The Altadena theater students who rose up after the Eaton fire; plus L.A. arts and culture this week



If you've read enough of my newsletter intros, you know how much I love kids — and not just because I'm a mother. I love kids because they are unique and often fearless — they haven't yet had socially accepted conformity hammered into them. Kids make the world seem new and full of possibility. If you spend enough time with kids, and if you really listen to them, you'll learn so many wonderful things.

Which is why it was such a profound and moving experience for me to write about a group of 60 kids from **Altadena Arts** and **Eliot Arts Magnet** schools who — after losing their homes, neighborhoods and schools to the **Eaton fire** — went on to perform their spring show, "**Shrek the Musical Jr.**," at the **Ahmanson Theatre** on April 18.

Alexander Shelley

The <u>newly appointed artistic and music director</u> of the **Pacific Symphony** — succeeding **Carl St. Clair**, <u>the symphony's music director for 35 years</u> — makes his first appearance since the announcement leading the orchestra through **Beethoven's 5th Symphony** and **Emperor Concerto**. Shelley will be just the third music director in the history of the symphony, beginning an initial five-year term in the 2026-27 season. The three concerts, taking place Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m., include preperformance talks at 7 p.m. with **KUSC** midday host **Alan Chapman**. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa. <u>pacificsymphony.org</u>



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