



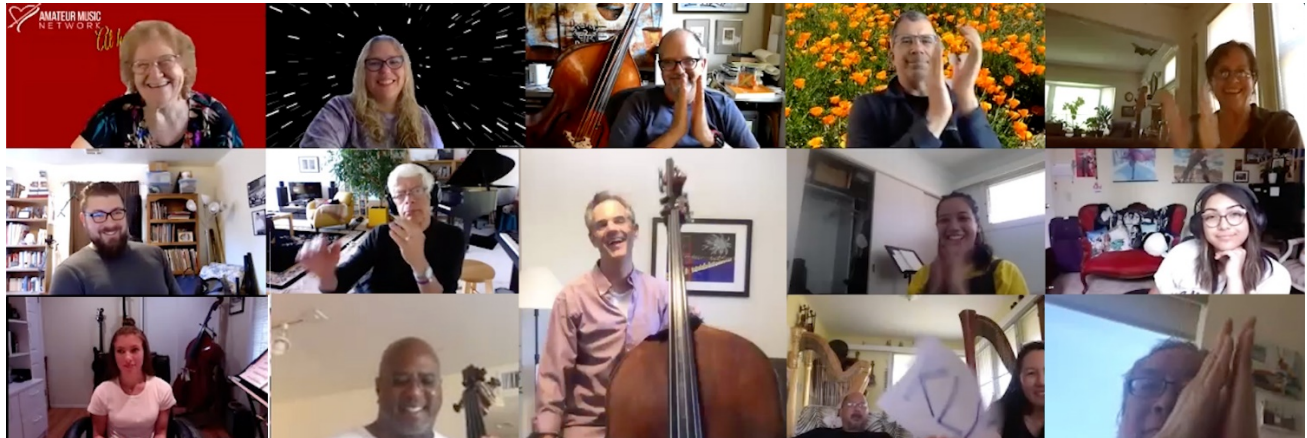
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## AMATEUR MUSIC NETWORK PRESENTING ONLINE WORKSHOPS AND CONVERSATIONS FOR HOMEBOUND MUSICIANS

### Connecting Musicians with Mentors

Workshops in Classical, Jazz, & Blues; Conversations with Esteemed Artists



Press images available at <http://amateurmusic.org/pressroom>

**AUGUST 13, 2020** – Amateur Music Network (AMN) is proud to announce its series of [online music workshops and conversations](#) for professional and amateur musicians.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, musicians are unable to rehearse or perform together. AMN supports those musicians through online resources that include workshops and conversations with extraordinary mentors.

Since April 2020, when AMN pivoted to online-only programs, AMN has presented workshops with jazz violinists Mads Tolling and Evan Price; San Francisco Symphony principal bassist Scott Pingel and principal oboist Eugene Izotov; and San Francisco Symphony Choral Director Ragnar Bohlin. An online conversation featured outgoing Merola Opera Program Director Sheri Greenawald.

Upcoming AMN events will connect musicians with professional mentors with a wide diversity of styles and specialties, from technical workshops in classical repertoire to explorations of non-classical styles such as jazz, bluegrass, and improvisation, as well as conversations with noted artists.

“Amateur Music Network’s unique focus, shared by all our extraordinary mentors, is to reinforce the musical passions of homebound musicians and to nurture their passion for music-making,” said Amateur Music Network founder Lolly Lewis. “Our online workshops and conversations keep musicians feeling active, even when they can’t be together.”

In transitioning from in-person to online events, Lewis has recruited mentors who understand the particular value of the online experience and who can bring personal élan and enthusiasm that translates through the computer screen. “We’re excited about our lineup for the next few months,” Lewis said. “In fact, we plan to continue online workshops in addition to meeting in person once music-making gets back to normal. There’s value in both ways of learning!”

## **ONLINE WORKSHOPS IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER**

### **August 15, 2 p.m.: Dee Spencer**

Dee Spencer has been a guiding light of the San Francisco jazz scene for decades, from founding the SFJazz Education Program and leading the Grammy High School All Star Band, to performing with top artists as well as for her signature open mic cabarets. Dee inspires musicians to sing, play, and love music. This workshop will be great for singers and instrumentalists who want to explore the basics of blues and jazz.

*Sponsored by the Ross McKee Foundation.*

### **August 12, 19, 26, 2 p.m.: Scott Pingel**

Over the course of three Wednesday sessions in August, the San Francisco Symphony principal bassist will guide bass players through a technical review from the basics to some intermediate and even advanced techniques, including a discussion of orchestral playing with an example from Beethoven. *Video review will be available and participants may join the series after the first week.*

### **August 22, 2 p.m.: Nicholas McGegan**

Renowned conductor and scholar Nicholas McGegan will take participants on a tour of Baroque theaters, where ornate architecture sets the stage for bizarre plots, extravagant productions, and memorable personalities on stage and off. Nic weaves historical details and anecdotes into gripping stories with unrivaled aplomb.

### **August 29, 2 p.m.: Gabriela Lena Frank**

Philadelphia Orchestra composer-in-residence and Latin Grammy winner Gabriela Lena Frank joins cellist and moderator Robert Howard in a discussion of her inspiration, her process, and her academy for young composers. Academy graduate Akshaya Tucker will join in a rare discussion of how to teach composing. How does a teacher enhance and develop ideas without imposing her own?

### **September 5, 11 a.m.: Ragnar Bohlin**

San Francisco Symphony Chorus Director Ragnar Bohlin returns to lead singers in a second session of at-home choral singing. With technical instruction for singers in how to hone their choral-singing skills, Maestro Bohlin will lead singers in some of the most famous passages in the Mozart Requiem.

### **September 12, 2 p.m.: John McCarthy**

The former director of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Preparatory Division, John McCarthy is a beloved teacher and mentor. He will present an interactive master class with selected pianists who will perform music from the vast repertoire for piano. He will offer practical suggestions for the performers and lead a discussion of various perspectives and approaches to the works performed. Everyone is welcome to join in with questions and ideas.

*Sponsored by the Ross McKee Foundation.*

### **September 19, 2 p.m.: Nicholas Phan**

Internationally renowned tenor Nicholas Phan will lead singers on a journey to the magical land of Song – where music and words meet. Phan is passionate about teaching and looks forward to bringing participants into a greater understanding of this special artistic dialogue between poet and composer, and of how singers and instrumentalists contribute to that conversation through their performances of these great works.

### **September 26, 2 p.m.: Gwendolyn Mok**

An artist in great demand as a chamber music partner, Gwendolyn Mok has a deep understanding of the role of the pianist as a collaborator. She and frequent music partner Robert Howard will explore the role of the pianist in chamber music.

*Sponsored by the Ross McKee Foundation.*

## **UPCOMING WORKSHOPS THIS FALL**

October 3, John Santos, renowned Latin percussionist and educator

October 6 – 13 – 20 – 27, Elizabeth Blumenstock: Baroque violin (**EARLY MUSIC FOR MODERN INSTRUMENTS SERIES**)

October 10, Rufus Olivier, principal bassoonist of the San Francisco Opera Orchestra

October 17, William Skeen: Baroque cello (**EARLY MUSIC FOR MODERN INSTRUMENTS SERIES**)

October 24, Eric Zivian: piano and fortepiano (**EARLY MUSIC FOR MODERN INSTRUMENTS SERIES**)

November 7, Hope Briggs, critically-acclaimed lyric soprano

November 21, Jeff Anderle, bass clarinetist and educator

December 5, Sarah Cahill, pianist and contemporary music advocate

***Calendar editors, please note:***

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**At Home with Dee Spencer**

August 15, 2020 at 2pm

Suggested donation: \$20

**At Home with Nicholas McGegan**

August 22, 2020 at 2pm

Suggested donation: \$25

**At Home with Gabriela Lena Frank**

August 29, 2020 at 2pm

Suggested donation: \$25

**Back Home with Ragnar Bohlin**

September 5, 2020 at 11am

Suggested donation: \$20

**At Home with John McCarthy**

September 12, 2020 at 2pm

Suggested donation: \$20

**At Home with Nicholas Phan**

September 19, 2020 at 2pm

Suggested donation: \$20

**At Home with Gwendolyn Mok**

October 26, 2020 at 2pm

Suggested donation: \$20

*Workshop details and registration information available at [amateurmusic.org/workshops](https://amateurmusic.org/workshops).*

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**About Amateur Music Network**

Amateur Music Network (AMN) is a digital community designed to connect musicians, music teachers, and music enthusiasts. AMN exists to spread the word about music-making opportunities and to bring people of all ages together to play and sing for the love of music-making. Amateurmusic.org can help musicians of all skill levels find opportunities to learn and play music and to meet people in their local area who share their interests and a common love of music. **Sign up and search listings at [amateurmusic.org](https://amateurmusic.org).**

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*Find Amateur Music Network on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).*

*Amateur Music Network is grateful for the support of our **Community Partners and Sponsors**  
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San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, Crowden Music Center,  
Little Mission Studio, and Community Music Center*