

## Pacific Symphony: Volunteer Challenge #56

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### Hello, Pacific Symphony Volunteers!

Yesterday, Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, was International Women's Day, a global holiday celebrated annually to commemorate the cultural, political, and socioeconomic achievements of women. In honor of that occasion, I thought I'd highlight two women who deserve to be noticed!

**Mary Stevenson Cassatt** was an American painter and printmaker who lived between 1844 and 1926. She was born in Pennsylvania and it was obvious from an early age that she was a gifted artist. She spent much of her life living and studying in France where she befriended Edgar Degas. She often created images of the social and private lives of women, with particular emphasis on the intimate bonds between mothers and children. Mary never married nor did she have any children, but she eloquently captured the somberness of childhood and the sweetness of mother/child quiet moments together. I have been especially fond of her artwork for most of my life and am delighted to share some of her prints that I have in my own home with you here.

In order, they are: Child in a Straw Hat, Essay, and Child in a Red Hat







**Isata Kanneh-Mason** is a gifted pianist who is 25 years old. Her family, the **Kanneh-Masons** consist of seven brothers and sisters ranging in age from 26 to 11 years old, all of whom play either violin, piano or cello. They have won many prizes and awards and appeared in numerous television shows. All the children attend or have attended London's Royal Academy of Music. They were raised in Nottingham, England by parents who loved music but who did not personally pursue musical careers. The individual and combined talents of the Kanneh-Mason children are absolutely amazing!

Here, listen to Isata speaking about her upcoming recording of Clara Schumann's *Scherzo No. 2 in C minor* (2019) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-ok562-cll>

Here Isata performs the full piece - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c7f9SoDuHjY>



I hoped you enjoyed reading about and listening to the women highlighted today. 😊

What a pleasure it is for me to stay connected with you each week! Until I see you again, please stay well. Stay safe. Know how much we miss you.

Warm regards,

Abby

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