



## **The Hutchins Consort**

The Hutchins Consort is a professional string ensemble that plays on the eight scaled violins designed and built by luthier Dr. Carleen Hutchins. Based in Southern California, the Hutchins Consort brings together an extraordinary group of musicians who are masters of traditional string techniques. These players excel at adapting their training and innovating new techniques to master the instruments Dr. Hutchins created.

Known for its eclectic programming, the Hutchins Consort's repertoire embraces virtually every known musical genre. All music is either transcribed from standard repertoire or composed specifically for the Hutchins Octet to accommodate the unique sonic structure of these instruments. The music library built by the Consort represents a degree of diversity that few traditional groups can match and is key to the Consort's success in bridging the gap between classical music and pop culture.

The mission of the Hutchins Consort is to provide unique musical and educational performances with the eight scaled violins of Dr. Carleen Hutchins, which are the culmination of 500 years of research into the acoustics of violin family instruments; to perform pieces specifically developed for this ensemble as well as arrangements of traditional repertoire in order to demonstrate the distinctions between these and traditional instruments; to facilitate the composition and arrangement of music specifically for the unique sonic palette that the instruments and their performers create; and to make performances available to a wide and diverse audience.

## **The Instruments**

The Hutchins violins were created during Carleen Hutchins' many decades of research into the physics of traditional string instruments. Dr. Hutchins' research into the acoustic properties of string instruments resulted in an innovative process called free-plate tuning; a precise method of refining the top and back plates of a violin before it is assembled to bring it to peak acoustic performance. The fruits of her labor are the eight Hutchins violins, ranging in size from the 18.5-inch treble to the 7.2-foot contrabass. During her lifetime, Dr. Hutchins built approximately 300 instruments, around 100 of which are the scaled violins, making the Hutchins violin octet instruments among the rarest instruments in the world.

## Upcoming Performances 2015-16 Season

### October Surprise

October 15, 8pm – Irvine Barclay Theatre, Irvine, CA  
October 16, 8pm – St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Encinitas, CA  
October 18 – TBD

The Hutchins Consort is joined by one of the great performers of our times on plucked strings, John Schneiderman. Mr. Schneiderman will perform concertos on two instruments: the Concerto for Lute in F by Viennese composer Karl Kohaut, and Vivaldi's much loved Concerto for Guitar. The Consort will also feature music with roots from the folk tradition and a tribute to longtime bass violinist and Composer in Residence Frederick Charlton, who passed away in September, 2015.

### Winter Poem

January 14, 8pm – Irvine Barclay Theatre, Irvine, CA  
January 15, 8pm – St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Encinitas, CA  
January 16, 8pm – TBD

Harp virtuoso Elena Mashkovtseva joins the Hutchins Consort for a program of Tchaikovsky, Mussorgsky and the hauntingly beautiful Adagietto from Mahler's Symphony No. 5.

### Springtime is for Schmendrix

April 7, 8pm – Irvine Barclay Theatre, Irvine, CA  
April 9, 8pm – St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Encinitas, CA  
April 10, 8pm – TBD

“Outlaw Klezmer” group Jimmy's Schmendrix join the Hutchins Consort in a celebration of the season featuring traditional klezmer, klezmerized versions of much loved tunes, and Vivaldi's “Spring” from *The Four Seasons*, as well as Lily Boulanger's *D'un matin du printemps*.

## Past Performances

Founded in 1999, the Hutchins Consort has presented a self-produced series of events in Southern California for sixteen years. In addition, the Consort has toured extensively, presenting mainstage performances, outreach and education events, workshops, and masterclasses. Highlights include performances in Mexico, Italy, the Vatican, and thirteen or more states. The Consort has an excellent relationship and reputation among its myriad past presenters, including:

Association of California Symphony Orchestras  
Banning Museum  
Bowers Museum  
Brearley School, NYC  
Carlsbad Library  
Casa De Los Peregrinos

City of Encinitas  
Concordia University  
Del Mar Powerhouse  
Encinitas Library  
Guild of American Luthiers, Tacoma, WA  
La Jolla Presbyterian Church  
Laguna Art Museum  
Laguna Beach Live  
Lied Center, Kansas  
Lied Center, Nebraska  
Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC  
Museum of Making Music (NAMM)  
NAMM National Conference  
Neurosciences Institute  
Newport Beach Concerts in the Park  
Newport Beach TV, Channel 3  
O'Flaherty's Pub, Dingle, Ireland  
Orange County Museum of Art  
Ortiz-Tirado Music Festival, Mexico  
Palomar College  
PBS SoCal  
Philharmonic Society of Orange County  
The Roadhouse Inn, Lisdoonvarna, Ireland  
RTE4 Television, Ireland  
San Diego Botanic Gardens  
San Diego Fox Channel 5  
San Diego Lyceum  
Santa Ana Country Club  
Scripps Hospital, La Jolla  
Segerstrom Center for the Arts  
St. James Episcopal Church concert  
St. Margaret's Episcopal School  
St. Paul's School  
Sun Valley Opera Association, Idaho  
Time Warner Broadcast, Carlsbad  
UCSD TV  
University of Cork, Ireland  
University of Limerick, Ireland  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
Wake Forest University  
Wolfeboro, New Hampshire - underwritten by Supreme Court Justice David Souter

## **Education and Outreach**

The Hutchins Consort presents an array of education and outreach programs each year. Programs are tailored to the needs of the community served, and range from story-based programs for preschoolers to lifelong learning programs for assisted living facility residents. The audience becomes an integral part of each performance, whether joining the musicians onstage, suggesting themes for improvisation, or assisting with storytelling.

Each program explores a unique theme, incorporating classical music with current and popular works, all arranged for the Hutchins Consort or a smaller group of Consort members. Past themes have included Superheroes, Shakespeare, Songs of the Birds, Klezmer, and the diasporae of Africa and India.

Curriculum-based programs are particularly well-suited for science classes, exploring the unique physics aspects of the Hutchins octet. Education and outreach is an integral part in the Consort's work, symbiotic with its mainstage programming; educational programs are often incubators for more extensive mainstage performances, and mainstage performances frequently inform educational offerings.

### **2015-16 Education and Outreach performances at the Encinitas Library**

October 10, 11am

November 14, 11am

January 9, 11am

February 13, 11am

March 12, 11am

April 9, 11am

## The Artists

The Hutchins Consort is a collective of some of the country's finest string players. Each program features an ensemble of eight members, chosen for their expertise in the diverse abilities represented in each program.

**Andrea Altona** is a freelance musician in San Diego, performing regularly for the Old Globe Theater, Broadway San Diego at the Civic Theater, the San Diego Symphony, the San Diego Opera, and the San Diego Chamber Orchestra. She has performed on many film scores and recordings and maintains a private teaching studio in Encinitas, California. Ms. Altona received her Bachelor's degree in music from the Cleveland Institute of Music, where she studied violin with Linda Cerone and James Stern. Additional studies were completed at the University of Iowa School of Music where she studied violin with Allan Ohmes and chamber music with William Preucil. She also completed her M.B.A. at San Diego State University and is currently serving as President of Local 325, American Federation of Musicians.

**Erin Breene** is a chamber and orchestral cellist. Ms. Breene is a member of the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra and performs frequently with the Pacific Symphony. She has served as Principal Cellist of the San Diego Chamber Orchestra, Assistant Principal Cellist of the Music Center Dance series of Los Angeles, and as Associate Principal Cellist with the Opera Pacific Orchestra. Since moving to Southern California, she has performed chamber works with the San Diego-based Camarada, Art of Élan, High Desert Chamber Music series, and La Jolla's Athenaeum series. In November 2009, she performed the Haydn Concerto in C Major as San Diego Chamber Orchestra's featured soloist. Ms. Breene has served as Principal Cellist of the Juilliard Orchestra, the Tanglewood Festival Orchestra, the Aspen Sinfonia, and Rice University's Shepherd School symphony where she received her BM degree under Paul Katz. Ms Breene attended the Juilliard School where she received her MM degree as a student of Timothy Eddy.

**Alan Busted** is a violinist, violist, and pianist. From 1994-2001, Mr. Busted served as professor of chamber music at the Academia Nacional de Orquestra in Lisbon, Portugal, where he performed with the Quarteto Metropolis and was featured violin soloist in numerous recitals. Other career highlights include performing at the Amherst Early Music festival, playing with the Dallas Bach Society, and recording Purcell's "Dido and Aeneas" with Atlanta's New Trinity Baroque. As guest concertmaster of the Orquesta de Baja California, Alan premiered new works by award winning composers from Mexico City. In collaboration with cellist Ruslan Biryukov and pianist Mary Au, Mr. Busted performed as violinist in Trio del Mar, an ensemble which has received critical acclaim throughout Southern California.

**Mark Dresser** has been composing and performing solo contrabass and ensemble music professionally since 1972 throughout North America, Europe and the Far East. A brilliant contrabass player, Mr. Dresser has performed and recorded with many of the luminaries of 'new' jazz composition and improvisation, including the Anthony Braxton Quartet, as well as diverse groups led by Ray Anderson, Tim Berne, Anthony Davis, Gerry Hemingway, John Zorn, and others. He has a relationship with the Hutchins instruments that spans almost two decades.

**Hope Easton** is a classically trained cellist. Based in Los Angeles, Ms. Easton currently performs an eclectic range of styles, including pop-electric cello and jazz, along with original music as a singer-songwriter. Her television credits include *The Voice* (2015) *American Idol*, *The Tonight Show*, *Celebrity Rehab*, *90210*, and *PBS Musical Encounters*. Ms. Easton is in demand as a session musician, and has recorded and toured with artists including Sheryl Crow, Garth Brooks, Don Henley (The Eagles), Solis, Frank Ocean, and Mark Salling (Glee). She also performs with Sonos Chamber Players, Bella Electric Strings, and Art of Élan.

**AJ Fanning** is a Los Angeles-based cellist. Born in Ohio, Mr. Fanning attended Ohio State University before relocating to the west coast in 2008 where, in addition to his freelance performance work, Mr. Fanning teaches at the Harmony Project. He also travels frequently to Ghana, Africa, where he teaches and performs with Afro Maestros.

**Beth Folsom** is a violinist. Her lifelong love of symphonic music began at the age of five, when she attended a concert by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra conducted by Fritz Reiner. Since the spark of passion for orchestral music was ignited, Ms. Folsom has played in numerous orchestras including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Opera, the San Diego Symphony, the San Diego Opera, the San Diego Chamber Orchestra, Mainly Mozart's Festival Orchestra, and as concertmaster for the Santa Clarita Symphony Orchestra. Currently the Soprano violinist for the Hutchins Consort, Ms. Folsom also plays violin with the Long Beach-based rock group, Larisa Stow and the Shakti Tribe.

**Alex Greenbaum** is cellist of the Hausmann Quartet, where he is an Artist-in-Residence at San Diego State University, where he teaches cello and chamber music. Born in New York, Mr. Greenbaum is a long-time member of The Knights, and has performed and recorded with the chamber orchestra throughout the U.S. and Europe, appearing at the festivals of Caramoor, Dresden, Ojai, Ravinia, Tanglewood, and last season in Salzburg and Vienna. His varied interests have led to recordings for film, television and commercials, collaborations with dance companies, studies of early music, baroque cello and performances throughout Mexico. Locally, Alex is a mainstay on the Art of Élan series, an affiliated artist with San Diego New Music and a founding member of the San Diego Baroque Soloists. His teachers have included Steven Doane, Marcy Rosen, Ross Harbaugh, Joseph Elworthy and Andre Emelianoff.

**Steve Huber** is a Juilliard graduate and former violin student of Dorothy DeLay, Naoko Tanaka, Sally Thomas, and Serban Rusu. After studies he enjoyed a successful career as a member of several professional orchestras throughout North and South America, including the Fort Worth Symphony and Orquestra Sinfónica do Estado de São Paulo. In 2008, Steve relocated to Los Angeles to diversify his career and focus on his composing and improvisation skills. Since then, he has composed, recorded, arranged, and performed for a wide variety of ensembles and projects in an even wider variety of musical styles. With a desire to perform and celebrate the music that has inspired him through the years, Steve has started a new group called "Rocktet" consisting of an amplified string quartet, electric bass, and drums, which performs instrumental versions of rock songs, rock versions of classical pieces, mash-ups, and original material.

**Peter Jacobson** is a cellist, producer, songwriter-singer, chamber musician, and teacher. In 2013, he was awarded a Grammy for best Latin Rock Alternative or Urban Album as a member of the group Quetzal. Mr. Jacobson has recorded cello for Dr. Dre and is a frequent guest with the San Diego Symphony. His film and television credits include *The Walking Dead*. International performances have included appearances in Mexico, Asia and Europe, highlighted by performances with the Pacific Music Festival in Sapporo, Japan in 2000. In addition to his work with the Hutchins Consort, he plays with Grammy-winning Southwest Chamber Music, the Arohi Ensemble, the 440's, SANGAM, The CoNcEnTr8s, and Quartetto Fantastico. He studied with Eleonore Schoenfeld at USC, with additional studies at Cal Arts and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

**John Krovoza** is an acoustic and electric cellist based in Los Angeles. His extensive touring resume includes the 2006 "Accidents and Accusations" tour with the Dixie Chicks, tours in 1994 and 1997 with Yanni in the United States, Asia, Europe, and Australia, and tours with Michael Crawford (U.S.) and Percy Faith (Japan). Among his hundreds of album credits, Mr. Krovoza's 2001 feature on the single *Overcome* by the band Live led him to appearances on *The Tonight Show*, MTV Europe, and *Much Music*, Canada. Film highlights include solo cello work on the soundtrack for *Little Miss Sunshine*.

**Ondrej Lewit** is concertmaster of the San Diego Interfaith Choir and Orchestra. Born in Prague (Czech Republic), Ondrej Lewit began violin study at the age of seven at the Elementary School of Music, later continued at the State Conservatory of Music and obtained his MA degree graduating at the Academy of Performing Arts. As a member of Camerata Pragensis, Camerata Nova, concertmaster of J. Suk's Chamber Orchestra and especially as first violin of Cuartetto Cassovia, Mr. Lewit has performed and recorded throughout Europe, playing on numerous occasions as a soloist with such notable conductors as R. Barshai, E. Colomer, S. Morgenstern, T. Olilla, D. Shallon, D. Solomon and Y. Talmi. He spent several years in Spain as concertmaster of Tenerife Symphony Orchestra, leader of the OST Chamber Orchestra and Director and Chair of the String Department at Spain's prestigious Academy of Orchestral Studies. In 2005, Mr. Lewit was appointed concertmaster of Baja California Orchestra and taught violin at its Conservatory of Music in Tijuana, Mexico until 2010. He maintains a private violin and viola studio in San Diego since 2004.

**Tim McNalley** is a San Diego based multi-instrumentalist whose career spans a wide range of musical styles and traditions. Mr. McNalley graduated Summa Cum Laude from UC San Diego with a BA in Music and an emphasis in Jazz. He has studied with many notable musicians, including Hindustani music with virtuoso Kartik Seshadri, bass with Mark Dresser, and composition with Anthony Davis and Kamau Kenyatta. Mr. McNalley has shared the stage with expert musicians Bert Turetzky, Aashish Khan, Changuito, and many others. He has toured nationally and internationally with groups ranging stylistically from rock to chamber music. Mr. McNalley's awards include two San Diego Music Awards for "Best New Artist" 2009 and "Best Jazz" in 2011, as well as four nominations in other years. Other honors include the Cheatham Prize, Miles Music Scholarship, and an award from the Jazz Society of Lower Southern California.

**Joe McNalley** began bass violin studies at the age of eleven, and started writing orchestral music in his early teens. Formal training with Edwin Barker, Ran Blake, Miroslav Vitous and

Hankus Netsky at the New England Conservatory of Music was followed by advanced studies with Bertram Turezky at U.C. San Diego. Mr. McNalley has played with a number of notable musicians in the classical, jazz, and world music realms and has been honored several times for his solo and ensemble playing. He has performed with Roger Wagner, George Russell, Vinnie Golia, Jimmy and Jeanie Cheatham's Sweet Baby Blues Band, Jay McShann, Eddie "Mr. Cleanhead" Vinson, Thad Jones, and other notables of Jazz and Blues. As the founder of the Hutchins Consort, he has written more than 250 arrangements and original compositions for the Hutchins Violins.

**Maksim Velichkin** is internationally recognized as a keyboardist and cellist. His performances in Southern California and around the world encompass many genres and have led to collaborations with James Levine, Kurt Masur, Charles Dutoit, Yuri Temirkanov, Christoph von Dohnanyi, Sarah Chang, Yuri Bashmet, Dmitry Sitkovetsky, Bobby McFerrin, Stevie Wonder, Burt Bacharach, Chris Botti, Josh Groban, John Legend, Bernadette Peters, Natalie Cole and many others. Career highlights include performing J.S. Bach's Concerto for Two Pianos in C minor at Carnegie Hall and Bach's Brandenburg Concerto #5 alongside members of Vienna and Berlin Philharmonic. Mr. Velichkin is a co-founder of the Classical Underground, a co-producer of Music@Mimoda concert series and the producer of M3 Classical concert series.

**Chris Woods** is a violinist based on Los Angeles. The son of musicians, Mr. Woods studied at the North Carolina School of the Arts with Kevin Lawrence, as a scholarship student of Sergiu Swartz at the Harrod Conservatory in Florida, with Fritz deJonge at the University of South Carolina, with Patinka Kopec at the Manhattan School of Music in New York City, and performed in master classes with violinist-violist-conductor Pinchas Zuckerman. In the summers of 1999 and 2000, Mr. Woods was awarded a full scholarship to the Henry Mancini Institute and Jazz Philharmonic Orchestra held at UCLA in Los Angeles, California where he was one of the concertmasters and jazz soloists. Mr. Woods has performed and recorded with Outkast, Dr. Dre, Jessica Simpson, Justin Timberlake, and Lil' Wayne, among others. He is concertmaster of the Southeast Symphony and Center Stage Opera and a member of the MASS Ensemble, which tours around the world.

**Adrienne Woods**, cellist, grew up in a musical family in the small southern town Florence, South Carolina. She attended the University of South Carolina, studying with cellist Robert Jesselson and jazz instructor Bert Ligon, before moving to Los Angeles. The Henry Mancini Institute introduced her to many other styles of music and musicians. Ms. Woods' career includes studio work, orchestral performances, television shows, and tours with many star artists including Shaggy, Faith Evans, Frankie J, Clay Aiken, Josh Groban, and Michael Buble. Her television appearances include the American Music Awards with Josh Groban, American Idol with Reuben, and BET Awards with The Game. She has recorded several music videos including Josh Groban, Kanye West, Rod Stewart. She continues to play with many star and local artists while developing her own music writing and performances with the Hutchins consort on Alto violin.

**Scott Worthington** is a double bassist and composer based in Los Angeles. As a performer, he plays in chamber ensembles, orchestras, recording studios, and as a soloist. His focus on contemporary music frequently leads to commissions and premieres of new works for solo bass. As a composer, Mr. Worthington often uses electronics and non-standard ensembles.

His music evokes a timeless, meditative state with spacious and resonant sounds. Populist Records has released two albums of his music, most recently, *Prism*, featuring his music for bass and electronics and bass ensemble.

### **Other Collaborators**

In addition to our world-class roster of Consort players, the Hutchins Consort has enjoyed fruitful collaborations with a wide array of artists around the world. Some past collaborators include:

Matt Akiona, Mele o Hawaiian

Sadoun Al-Bayati, Iraqi Oud virtuoso, singer and percussionist

Alan Lechusza Aquallo, Native American Flute, Composition

David Castaneda, Conguero

Jesse Charnow, Tablas and Percussion

Cuatro Para Tango, Tango quartet

Michael Dean, Bass Baritone

Kunia Galdeira, Ukulele

Frank Glasson, Natural Trumpet

John Gross, Saxophone

John Mark Harris, Piano

Andres Martin, Double Bass

Dave Millard, Flutes and Percussion

Billy Mintz, Drums and Composition

Evren Ozan, Native American Flute

Ben Power, Irish Flute, Small Pipes, Border Pipes and Sean-nos dance

Guillermo Rios, Flamenco Guitar

John Schneiderman, Lute, Guitars and Banjo

Kartik Seshadri, Sitar

Gerhard Track, Composer and pianist

Alan Vogel, Oboe

John Wild, Natural Trumpet

Lynn Willard, Jazz Piano

Lauren Woods, Voice, Tango

## What People Say About Us

“...these eight musicians have been crafting their skills throughout their lives, and the passion and creativity they demonstrate through playing their violins is truly inspiring.”

*Sara Larabee, Bryant University, Smithfield, Rhode Island*

“Where the instruments worked best was in modern pieces that took advantage of their acoustical properties. Brant’s “Consort for True Violins” opened with ruminative solos and duos that demonstrated each instrument’s voice; roiling ensemble passages had a surprising transparency. In Mr. Otto’s newly composed “Castor and Pollux” high-pitched violins playing in their lowest ranges were paired with lower counterparts played at extreme highs, producing rich concords and throbbing overtones.”

*Steve Smith, New York Times*

“The Hutchins Consort, a string octet from Southern California, appeared at the Ortiz Festival to entertain the public in Alamos, Sonora, with a program titled “Music of the Californios.” The thirty-two strings (of the eight violins) elicited unceasing, enthusiastic applause for each of the pieces they performed on the instruments designed and crafted by the luthier Carleen Hutchins. Without doubt this was a very special evening for the Festival and a dazzling presentation by an invited ensemble.”

*EHUI, Sonora, Mexico*

“From the first note, their bright and graceful sound filled the theater. The musical talent of the group was obvious; the artistry flowing from one musician to another with great command of their instruments. The concert ended to huge applause and standing ovations.”

*Sierra Barroza, Sacramento Press*

“Hearing the instruments, most people are surprised as to the volume produced by the eight instruments. The octet’s mezzo violin, which corresponds in tuning to a regular violin, can be as loud as three of the traditional instruments. An ostinato played on the contrabass can give the impression that timpani is doubling the line behind the stringed instrument. And the compatibility of timbre increases the overall voice of the ensemble, blending to produce a choir-like richness. McNalley says the consort is “like an organ made of strings, like one super instrument.” With just eight instruments, the consort can achieve the volume of a chamber orchestra, with the soprano and treble violins adding brightness not normally found in a string ensemble.”

*Paul Hormick, San Diego Troubador*

“There’s no question that this ensemble has carved out a unique niche, but success depends upon talent—and that’s in abundance in this group. All of the music the Consort played had to be specially arranged for their unusual instrumentation. The full house received the performance warmly and was rewarded with an encore—a tango, no less. An inventive chamber music group like this has attracted an enthusiastic audience and recently won national attention, receiving an NEA grant to boot.”

*Rick Stein, Executive Director, Arts OC*

## Contact

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