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### For Immediate Release

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## Sierra Madre Playhouse Continues Lunar New Year Celebration with Program of Contemporary Classical Works Inspired by the Moon, Including World, U.S., and Four West Coast Premieres, Presented by the Asia / America New Music Institute

February 1, 2025, at Sierra Madre Playhouse

(Sierra Madre, CA – January 23, 2025) – **Sierra Madre Playhouse**'s Lunar New Year festival continues with "Lunar Harmonies," an evocative and immersive evening of music featuring new classical works inspired by the moon presented by **Asia / America New Music Institute (AANMI)**, on Saturday, February 1, at 7:30 pm. Six of the nine works spotlighted will be world, U.S. or West Coast premieres, with several of the composers also performing on the program.

Highlights include the world premiere of **Niall Tarō**'s *The Rabbit on the Moon* for clarinet, flute, piano, violin, and cello. LA-native Tarō, a cellist, composer and orchestrator of Japanese descent on his mother's side, and of Scottish and Irish descent on his father's, is immersed in the worlds of both concert and commercial music.

AANMI also presents the U.S. premiere of *The Eventide of April* for cello and piano by highly regarded Chinese-born film and classical composer **Weijun Chen**, who describes himself "as a classically trained composer in this modern media world."

West Coast premieres include *Dialogue for Flute and Violin* by Korea's **SunYoung "Sunny" Park**, co-founder of AANMI who has been applauded for "combining Western music with Eastern sound, with a particularly Korean sound" (*Korea Times*), and the first movement of *Mid-Autumn Sketches: Moon*, a string quartet by Hong Kong-born, Grammy Award®-nominated composer **Angel Lam**. Also receiving West Coast premieres are two works by **Chad Cannon** *145 Waterloo Road* for clarinet, cello, piano, and prerecorded audio, and *Eclipse* for bass flute, bass clarinet, piano, and string quartet. Cannon, whose recent work includes the score to the Oscar-winning Netflix documentary *American*

*Factory* and HBO's *Mind Over Murder*, is known for music rooted in classical precision and counterpoint as well as multi-genre/cross-cultural collaborations.

Additional repertoire includes Tokyo-born composer **Karen Tanaka's** *L'Éternité* for violin and pre-recorded audio, commissioned by the Royal Academy of Music in London for its 200th Anniversary in 2021, and *Deer Friend* for flute, violin, and cello by **Nicky Sohn**, whose music is characterized by jazz-inspired, rhythmically driven themes. **Oscar Pan's** *Le Train* for flute, violin, and cello, inspired by the holiday movie "The Polar Express," caps the program.

Featured artists include violinists **Stephanie Yu** and **Chad Cannon**; cellist **Niall Tarō**; flutists **Catherine Baker** and **Michael Matsuno**; clarinetist **Chris Stoutenborough**; and pianist **Hui Wu**.

AANMI, based in Pasadena, promotes cultural exchange through performances that connect traditions, narratives, and contemporary experiences from both cultures.

Tickets (\$12 - \$35) are on sale now. For tickets and information, please call 626.355.4318 or visit [www.sierramadreplayhouse.org](http://www.sierramadreplayhouse.org). Sierra Madre Playhouse is located at 87 West Sierra Madre Boulevard, Sierra Madre, CA 91024.

## **ABOUT SIERRA MADRE PLAYHOUSE**

**Sierra Madre Playhouse**, a vibrant Southern California cultural hub with a rich history spanning a century, energizes audiences and the community with distinctive theatrical productions and captivating live performances. Hailed as a "jewel" (*Pasadena Weekly*) and "a landmark theater" (*ABC7 Los Angeles*), the performing arts center has garnered tremendous accolades for its varied repertoire and thought-provoking education and outreach programs curated with social impact in mind. The *Los Angeles Times* proclaims, "This is theater from the heart." As one of San Gabriel Valley's only performing arts center presenting a broad spectrum of performance genres, including theater, music, dance, film, comedy, and family-friendly productions featuring eminent local and national professional artists, the treasured artistic beacon draws audiences from across the Southland. The intimate 99-seat Sierra Madre Playhouse offers an up-close and personal connection to performances that resonate deeply, earning multiple Ovation Awards, NAACP Awards, and LA Times Critics' Choice honors. It is nestled into a historic building on the inviting Main Street of Sierra Madre, a charming village in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains. Retaining its distinctive movie theater façade and instantly recognizable marquee, the structure has undergone numerous transformations since opening in 1910, from furniture emporium to silent movie theatre to the artistic institution that now stands as a vibrant embodiment of the region's rich cultural legacy. The Sierra Madre Playhouse fosters creativity that aspires to bridge divides and spark dialogue, all while celebrating the rich tapestry of the American experience and the enduring pursuit of shared understanding.

## **EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

### **WHAT:**

**Sierra Madre Playhouse Presents** MUSIC: "Lunar Harmonies"

Program features the Asia / America New Music Institute performing new classical works inspired by the moon

### **MUSICIANS:**

Stephanie Yu, violin

Chad Cannon, violin  
TBA, viola  
Niall Tarō, cello  
Catherine Baker, flute  
Michael Matsuno, flute  
Chris Stoutenborough, clarinet  
Hui Wu, piano

**PROGRAM:**

Karen Tanaka*	<i>L'Éternité</i> : violin & pre-recorded audio
Weijun Chen*	<i>The Eventide of April</i> : cello and piano (U.S. Premiere)
SunYoung Park*	<i>Dialogue</i> : flute and violin (West Coast Premiere)
Chad Cannon*	<i>145 Waterloo Road</i> : clarinet, cello, piano & prerecorded audio (West Coast Premiere)
Nicky Sohn*	<i>Deer Friend</i> : flute, violin, cello
Angel Lam	<i>Mid-Autumn Sketches: Moon</i> (1st movement) string quartet (West Coast Premiere)
Niall Taro*	<i>The Rabbit on the Moon</i> : clarinet, flute, piano, violin, cello (World Premiere)
Chad Cannon*	<i>Eclipse</i> : bass flute, bass clarinet, piano, string quartet (West Coast Premiere)
Oscar Pan*	<i>Le Train</i> : flute, violin, cello

\* composer in attendance

**WHEN:**

February 1, 2025

**WHERE:**

Sierra Madre Playhouse  
87 West Sierra Madre Boulevard  
Sierra Madre, CA 91024

**TICKETS AND INFORMATION:**

\$12 - \$35

(626) 355-4318

[www.sierramadreplyhouse.org](http://www.sierramadreplyhouse.org)

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