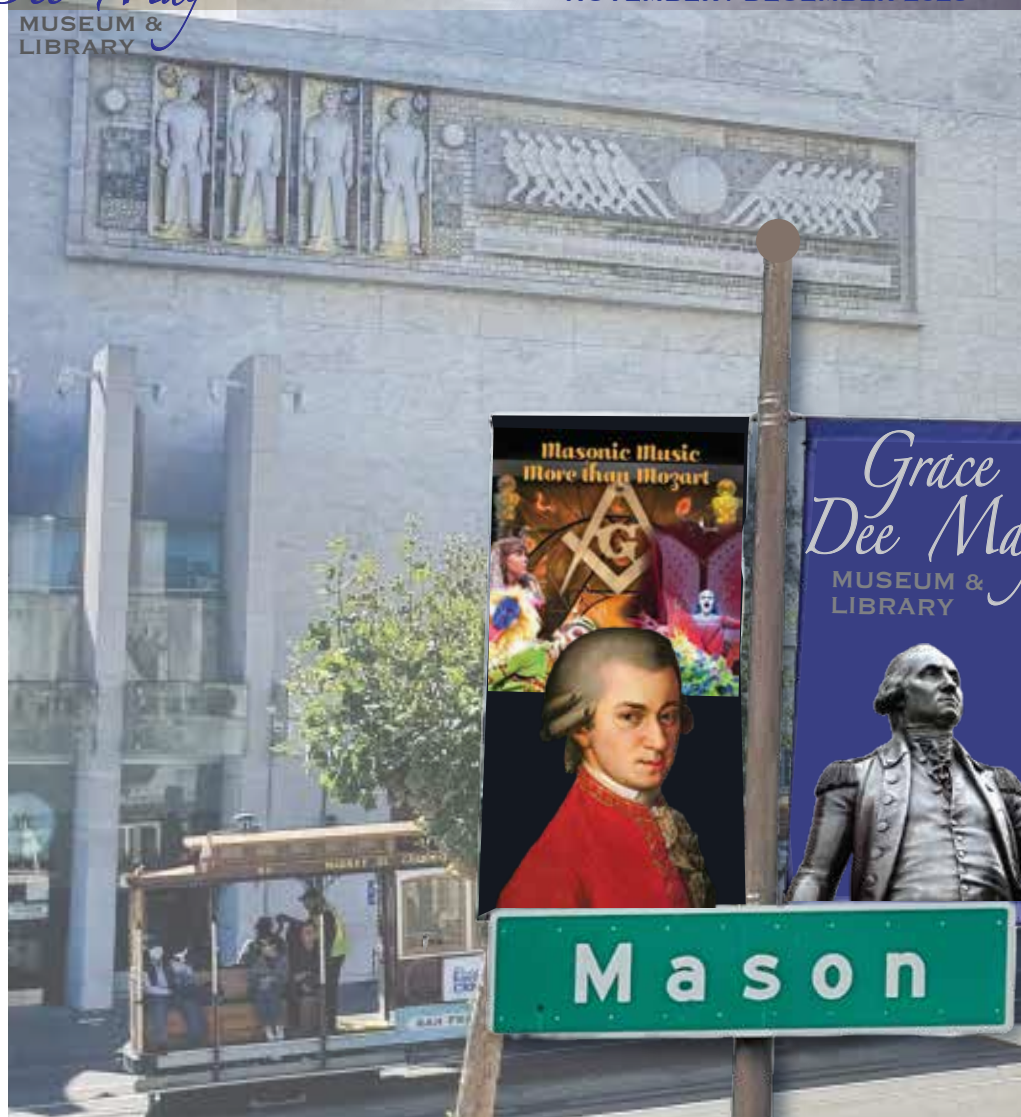


*Grace
Dee May*
MUSEUM &
LIBRARY

ILLUMINATIONS

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2025



Grace Dee May Museum & Library • 665 W Jefferson Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90007

ILLUMINATING THE LEGACY OF THE

• www.gracedeemay.org

WEST

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Audrey Marie Stein

In 2004, Audrey Marie Stein established the Grace Dee May Museum. Audrey believed that she had been richly blessed by the **Grace** of God.

Audrey's nickname was **Dee** and she had been born in the month of **May**. So, as Director of the Foundation, she named the Museum the **Grace Dee May**.



*"An investment in knowledge
always pays the best interest."*

– Benjamin Franklin,
Founding Father & Freemason

The Priceless Gift of Knowledge

When the Grace Dee May Museum first applied to rent a booth on the Exhibition floor during Grand Lodge, I was asked, "What is it that you will be selling?" My reply was, "Knowledge". This one word best describes what is the passion of our Board of Directors and the aim of not only the exhibits we share during the Annual Communication of California Masons but also at our museum and in our lecture series.

The Mission of the GDM Museum is to advance the public knowledge and understanding of the American West and the contributions that Freemasonry has played in its development. In recent years at Grand Lodge we have shared information on "Masons of the West", "Masonic Vintners", "Masons & the Movies", "Masons Behind the Badge", "Masons on the Move" in fields of transportation, and, most recently, "Masonic Music – More Than Mozart".

Sharing the accomplishments and life history of Freemasons is at the core of all of our gallery exhibits but did you know that you can invite one of our guest lecturers to speak to your lodge or Masonic organization? Consider booking one of our lecturers to address your organization in the coming year. Our programs are lively and include PowerPoints, original videos and handouts making them perfect for members of the Fraternity, Layman's nights, or special event including Festive Boards/Table Lodges.

To learn more about booking a guest lecturer, please call me personally at:
818-620-2058

Sean Foran
Curator and Board President

Click on the link below to view
highlights from Grand Lodge:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_wUtM29IIDM



Grace Dee May at Grand Lodge 2025

The Grace Dee May Museum's display
"Masonic Music – More Than Mozart"
received rave reviews
at the 176th Annual Communication
of Masons of California
in San Francisco, October 24 - 26, 2025.

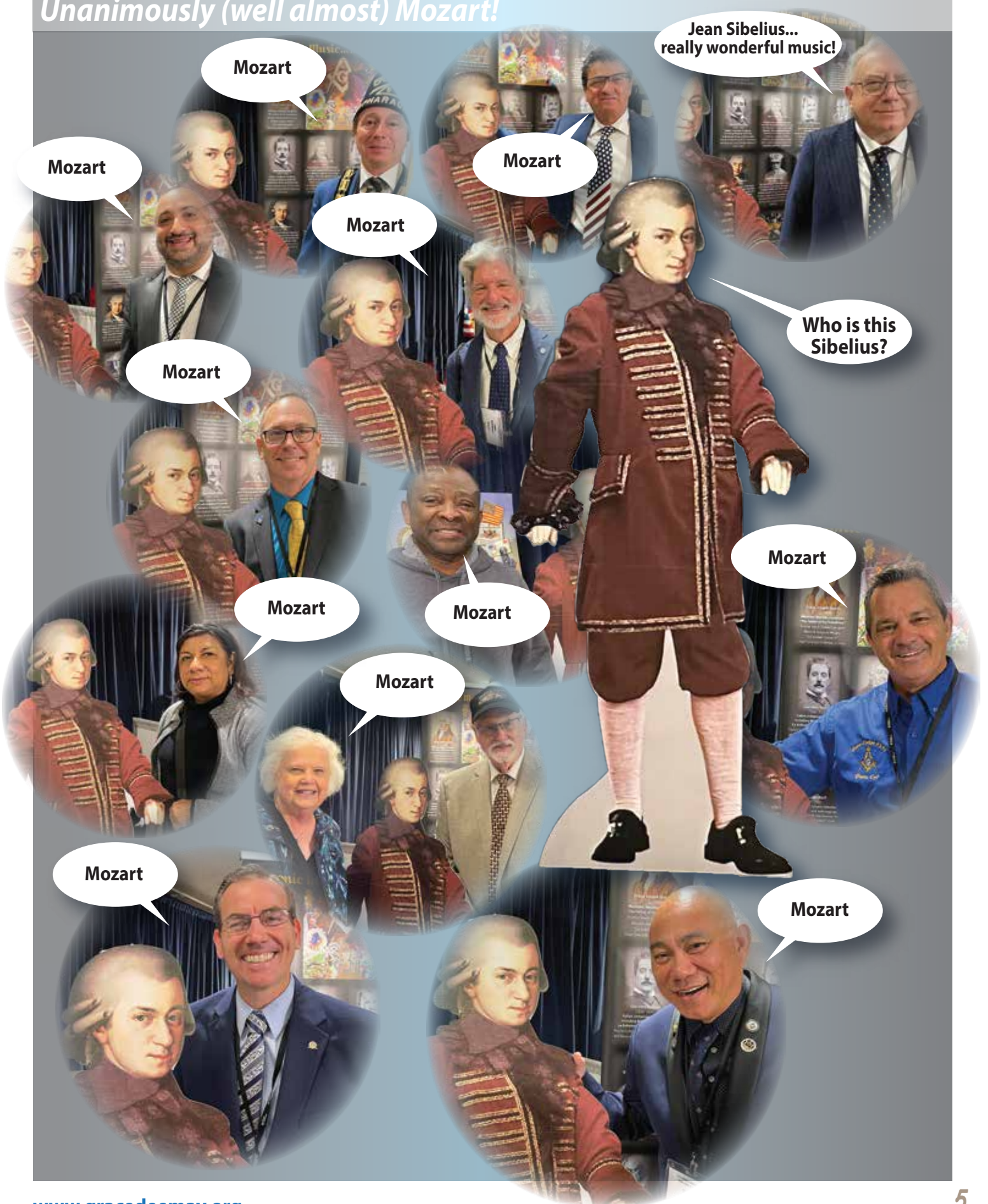
We look forward to hearing from you
and encourage you to visit our Gift Shop
on the Museum's website:
www.gracedeemay.org



Your Favorite Masonic Composer?



Unanimously (well almost) Mozart!



Playel's Hymn & The Star Spangled Banner

The only music that is part of our Masonic Ritual

Playel only reached the degree of Fellowcraft

Vinton wrote the lyrics for the Masonic Funeral Dirge but received no Masonic Funeral

"Playel's Hymn" Masonic Funeral Dirge Music composed by Ignaz Joseph Playel Lyrics written by David Vinton

Ignaz Joseph Playel (1757 - 1831)
Austrian musician, composer, music publisher, piano builder, and Freemason. Playel was a Fellowcraft in Zum Goldenen Rad Lodge, Eberau, Hungary.

In the 1784 list of lodge members of "zum goldenen Rad" in Eberau, Hungary, Ignaz Playel was a Fellowcraft. This lodge worked under the Provincial Grand Lodge of Hungary, Grand Lodge of Austria, until the suppression of Freemasonry by Emperor Joseph II.



Ignaz Joseph Playel
(1757 - 1831)

Playel was organist and maître de chapelle at Strasbourg Cathedral until The French Revolution abolished musical performances in church as well as public concerts



Strasbourg Cathedral

Playel was a student of Haydn

Playel's birthplace Rupperthal, Austria (Now the Playel Museum)

After being called before the French Revolution's "Committee of Public Safety" seven times with threats of imprisonment and execution, Playel moved to London and went into the business of Music Publishing and later building pianos. The Playel Piano company is still producing high quality instruments.



"Solemn strikes the funeral chime..."
It is an ironic and sad fact that David Vinton who wrote these words which were sung in Lodge rooms and gravesides by thousands of Freemasons in America,

David Vinton (1774 - 1833)
Silversmith, merchant, writer, lyricist, itinerant Masonic lecturer and Freemason. Vinton was a member of Mount Vernon Lodge No. 4, Providence, Rhode Island.



In 1816, Vinton published volumes containing selections of Masonic, sentimental and humorous songs, titled *The Masonic Minstrel*. Over twelve thousand copies were sold by subscription.



Bro. Vinton was a member of Mt. Vernon Lodge, Providence, R.I.

In 1833, while traveling through Kentucky, Vinton fell seriously ill. The brethren of Lodge No. 73, Bowling Green inquired of the Grand Lodge if he was in good standing since they were "willing to give him funeral honors if his character were cleared up." The answer returned was that he was not. He was buried without Masonic honors or any Masonic emblems on his grave in Shakerstown, Kentucky.

David Vinton indeed journeyed
"...here below, through a pilgrimage of woe."

"The Star-Spangled Banner"

John Stafford Smith (1750-1836)
English composer, musicologist, church organist, and Freemason. His song for an Irish Masonic orphans home later became the music for the 'Star-Spangled Banner' the U.S. national anthem (with lyrics by Francis Scott Key). Smith was a member of Royal Somerset House & Inverness Lodge No. 4 of London. Key is associated with Concordia Lodge No. 13

Francis Scott Key (1779-1843)
American lawyer, amateur poet, an observer of the British attack on Fort McHenry. After seeing that the fort withstood the heavy bombardment of rockets and the U.S. flag still flew he wrote a poem which became the lyrics of our national anthem. Associated with Concordia Masonic Lodge No. 13, Maryland.

The music for our National Anthem was originally a song for a Masonic orphanage

The tune later became a popular drinking song

Seeing that the U.S. flag still flew over Fort McHenry Key composed the lyrics of our National Anthem

More than Mozart Quiz

Match each Mason with their musical accomplishment.



Rick Wakeman

Known as the "King of Jazz." Bandleader, composer, and violinist. Member of St. Cecile Lodge No. 568, "The Lodge of the Arts", Grand Lodge of New York.



Franz Joseph Haydn

"The March King" -- Composed "Stars and Stripes Forever", "Semper Fidelis" and many other marches. Member of Hiram Lodge No.10 , Washington D.C. 50 year member of the Knights Templar, and Shrine.



James Charles Rodgers

"The Father of the Symphony" -- At the premiere of his Symphony No. 96, a huge chandelier fell earning the nickname "The Miracle Symphony" since it was a miracle no one was injured.

Keyboard player who was part of the rock band "Yes" and is a Past Master of Chelsea Lodge No. 3098 in London.



John Philip Sousa



Paul Whiteman

"The Father of the Blues" -- Composer, music publisher, and bandleader. Member of Hiram Prince Hall Lodge No. 4, New York

French Lieutenant, singer, and composer. Wrote the marching song "La Marseillaise" which became the French National Anthem.

Russian-born American composer, and songwriter. Composer of "Alexander's ragtime band" and "White Christmas". Often gave his royalties from songs to help needy youth. Member of Munn Lodge No.190 in New York City and a Scottish Rite Mason and Shriner.



Irving Berlin



Jean Sibelius

"The Father of Country Music" --Songwriter, singer known for his distinctive yodeling. Called "The Singing Brakeman." Member of Blue Bonnet Lodge No. 1219, San Antonio, TX

Jazz singer, songwriter, bandleader, and actor. He mixed jazz and vaudeville in his performances at the Cotton Club in Harlem. Member of Pioneer Lodge No. 1, St. Paul, Minnesota.



"W.C." Handy



"Cab" Calloway

Finnish composer of *Finlandia*, the *Karelia Suite*, *Valse triste*, and his Masonic Music. A founding member of Suomi Masonic Lodge No. 1 in Helsinki, Finland and later became the Grand Organist of the Grand Lodge of Finland.



Claude Joseph Rouget De L'Isle

View ANSWERS at:
www.gracedeemay.org

The Grace Dee May Museum is ready to help you with your 2026 Events Calendar

Guest Speakers, Power Point Presentations, Videos,
Live Theatrical Performances, Posters, and Newsletters,

Masonry in Early Los Angeles

Masonic Vintners and Early Wine-making

Masons in the Movies Masonic Stars and Cars

Masons behind the Badge Masonic Firefighters

Masons in Education Masons in Healthcare

Early Masonic Aviators Masonic Athletes

Masonic Heroes Masonic Youth Groups

America's Founding Fathers History's Heroic Women

Lewis and Clark Expedition Masons at the Alamo

Masonic Musicians Masonic Explorers

For more information text or call our

Marketing Director, Ron Cooper at: 818-383-9265

Our Vision:

The Grace Dee May Museum will seek to present a thematic look at the American West by utilizing its extensive collection of Western Art, and incorporate California history to broaden and deepen the public knowledge and appreciation of the men and women that settled the western part of the United States.

Our Mission:

The Grace Dee May Museum is committed to advancing the public knowledge and understanding of the American West and the contributions that Freemasonry has played in its development.

Grace Dee May Inc.
(EIN: 03-0591428)
is a qualified tax exempt
entity under Section 501(c)(3)
of the Internal Revenue Code



Sean Foran, BOARD PRESIDENT AND CURATOR
818-620-2058 / info@gracedeemay.org
www.gracedeemay.org

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