

TUESDAYS @ MONK SPACE

2025-26 Season

The 2025-26 Season of Tuesdays @ Monk Space is
curated by **Shalini Vijayan**.

Airborne Alchemy

April 21, 2026
8:00 PM

Monk Space

DIGITAL PROGRAM:

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newmusic

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STEINWAY & SONS

PROGRAM

Sand, Wind, Thorn (2021) Juhi BANSAL

Lachen Verlernt (2001) Esa-Pekka SALONEN

Pana-Paná II (1981) Almeida PRADO

- I. Morpho Didius
- II. Caligo Memnon
- III. Dismorphia Spio
- IV. Pierella Nereis
- V. Heliconius Erato

-Intermission-

Tempest Fantasy (2003) Paul MORAVEC

1. Ariel
2. Prospero
3. Caliban
4. Sweet Airs
5. Fantasia

MUSICIANS

Alyssa Park, violin
Timothy Loo, cello
Brian Walsh, clarinet
Nic Gerpe, piano
Jane Kaczmarek, narrator

PROGRAM NOTES

Juhi Bansal - *Sand, Wind, Thorn*

Sand, Wind, Thorn draws on the landscape of California desert country, a rock filled, arid territory of crumbling sand, howling wind, hidden life and history. The piece consists of thirteen short sections, with two alternating themes drawing on gestures of stone and of wind. *Sand, Wind, Thorn* was commissioned by Copland House for its CULTIVATE 2021 emerging composers' institute, and was premiered by the Music from Copland House ensemble.

Esa-Pekka Salonen - *Lachen Verlernt*

Lachen verlernt (Laughing Unlearned) is a chaconne for solo violin by the Finnish composer Esa-Pekka Salonen. The work was commissioned by the La Jolla Chamber Music Society and written for violinist Cho-Liang Lin and first performed in 2002.

The title *Lachen verlernt* (Laughing unlearned) is a quotation from the ninth movement of Schönberg's *Pierrot Lunaire*, *Gebet an Pierrot* (Prayer to Pierrot). The narrator declares that she has unlearned the skill of laughing and begs Pierrot, the 'Horse-doctor to the soul', to give it back to her. I felt that this is a very moving metaphor of a performer: a serious clown trying to help the audience to connect with emotions they have lost, or believe they have lost. *Lachen verlernt* is essentially a Chaconne, which in this case means that there is a harmonic progression that repeats itself several times. The harmony remains the same throughout the whole piece; only the surface, the top layer of the music changes.

Almeida Prado - *Pana Paná II*

Panapaná is the Tupi-Guarani word for a collective of butterflies. This work continues the spirit of the first, yet focuses more intently on the visual aspect of each chosen butterfly, subsequently offering a subjective sonic interpretation. It consists of five movements. The final movement serves as a postlude.

I. Morpho Didius

From the Morphidae family: wings of an intense blue, with color variations ranging from purple to green and blue; a quintessential Brazilian butterfly, found primarily in the regions of Santa Catarina and the Serra do Mar.

II. Caligo Memnon

From the Brassolidae family: wings featuring a multitude of patterns and spots, colored in shades of brown, black, and yellow; when glimpsed amidst the foliage, it resembles the head of an owl.

III. Dismorphia Spio

From the Pieridae family: delicately elongated wings, colored in black, yellow, and cream.

IV. Pierella Nereis

From the Satyridae family: velvety wings of an intense black, marked with red spots. (Piano solo)

V. Heliconius Erato

From the Nymphalidae family: velvety wings of an intense black, marked with red and yellow spots; a butterfly typical of the Venezuelan jungles.

Paul Moravec - *Tempest Fantasy*

Tempest Fantasy is a musical meditation on various characters, moods, situations, and lines of text from my favorite Shakespeare play, *The Tempest*. Rather than depicting these elements in literal, programmatic terms, the music uses them as points of departure for flights of purely musical fancy.

The first three movements spring from the nature and selected speeches of the three eponymous characters.

The fourth movement arises out of Caliban's uncharacteristically elegant speech from Act III, scene 2:

Be not afraid: the isle is full of noises,
Sounds and sweet airs, that give delight, and hurt not.
The fifth movement is the most "fantastic" flight of all, elaborating on the various musical elements of the previous movements and drawing them together into a convivial finale.

Tempest Fantasy was awarded the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for Music.



COMPOSER BIOS

Juhi Bansal

“Radiant and transcendent”, the music of Juhi Bansal weaves together themes celebrating musical and cultural diversity, nature and the environment, and strong female role models. Her music draws upon elements as disparate as Hindustani music, the spectralists, progressive metal, musical theatre and choral traditions to create deeply expressive, evocative sound-worlds. As an Indian composer brought up in Hong Kong, her work draws subtly upon both those traditions, entwining them closely and intricately with the gestures of western classical music.

Recent projects include *Love, Loss and Exile*, a song cycle on poetry by Afghan women commissioned by Songfest; *Songs from the deep*, a new orchestral work inspired by humpback whale songs commissioned by the Oregon Mozart Players; and *Waves of Change*, a digital operatic short on womanhood, identity and clash of cultures inspired by the story of the Bangladesh Girls Surf Club. Working across orchestra, choral music, opera, chamber music, art song and electronics, recent seasons have included commissions from the Tonhalle Düsseldorf, Virginia Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic Association, Beth Morrison Projects, Choral Arts initiative, New York Virtuoso Singers, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and more. Her music has been featured on several Grammy nominated albums, and is regularly performed throughout the U.S. Europe and Asia.

A conductor as well as composer, she has been awarded fellowships by the Douglas Moore Fund for American Opera, the Atlantic Music Center, Seasons Music Festival, Oregon Bach Festival Composer’s Symposium, and the Pacific Music Festival. She frequently premieres the work of other composers and accompanies singers at the piano.

Esa-Pekka Salonen

Esa-Pekka Salonen is renowned as both a composer and conductor. He was recently named Creative Director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, effective 2026–27, and Creativity and Innovation Chair of the Philharmonie de Paris and Principal Conductor of the Orchestre de Paris, effective 2027–28. He is the Conductor Laureate of the Philharmonia Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra, and formerly served as Music Director of the San Francisco Symphony. He is a faculty member at Los Angeles’s Colburn School, where he founded and directs the Negaunee Conducting Program. Salonen co-founded, and until 2018 served as the Artistic Director of, the annual Baltic Sea Festival

Salonen begins the season on a tour with the Orchestre de Paris centered on the premiere of his new Horn Concerto. He later brings the piece to the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Filarmonica della Scala, and Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra. Other conducting highlights this season include a pair of Pierre Boulez centennial programs at the New York Philharmonic, residencies with the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra and Bergen International Festival, and dates with the LA Phil, Philadelphia Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and Orchestre de Paris. He concludes the season at the Ojai Music Festival, which he curates as the 2026 Music Director.

Salonen conducts several of his compositions this season, including *Tiu* and *Dona Nobis Pacem* with the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra, and his *Sinfonia concertante* with Olivier Latry and the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra. His music is also programmed, with other conductors, at orchestras and ensembles around the world.

Salonen has an extensive and varied recording career, both as a conductor and composer. Recent releases include the GRAMMY® Award-winning (Best Opera Recording) world premiere recording of Kaija Saariaho’s *Adriana Mater* on

Deutsche Grammophon, recordings of Bartók's three piano concertos with Pierre-Laurent Aimard on Pentatone, as well as spatial audio recordings of Ligeti's Clocks and Clouds, Lux Aeterna, and Rami-fi-cations on Apple Music Classical. His concertos for piano (composed for Yefim Bronfman), violin (for Leila Josefowicz, featured in an ad campaign for the Apple iPad), and cello (for Yo-Yo Ma) all appear on recordings conducted by Salonen himself.

Almeida Prado

Almeida Prado started his musical studies in Santos, where he was born in 1943. In 1954, in São Paulo, he studied piano with Dinora de Carvalho, composition with Camargo Guarnieri, and harmony and counterpoint with Osvaldo Lacerda. After winning a composition contest in the late sixties, he went to Paris where, from 1969 to 1973, he studied under Olivier Messiaen, Nadia Boulanger and Annette Dieudonnée. Back to Brazil, he directed the Municipal School of Music in Cubatao and, in 1975, went to the University of Campinas-Unicamp, as a teacher on musical composition at the Music Department.

A great number of pieces for vocal, instrumental and mixed ensembles, from his vast catalogue, has been published in Germany by Tonos. His manifold style includes Villa-Lobos and Guarnieri's nationalism, the atonal postserial phase, the Afro-Brazilian of Sinfonia dos Orixas, the postmodernism of pieces as Poesiludios and the free tonal style. Also a pianist, he has performed many auditions in Brazil and abroad, and several concerts with orchestras under famous conductors.

Almeida Prado died in São Paulo in 2010.

Paul Moravec

Paul Moravec, recipient of the 2004 Pulitzer Prize in Music, has composed over 200 orchestral, chamber, lyric, choral and operatic works. Frequently commissioned by leading ensembles and major music institutions, Mr. Moravec's recent premieres include All Shall Rise, an oratorio about U.S voting

rights to a libretto by Mark Campbell for Oratorio Society of New York (OSNY) at Carnegie Hall, A Nation of Others, also for OSNY, A New Country for mezzo Jennifer Cano and South Dakota Symphony, and Miami Variations for Gerard Schwarz and the Frost Orchestra. Recent recordings include his opera The Shining (nominated for a 2025 GRAMMY), A Nation of Others, and The Overlook Hotel Suite.

A graduate of Harvard and Columbia universities, he holds the distinguished rank of University Professor at Adelphi University, and recently served as Artist-in-Residence at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton as well as Composer-in-Residence at the American Academy in Rome. His website is www.paulmoravec.com and his works are published by www.subitomusic.com.

PERFORMER BIOS

Alyssa Park

Alyssa Park was appointed to the position of LA Opera's Stuart Canin Concertmaster in 2026.



She established an enviable international reputation at the age of 16 as the youngest prizewinner in the history of the prestigious Tchaikovsky International Competition. Her New York City debut recital at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall was critically acclaimed by The New York Times for "an unusually strong technique and a youthful sense of music making." Other notable credits include the Ravinia Festival series, the Kennedy Center recital series, the Oregon Bach Festival, and Rockefeller University in New York City.

In Europe, she has performed as a soloist with Sir Colin Davis and the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, as well as with the Lausanne Chamber Orchestra, Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra, Czech Philharmonic, Austrian Radio Symphony, Bamberg Symphony Orchestra, Barcelona Symphony Orchestra, Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk, and the Hamburg Philharmonic. She toured Spain, Switzerland, and Austria with the Cincinnati Symphony. In Australia, she also appeared as soloist with the orchestras of Sydney, Adelaide, and Tasmania.

Past seasons have included performances in Asia with the Korean Broadcasting Symphony, Japan Philharmonic, and the Singapore Symphony. She has also appeared with the Berlin Radio Orchestra, Frankfurt Radio Orchestra, Lisbon Symphony, Salzburger Kammerphilharmonie, and Munich Philharmonic, and made her debut at Italy's Ravello Festival and the Netherlands' Royal Concertgebouw.

An avid chamber musician, Ms. Park has been a frequent guest at major festivals throughout Europe and the United States. She is a founding member of the Los Angeles-based Lyris Quartet. Lyris curates the Hear Now new music festival, dedicated to performing the works of living Southern California composers. The quartet is the resident ensemble for the acclaimed Jacaranda music series in Santa Monica and has performed as part of the Los Angeles Philharmonic's Green Umbrella series, has been featured at the Hollywood Bowl, and debuted with the Los Angeles Master Chorale in the 2025/26 season.

Ms. Park's recordings can be found on Albany records, Toccata Classics, ARS, and Naxos.

Timothy Loo

Timothy Loo, moved to Los Angeles in 1992 to study cello performance at California State University at Northridge and the University of Southern California. Timothy is a member of the Lyris Quartet, founded in 2008. This quartet is the resident ensemble at both Jacaranda and Hear Now Festivals and has been featured numerous times on the Los Angeles Philharmonic's Green Umbrella and Noon 2 Midnight series at The Walt Disney Concert Hall.



In January 2018, Mr. Loo made his concerto debut with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at The Walt Disney Concert Hall performing the fiendishly difficult Concerto for Cello and Orchestra by Bernt Zimmermann, under the direction of conductor Susanna Mälkki.

Timothy has also performed on over 1000 motion pictures, TV shows, albums, commercials, award shows, including yearly at the Academy Awards.

Timothy is also one of the foremost music contractors in Los Angeles. Most recently he assembled the orchestra for composer John Williams for the scoring of Indiana Jones 5: The Dial of Destiny, ESPN College Football Playoffs, The Fablemans and Obi Wan Kenobi. Mr. Loo is also the music contractor for James Newton Howard, Randy Newman, Mike Post, Jeff Russo, Branford Marsalis, Disney's Launchpad streaming series, The Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles, just to name a few.

In 2019, Timothy and his husband Tommy Johnson purchased Sabron Payroll Services and act as CFO and CEO respectively. Sabron is a leading payroll company in the entertainment industry that has built strong relationships with major production companies such as Disney, Netflix, MGM, Paramount, LucasFilm, and Apple.

Most recently, Timothy performed the John Williams' Cello Concerto with the Modesto Symphony Orchestra.

Brian Walsh

Brian Walsh is a musician who is interested in sound and communication, regardless of genre. He specializes in performance on the clarinet and bass clarinet. He seeks to redefine the role of these instruments in contemporary classical music, jazz, and world music. Mr. Walsh is a graduate of the California Institute of the Arts.



Mr. Walsh frequently performs with such diverse groups as Wild up Modern Music Collective, gnarwhallaby, The New Century Players, The California E.A.R. Unit and is a member of Creative

Underground Los Angeles. He also leads Walsh Set Trio, a jazz ensemble focusing on the performance of his own compositions. Performances have taken Walsh to Japan, Canada, Italy, England, the Netherlands, Iceland, and all over the United States.

As a member of the contemporary music ensemble gnarwhallaby, Mr. Walsh gave the premier of Nicholas Deyoe's Lullaby 4 at Carnegie Hall. Their Carnegie Hall performance was described as "startlingly versatile" by the New York Times. Mr. Walsh was also recently a guest artist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic's Green Umbrella new music series at Walt Disney Concert Hall.

Walsh has premiered pieces by Luigi Nono, Anne LeBaron, Girard Grisey, James Newton, Andrew Nathaniel McIntosh, Tom Johnson and many others. Past collaborators have included Peter Maxwell Davies, Meredith Monk, Gavin Bryars, Bobby Bradford, Nels Cline, Bright Eyes, San Fermin, James Newton, and Muhal Richard Abrams.

Nic Gerpe

Pianist Nic Gerpe, a Los Angeles native, has been hailed as "magnetic" (Dan Johnson, L.A. Downtown News) and "prodigious ... heroic" (Kevin McMahon, silverlakeblvd.com). L.A. Times music critic Mark Swed described his playing as "wonderfully illuminating... his tone is crystalline. His technique is dazzlingly fluid." A dedicated proponent of new music, Nic has given numerous world and regional premieres by composers such as John Luther Adams, Frederic Rzewski, Anne LeBaron, and Gernot Wolfgang, among others. Nic has performed throughout Southern California and at festivals including the Ojai Music Festival, Banff International



Keyboard Festival, the Summer Institute for Contemporary Performance Practice at the New England Conservatory, and the Tahoe Chamber Music Festival. Nic is the newest Core Artist for Los-Angeles new music organization Piano Spheres, and has performed in such venues as Walt Disney Concert Hall, Zipper Hall, the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, and the Roy and Edna Disney Cal Arts Theater.

Nic's recent works include the Makrokosmos 50 Project, celebrating the 50th Anniversary of George Crumb's seminal work Makrokosmos Volume I. He commissioned eleven composers to join him in writing musical responses to one movement of Crumb's epic masterwork and to create a whole new celestial cycle. His performances of The Makrokosmos 50 Project and his subsequent studio recording of the program have garnered significant critical acclaim.

Nic is the co-curator of the Wicked GOAT concert series at the Pasadena Conservatory of Music, which seeks to introduce younger audiences to contemporary music. These themed concerts feature exciting programs performed by some of Los Angeles' top musicians, and include immersive and multimedia elements.

Nic has performed as a soloist in modern piano concerti by some of today's most talented emerging composers. He gave the World Premiere composer Dale Trumbore's piano concerto "10,000 Hours" with the USC Thornton Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Donald Crockett. He gave the American premiere of Thomas Demenga's "Relations", a double concerto for two cellos, percussion and prepared piano. He also performed Reena Esmail's "Earth Speaks", a concerto for piano, horn and SATB chorus, with the Pasadena Master Chorale, conducted by Jeffrey Bernstein. Nic has performed with Los Angeles-based ensembles such as Brightwork newmusic, WildUP and The Industry L.A., and premiered new works for Magnetic Resonator Piano with People Inside Electronics. He has collaborated with such world-renowned artists as Martin

Chalifour, Hila Plitmann and Judith Farmer. Nic's playing is also featured on composer Gernot Wolfgang's GRAMMY-nominated chamber music album "Passing Through", released in 2016 on the Albany Label.

Nic earned his Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Piano Performance at the University of Southern California in 2012. He studied extensively with Bernadene Blaha, Kevin Fitz-Gerald and Stewart Gordon. Nic has served on the Piano Faculty at the Pasadena Conservatory of Music since 2006, and joined the Faculty at Scripps College in 2024.

Jane Kaczmarek

Jane Kaczmarek is delighted to reunite with Airborne Alchemy for Paul Moravec's Pulitzer Prize winning *Tempest Fantasy*. For over twenty years Jane has been a student of classical and romantic music at The Pasadena Conservatory of Music where she also serves as a trustee. Last summer she narrated Stravinsky's *The Soldiers Tale* at the Colorado College Music Festival conducted by Scott Yee, and will join him again this summer at the Mozaic Music Festival in San Luis Obispo. Jane is a graduate of University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Yale School of Drama. She has 3 grown children and divides her time between Pasadena and Wisconsin where she recently married her high school sweetheart. She also plays Lois on *Malcolm in the Middle*.

