organizations and partners access to a premier performing arts venue. The new Performing Arts Center will work in conjunction with the original Performing Arts Building, helping to expand opportunities for interdisciplinary programming and larger-scale productions. Together, these facilities position CSUSB as a leading cultural and educational resource in the region—one that celebrates artistic expression, supports student success, and invites the broader community to experience the transformative power of the performing arts.

The CSUSB Symphony Orchestra's performance tonight is the beautiful culmination of focused rehearsing these first few weeks of Fall Semester 2026, and we are pleased to share with you a program that features works for full symphony orchestra, spanning a variety of genres from classical music to film scores, to jazz. A highlight for this evening is being able to feature our very own saxophone professor Dr. Edgar Melendez, performing *Saxanova* by Bill Holcombe, a work that is infused with warm harmonies, and romantic, jazzy melodic writing. This entire program has been curated to celebrate our "Opening Night" in our brand new PAC Theatre, and we invite you to share in our joy as you experience the music!

Lastly, if you are passionate about the performing arts, and interested in making a lasting impact in our community, please consider sponsoring a seat in our new Performing Arts Theater and engrave your name, a loved one's name, or a special message on a commemorative plaque. Seize this chance to support the arts and leave your mark on our vibrant new space! Your investment not only supports the arts but secures a legacy – a place where your name or message becomes part of every inspiring moment on stage. By taking a seat, you will help cultivate a thriving arts community and enrich the lives of students and audiences for generations to come.

Thank you for joining us this evening for beautiful symphonic music. Please check out our Music & Theatre Department calendars for future performances, and come back to visit us again soon!

With warmest wishes for a lovely autumn,

Lucy Lewis

Dr. Lucy Lewis
Director of Orchestral Studies

Take a Seat!

Program

Opening Night ..... Brian Balmages
(b. 1975-)

The Magnificent Seven Symphonic Suite ..... Elmer Bernstein
(1922-2004)
Ed. Patrick Russ

Saxanova ..... Bill Holcombe
(1924-2010)
Edgar Melendez, *alto saxophone*

Agua de Beber ..... Antonio Jobim & Vinicius de Moraes
(1927-1994) & (1913-1980)
Arr. Mike Lewis
(b. 1939-)

"Moon River" from Breakfast at Tiffany's ..... Henry Mancini
(1924-1994)
Arr. John Moss
(b. 1948-)

Variations on a Shaker Melody ..... Aaron Copland
(1900-1990)

Cinema Paradiso ..... Ennio Morricone
(1928-2020)
Arr. Angela Morely
(1924-2009)
Lucy Lewis, *violin*
Susan Barnes, *guest conductor*

Flying Theme from "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial" ..... John Williams
(1932-)
Arr. James Ployhar
(1924-2009)

007: Through the Years ..... Arr. by Stephen Bulla
(b. 1953-)

CSUSB Symphony Orchestra

VIOLIN I
Stephanie Rodriguez, *concertmaster*
Darla Rojas-
Steve Sanchez-Fuentes-
Asher Sorthi*
Dr. Susan Barnes^

VIOLIN II
Lily Hanna*, *principal*
Jefry Alonso-Silva
Lillian "Lilly" Romo
Kayla Teng-
Giovanni Curry Ramos

VIOLA
Jasmine Lewis, *principal*
Alondra Hipolito Moreno
Abigail Metzger
Melanie Pineda
Kaytlin Valencia

CELLO
Dr. Esther Back^, *principal*
Alberto Hernandez
Starlet Ayala-
Bubs Diaz-

DOUBLE BASS
Rogelio Elias, *principal*
Jacob Gasca

HARP
Laura Griffin-Casey~, *principal*

GUITAR
Andres Martinez, *principal*

^Faculty
#Alumni
-High School University Program
*Open University
~Community

FLUTE
Dr. Susan Barnes^
Kaiana Walker
Janeth Zavala-

OBOE
Dr. Lynnette Kobernik^, *principal*
Dr. Jessica Getman^

CLARINET
Dr. Kevin Zhang^, *principal*
Raymond Yoo
Wendi Shaffer

BASS CLARINET
Hugo Rivera, *principal*

BASSOON
Lieza Hansen Kallin~, principal
Dennis Robertson~

ALTO SAXOPHONE
Stephanie Giron-Gonzalez, *principal*
Aiden Antuñez

BARITONE SAXOPHONE
Jaden Garcia

FRENCH HORN
Brian Hollett^, *principal*
Benjamin Young~

TRUMPET
Elden Smith~, *principal*
James Sumners~

TROMBONE
Diego Torres-Vizcarra, *principal*
Victoria Lee

TUBA
Rhyan Canales, *principal*

PERCUSSION

Cristobal Alcaraz, principal
John Valenzuela
Yarixa Corrales
Gavin Arredondo
Gabriel Sanchez~
Jimmy Grissom

Bios



Dr. Edgar Melendez is a professional saxophonist based in the Los Angeles/Inland Empire area. Edgar is currently the professor of saxophone and saxophone ensemble director at CSU San Bernardino. He has performed with professional symphonies like the Santa Barbara, Redlands Symphony, Fresno Philharmonic, and Pacific Symphony. He has served as an adjudicator for the high desert honor band saxophones and is an active clinician. Edgar has performed at venues such as: Walt Disney Hall with the USC Wind Ensemble, The Granada Theater with the Santa Barbara Symphony, LACMA with the UCLA Philharmonia. As part of the saxophone studio at UCLA, he took part in the 35th Annual Japanese Saxophonist Association Festival 2015 in Japan. Currently, Edgar has extensive experience in chamber music where his quartet Kintsugi Quartet has won awards at the state and regional levels. Edgar has earned his doctoral degree from the University of Southern California in Performance with academic sub-fields in Music Education, Theory Pedagogy and Jazz Studies; a Master of Music in performance from the University of California Los Angeles, and both his Bachelor of Arts degrees in Performance and Music Education from California State University, San Bernardino. At USC, he studied classical saxophone with Dr. Jessica Maxfield and jazz saxophone with Barclay Moffit. His past teachers include Dr. Robert Knop, Dr. Douglas Masek, Dr. Michael Couper, and Justo Almario.



Dr. Susan E. Barnes is a conductor and music educator whose work spans youth, university, community, and sacred music settings. She serves as Director and Conductor of the San Bernardino Symphony Overture Orchestra and has conducted university ensembles, regional honor orchestras, and professional and community ensembles throughout Southern California. Dr. Barnes is Director of Orchestral and Choral Music at Carter High School in Rialto Unified School District, where she founded and helped develop the district's string program from a small after-school ensemble into a comprehensive K–12 program. She also serves as a Lecturer for the Watson College of Education at California State University, San Bernardino, mentoring and supervising future educators. Dr. Barnes holds a DMA in Conducting and Historical Performance Practices from Claremont Graduate University, where her doctoral research explored the history, social function, and pedagogical applications of the string serenade from the seventeenth through nineteenth centuries. Her work as a conductor and educator is centered on developing musicianship, creating meaningful performance experiences, and fostering lifelong engagement with music.



Dr. Lucy Lewis currently serves as the Music Director and Conductor of the Orchestral Studies Program at California State University, San Bernardino. She is a dedicated interdisciplinary collaborator, and her innovative season programming has featured the CSUSB Opera Theatre Program, Concert Choir & Chamber Singers, and Vocal Jazz Program, in addition to multiple guest artists. An avid supporter of the development of young musicians, Dr. Lewis founded the CSUSB Young Artist Competition and annually commissions new works by the faculty and students of the CSUSB Composition Program. Dr. Lewis is frequently engaged as an orchestral clinician and has guest conducted orchestras in California, Michigan, Tennessee, Maine, and Florida. In the fall of 2019, Dr. Lewis led the CSUSB Orchestra on an international tour to South Korea where they performed in the Seoul Center for the Arts IBK Chamber Hall. An active soloist, chamber, and orchestral musician, Dr. Lewis has performed in the United States, Canada, South America, Europe, and Africa. Dr. Lewis holds a cognate in Orchestral Conducting from the University of Iowa and subs with the San Bernardino Symphony Orchestra.

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CSUSB SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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DID YOU KNOW?

CSUSB has over 17 Muisc Ensembles that ANYONE can join! You don't need to be a Music Major, just a music enthusiast and performer!

DISCOVER OUR NEWEST PROGRAM OF STUDY

CSUSB now offers Bachelor of Arts in Music Therapy! Combining coursework in music performance and theory, psychology, human development, and clinical practice to prepare students for Board Certification in MusicTherapy (MT-BC). Music therapists apply structured musical experiences in medical, educational, and community settings to promote growth, rehabilitation, and emotional health for children, adults, and the elderly.

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN BERNARDINO

10-22-2026 Symphony Orchestra Program.indd 8 10/15/26 1:00 PM