

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Aurora Theatre presents *The Flats*, written by 3 local playwrights

Audio drama on Oct. 23 stars Anthony Fusco, Lauren English, Khary Moye



Anthony Fusco stars in Aurora Theater's *The Flats*, written by 3 Bay Area playwrights.

By Allyson Aleksey

Bay Area playwrights Lauren Gunderson, Cleavon Smith, and Jonathan Spector team up to create an original audio drama, *The Flats*, for Aurora Theatre Company.

Aurora Artistic Director Josh Costello directs actors Lauren

English, Anthony Fusco, Khary Moye, and Rebecca Schweitzer in this new drama, which will premiere on October 23.

*The Flats* tells the story of a group of Berkeley triplex residents, thrown together by a shelter-in-place order due to a mysterious threat. Brooke is a Black man navigating the white world of a supposedly liberal Berkeley; Harmony is a white suburban mom away from her kids for the first time in years; Leonard is an aging hippie with a theory that may change everything. The drama asks the question: when the old system is thrown into chaos, how do we build a new world together?

Fusco, a Bay Area actor always in demand, plays Leonard, English plays Harmony, and Moye plays Brooke. Elton Bradman is the sound designer, and Elizabeth Lada leads artwork for the production.

For more information on the upcoming production, visit <https://auroratheatre.org/the-flats>.

## History of Piedmont Choirs

### Training Dept. – Introducing intermediate music skills



The training department is an early starting point for young singers.

By Allyson Aleksey

Part 3 of an ongoing series

Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir introduces intermediate music skills to students in first grade and older in the training department, the second echelon of the three-department program.

After graduating from the kinder department, students move on to the training department, where they deepen their understanding of dictation, music theory, and beginning stage presence. They also expand their musical literacy and begin to learn how to sight read. Many other basic skills are solidified here, such as ear training, breath control, and vowel formation. These skills are necessary as

young students' voices begin to mature, explained Artistic Director Eric Tuan.

"The training department is our choir school, where the singers acquire the skills and technique to prepare them to be in our performing choirs," Tuan said.

Piedmont Choirs places singers into appropriate groups based on grade, age, and ability. There are four girls training groups, Girls Training 1 (grade 1-3), Girls Training 2 (grade 2-5), Girls Training 3 (grade 3-6), and Girls Training 4 (grade 4-7); there are two boys groups, Boys Training 1 (grade 1-3), and Boys Training 2 (grade 2-5).

A typical rehearsal includes vocal warm-ups with emphasis on vocal pedagogy by developing and exercising the singing voice.

At this level, students begin to extend their vocal range and learn to sing to the natural limits of their own range.

In rehearsal, whether in-person or virtual, there is also an emphasis on group repertoire, music theory, vocal games, and choreography.

The program utilizes the Kodaly method of teaching, which includes the use of hand signals during singing exercises to provide a visual aid for solfa syllables. It is an approach to music education developed in Hungary during the mid-twentieth century by Zoltán Kodály.

"The Kodaly method brings students through a developmentally appropriate sequence that is focused on having them discover *See Piedmont Choir on page 30*

## Michael Tilson Thomas documentary premieres October 23

By Allyson Aleksey

*Michael Tilson Thomas: Where Now Is*, a documentary exploring the life of the former San Francisco Opera conductor, will premiere nationwide on Friday, October 23, at 6 p.m.

The documentary is presented as part of Public Broadcasting Service's (PBS) award-winning *American Masters* series. The film documents Tilson Thomas' life and career, from his childhood in California to his ascension to the world stage and leadership roles with the New World Symphony and the San Francisco Symphony. It also sheds light on formative experiences in MTT's musical life, including the central influence of his father, his first time hearing the music of James Brown, and his early clashes with the music orthodoxy. All these experiences have shaped his personality, artistry, and goals along his path to becoming one of the country's most important conductors and musical figures.

*Where Now Is* features original interviews with MTT and other music luminaries, including composer Steve Reich, Los Angeles Philharmonic CEO



Retired San Francisco Symphony conductor Michael Tilson Thomas.

Chad Smith, pianist Ralph Grierson, Boston Symphony Orchestra CEO Mark Volpe, *San Francisco Chronicle* music critic Joshua Kosman, and many others.

The film also includes scenes from MTT's day-to-day life at the New World Symphony, the post-graduate orchestral academy in Miami Beach that he co-founded in 1987 to prepare young musi-

cians of diverse backgrounds for leadership roles in classical music.

In addition to *Where Now Is*, PBS will premiere *Metallica and the San Francisco Symphony*, featuring MTT with the iconic heavy metal band, on October 29.

You can watch the premiere on PBS at [www.pbs.org/americanmasters](http://www.pbs.org/americanmasters).

# McCaulou's

## ESTÉE LAUDER FREE GIFT PROMO!



ESTÉE LAUDER  
FREE GIFT  
(Up to 140.00 Value)

With any  
Estée Lauder  
Purchase of  
39.50 or more!

FREE 7-PC ESTÉE LAUDER GIFT  
With Any Estée Lauder Purchase of  
39.50 or More! (Value Up to 140.00)

CHOOSE:

7-pc DayWear Gift Set OR 7-pc Resilience Gift Set



7-PC DAYWEAR  
Set Includes:

1. Bag with Birthstones
2. Mascara in Extreme Black
3. Lip Pencil in Rose
4. Lipstick in Rebellious Rose
5. Perfectly Clean Cleanser
6. DayWear Eye Cooling Gel
7. DayWear Moisture Cream



7-PC RESILIENCE  
Set Includes:

1. Bag with Birthstones
2. Mascara in Extreme Black
3. Lip Pencil in Rose
4. Lipstick in Rebellious Rose
5. Perfectly Clean Cleanser
6. Resilience Eye Cream
7. Resilience Face & Neck Cream

Quantities are limited. One offer per client per event. While Supply Lasts.

AVAILABLE IN STORES:  
Lafayette • Danville • Countrywood • Montclair • Auburn

AVAILABLE ONLINE: [mccaulous.com](http://mccaulous.com)

PHONE ORDERS: (925) 283-3380

# California plans to ban sale of new gas-powered cars by 2035

## Executive order aimed at reducing state's greenhouse emissions

By Barry Eitel

California plans to ban the sale of new gasoline-powered vehicles by 2035, according to an executive order signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom last Wednesday, September 23, and announced the same day.

The federal government, though, released a statement on Monday, September 28 questioning the legality of the order, which Newsom said was a necessary volley in the battle against climate change.

California's order is the most aggressive clean car policy in the country.

In 15 years, the order states, all new passenger cars and trucks sold in California must be zero-emission vehicles. However, gasoline-powered vehicles can still be owned in the state as well as bought and sold on the used-car market. The order allows Californians to buy new gasoline-fueled vehicles in other states.

"This is the most impactful step our state can take to fight climate change," Newsom said.

Amid a months-long run of devastating wildfires which scientists say are exacerbated by global warming, Newsom's order takes aim at reducing carbon

emissions in the most populous state in the union. The state says that transportation is responsible for over 50 percent of all of California's carbon pollution. As a sector, transportation is the biggest contributor to the state's emissions.

"For too many decades, we have allowed cars to pollute the air that our children and families breathe," Newsom continued. "Californians shouldn't have to worry if our cars are giving our kids asthma. Our cars shouldn't make wildfires worse – and create more days filled with smoky air. Cars shouldn't melt glaciers or raise sea levels threatening our cherished beaches and coastlines."

The sale of zero-emission electric vehicles has increased in California, but they remain a small minority of car sales. In 2019, electric vehicles accounted for just over 5 percent of new cars sold, according to the California New Car Dealers Association.

According to a report from the City of Piedmont released this year and based on data from 2018, transportation accounts for 42 percent of emissions in Piedmont. Building energy, used for heating and household appliances, accounted for 49 percent.

While the City found that emissions from building energy has decreased steadily from 2015 to 2018, transportation emissions have remained largely at the same level.

Newsom's order would require an ambitious strengthening of the electric grid in the state, as well as installing millions of charging stations for electric vehicles. Critics of the order, including Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Andrew Wheeler, have pointed to this need for major infrastructure improvements.

"California's record of rolling blackouts of electric power – unprecedented in size and scope – coupled with recent requests to neighboring states for power, begs the question of how you expect to run an electric car fleet that will come with significant increases in electricity demand, when you can't even keep the lights on today," Wheeler wrote in a letter to Newsom.

In response, Newsom spokesman Jesse Melgar said the state is ready to fight the White House over the issue.

"We aren't going to back down from protecting our kids' health and the air they breathe," Melgar commented.

ment includes low-cost class opportunities that students can choose based on interest. There are about 500 participants in those programs currently. A few camps and programs occur on school campuses, but most are held in public parks throughout the city.

The department has also shouldered a larger burden to help ensure that city park users are complying with county health standards. Shelter-in-place guidelines have shuttered many businesses and gathering places, but parks and green spaces have proved to be a bastion of comfort for many during this time.

"The reopening of Beach [playfield] was really important to the city and the Recreation Department in terms of use. So we worked closely with the police department and Public Works to make that happen," Putzer said.

Preschool and day camps have transitioned smoothly to outdoor instruction, but this also leaves students and instructors exposed to the elements. The Recreation Department had to similarly, and quickly, pivot when air quality in the Bay Area reached hazardous levels for a historic 23-day stretch.

"I have to commend the Recreation Department staff for being adaptable and committed to the community," Putzer said.

About 47 students are participating in the preschool program, and 50 students are in the current Camp Smart Start session.

"We made some changes to camp based on community requests," so it's closer to a Schoolmates model, she said.

A new element of the depart-

# COVID Updates

Continued from page 5

crew is staying safe during this wildfire season as it is taking place during the current health crisis.

"[Firefighters] are coming in from all over the western United States to help fight these fires, and even more recently, from around the world. When we're off the frontline, it does become a social down-time. We've had to re-learn how to isolate ourselves," Black explained.

### Recreation Department

Recreation Director Chelle Putzer said that the bulk of the Recreation Department's role during the pandemic has been focused on childcare and assisting in distance learning while Piedmont schools remain closed for the foreseeable future.

# Piedmont Choir

Continued from page 16

the musical elements themselves in a youth-centric way," Tuan said.

The Kodaly method introduces skills according to the capabilities of the child. New concepts are introduced beginning with what is easiest for the child, progressing to more difficult. Concepts are constantly reviewed and reinforced through games, movement, songs, and exercises.

"We want the students to become independent and thoughtful musicians," Tuan explained.

All training department choirs participate in two performances each semester. The concert celebrates the musical accomplishments of its many singers following a full year of training and development. The spring performance is traditionally held in May or beginning of June.

The 2020 "Spring Sing!" was unique. Even with COVID-related health restrictions imposed by Alameda County, more than 200 young singers across all three departments recorded their parts individually at home, while listening to backing tracks produced by the choir faculty.

The video is presented and narrated by Tuan, produced by Lead Editor Tate Bissinger, and edited by Will Adams, Maddy Adams, Derek Czajka, Joel Chapman and Kai Estrella-Kowal.

Tuan expressed his gratitude for choir alumni who have helped by providing technical support during the transition.

"When we jumped right into this the week everything closed down [in March], our office staff helped tremendously. This year, we're using a lot of alumni who are home from college, or in college across the country and want to stay connected to the choir," he said.

This year's "Spring Sing!" was the choir's first digital performance, but likely not their last. The Winter Concert is traditionally held in late January. Students are continuing to prepare individually through teleconference applications like Zoom.

*NEXT: Part 4 in the series will continue with the training department with a focus on non-local performances and sleep-away camps.*

# PPD Blue

Continued from page 9

3:31 p.m. Scenic Ave. Report of a man casing houses; police find and release subject; no crime.

3:58 p.m. Highland Ave. Recovery of stolen vehicle. White pickup truck recovered.

5:31 p.m. Crofton Ave. Attempted auto burglary, damage to door lock on 2002 Chevy Tahoe, no other loss.

9:02 p.m. Holly Pl. Report of a man checking car door handles.

9:28 p.m. Grand Ave. Man detained and cited for checking car door handles. He had an outstanding \$30,000 warrant for probation violation. Citation issued; new court date set.

### Wednesday, September 23

5:19 a.m. Lower Grand Ave. **Auto Burglary.** Report of hearing a saw. Confirmed that catalytic converter was stolen from car.

6:32 a.m. La Salle Ave. Report of a man trying car door handles. No loss.

8:42 a.m. Wildwood Gardens. Report of a gas-powered leaf blower.

11:49 a.m. Manor Dr. **Auto Burglary.** Report of a catalytic converter stolen.

12:40 p.m. Ronada Ave. **Auto Theft.** 2000 gold Chevy Silverado stolen.

3:07 p.m. Fairview Ave. Report of fraud charges.

10:39 p.m. Park Blvd. **ALPR** triggered by stolen 2012 Ford.

### Thursday, September 24

5:04 a.m. Grand Ave. **ALPR** triggered by 1999 Lexus ES300.

9:12 a.m. Selborne Dr. Report of gas-powered leaf blower.

10:13 a.m. Grand Ave. **ALPR** triggered by 2019 Mercedes GL4 stolen in Oakland on Sept. 4.

11:38 a.m. Richardson Ave. Report of a gas-powered leaf blower.

12:09 p.m. St. James Dr. **Auto Burglary.** Report that 2 men in a black Honda Accord with tinted windows stole \$1,000 worth of power tools from unlocked 2019 Dodge Ram. Victim of theft confronts suspects in the road. Suspects' Honda drove towards him at slow speed, pushing victim back until he jumped out of the way. Vehicle fled area.

2:07 p.m. Hillside Ave. Report of a gas-powered leaf blower.

4:32 p.m. Ricardo Ave. Report of a shirtless man sitting on curb rocking back and forth.

4:59 p.m. Wildwood Ave. **Residential Burglary.** Suspect entered home though unlocked rear glass door; burglary interrupted by resident arriving home. Suspect fled through bedroom window and into backyard. Possible suspect from a video shows silver Infiniti G35. No loss or damage.

7:05 p.m. Vista Ave. **Auto Burglary.** Report of a stolen catalytic converter.

8:00 p.m. Red Rock Rd. Report of a suspicious car. Officer confirms it was a Door Dash driver looking for directions.

### Friday, September 25

3:54 a.m. Seaview Ave. Report of vehicle rifled through; no loss.

9:02 a.m. Monte Ave. Report of a gas-powered leaf blower.

# READ IT IN THE POST

### SUDOKU SOLUTION

9	7	1	3	6	4	2	5	8
5	2	4	8	7	1	9	3	6
3	6	8	2	9	5	4	7	1
2	3	7	6	1	9	5	8	4
8	4	9	5	3	7	6	1	2
6	1	5	4	8	2	7	9	3
4	8	3	7	5	6	1	2	9
7	9	2	1	4	8	3	6	5
1	5	6	9	2	3	8	4	7

### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

1	G	U	R	U	5	L	A	17	S	O	10	S	11	A	12	13		
14	A	N	I	S	15	E	S	T	O	P	16	A	X	L	E			
17	L	I	G	H	18	T	A	S	A	F	E	19	A	T	H	E	R	
20	A	T	S	E	A	21	B	A	R	T	22	A	R	M				
23	R	I	24	T	E	25	26	R	O	T	27	G	U	T	S			
28	N	29	A	30	M	31	L	A	N	32	D	33	N	I	L	S		
34	A	S	A	35	P	36	U	S	E	37	S	38	R	A	T	39	40	S
41	S	P	I	R	42	I	T	U	A	L	43	M	E	D	I	U	M	
44	A	S	S	E	T	45	E	T	U	I	46	S	O	R	E			
47	O	P	A	48	L	49	H	E	R	O	50	51	N	O	W			
52	N	53	O	N	S	L	I	54	P	55	D	E	U	56	S			
57	E	N	E	58	I	C	E	59	S	60	C	H	61	O	62	P	63	S
64	W	I	T	65	H	A	H	E	A	66	V	67	Y	H	E	A	R	T
68	S	A	T	E	69	E	R	N	I	E	70	A	H	O	Y			
71	Y	S	E	R	72	E	S	S	E	N	73	F	U	S	E			

# NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Piedmont Unified School District Board of Education will conduct a public hearing and adopt a Resolution in compliance with Education Code 60119(c) mandating that the governing board of school districts must hold a public hearing in order to receive funding for textbooks and instructional materials that are consistent with the Curriculum Framework adopted by the State Board of Education. The public hearing will be conducted at the regular Board meeting on Wednesday, October 14, 2020, which begins at 7:00 p.m. Via Zoom Webinar at <https://zoom.us/j/95246621168?pwd=aXVrTzBWMzdrMERxeUlvb3Zub-DYlQOT09>  
Passcode: eWEgn1.