

## Pacific Symphony: Volunteer Challenge #48 - Music for a New Year

---

From: Abby Edmunds (aedmunds@pacificsymphony.org)

To: aedmunds@pacificsymphony.org

Date: Friday, January 8, 2021, 01:46 PM PST

---

### Hello, Pacific Symphony Volunteers, and Happy New Year!

I certainly hope that you each had lovely holidays, received well-deserved rest, and are feeling more prepared to meet the challenges of this new year! As for myself, I enjoyed every second of the last few weeks and was able to spend some time being still. Stillness is its own reward in that it nourishes the mind and soul. So, today, I have some special musical treats for you that, hopefully, will continue the theme of stillness and self-care.

Gabriel Faure was a French composer, organist, pianist and teacher of the late 1800's whose harmonic and melodic pieces influenced the musical style of many 20<sup>th</sup> century composers. His music has been described as linking 19<sup>th</sup> Century Romanticism with 20<sup>th</sup> Century Modernism. Faure's *Pavane, Op. 50*, performed by Steve Erquiga on guitar, was originally written for piano. Hear it ebb and flow through a series of harmonic and melodic climaxes. Just right for a new year.

Follow this link for Faure's *Pavane*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=54s4SKmNnul>

Faure's *Sicilienne* was originally composed for orchestra, but when the production for which it was written was abandoned, he rearranged it for cello and piano. Click here for Faure's *Sicilienne*, performed by Astrig Siranossian (cello) and Jean-Francois Zygel (piano): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SKFO4eyN1Nw>

Joseph Ravel was also a French composer, pianist and conductor, but is most associated with the Impressionist movement, like Claude Debussy. He liked to experiment with musical form, as in his best-known work, *Bolero* in 1928, and is internationally regarded as France's greatest composer. Ravel was among the first composers to recognize the potential of recording his music to bring it to a wider audience. From the 1920's onward, despite limited technique as a pianist or conductor, he took part in recordings of several of his works while others were made under his supervision.

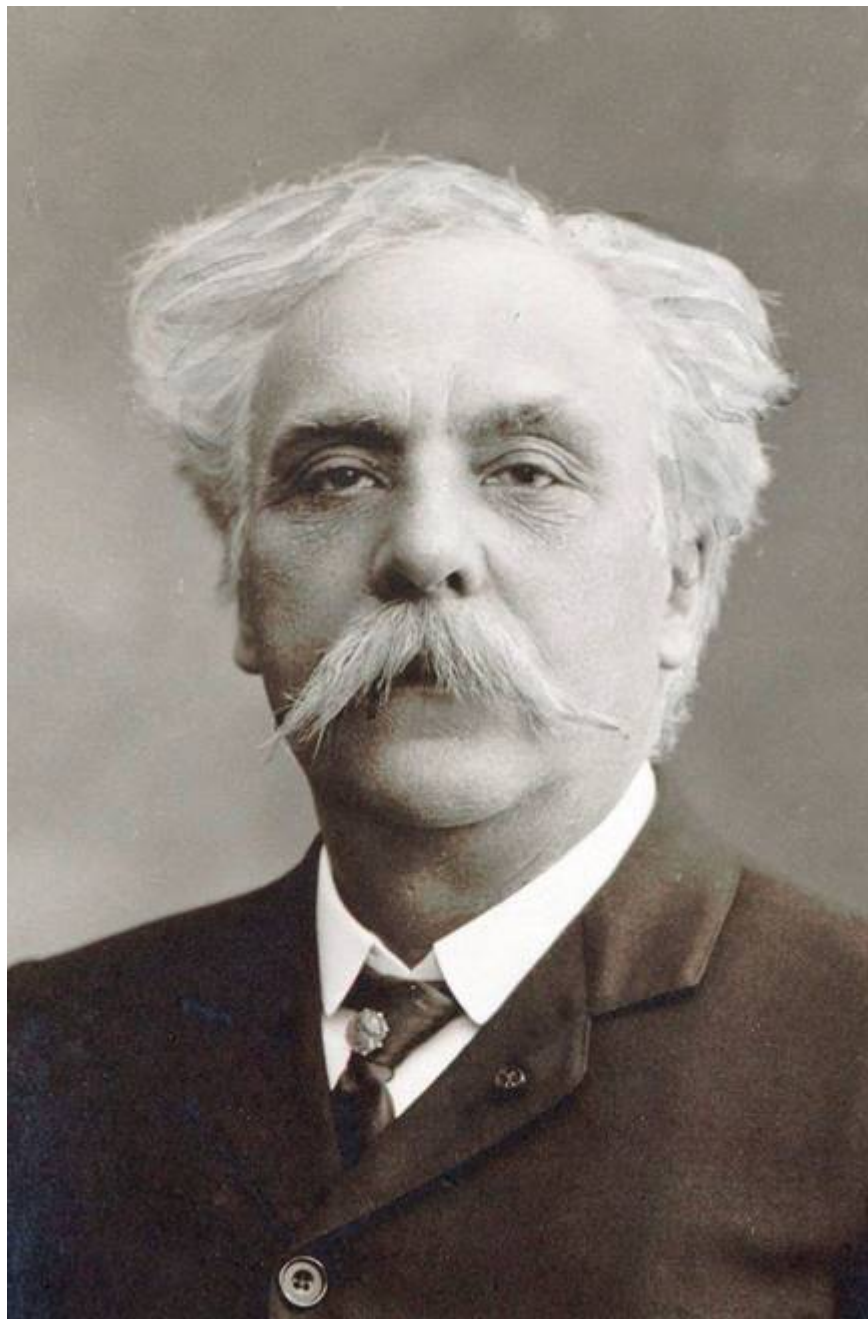
Follow this link for Ravel's *Sonatine, No. 1, Modere*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-XDs37sQRa4&list=RD1MFkBrvXpA&index=9>

Last for today, enjoy Claude Debussy's *Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum* from Children's Corner as performed by Lang Lang. Born in born in Shenyang, Liaoning, Lang Lang is a Chinese concert pianist who has performed with leading orchestras in China, the United States, Europe, and elsewhere. He was the first Chinese pianist to be engaged by the Berlin Philharmonic, the Vienna Philharmonic and other top American orchestras. Lang is considered by many to be one of the most famous and accomplished classical musicians of modern time.

Enjoy *Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum* here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VdaYiXepn7Q>



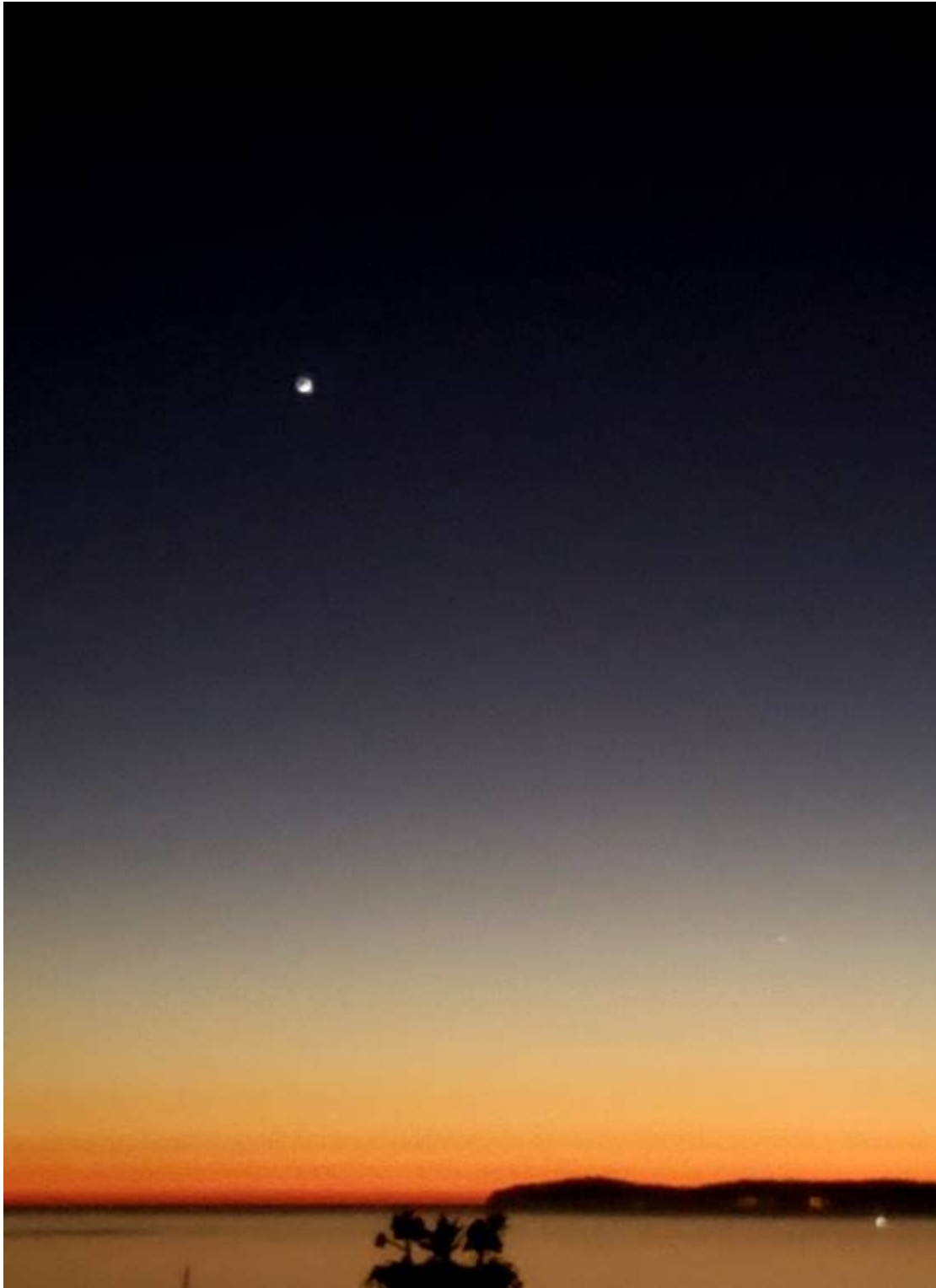




**Gabriel Faure  
Ravel**

**Maurice  
Lang Lang**

In closing, I hope that many of you were able to witness the “Christmas Star” on December 21<sup>st</sup> as it appeared to us viewers that Jupiter and Saturn aligned in the sky. It was a most rare and unusual occurrence! Check out my photo below from that magical evening. 😊



It is my pleasure to stay connected with you each week. Until I see you again, please stay well. Stay safe. Know how much I miss you.

Warmest regards,

Abby

## Abby Edmunds

Director of Volunteer Services | Pacific Symphony

**t:** (714) 876-2353 | **m:** (949) 933-4842 | **e:** [aedmunds@PacificSymphony.org](mailto:aedmunds@PacificSymphony.org)

Charlie and Ling Zhang Center for Musical Arts and Education

17620 Fitch, Suite 100 | Irvine, CA 92614

**Reception:** (714) 755-5788 | **Tickets:** (714) 755-5799

[PacificSymphony.org](http://PacificSymphony.org) | [facebook](#) | [instagram](#) | [twitter](#) | [youtube](#)



**1-Click Gift**

Have you heard of AmazonSmile? When you select Pacific Symphony as your supporting charity and complete your Amazon orders at <https://smile.amazon.com> Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to charity, at no cost to you. This is not a round up for charity program. Smile works with your current Amazon account. The only catch is you have to remember to complete your purchase through smile.amazon.com. Purchases from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and installed Apps will not qualify. However, items placed in your cart from amazon.com and installed Apps will carryover to your smile.amazon.com cart. Shop your way, but complete your purchases at smile.amazon.com to support Pacific Symphony. It's that easy!



image001.jpg  
163.5kB