

Symphonic Music is SOARING at VPAC in 2017-18!

AMADEUS LIVE kicks off new season

Event honors the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Family Foundation Saturday, September 16 at 7:00 pm

Richard Kaufman conducts Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and members of LA Opera Chorus performing live to newly mastered print of 1984 Academy Award-winning film

(Los Angeles, CA) August 14, 2017 - Director Miloš Forman's film *AMADEUS* one of the greatest biopics ever made, swept the 1984 Oscars winning eight awards including Best Picture. Now, Valley Performing Arts Center opens its 2017-18 Season on Saturday, September 16 at 7:00pm with a live performance featuring the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra (LACO) and LA Opera Chorus, conducted by film music specialist and CSUN alum Richard Kaufman, to a newly mastered print created for live orchestral accompaniment.

The evening honors the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Foundation in recognition of the family's recent \$17 million gift that will rename VPAC as the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Performing Arts Center, also known as The Soraya. The gift is one of the largest in the history of the California State University and the system's largest single gift to support the arts; gift to support the programming and operations of the award-winning Valley Performing Arts Center – which has become one of the cultural jewels of the region in the six years since it opened.

"Through this historic and transformational gift, Younes and Soraya Nazarian are investing in the elevating power of the arts and in the artists who enlighten and inspire us all," said Dr. Dianne F. Harrison, CSUN's president. "Younes and Soraya have ensured that we can continue to deliver the finest music, dance and theater events, engaging communities throughout Los Angeles and Southern California."

"Our family believes that supporting the arts is one of the most powerful ways of impacting any society," said Dr. Sharon S. Nazarian, President of the Y&S Nazarian Foundation. "And to enrich a community such as the valley through supporting a world-class performing arts center is a true reflection of how we think as a family."

"What better way to launch our new season and rejoice our bright future than with this spectacular film, celebrating the finest filmmaking and two of Los Angeles' most esteemed arts organizations: LACO and LA Opera," said Steingraber. "The Nazarians' gift goes a long way to securing a future of great music and performances worthy of such an exceptional venue, and more so, their visionary leadership reflects the values of the arts in the 21st century."

"This performance will be especially significant as we welcome back Maestro Richard Kaufman to honor Sir Neville Mariner and perform the *AMADEUS* score which was one of the most popular music recordings of all time. Kaufman has also performed this program with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic and we can't wait to welcome him back to VPAC."

About AMADEUS LIVE

Richard Kaufman returns to VPAC to conduct the *AMADEUS* film score after conducting two earlier silent classics, Buster Keaton's *THE GENERAL* and *BEN HUR* with a new score written by Stewart Copeland. He has conducted the *AMADEUS* live to film score for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and will conduct it with the New York Philharmonic, at the Boston Symphony and the Philadelphia Orchestra later this season. Maestro Kaufman will return to VPAC in February to conduct Leonard Bernstein's lone film score for *ON THE WATERFRONT* as part of the *Bernstein at 100* international celebration.

AMADEUS LIVE also honors Sir Neville Marriner, LACO's founding Music Director and founder of the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields (ASMF), who conducted ASMF for the film's original 1984 soundtrack. The *AMADEUS* soundtrack album sold 6.5 million copies, making it one of the most popular classical music recordings of all time

Directed by Miloš Forman and adapted from his own stage play by Peter Shaffer, the film *AMADEUS* is a fictionalized biography of the brilliant musical genius Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Antonio Salieri, an Italian contemporary composer who is driven mad by his jealousy of Mozart's musical gifts. The film was nominated for 53 awards and received 40, which included eight Academy Awards (including Best Picture), four BAFTA Awards, four Golden Globes, and a Directors Guild of America award.

Tickets for *AMADEUS LIVE* are sold-out. For waiting list information, please call (818) 677-3000. For information regarding all other VPAC attractions, please call or visit ValleyPerformingArtsCenter.org

About SOARING

AMADEUS LIVE is the first of several *SOARING* symphonic orchestral concerts to come to the VPAC stage this season. Later this season, **Academy of St Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble** will perform a special concert of Korngold, Shostakovich and Mendelssohn, with ensemble and audience in an intimate onstage performance at VPAC on October 12; the full **Academy of St Martin in the Fields** performs on March 15. The program includes a new commission by Edgar Meyer, Beethoven Symphony No. 6, and Mozart Violin Concerto No. 5; **Joshua Bell** is the director, and violinist.

The season also includes the **Moscow State Symphony Orchestra**, Pavel Kogan, Conductor, playing a program of Rachmaninov, Tchaikovsky and Scriabin with pianist Dmitry Masleev (November 2), **Bernstein on Stage** celebrating Bernstein at 100 featuring selections from his stage work including *Fancy Free*, *On the Town*, *Candide*, *West Side Story*, and *Wonderful Town* with John Mauceri, a protégé, major proponent and Bernstein authority conducting New West Symphony (November 17) a free performance from the **Colburn Orchestra** conducted by Yehuda Gilad (December 10), the **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of London** conducted by Charles Dutoit in his farewell tour in a program featuring Debussy, Haydn and Stravinsky (January 19), **On the Waterfront** with a score by Leonard Bernstein and live accompaniment from New West Symphony (February 24), and Kathleen Battle's **Underground Railroad: A Spiritual Journey** (March 29).

About Valley Performing Arts Center

Launching its seventh season in September, the mission of the Valley Performing Arts Center 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.

VPAC's 2017-18 season signals a new era for the premier event venue. Under the leadership of Executive Director Thor Steingraber, the renamed Younes and Soraya Nazarian Performing Arts Center (The Soraya) expands its programming and outstanding multidisciplinary performances. 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.”

Calendar Listing for AMADEUS LIVE

Venue: Valley Performing Arts Center
18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330

Date: Saturday, September 16 at 7:00pm

Tickets: SOLD OUT!
Waiting list only.
By Phone: (818) 677-3000
Online: ValleyPerformingArtsCenter.org

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Photos: Click here for photos from the 2017-18 Season:
<http://www.valleyperformingartscenter.org/press/press-photos/>

More about AMADEUS LIVE

Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra

Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra (LACO), proclaimed “America’s finest chamber orchestra” by Public Radio International, “one of the world’s great chamber orchestras” by KUSC Classical FM and “resplendent” by the *Los Angeles Times*, has established itself among the world’s top musical ensembles. Acclaimed American composer Andrew Norman, whose works have been commissioned and performed worldwide, serves as composer-in-residence for the fifth season. In 2016-17, Mahan Esfahani joined LACO in his first of a three-year residency as the Baroque Conversations artistic partner, bringing excellence in Baroque programming to the series, as well as through community and education presentations each year. During its almost 50-year history, the Orchestra has made 31 recordings, toured Europe, South America and Japan, performed across North America, earning adulation from audiences and critics alike, and garnered eight ASCAP Awards for Adventurous Programming.

Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, headquartered in downtown LA, was founded in 1968 as an artistic outlet for the recording industry’s most gifted musicians. The Orchestra’s artistic founder, cellist James Arkatov, envisioned an ensemble that would allow these conservatory-trained players to balance studio work and teaching with pure artistic collaboration at the highest level. With the financial backing of philanthropist Richard Colburn and managerial expertise from attorney Joseph Troy, who also became the Orchestra’s first president, LACO presented its first performances.

LA Opera Chorus

The LA Opera Chorus, under the guidance of Resident Conductor Grant Gershon, plays an integral part in the artistic excellence for which LA Opera is known, receiving acclaim from critics and audiences alike. Consisting of highly trained professional artists, the LA Opera Chorus is featured in most of the productions presented by the company at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. The LA Opera Chorus includes a number of members who have performed in more than 100 LA Opera productions over the years, including singers who have been members since the company’s inaugural production of *Otello* in 1986.

Richard Kaufman, Conductor

Richard Kaufman has devoted much of his musical life to conducting and supervising music for film and television productions, as well as performing film and classical music in concert halls and on recordings. The 2015-16 concert season marks Kaufman's 25th season as Principal Pops Conductor of Pacific Symphony. He also holds the permanent title of Pops Conductor Laureate with the Dallas Symphony, and is in his tenth season with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra concert series, "CSO at the Movies." This past May, Kaufman made his conducting debut with the Boston Pops, stepping in on short notice for John Williams.

Kaufman regularly appears as a guest conductor with symphony orchestras throughout both the United States and around the world including Cleveland, Atlanta, St. Louis, London, Calgary, Edmonton, Liverpool, the RTE Concert Orchestra in Dublin, Rotterdam, and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra. In addition to conducting "traditional" concert presentations, Kaufman often leads performances of complete film scores in concert, synchronizing the music to the actual film as it is shown on the screen above the orchestra. These legendary film titles include *Singin' in the Rain*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Psycho*, *Casablanca*, *The Bride of Frankenstein*, and *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Home Alone*, *On the Waterfront*, and *Star Trek*. He has also conducted numerous silent films in concert. Kaufman has conducted for performers including John Denver, Andy Williams, Mary Martin, Nanette Fabray, Sir James Galway, Diana Krall, Chris Botti, The Pointer Sisters, The Beach Boys, Peter Paul and Mary, Robert Goulet, David Copperfield, The Righteous Brothers, and Art Garfunkel.

Kaufman received the 1993 GRAMMY Award in the category of Best Pop Instrumental Performance. In addition to his two recordings with the London Symphony Orchestra, he has recorded CDs with the Nuremberg Symphony, the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, and the Brandenburg Philharmonic in Berlin.

In 2012, Kaufman received the "Distinguished Alumni Award" from California State University, Northridge (CSUN). While a student at CSUN, he composed the University's Alma Mater and Fight Song, and was the keynote speaker for the CSUN Honors Convocation Ceremony. He has appeared as a guest speaker at various universities including USC, Georgia and the California State Universities at Northridge and Fullerton. He is a member of the Music Advisory Board of the Young Musicians Foundation.

Born in Los Angeles, Kaufman began violin studies at age 7, played in the Peter Meremblum California Junior Symphony, and was a member of the Young Musicians Foundation Debut Orchestra. He attended the Berkshire Music Festival at Tanglewood in the fellowship program, and earned a B.A. in Music from California State University, Northridge. Kaufman lives in Southern California with his wife, Gayle, a former dancer in film, television, and on Broadway. His daughter, Whitney is a graduate (with honors) from Chapman University in Orange, Calif., and for 2 ½ years was a member of the cast of the National Tour of *Mamma Mia*.