

ANNE AKIKO MEYERS

ORPHEUS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

WORLD PREMIERE

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M E M O R Y

ERIC WHITACRE



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THE PACIFIC HAS NO MEMORY 7:45

ANNE AKIKO MEYERS, VIOLIN · ORPHEUS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

WORLD PREMIERE MAY 17, 2025 · CARNEGIE HALL, NEW YORK

Recorded at SUNY Purchase May 19, 2025

Eric Whitacre's *The Pacific Has No Memory* is a co-commission
with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra,
Colorado Music Festival, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, and Anne Akiko Meyers



EVERYTHING CHANGED ON JANUARY 7, 2025

I never imagined we would evacuate our home in the Palisades—a place alive with laughter, music, and the joyful chaos of my husband, our two young daughters, and crazy rescue dog—never to return.

So many dear friends lost everything: cherished family heirlooms, photographs, instruments, and music libraries that had taken a lifetime to build—all vanished in moments. That evening, from our hotel window, I watched the fires rage through the beautiful Santa Monica Mountains and sobbed, completely helpless.

Yet from the ash and destruction, something profoundly beautiful emerged—much like the glowing fairy at the end of *Fantasia*, rising from Stravinsky's *Firebird Suite*.

I commissioned Eric Whitacre to write a new work for violin and orchestra, and as the world changed, so did his composition. Little did I know that *The Pacific Has No Memory* would be born from these epic tragedies. This music has become salve for the soul—a warm, healing embrace for my broken heart. Tender and profound, it radiates love, hope, and renewal.

I am eternally grateful to Eric Whitacre for creating this musical prayer and to the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra for breathing life into it together. This recording is dedicated to all who were affected by the Los Angeles fires, and to the brave first responders who risked everything to save lives.

Anne Akiko Meyers





Los Angeles was my home for 25 years. In 2024 I moved to Antwerp with my family, but as fate would have it, we flew to L.A. for a visit on January 8th, 2025. The sky over the Palisades was already smudged black, homes and histories evaporating into the quiet air.

Over that week we had our own scares with evacuations, felt the fear and surreal dread that was everywhere in the city. We spent time with friends, hearing their hushed stories of how they had lost everything. I will never forget the look in their eyes — shocked, untethered. I think there is something truly unique about losing one's world to a fire: it burns everything, completely and utterly. There is literally nothing left to mourn.

The Pacific Has No Memory takes its title from a line in one of my favorite films, *The Shawshank Redemption*. In it, Andy Dufresne (Tim Robbins) dreams of a life near the ocean where his past is a memory of a memory, distant and liquid — a place where the blue of the Pacific will give him a chance to start new, reborn. I hope the same for all who lost so much in those terrible fires.

Eric Whitacre



Anne Akiko Meyers is a GRAMMY® Award-winning violinist and one of the world's most esteemed and celebrated musicians. The Strad hails her as “the Wonder Woman of commissioning” for her passionate advocacy of new music and close collaborations with visionary composers. She has commissioned, premiered, and recorded a remarkable canon of landmark works by Arvo Pärt, John Corigliano, Arturo Márquez, Philip Glass, Einojuhani Rautavaara, Mason Bates, Billy Childs, Jakub Ciupinski, Michael Daugherty, Ola Gjeilo, Morten Lauridsen, Wynton Marsalis, Somei Satoh, Adam Schoenberg, and Eric Whitacre. With more than forty critically acclaimed recordings, Meyers has appeared on The Tonight Show, NPR's Tiny Desk, and Great Performances. Her 2024 live recording of Márquez's Fandango with Gustavo Dudamel and the Los Angeles Philharmonic earned two Latin GRAMMY® Awards. A recipient of the Avery Fisher Career Grant, she holds an Honorary Doctorate from The Colburn School and serves on the Boards of The Juilliard School and The Dudamel Foundation. She performs on the legendary 1741 Ex-Vieuxtemps Guarneri del Gesù, considered one of the finest-sounding violins in existence.

anneakikomeyers.com

GRAMMY® Award-winning composer and conductor **Eric Whitacre** is one of today's most performed and influential musicians. His works are sung worldwide, and his groundbreaking Virtual Choirs have united more than 100,000 singers from 145 countries. A recipient of the Richard D. Colburn Award from the Colburn School and an Honorary Doctor of Arts from Chapman University, Whitacre has conducted leading ensembles including the Minnesota Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, and Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. His long-term partnership with Decca Classics has produced multiple No. 1 albums of enduring acclaim. Whitacre serves as Visiting Composer at Pembroke College, Cambridge, and Ambassador for the Royal College of Music in London. A charismatic speaker, he has delivered keynote addresses for Fortune 500 companies and two mainstage TED Talks.

ericwhitacre.com

Celebrated worldwide for its innovation and artistry, the GRAMMY® Award-winning **Orpheus Chamber Orchestra** has redefined classical performance through its pioneering conductorless model. Founded in New York City in 1972, Orpheus performs with a democratic spirit that empowers every musician to shape the ensemble's distinctive sound. The orchestra has appeared in the world's leading concert halls, recorded extensively for Deutsche Grammophon and Naxos, and commissioned numerous works from today's foremost composers. Orpheus continues to inspire audiences globally with performances that embody unity, virtuosity, and the transformative power of collective musical expression

orpheusnyc.org



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