

Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts Presents its Fall 2018 Season!

Highlights include:

- **Opening Night** – West Coast premiere of *Totalmente Juan Gabriel* the first authorized tribute to Mexico’s most influential musical artist featuring **Aida Cuevas**, “The Queen of Ranchera,” **Mariachi Juvenil Tecalitlan** and **CSUN Symphony** on **Sat, Sep 29**
- **Hollywood Tributes** to songwriting legends **Henry Mancini** on **Sat, Oct 13** and the **Wonderful Wizard of Song—Harold Arlen** on **Sat, Dec 1**, hosted by their children **Monica Mancini** and **Sam Arlen**; and the silent film classic, *The Phantom of the Opera* with live orchestra—**Richard Kaufman** conducting **New West Symphony** and featuring **Dennis James** on organ
- **World Premiere!** —Los Angeles music ensemble *wild up* and conductor **Christopher Rountree** premiere a cutting-edge tribute concert to honor John Coltrane’s seminal jazz album, *Ascension*. Two nights, **Thu, Nov 8 & Sat, Nov 10**, onstage in The Soraya’s new 225-seat Jazz Club!
- **Soaring**—The world’s greatest orchestras at The Soraya! Legendary conductor **Valery Gergiev** returns to Southern California with his world renowned **Mariinsky Orchestra** for an evening of all Stravinsky program on **Thu, Oct 25**

(Los Angeles, CA) Aug 31, 2018 – The 2018-19 Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts season exemplifies the best of diversity and innovation in the arts in Los Angeles. With four world premieres, two American premieres, several of the world’s greatest orchestras, innovative jazz programs, three Hollywood tributes, Broadway musical classics plus artists from 18 different nations appearing onstage in over 50 events, [The Soraya at CSUN](#) continues to grow as a cultural nexus for the performing arts in Southern California.

“In the first season programmed with our new name, we are committed more than ever to artists from around the globe - 18 nations will be represented on our stage this season,” said Thor Steingraber, Executive Director of The Soraya. “When the Nazarians first joined us, they declared ‘We are a proud immigrant family.’ In that spirit, we not only embrace diversity in our programming, but also important ideals that raise us all beyond the daily news cycle.”

Among the Fall 2018 Season Highlights are:

Opening Night!

Aida Cuevas--*Totalmente Juan Gabriel*

With Mariachi Juvenil Tecalitlán and CSUN Symphony

Saturday, September 29, 2018 | 8PM

Mexico lost its most influential musician in 2016. With over 1,000 songs to his credit, Juan Gabriel was his nation's prince of pop and champion of traditional music. *Los Angeles Times* remembered the beloved singer who "wooded crowds on both sides of the border with ballads of love and heartbreak." Aida Cuevas, "Queen of Ranchera," sang at his memorial as the nation mourned his loss. At The Soraya, the West Coast premiere of her recent tribute album, *Totalmente Juan Gabriel, Vol. II*, pays tribute to their friendship with a full orchestra — our very own CSUN Symphony — as well as the Mexico City-based mariachi band, Mariachi Juvenil Tecalitlán.

Hollywood Tributes

Moon River and the Music of Henry Mancini

Hosted by Monica Mancini / Music Director, Gregg Field

With Joshua Henry and Chris Walden conducting New West Symphony

October 13, 2018 | 8PM

The Soraya builds on its strong connection to the entertainment capital with several salutes to Hollywood royalty both past and present beginning with Moon River and the Music of Henry Mancini featuring Joshua Henry (*Hamilton, Carousel*). An American icon comes home. During the early years of his career, Henry Mancini and his family lived in Northridge, just a block away from where The Soraya now stands. The Soraya honors the master with a tribute to his film scores and beloved standards. It's a family affair — daughter Monica Mancini and son-in-law Gregg Field as Music Director. Chris Walden conducts the New West Symphony in an evening of music ranging from "The Pink Panther Theme" to "Moon River," celebrating the man who was nominated for an astounding 18 Academy Awards and 72 Grammys.

The Phantom of The Opera Live

Film with Live Orchestra

Richard Kaufman, Conductor / New West Symphony

Dennis James, Organ

November 3, 2018 | 8PM

Terror rages at the Paris Opera House, all in the name of love. A Halloween treat pairs live orchestra with the 1925 horror classic *The Phantom of the Opera* starring Lon Chaney on the large screen. The original score ratchets up the spook factor with noted silent film organist Dennis James on the rare Allen theater organ. CSUN alum Richard Kaufman returns to conduct the New West Symphony performing the haunting score.

The Music of Harold Arlen / The Wonderful Wizard of Song

Hosted by Sam Arlen

Music Director, Steve Rawlins

With Special Guests Eden Espinosa and Joseph Leo Bwarie, and featuring Karon Blackwell and George Bugatti

December 1, 2018 | 8PM

Two of Broadway's musical powerhouses—Eden Espinosa (*Wicked*) and Joseph Leo Bwarie (*Jersey Boys*)—join the composer's son Sam Arlen and singers Karon Blackwell and George Bugatti, in a Hollywood big band tribute to Harold Arlen. Legends like Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra, and Ella Fitzgerald gave Arlen a revered place in the Great American Songbook with their performances of his over 400 songs such as "It's Only a Paper Moon" and "Stormy Weather." Arlen's musical roots extend through his jazz years at the Cotton Club in Harlem all the way to Hollywood and the Academy Award-winning *Wizard of Oz*.

Soaring!

Mariinsky Orchestra

Valery Gergiev, Music Director & Conductor

Kristóf Baráti, Violin

All-Stravinsky Program

October 25, 2018 | 8PM

Fireworks Op. 4

Symphony in Three Movements

Violin Concerto in D major

Symphony in C

The Firebird Suite (1919)

Legendary Conductor and Music Director of the Mariinsky Orchestra, Valery Gergiev returns to The Soraya with an all-Stravinsky program that includes the composer's incendiary "Firebird Suite." Hailed as "Russia's musical crown jewel" by *The New York Times*, the Mariinsky Orchestra was founded in the 18th century during the reign of Peter the Great and enjoys a long and distinguished history as one of the oldest musical institutions in Russia. Valery Gergiev's inspired leadership of the Mariinsky Theatre has brought universal acclaim to this legendary institution and has demonstrated his merit as one of Russia's most potent cultural figures.

Jazz Club

World Premiere!

***wild Up | of Ascension* (co-commissioned by The Soraya)**

Christopher Rountree, Director & Conductor

November 8 & 10, 2018 | 8PM Onstage Jazz Club Performances

Los Angeles music ensemble *wild Up* and conductor Christopher Rountree premiere *of Ascension*—two cutting-edge concerts of contemporary music with 10 new pieces by a collection of avant-garde composers, including 2018 Pulitzer Prize finalist Ted Hearne. Each composition is based on a track from John Coltrane's groundbreaking album *Ascension*. Released one year before his abrupt death in 1967, the album changed the course of jazz by introducing a dizzying dimension of spirituality. This premiere is co-commissioned by The Soraya.

Discussing *Ascension*, Rountree says, "it wasn't just Coltrane – for ages, humans have been inspired by the act of rising, by being lifted off the ground and into flight. With an ensemble of wind instruments and a rhythm section: we follow the lines of celestial pop music, ecstatic Sufi spinning, wild free jazz, gripped complexity, and antiphonal polyphony. For *wild Up, of Ascension* is an architecture filled with vibrant noise — one that connects disparate stylistic artforms inside a self-similar sound.

Calendar Listings

Venue: Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya)
18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330

Tickets: **By Phone:** (818) 677-3000
Online: [The Soraya.org](http://TheSoraya.org)

For Complete 2018-19 Season information [click here.](#)

Press Photos can be accessed here.

About Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya)

The 2018-19 Season marks the eighth year the award-winning Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts which has quickly become one of the cultural jewels of the greater Los Angeles region. Under the leadership of Executive Director Thor Steingraber, The Soraya continues to expand its programming and outstanding multidisciplinary performances. The mission of The Soraya is to present a wide variety of performances that not only includes new and original work from the Los Angeles region but also work from around the world that appeal to all of LA's rich and diverse communities.

Located on the campus of California State University, Northridge, The Soraya's season offers a vibrant performance program of nearly 50 classical and popular music, dance, theater, family and international events that will serve to establish The Soraya as the intellectual and cultural heart of the San Fernando Valley, and further establish itself as one of the top arts companies in Southern California. The award-winning, 1,700-seat theatre was designed by HGA Architects and Engineers and was recently cited by the Los Angeles Times as "a growing hub for live music, dance, drama and other cultural events."

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