

**For Immediate Release
San Diego, CA
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The San Diego Mainly Mozart Festival is proud to announce the 2019 *Mozart & the Mind*, May 30, 2019 - June 2, 2019—four days of events built around "Autism and Music: Empowering the Mozart in Us All". Highlights include a two-day symposium featuring autism advocate and luminary Temple Grandin, acclaimed writer and educator Dr. Susan Baum, and autistic piano-virtuoso Derek Paravicini.

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About The San Diego Mainly Mozart Festival

For over thirty years, the San Diego Mainly Mozart Festival has been celebrating the spirit of Mozart. Our festival unites North America's finest musicians to perform timeless masterpieces, highlighting the musical genius and virtuosity of masters both past and present. **Mainly Mozart: bringing world class music to the heart of San Diego.**

***Mozart & the Mind* 2019: Autism and Music Empowering the Mozart in us All.**

This year's *Mozart & the Mind* focuses on autism. Eight years ago, Mainly Mozart introduced *Mozart & The Mind* to the annual June festival with the idea of building a **bridge between the worlds of neuroscience and music**. We've come to understand "Mozart" as the expression of multiple intelligences found throughout the continuum of human development.

Are We Missing the Mozarts of Today?

The world may have never known Mozart if his **strengths and interests** had not been recognized early on. In the current climate, **how many "Mozarts" are being looked over** because of ingrained conceptions about human behavior, development, intelligence and ability?

Autistic artists have taught us that a potential "Mozart" lives within each of us, waiting to be nurtured. How many "Mozarts" are we allowing to fall through the cracks of our societal systems because of engrained **misconceptions about human development**, intelligence and ability?

The 2019 *Mozart & the Mind* will approach the topic of autism from the perspectives of music, poetry, literature, and visual arts. This four-day event brings the top minds, in the realm of autism, together in one place at one time with a variety of seminar style presentations, art exhibits, and musical concerts.

***Mozart & the Mind* Partner Organizations.**

Autism Society of San Diego, National Foundation for Autism Research, Art of Autism, Viasat, Musicworx, Resounding Joy, Mapigator, SDSU Center for Autism, Pasitos, D'Vine Path.

Schedule: *Mozart & the Mind* 2019: Autism and Music Empowering the

Mozart in Us All.

Mainly Mozart Festival Opening Concert with Derek Paravicini \$50 / \$125 VIP

Date: Thursday, May 30, 2019

Venue: The Conrad

Time: 6:30-7:30pm Autism Professionals M&G with Adam Ockelford **\$125 (non-public event)**

8:00pm Concert

10:00pm-11:00pm VIP Reception

Mozart & the Mind Showcase with Temple Grandin \$250

Date: Friday, May 31, 2019

Venue: Alan Airways Museum

Time: 7:00-10:00pm

Featuring:

Autistic Trailblazer **Temple Grandin**; Blind & Autistic Piano Virtuoso **Derek Paravicini**; Saxophonist **Alex Pruetting**; vocalist **Victoria Rose**; Pianist **Chi-Ling Wu**; Cellist **Adam Mandela Waldon**; Saxophonist **Clayton Freeman**; Maestro **Michael Francis**.

Mozart & the Mind Symposium & Expo \$80. Expo and Concert Pass - \$110

Date: Saturday, June 1, 2019

Venue: Irwin M Jacobs Qualcomm Hall

Time: 11:00am-5:00pm

Saturday MC: Thomas Iland

Speakers (order of appearance):

Grant Manier:

Introduction of Dr. Temple Grandin.

Dr. Temple Grandin:

Keynote Presentation: Finding Your Inner Mozart

Kristine Barnett:

Mozart in Flashcards & Physics

Annette and Matteo Musso

I am Matteo

Dr. Edlyn Pena & Diego Pena

Anatomy of Autism

Dr. Thomas Fabricius:

Hyperlexia and Focusing on Strengths

Bryan Mischler and Vivian Hazell

Neurodiversity and Strengths-Based Transitions to Adulthood

Dr. Darold Treffert:

Savant Syndrome: Those Incredible "Islands of Genius"

Dr. Rosa C. Martinez

Mozart in Paint

Book Signing

4:00pm to 4:30pm

Temple Grandin Keynote; Derek Paravicini Concert \$50

5:00-6:45pm

Mozart & the Mind Showcase Concert

Date: Saturday, June 1, 2019

Venue: Smith Hall at SDSU

Time: 3:00pm

Mozart & the Mind Symposium - \$65

Date: Sunday, June 2, 2019

Venue: Scripps Research

Auditorium

Time: 11:00am-4:00pm

Speakers on the second day of the *Mozart & the Mind Symposium* will highlight practical

strategies to develop an individual's strengths and talents.

Sunday MC: Thomas Iland

Dr. Lamis Jabri

Introduction

Short Films from The University of Sussex about Neurodiversity

Speakers (order of appearance)

Dr. Susan Baum:

Keynote Presentation: What is Twice Exceptionality?

Dr. Assal Habibi:

Music and the Brain

Michelle Hardy:

The Role of Music Therapy

Dr. Laurence A. Becker

Fierce Love and Art

Keri Bowers:

Autism, Art, and Film

Panel Discussion:

Finding Mozart - Building Blocks for Enrichment Programs

Mozart & the Mind Concert Showcase - Free to the Public

Date: Sunday, June 2, 2019

Venue: Bread and Salt (Logan Heights)

Time: 7:00pm

Featuring:

Autistic pianist **Chi-Ling Wu**; cellist **Adam Mandela Walden**; saxophonist **Alex Pruetting** and other musicians on the autism spectrum.

Mozart & the Mind Symposium All Access Pass- \$140

Dates: Saturday, June 1 & Sunday, June 2, 2019

Includes:

Symposium Days 1&2; June 1 Derek Paravicini Concert, June 2 Showcase Concert

MOZART & THE MIND 2019 SYMPOSIUM PRESENTERS

Kristine Barnett: Mother of Jacob Barnett, the mathematics and astrophysics child prodigy, who is currently a doctorate level researcher at the renowned Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. Around 18 years ago, Jacob was diagnosed with autism. Kristine followed the recommendations of well-intentioned therapists and educators, enrolling him in special education and intensive therapy. As Jacob made very little progress in terms of typical developmental milestones, he was given a dim prognosis and Kristine was encouraged to focus on basic life skills. Kristine took a different approach, choosing to embrace then 4-year-old Jacob's fascination with numbers, letter flashcards, patterns and the walls. Armed with an early education background, she pulled him out of the special education system, and started nurturing his interests and talents on her own. Jacob Barnett turned out to be a physics, astronomy and mathematical prodigy. He and Kristine have been featured on 60 Minutes and other media outlets. Jacob finished the typical high-school curriculum in early adolescence and went on to university to pursue astrophysics at age 15. Kristine Barnett wrote a best-selling memoir, [The Spark: A mother's Journey of Nurturing, Genius, and Autism](#) which is being made into a [movie](#) and documentary. Jacob and Kristine are both passionate advocates for a different approach to educating children.

Susan Baum, PhD: Dr. Baum's professional activities encompass several areas of education

with distinct expertise in addressing the emotional needs of “twice-exceptional children” (2e children): children who are exceptionally gifted and have developmental and learning challenges. Dr. Baum has over 30 years of experience in public schools as a classroom teacher, special education teacher, teacher of the gifted, learning disabilities specialist, and educational consultant. She is director of [The 2e Center for Research and Professional Development](#), co-director of the Joint Commission on 2e Education and spokesperson for the Special Interest Group on 2e Education for the [National Association for Gifted Students](#). In 2010, Dr. Baum received the **Weinfeld Group's Lifetime Achievement Award** for her groundbreaking work in “Twice Exceptional Education”. Her most recent research has focused on the importance of talent development for all students. Dr Baum is a prolific author, her books include: [To be Gifted and Learning Disabled: Strategies for Helping Gifted Students with LD, ADHD, and More](#); [Multiple Intelligences in the Elementary Classroom: A Teacher's Toolkit](#).

Temple Grandin, PhD: Dr. Grandin is currently a professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University, consultant to the livestock industry on animal behavior, and autism spokesperson. She is one of the first individuals on the autism spectrum to publicly share insights from her personal experience of autism. Temple Grandin was diagnosed with autism at age two. Despite significant social and speech difficulties, Grandin achieved considerable academic success, earning a degree in psychology from Franklin Pierce College in 1970 followed by a master's degree in animal science from Arizona State University and then a doctoral degree in animal science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. By focusing on her unique abilities, she went on to revolutionize animal science and create significant positive economical, quality, and safety improvements in the agriculture and livestock industries. She has become a leading advocate supporting the empowerment of people with autism and other neurodevelopmental differences. Dr. Grandin's approach is based on fostering strengths, abilities, and interests and then leveraging those toward productive and purposeful activities. In the [2010 Time 100, an annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world, she was named in the "Heroes" category](#). She was the subject of the Emmy and Golden Globe-winning semi-biographical film *Temple Grandin* starring Claire Danes.

Dr. Assal Habibi: Dr. Habibi's [research at USC's Brain and Creativity Institute](#) takes a broad perspective on understating child development. She is specifically interested in how cognitive, emotional and social skills are shaped by the interaction of biological dispositions and environmental factors and how early childhood positive interventions, such as musical or athletic training, can improve emotion regulation, decision making, academic outcomes, and mental health. She is leading a 5-year longitudinal study, in collaboration with the [Youth Orchestra Los Angeles \(YOLA\)](#), investigating the effects of early childhood music training on the development of brain function and structure as well as cognitive and socio-emotional development.

Michelle Hardy: As a published author and leader in her field, Michelle specializes in evidence-based music therapy interventions for children with neurodevelopmental disorders. At [Cortica](#), Michelle supervises a skilled team of music therapists, occupational therapists, physi-

cal therapists, and speech-language therapists. Michelle received her bachelor's degree from Loyola University and her master's in Music Therapy from Colorado State University.

Thomas Iland (MC): Tom Iland was diagnosed with autism at 13, and has worked hard to achieve many of his goals: full-time employment, driving, living in his own apartment, running a marathon and having a girlfriend.

He has presented numerous workshops and trainings for: The Autism Society of Los Angeles, The Council of Exceptional Children, Future Horizons, The HELP Group, Autism Conferences of America, and Loyola-Marymount University just to name a few. He is also on the Board of Directors for a number of not-for-profit organizations including Autism Speaks, The Art of Autism, and Junior Chamber International. His public speaking skills have made him one of only about 4,000 Distinguished Toastmasters in the world!

Dr. Blythe Lagasse: Associate Professor of Music Therapy at Colorado State University. Dr. LaGasse holds degrees from the University of Kansas (Ph.D. with Music Therapy and Communication Neuroscience emphasis), Colorado State University (M.M. in Music, Music Therapy), and University of Kansas (B.M. in Music Therapy). Additionally, she was a faculty trainer for the [Academy of Neurologic Music Therapy](#) (NMT) for eight years. For over fifteen years she has been a music therapist specializing in working with children with autism spectrum disorder. With a strong background in communication neuroscience, her research interests include the use of music to improve communication and cognitive skills in children with developmental disabilities and autism spectrum disorder. She currently continues to provide services to children in Fort Collins. At CSU, Dr. LaGasse teaches undergraduate and graduate coursework in Music Therapy, coordinates the Music Therapy Clinics, and Directs the Music Therapy Distance Learning Program. Dr. LaGasse has publications in [Frontiers in Integrative Neuroscience](#), the [Journal of Music Therapy](#), [Music Therapy Perspectives](#), and [Music and Medicine](#). She was the 2016 recipient of the American Music Therapy Association Arthur Flagler Fultz Research grant award for a project entitled "Impact of Music Therapy Treatment on Auditory Processing in Children with Autism". In 2016 she and co-investigator Dr. Erik Johnson were awarded the [GRAMMY Foundation](#) grant award for their project entitled "Musical Creativity in Autism: Exploring Growth through Collaborative Peer Interaction".

Rosa Martinez, PhD, BCBA-D: Founder and President of [Strokes of Genius, Inc.](#), which began in 2006 with a single art exhibition "Don't 'dis' the Ability" curated by Dr. Martinez and Dr. Becker. The exhibition turned into a multi-state tour. In 2008 Dr. Martinez was invited to feature her exhibition for the United Nations World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) Inauguration.

Matteo and Annette Musso: [Matteo is a brilliant young poet who has autism](#). He could not speak for the first 11 years of his life. Through the window of music, under the tutelage of [Susan Rancer](#) and the careful eye of his mother, Annette, Matteo the poet was able to begin communicating, exposing a well of intelligence and heart far beyond even his mother's imagi-

nation. Matteo has deemed himself a "voice for the silent ones". His poetry presents inspiring, eye-opening, crowd cheering, inclusive, anti-bullying, disabilities awareness truths and ALWAYS assumes intelligence. He has spoken at many national and international conferences, including an address to the United Nations. He leads a YouTube channel and programs a weekly episode entitled "Mondays with Matteo".

Debra Muzikar: Ten years ago, Debra Muzikar and Keri Bowers had an amazing idea: to bring about a movement to showcase the artistic and creative talents of kids and adults on the autism spectrum. Their efforts created [Art of Autism](#). However, it took over a decade to see their collective dream come alive - as these two moms focused their energies on emerging talents of their own sons and others in their communities.

Adam Ockelford: Author of [In the Key of Genius](#) which explores his long-term relationship with autistic music savant Derek Paravicini. Mr. Ockelford is also Professor of Music and Director of the Applied Music Research Centre at the University of Roehampton, London, UK. He has an international reputation as a teacher, researcher and writer in the field of autism and special musical abilities.

Edlyn Peña, PhD: Associate Professor and Director of Doctoral Studies in Higher Education Leadership at Cal Lutheran. She is an award-winning researcher who studies social justice issues for students with disabilities, particularly autism, in the preschool through higher education pipeline. Mother of child author Diego Pena.

Diego Peña: At nine years-old, Diego Peña is a self-advocate in the making. On his agenda are disability rights, inclusion, and educating others about autism. Diego's limited ability to speak does not stop him from spreading autism acceptance and awareness through his writings and presentations. Diego uses an iPad, letter board, and keyboard to communicate. *Anatomy of Autism* is his first published book.

Susan Rancer: Author of *Perfect pitch in the Key of Autism*. Susan Rancer has been a musical therapist for 30+ years. She specializes in helping students who have been diagnosed with severe learning or neurodevelopmental disorders become aware of how they learn and process information and become attuned to their musical gifts. She helps her students leverage their musical talents and hone in on their skills, and through music, she helps them unleash communication, expressive, creative and social skills.

Dr. Darold Treffert: *"No one in the world can match Darold Treffert's experience and understanding of savant syndrome - he has spent nearly half a century immersed in the subject. And when he writes of the 'beautiful' mind of the savant, Treffert shows the openness and generosity of his own mind."* - [Oliver Sacks](#)

[Dr. Treffert specializes in the epidemiology of autism and savant syndrome](#). He has been studying autism and savant syndrome for more than 50 years. He maintains a savant syndrome registry with over 350 individuals worldwide as well as a website hosted by the Wisconsin Medical Society. Dr. Treffert has served as a clinical professor at the University of Wisconsin

Medical School and UW-Milwaukee. He has authored several award-winning books including [Extraordinary People: Understanding Savant Syndrome](#) and [Islands of Genius: The Bountiful Mind of the Autistic, Acquired, and Sudden Savant](#). Dr. Treffert served as a consultant to the award-winning movie *Rain Man*, in which Dustin Hoffman played the part of an autistic savant, Raymond Babbitt. He has also contributed to international documentaries and has made numerous television appearances, including Today, CNN, the CBS Evening News, Dateline, Discovery Channel, and 60 Minutes. Currently, he continues his research at The Treffert Center, which includes a one-of-a-kind research and academic division studying savant syndrome across the world, and a very unique early childhood education center where typical and non-typically developing children are educated and nurtured in an inclusive, talent-promoting, strength-focused, environment. This year saw the official opening of the Treffert Way for the Exceptional Mind, a K-6 community-engaged public charter school open to all children with a philosophy of “teaching to the talent”, providing endless possibilities for all exceptional learners.

Dr Treffert’s Team, From The Treffert Center

Dr. Thomas Fabricius: Psychiatrist, Author of [Autism and the Savant Hypothesis: The Evolution of Human Cognition and Mind](#).

Vivian Hazell: Vivian works to nurture and empower toddlers, children, adolescents, adults and families. She has extensive clinical experience working directly with individuals to address a wide range of conditions, including: anxiety, self-esteem issues, depression, ADHD, autism spectrum disorders, adolescent challenges and family dynamics.

Bryan Mischler: LMSW, researcher and social work clinician. He has been dubbed “the gift whisperer” by Dr Treffert. He specializes in social work and clinical social work.

Mozart & the Mind Musicians on the Autism Spectrum

Chi Ling Wu: Chi Ling Wu is a 28-year-old autistic musician. He plays mostly by ear. Music plays a large part in his life. Chi Ling plays piano, cello, Chinese dulcimer, drum set, keyboard, bass, saxophone, and recently started taking lessons on the accordion, and violin. ChiLing won a silver medal in "International Piano Festival for People with Disabilities" which was held in Vienna last year. He also won 3 gold medals from Youth Focus on piano, cello, and dulcimer for continuous 3 years. And a gold award from Chinese Music competition.

ChiLing is now volunteering at both Santa Teresa and Santa Clara Kaiser Permanente Hospitals, and Valley Medical Center as a lobby musician. He also goes to many senior homes. Playing music for people who are suffering is the main goal to his life. ChiLing wishes to [heal the world with music](#).

Adam Mandela Walden, cellist, was born in 1997 in Los Angeles California. When he was 18 months old he stopped talking and by the age of 3, he was diagnosed with moderate/severe autism and epilepsy. When he was 2 he taught himself to play the harmonica, and without any usable language he was able to sing opera phonetically and seemed to have an easier time understanding what was said to him if it was sung to him. At age 6, his Special Olympics' coach started to teach him the violin. Adam was so excited to learn that he kept running around the room during the lesson so we sat him in a chair, put a little [cello](#) between his legs, and Adam fell in love. Adam was diagnosed as having savant syndrome by Dr. Darold Treffert.

Derek Paravicini: Paravicini was born extremely prematurely, at 25 weeks. His blindness was caused by an overdose of oxygen therapy given during his time in a neonatal intensive care unit. This also affected his developing brain, resulting in his severe learning disability and autism. He has absolute pitch and can play any piece of music after hearing it once. He began playing the piano at the age of two when his nanny gave him an old keyboard. At age seven, Derek gave his first concert in Tooting Leisure Centre in South London. He is the topic of the film [The Musical Genius: Derek Paravicini](#). He has also been featured twice on [60 Minutes](#) as well as on NOVA and *Stan Lee's Superhumans*.

Alexander Preutting: Alexander is an autistic pianist and saxophone player from Poway California who recently performed at Carnegie Hall.

Victoria Rose Womble: Victoria quickly developed a love of music starting with dance, ballet and jazz, at age 5. She continued with performance art groups for many years. Victoria has always enjoyed singing but has been taking piano, guitar and ukulele for just the past few years.

Clayton Freeman: Encourages audiences across San Diego County with his Saxophone playing.