

First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica  
*presents*



# MID-WEEK RECITAL SERIES

SPECIAL ONLINE SERIES

APRIL

2021

Wednesday, April 14, 2021 • 12:10 p.m.

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## KEVAN TORFEH AND FRIENDS

Kevan Torfeh, cello; Jim Smith, organ and piano; Tomasz Golka & Anna Kostyuchek, violins; and Linda Muggeridge, oboe



*3 Church Sonatas for organ and string instruments* W. A. Mozart  
KV no. 245; KV no. 67; and KV no. 275

*Trio in G Major for Oboe, Violin, Cello and Keyboard*  
Giovanni Battista Pergolesi

*Variations on Chad Gadya (based on a Jewish Folk Tune) for 2 Violins*  
Steve Rothstein

*The Goat*

*The Cat*

*The Dog*

*Refrain*

*The Stick*

*The Fire*

*Refrain*

*The Water*

*The Ox*

*Refrain*

*The Butcher*

*The Angel of Death Refrain*

*Closing*

*Hashem/G-d Almighty Refrain*

*Trio Sonata for Oboe, Cello and Piano* Francis Poulenc  
*Movement II: Andante*

*Five Pieces for 2 String Instruments and Piano* Dimitri Shostakovich

*Prelude*

*Gavotte*

*Elegy*

*Waltz*

*Polka*

# About The Artists

## **Kevan Torfeh, cello**

Kevan's musical activities include playing recording sessions, concerts, and teaching. Mr. Torfeh served as Principal and Solo Cellist for the L.A. Mozart Orchestra for 14 seasons, Guest Principal Cellist with the Mozart Chamber Orchestra in Irvine for two seasons, and as Associate Principal with the Temianka Virtuosi for five seasons, touring with the same group under the auspices of Columbia Artists Management. Mr. Torfeh performed and recorded with the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra for 17 years. He has also performed with the New West Symphony under Boris Brott (6 seasons); and with the California Philharmonic at the Walt Disney Concert Hall under Victor Vener (as asst. principal and principal for seven seasons). Mr. Torfeh has been playing principal cello with the Westside Ballet's "Nutcracker" performances from 2014 to present.

Mr. Torfeh's music studies were completed at USC, at L'Accademia Chigiana in Siena, in London with William Pleeth, and at the Hochschule Mozarteum in Salzburg. From 2004 to present he has served as adjunct professor of cello in the applied music program at Santa Monica College. Mr. Torfeh is a regular guest lecturer/performing artist at the internationally acclaimed Musicians Institute in Hollywood. Highlights of Mr. Torfeh's 42-year recording career include sessions with Ray Charles, Jackson 5, 5th Dimension, Paul McCartney, Stevie Wonder, ELO, REM, Barbra Streisand, John Williams, Neil Diamond, Elvis Costello, Snoop Dog, David Foster, Alicia Keyes, Mary J. Blige, Harry Connick Jr., Hans Zimmer, James Horner, Tom Newman, Randy Newman, Michael Giacchino, Luis Miguel, Jose Jose, Isabel Pantoja, Boyz II Men, Baby Face, Graham Nash, Jerry Goldsmith, John Debney, Elmer Bernstein, Maurice Jarre, Bette Midler, and Earth, Wind & Fire just to name a few...*(For complete bio, visit: [www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recitals](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recitals))*

## **Dr. James Smith, organ and piano**

James Smith is in his 56th year as Director of Music for First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica. He spent 42 years as Professor of Music at Santa Monica College, nine of which were as chairperson, before retiring in 2010. His principle areas of concentration were Director of Choral Activities, conductor of the Santa Monica College orchestra, and teaching music theory. Before Santa Monica College, he held teaching positions at Sweet Briar College in Virginia, and The Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Ohio. He received his Bachelor of Music degree from Oberlin College; his Master of Music degree from Northwestern University; and his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from The University of Southern California. He is pleased to have been asked to join this distinguished group of musicians for today's recital.

## **Tomasz Golka, violin**

Since winning 1st Prize at the 2003 Eduardo Mata International Conducting Competition, conductor and composer Tomasz Golka has appeared with orchestras in

North and South America and Europe to great critical acclaim. He has appeared with the symphony orchestras of Seattle, Fort Worth, Buffalo, Spoleto Festival USA, Xalapa, Jalisco, Warsaw Philharmonic, Baden-Baden Philharmonic, Sinfonia Varsovia, as well as the OFUNAM in Mexico City, and he has collaborated with some of the world's top soloists, including Susan Graham, Alisa Weilerstein, Gary Hoffman, Inon Barnatan, and his pianist-brother Adam Golka. Golka has served as Cover Conductor for Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and the Cleveland Orchestra. He was a semi-finalist in the 2010 Solti International Conducting Competition and the 2005 Malko International Conducting competition, where he conducted the Frankfurt Radio Symphony and the Danish Radio Symphony, respectively.

Born in Warsaw, Poland in 1975, Golka's family emigrated to Mexico in 1980 and to the United States in 1982. His conducting teachers were David Efron at Indiana University and Gustav Meier at the Peabody Conservatory. He holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in violin from Rice University, where his teachers were Sergiu Luca and Kenneth Goldsmith. He also studied violin with Tadeusz Wroński and Marina Yashvili. He holds a Certificate in Film Scoring from the prestigious UCLA Extension, where he was the recipient of the coveted BMI/Jerry Goldsmith Scholarship. (For complete bio, visit: [www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recitals](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recitals))

### **Anna Kostyuchek, violin**

Since arriving in the United States in 1996, violinist Anna Kostyuchek has established herself as an important contributor to musical life in Los Angeles, performing with such legends as Stevie Wonder, Burt Bacharach and Tony Bennett, appearing in Elton John's music video "The Heart of Every Girl," and playing in the orchestra for American Idol in 2008. Anna has been a member of the Stuttgart Festival Ensemble in Germany for four consecutive years, where she plays under world-renowned conductor Helmuth Rilling. She has also played for Michael Tilson Thomas Justus Frantz, David Newman and John Williams. Anna has just returned from a tour of Holland, Germany, Sicily and the Canary Islands with Philharmonie der Nationen. Here in Los Angeles, Anna is a member of the Riverside Philharmonic, as well as the Los Angeles Master Chorale and Santa Cecilia orchestras. She has also performed with the Pasadena Symphony and Pasadena Pops Orchestra, as well as with the Operetta Foundation, Center Stage Opera and Long Beach Opera.

### **Linda Muggeridge, oboe**

Linda is so grateful and happy to be back at First UMC, where she has decades of lovely music-making memories. (Thank you, Dr Smith!) Linda is a member of The Chamber Orchestra of Saint Matthews and principal oboist of the Peninsula Symphony. Enjoy the music and please be safe!

Rev. Patricia Farris, Senior Minister  
Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate for Family Ministries  
Dr. James Smith, Director of Music  
Ty Woodward, Organist



## Next ONLINE Mid-Week Recital: Wednesday, May 12, 12:10 p.m.

### Rufus Choi, piano

Rufus Choi, Korean-American pianist, finds the world his stage and the concert hall platform his home in performances to sold-out houses, where critics and audiences acclaim his artistry as musician and keyboard wizard. New York venues include Lincoln Center and Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall. In other parts of the international music scene Choi has been highly visible in performances at the Salzburg Festival, Herrenhausen Gardens, Great Hall at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow, National Hall in Taipei, Sejong Hall (South Korea), and Seoul Arts Center as well as the Los Angeles Music Center and Pasadena Ambassador Auditorium, to name a few. Recent appearances include a sensational Los Angeles solo recital in Zipper Hall at the Colburn School and enthusiastically received performances in South Korea at the Busan Cultural Center and the Hoam Art Hall in Seoul. Soon after returning to America, he was welcomed in California at another sold out event with standing ovations at the opening concert of the Norris Theatre Annual Music Series as soloist with the South Bay Chamber Orchestra playing the E Minor Concerto of Chopin.

*First United Methodist Church welcomes you to all of our events  
and invites you to join us for ONLINE worship on Sundays at 10 a.m.*

To see full schedule of recitals,  
and watch past recitals, visit:  
[www.santamonicaumc.org/  
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