

2026-27 SCHEDULE

SATURDAYS 1 P.M.

- Sept 26 **Dr. James Lent, piano**
Oct 17 **Gold Line Saxophone Quartet**
Nov 21 **Seraphour, quartet**
Jan 9 **Kenton Youngstrom, guitar**
Feb 20 **Philip Levy, violin; Tae Yeon, piano**
Mar 13 **Jon Miller and Doug Amster, 4-hand piano**
Apr 17 **Aaron Shows, organ**

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF SANTA MONICA

2026

SATURDAY RECITALS

DR. JAMES LENT
PIANO



SAT, SEPT 26, 1 P.M.
IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM

Dr. James Lent, piano

Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of America

Maple Leaf Rag	Scott Joplin
No. 3 from Four Piano Blues	Aaron Copland
Bumbleboogie	Jack Fina
Prelude No. 1	George Gershwin
Fugue from Piano Sonata, Op. 26	Samuel Barber
Variations on the Pink Panther	Lent/Mancini
Rhapsody in Blue	George Gershwin



About the artist

Dr. James Lent attended the Houston High School for the Performing and Visual Arts and the University of Houston. Since completing a Doctorate of Musical Arts from Yale University, he has been based in Los Angeles, CA. James is currently on the faculty of UCLA as the head of collaborative piano and vocal coach for the music department. He also serves as program manager of staff pianists. James is also a Principal Music Faculty, musical director, and manager of staff pianists at AMDA, the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in Hollywood, CA. He has also served on the summer faculty at the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, CA, as a pianist and opera coach for the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival, and the Napa Music Festival.

As a performer he frequently performs throughout Southern California, and recently in venues including the Beverly Hills Hilton, House of Blues, LA Live, and the Ritz Carlton Hotel. He has been featured as a pianist in Cabaret, Chicago, Chess, A Chorus Line, The Fantasticks, Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, and Oklahoma. James is available as a soloist or he can provide additional performers including strings, drums, winds, and/or brass.

As a music director, he has directed and played for productions of Spamilton, Grease, Little Shop of Horrors, Sweet Charity, Willy Wonka, West Side Story, Seussical, AMDA's Toonsical, Rent, Legally Blonde, Chess, Pippin and for the LA Stage Star Competition.

He made his Alabama Symphony debut to critical acclaim performing Rachmaninoff's Concerto No. 2 on 24 hours' notice to replace Andre Watts. Lent has performed with the renowned Paris-based Ensemble Intercontemporain under the direction of Pierre Boulez in a sold-out concert at Carnegie Hall, and his performances have been heard on National Public Radio. He has performed with the Vancouver Symphony, the Houston Symphony, the Shanghai Philharmonic, the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, the Utah Symphony and the Florida West Coast Symphony, among others, and as solo recitalist at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, the Schleswig-Holstein Festival in Germany, for the National Chopin Foundation in Miami, at Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, and at the Cleveland Museum of Art, where he premiered a new work written for him by American composer Frederic Rzewski.

He has received numerous awards from the New York Concert Artists Guild International Competition, the National Chopin Competition, the Washington International Piano Competition at the Kennedy Center, the Olga Koussevitsky Piano Competition in New York, and the Houston Symphony Ima Hogg National Young Artist Competition. He was a fellowship recipient at the Aspen Music Festival, the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, the Sarasota Music Festival, and the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, where he studied with Jerome Lowenthal.