

presents

ROB KAPILOW'S
***WHAT MAKES IT GREAT?*[®]**
MOZART'S JUPITER SYMPHONY

ROB KAPILOW, CONDUCTOR/COMMENTATOR

With

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
KIMO FURUMOTO, CONDUCTOR

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Symphony No. 41 in C major, K.551, "Jupiter"

- I. Allegro vivace
- II. Andante cantabile
- III. Menuetto: Allegretto
- IV. Molto allegro

Wednesday, October 7, 2026, 7:30 PM

An hour-long discussion and demonstration of the piece will be followed by an intermission, a complete performance, and a question-and-answer session with the performers.

The taking of photographs or use of recording devices is strictly prohibited.

Sponsored by GEORGE & BEV RAY

Rob Kapilow is managed by Colbert Artists Management

BIOGRAPHIES

For over 30 years, **ROB KAPILOW** has brought the joy and wonder of music—and unraveled some of its mysteries—to audiences of all ages and backgrounds. Known for his unique ability to create an “aha” moment for audiences and collaborators, whatever their level of musical sophistication or naïveté, Kapilow brings music into people’s lives, opening new ears to musical experiences and helping people listen actively rather than simply hear.

Kapilow’s remarkably broad career encompasses his acclaimed *What Makes It Great?*® presentations, original compositions, conducting, books, media appearances, Family Musik® events, Citypieces, educational initiatives, corporate programs, and long-term residencies. His work has taken him from major concert halls and universities to Native American tribal communities in Montana and inner-city high schools in Louisiana, and to audiences in Kyoto, Istanbul, and Kuala Lumpur. He has worked with listeners ranging from young children encountering music for the first time to professional musicians and musicologists at leading universities.

In the 2026/27 season, Kapilow returns to the Celebrity Series of Boston, Stanford Live, the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, Merkin Hall at Kaufman Music Center, and Music Toronto. His *What Makes It Great?* programs span an equally broad musical landscape, including *Anything but Standard: The Music of Ella Fitzgerald & Oscar Peterson*; *Summer of Love: The Music of Janis Joplin & Jimi Hendrix*; Tchaikovsky’s Violin Concerto; Schubert’s *Death and the Maiden*; the music of Lerner and Loewe; and new programs exploring the music of Count Basie and James Taylor.

As a composer, Kapilow has created works ranging from large-scale choral and orchestral compositions to music written especially for families. His *We Came to America*, based on intergenerational immigrant stories, received its world premiere in January 2024 at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in collaboration with the Thurnauer School of Music and the New Jersey Symphony. He was

the first composer granted the rights to set the words of Dr. Seuss to music, and his *Green Eggs and Ham* has become one of his most popular works. His Family Musik® compositions also include settings of Chris Van Allsburg’s *The Polar Express* and Dr. Seuss’s *Gertrude McFuzz*. His work inspired by Louise Bourgeois’ monumental spider sculpture *Maman* was commissioned for the 25th anniversary of Ottawa Chamberfest and premiered in 2019.

Kapilow is also an award-winning author of three books. *All You Have to Do Is Listen*, published by Wiley/Lincoln Center, received the PROSE Award for Best Book in Music and the Performing Arts. *What Makes It Great?*, also published by Wiley/Lincoln Center, was among the first music books designed specifically for the iPad with embedded musical examples. His most recent book, *Listening for America: Inside the Great American Songbook from Gershwin to Sondheim*, published by Norton/Liveright, received wide critical acclaim and was a finalist for the Marfield Prize. He has just finished the first of two new books he is writing for Norton/Liveright – this one on the music of the Woodstock Generation – to be published next fall.

Kapilow’s work as a musical communicator has also reached national audiences through television and radio. He has appeared on NBC’s *Today*; presented a special *What Makes It Great?*® for PBS’s *Live From Lincoln Center*; and was the subject of the full-length PBS documentary *Summer Sun, Winter Moon*, which chronicled his work as a composer. His *What Makes It Great?* radio series was heard for more than a decade on NPR’s *Performance Today*.

As a conductor, Kapilow has led many of North America’s major orchestras and conducted new works of musical theater ranging from the Tony Award-winning *Nine* on Broadway to the premiere of *Frida* for the opening of the Brooklyn Academy of Music’s Next Wave Festival, as well as premieres for the American Repertory Theater. His early honors include first prize in the Fontainebleau Casadesus Piano Competition and second prize in the Antal Dorati Conducting Competition with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. He has also received an Exxon

Meet-the-Composer grant and numerous ASCAP awards.

At 19, Kapilow interrupted his studies at Yale University to study with the legendary Nadia Boulanger. After graduating Phi Beta Kappa from Yale, he continued his studies at the Eastman School of Music before returning to Yale, where he served for six years as an assistant professor and conductor of the Yale Symphony Orchestra.

Kapilow lives in Montvale, New Jersey, and is a fourth-degree black belt in Shorin-Ryu karate. ■

KIMO FURUMOTO, is Music Director and Conductor of the Huntington Symphony Orchestra and the Whittier Regional Symphony Orchestra. He also serves as Orchestra Director at the California State University, Fullerton School of Music. His guest conducting appearances have taken him throughout the United States and Europe. His previous positions include, Music Director of the Concert Orchestra at the University of Cincinnati – College Conservatory of Music, Conducting Assistant with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, and Assistant Conductor of the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra. He has worked with noted conductors such as Leonard Bernstein and Robert Shaw. Furumoto holds degrees in conducting from Chapman University and the University of Cincinnati, College Conservatory of Music. ■

The CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, directed by Kimo Furumoto, is dedicated to the training of outstanding instrumentalists in the performance of a wide range of styles in the orchestral repertoire. They have performed with national and international artists, from Composer-Conductor Rob Kapilow and his *What Makes It Great?* series at Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, Richard Stoltzman to Deborah Voigt, and in addition to their regular concert series, the orchestra collaborates with university choruses, Opera Theatre, CSUF faculty-artists, internationally renowned guest artists and local performing arts groups. Students are regularly presented with numerous opportunities to study orchestral repertoire in master class settings with faculty artists, regional professional orchestra musicians

from the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Pacific Symphony Orchestra as well as internationally acclaimed performers and teachers including Yo-yo Ma, Talich Quartet, Fredell Lack, the Turtle Island String Quartet, St. Petersburg Quartet and many others. The CSUF Symphony Orchestra recently performed at the world famed Carnegie Hall in New York City on the Viennese Master Series.

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

(NAMED ARE LISTED BY SECTION IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Flute

+Daniella Arditti

Oboe

Isaiah Caudillo

+Joseph Hille

Bassoon

Nayalin Guzman

+Rekha Michael

Horn

+Diego Campos

Diego Yanni

Trumpet

+Isaac Montaño

Rudy Xool

Timpani

+Henry Wright

Violin

Charlotte Bouck

Ella Cheung

Christo Fish

Fernando Gonzalez

+Miriam Ibanez

Woojung Jang

Delta Jordan

Regan Lambert

Jordan Nava

*Tan Phuoc Ngo

Daniel Noh

Joshua Teng

Claire Thompson

Isaac Visousty

Vincent Zankich

Viola

Cristian Contreras

John Harris

+Mary Lieblang

Jacob Mladineo

Cello

Rebecca Chiu

+Xan Garcia Puga

Brooke Giammanco

Chani Greaves

Celine Ma

Gabriela Santillan-Maldonado

Lynnette Silva

Julian Van Aalst

Bass

Andrew De Stackelberg

Yamilett Melendez

+Andres Serna

+Principal

*Concertmaster