

19/20 SEASON

Wallis Annenberg
Center for the
Performing Arts

Press Release

PRESS CONTACTS:

For The Wallis

Press@TheWallis.org

Libby Huebner, 562.799.6055

Laura Stegman, 310.470.6321

Lisa Bellamore

Crescent Communications for *From the Top*

323-500-3071

lbellamore@gmail.com

Erin MacCurtain

From the Top

617-437-0707 x103

emaccurtain@fromthetop.org

**HOST PETER DUGAN AND CO-HOST VIJAY GUPTA BRING NPR'S
FROM THE TOP TO THE WALLIS ANNENBERG CENTER FOR THE
PERFORMING ARTS IN CONJUNCTION WITH GRoW @ THE WALLIS**

**Live Recording Event Will Showcase Young Musicians from California
and Beyond**

Wed, March 4 at 7:30 PM

TICKETS AND INFORMATION [HERE](#)

(February, 13, 2020) – [From the Top](#), the nationally-distributed **NPR program** heard throughout the Los Angeles region on **KUSC** (FM 91.5), brings its next live recording event to **the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts** on **Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 7:30 PM**, featuring newly announced **host Peter Dugan** and **co-host Vijay Gupta**. Dugan and Gupta will interview and perform with each of the exceptional young artists, ages 10 - 18, showcasing not just their inspiring talent, but also giving insight into the lives of these young, aspirational artists. The event, presented in conjunction with GRoW @ The Wallis, the umbrella for a robust mix of education and outreach programs at The Wallis, is open to the public and tickets are now available.

From the Top's live recording events are one part of a larger residency, which includes leadership training, community engagement, and career development programs designed to explore how each of the young participating musicians can utilize their artistry beyond traditional performance settings.

The young artists will also perform in a non-broadcast concert at The Wallis for some 500-area school children ages 8 to 18 in grades 3 through 12 from 7 local schools on Thursday, March 5, 10:30 am, as

part of [GRoW @ The Wallis](#). The participating schools include Alliance College-Ready Middle Academy 8 (Los Angeles 90003), Alliance Neuwirth Leadership Academy (Los Angeles 90037), Carlos Santana Art Academy (North Hills), Good Shepherd Catholic School (Beverly Hills), Horace Mann Elementary (Beverly Hills), Inspire Charter School (Los Angeles 90025) and Stevenson College and Career Preparatory (Los Angeles 90023).

The *From the Top* broadcast of this live event will air on participating stations and by podcast during the week of June 1, 2020.

Featured musicians include:

10-year-old pianist Olivia Larco from Pasadena, California performing Chopin's Étude Op.25 no.11, "Winter Wind"

The Los Angeles Children's Chorus (Fernando Malvar-Ruiz, Artistic Director), with conductor Fernando Malvar-Ruiz, performing "Pueri Herbraeorum" by Randall Thompson and "Over the Rainbow" by Harold Arlen, arranged by Mark Hayes

17-year-old cellist Mei Hotta from Torrance, California performing Piano Trio, III. Capricious by Reena Esmail with Peter Dugan, piano and Vijay Gupta, violin

14-year-old violinist Bianca Ciubancan from Chicago, Illinois performing Brahms' Hungarian Dance No. 7 in F Major, from 21 Hungarian Dances, WoO 1 with host Peter Dugan

The Quantum Saxophone Quartet from Dallas, Texas performing Marcelo Zarvos' "Memory" from Nepomuk's Dances. The quartet features: **GianCarlo Lay, 16**, from Carrollton, Texas, recipient of *From the Top's* Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award; **Ekdev Rajkitkul, 17**, from Frisco, Texas, recipient of *From the Top's* Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award; **Austin Dreyer, 18**, from Carrollton, Texas and **Peyton Joffre, 18**, from Carrollton, Texas. The Quantum Quartet's appearance is sponsored by ACMP.

From the Top, distributed by NPR, is the most popular weekly one-hour music program on public radio. Young performers share their passion for classical music through performance and conversation, giving insight into their unique worlds, from musical pursuits to day-in-the-life musings.

From the Top's live appearance and recording at The Wallis is made possible with generous support from Gregory Annenberg Weingarten and GRoW @ Annenberg, and Phyllis and Angelo Mozilo.

Tickets, \$35 to \$59, are on sale now. The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is located at [9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills](#). To purchase tickets and for more information, please call 310-746-4000 or visit [TheWallis.org/FTT](#).

About Peter Dugan

From the Top's New Permanent Host, pianist Peter Dugan served as guest host on nine *From the Top* episodes since the 2018-19 season, and first appeared as a musician on the program in 2007 at the age of 18. Over the last 11 years, he appeared as a soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician across North America and abroad. Equally at home in classical, jazz, and pop idioms, Peter has performed in duos and trios with artists ranging from Itzhak Perlman and Joshua Bell to Jesse Colin Young and Glenn Close. His debut last year with Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony was described by the *Los Angeles Times* as "stunning." He is a founding creator and the pianist for Operation Superpower, a superhero opera program for children.

About Vijay Gupta

An esteemed violinist, speaker and educator, Vijay Gupta is a leading advocate for the power of music to foster social connection. He is part of *From the Top's* newly announced team of co-hosts and creatives. A 2018 John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Fellow, Gupta is the founder and Artistic Director of Street Symphony, a non-profit organization providing musical engagement, dialogue and teaching artistry for homeless and incarcerated communities in Los Angeles. Vijay Gupta joined the Los Angeles Philharmonic at age 19, and served as a member of the first violin section through 2018. He has appeared as a guest concertmaster with the Los Angeles Opera and the Philharmonia Orchestra of London, and is an active recitalist, soloist and chamber musician. Gupta teaches, performs and speaks nationally on the intersection of music and education, mental health, and social issues, and serves on the faculty of The Colburn School. Vijay Gupta plays a 2010 violin made by Los Angeles luthier Eric Benning.

About the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts:

The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is a dynamic cultural hub and community resource where local, national and international artists share their artistry with ever-expanding audiences. The campus, located in the heart of Beverly Hills, CA, is committed to robust and distinctive presentations and education programs curated with both creativity and social impact in mind. Distinguished by its eclectic programming that mirrors the diverse landscape of Los Angeles and its location in the entertainment capital of the world, The Wallis has produced and presented more than 275 dance, theater, opera, classical music, cinema and family programs since its doors opened in October 2013. Hailed as “au courant” (*LaLa Magazine*), The Wallis was lauded by *Culture Vulture*, which proclaims, “If you love expecting the unexpected in the performing arts, you have to love The Wallis.” Its programming has been nominated for 57 Ovation Awards and seven L.A. Drama Critic's Circle Awards. The campus itself, a breathtaking 70,000-square-foot facility, celebrating the classic and the modern, has garnered six architectural awards. Designed by acclaimed architect Zoltan E. Pali (SPF:architects), the restored building features the original 1933 Beverly Hills Post Office (on the National Register of Historic Places), which serves as the theater's dramatic yet welcoming lobby, and includes the contemporary 500-seat, state-of-the-art Bram Goldsmith Theater; the 150-seat Lovelace Studio Theater; an inviting open-air plaza for family, community and other performances; and GRoW @ The Wallis: A Space for Arts Education, where learning opportunities for all ages and backgrounds abound. Together, these elements embrace the city's history and its future, creating a performing arts destination for L.A.-area visitors and residents alike. The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is led by Chairman of the Board Michael Nemeroff, Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer Rachel Fine and Artistic Director Paul Crewes.

For more information about The Wallis, please visit: TheWallis.org.

For downloadable photos, please visit: TheWallis.org/Press.

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About *From the Top*

From the Top is an independent non-profit organization that supports, develops, and shares the artistic voices and stories of young classically-trained musicians. Through its primary platform, a weekly one-hour NPR radio broadcast, and nationally-recognized arts leadership programs, *From the Top* amplifies the hope, passion, and discipline of today's extraordinary young musicians.

From the Top provides young musicians with live performance opportunities in premier concert venues across the country, national exposure to nearly half a million listeners on its weekly NPR show, leadership and community engagement preparation, and more than \$3 million in scholarships since 2005.

From the Top's programs are made possible in part by an award from the National Endowment of the Arts, a grant from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, generous contributions from individuals and institutions, and partnerships with radio stations nationwide.

Learn more at www.fromthetop.org.

EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

WHAT:

Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts Presents

From The Top

Hosted by Peter Dugan and Co-Hosted by Vijay Gupta

PROGRAM/ARTIST:

CHOPIN Étude Op.25 no.11, "Winter Wind" / 10-year-old pianist Olivia Larco

RANDALL THOMPSON "Pueri Herbraeorum" / Los Angeles Children's Chorus

HAROLD ARLEN (arr. Mark Hayes) "Over the Rainbow" / Los Angeles Children's Chorus

REENA ESMAIL Piano Trio, III. Capricious / 17-year-old cellist Mei Hotta with Peter Dugan, piano, and Vijay Gupta, violin

BRAHMS Hungarian Dance No. 7 in F Major, from 21 Hungarian Dances, WoO 1 / 14-year-old violinist Bianca

Ciubancan with host Peter Dugan

MARCELO ZARYOS "Memory" from Nepomuk's Dances / The Quantum Saxophone Quartet

WHEN:

Wednesday, March 4, 2020, 7:30 pm

RUN TIME:

Running time is approximately 90 minutes without intermission

WHERE:

Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

Bram Goldsmith Theater

9390 N. Santa Monica Boulevard

Beverly Hills, CA 90210

TICKET PRICES AND INFORMATION:

\$35 to \$59 (prices subject to change)

Recommended for ages 7 and up

TheWallis.org/FTT

310.746.4000

Box Office – Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts Ticket Services

9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills, CA, 90210

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