

# Pasadena POPS

## 2015 Sierra Acura Summer Concert Series Artist Bios

### June 20, 2015 – Big Band Swing

#### **Marilyn Maye**

A supremely elegant jazz singer, a deeply moving torchbearer, and the funniest (and most natural) ad libber in the business, Marilyn Maye's talent is eternal and irresistible.

Ms. Maye has received many awards in recognition of her work, including the 2008 and 2009 *New York Nightlife Critics Award*, the 2008 *Backstage Bistro Lifetime Achievement Award* and 2009 the *MAC Celebrity of the year award*. In the last three years, her 15 engagements at various venues in New York – including *the Metropolitan Room, 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y and Birdland* – have been met with resounding critical and audience acclaim.

Ms. Maye's RCA recordings consist of seven albums and 34 singles, including the first hit recording of "Cabaret." *The Lamp is Low*, her album of ballads arranged and conducted by Peter Matz, is considered to be a classic. Her recent recordings include *Rapport, The Singing Side of Life, and Maye sings Ray*.

Appearances with symphony orchestras have included the *Phoenix Symphony* (conducted by Doc Severinsen), *the Philly Pops* (conducted by Peter Nero) *Florida Philharmonic*, and many more. Ms. Maye's starring roles in musical theater productions include *Stephen Sondheim's Follies, and Jerry Herman's, Hello Dolly! and Mame*.

While most performers regarded an appearance on *The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson* to be a major career break, Ms. Maye had a standing invitation, appearing a record 76 times. Mr. Carson nicknamed her "Super Singer". Perhaps the most simple and eloquent accolade came as she finished on of her show-stopping appearances on Johnny Carson when, turning to his nightly audience of million, Mr. Carson said, "*And that, young singers, is the way it's done.*"

#### **Michael Andrew**

For two years, Michael Andrew was the headline singer and bandleader at the world famous Rainbow Room atop Rockefeller Center in New York City where he entertained audiences nightly and hosted a live Radio Broadcast, "LIVE FROM THE RAINBOW ROOM." He was the bandleader and singer at Merv Griffin's "Coconut Club" in The Beverly Hilton in California. While on "Larry King Live," Merv called Michael Andrew "one of the great singers of all time." His self-written musical comedy, MICKEY SWINGERHEAD & THE EARTHGIRLS was a hit with audiences and the press. The hit show led to

the formation of his band, SWINGERHEAD, which remains a favorite among audiences and has toured extensively throughout the country.

Michael also formed the THE ATOMIC BIG BAND, an 18-piece band that has performed in Hollywood for the premier of the Warner Bros. movie, POSEIDON, and his bands continue to play engagements from Presidential Inaugural Balls to high society fundraisers. Mr. Andrew leads these bands in performances at private events and alongside symphony orchestras, and at festivals and concerts coast to coast.

Michael performs in musicals and comedies in Regional Theatre from Shakespeare to Cole Porter. On the other side of the curtain, as a composer, lyricist and book writer, he's created shows paying tribute to the writers of the "American Songbook" including Johnny Mercer and Sammy Cahn. And composed or performed his music for motion pictures such as "Heart Breakers," "Inglorious Bastards," "Mad Hot Ballroom," "Bobby Jones – Stroke of Genius," and "The Five People You Meet in Heaven." Andrew, singing in the style and tradition of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Bobby Darin, and Sammy Davis, Jr., has been a featured guest artist with symphonic orchestras in Akron, Albuquerque, Birmingham, Melbourne, Houston, Long Beach, Missoula, Orlando, Providence, Palm Beach, Palm Springs, San Antonio, Sarasota, and other cities across America.

### **July 11, 2015 – Classical Mystery Tour**

The four musicians in Classical Mystery Tour look and sound just like The Beatles, but Classical Mystery Tour is more than just a rock concert. The show presents more than two dozen Beatles tunes transcribed note-for-note and performed exactly as they were originally recorded. Classical Mystery Tour is the best of The Beatles – from early Beatles music on through the solo years – like you've never heard them before. Many have called it "the best show the Beatles never did!"

Since its initial performance at the Orange County Performing Arts Center in 1996, Classical Mystery Tour has performed hundreds of concerts with orchestras across the United States and around the world, and has received countless accolades from fans as well as media.

The Los Angeles Times called the show "more than just an incredible simulation...the swelling strings and soaring French horn lines gave Saturday's live performance a high goose-bump quotient...the crowd stood and bellowed for more."

### **August 1, 2015 – The Sinatra Project**

Michael Feinstein, the multi-platinum-selling, two-time Emmy and five-time Grammy Award-nominated entertainer dubbed "The Ambassador of the Great American Songbook," is considered one of the premier interpreters of American standards. His 200-plus shows a year have included performances at Carnegie Hall, Sydney Opera House and the Hollywood Bowl as well as the White House and Buckingham Palace.

More than simply a performer, Feinstein has received national recognition for his commitment to celebrating America's popular song and preserving its legacy for the next generation. In 2007, he founded the Michael Feinstein Great American Songbook Initiative, dedicated to celebrating the art form and preserving it through educational programs, Master Classes, and the annual High School Vocal Academy and Competition, which awards scholarships and prizes to students across the country. Michael serves on the Library of Congress' National Recording Preservation Board, an organization dedicated to ensuring the survival, conservation and increased public availability of America's sound recording heritage.

Most recently, in April 2013 Michael released a new CD, *Change Of Heart: The Songs of Andre Previn*, (Concord) in collaboration with legendary composer-conductor-pianist Andre Previn, with an album celebrating Previn's repertoire from his catalog of pop songs that have most commonly been featured in motion pictures. The album opens with "(You've Had) A Change of Heart." Previn's work is highlighted with four Oscars and 11 GRAMMY Awards.

Feinstein's earned his fifth Grammy Award nomination in 2009 for *The Sinatra Project*, his Concord Records CD celebrating the music of "Ol' Blue Eyes." *The Sinatra Project, Volume II: The Good Life* was released last year. His Emmy nominated TV special, *Michael Feinstein – The Sinatra Legacy*, which was taped live at the Palladium in Carmel, IN, is currently airing across the country. Last year's PBS series "Michael Feinstein's American Songbook" was the recipient of the ASCAP Deems-Taylor Television Broadcast Award. The series returned in 2013 for a third season, which is now available on DVD. For his nationally syndicated public radio program "Song Travels," Michael interview and performs alongside of music luminaries such as Bette Midler, Neil Sedaka, Liza Minnelli, Rickie Lee Jones, David Hyde Pierce and more.

His new book *The Gershwins and Me*, which is combined with a new CD of Gershwin standards performed with Cyrus Chestnut at the piano, was published by Simon & Schuster in October 2012. Recently, he released the CDs *The Power Of Two* – collaborating with "Glee" and "30 Rock" star Cheyenne Jackson – and *Cheek To Cheek*, recorded with Broadway legend Barbara Cook. He recorded *We Dreamed These Days*, featuring the Carmel Symphony Orchestra; Feinstein co-wrote the title song with Dr. Maya Angelou.

Feinstein was named Principal Pops Conductor for the Pasadena POPS in 2012 and made his conducting debut in June 2013 to celebrated critical acclaim. Under Feinstein's leadership, the Pasadena POPS has quickly become the nation's premier presenter of the Great American Songbook in the orchestral arena delivering definitive performances of rare orchestrations and classic arrangements.

Feinstein serves as Artistic Director of the Palladium Center for the Performing Arts, a \$170 million, three-theatre venue in Carmel, Indiana, which opened in January 2011. The theater is home to an annual international Great American Arts festival, diverse live programming and a museum for his rare memorabilia and manuscripts. Starting in 2010, he became the director of the Jazz and Popular Song Series at New York's Jazz at Lincoln Center.

He has designed a new piano for Steinway called "The First Ladies," inspired by the White House piano and signed by several former First Ladies. It was first played to commemorate the Ronald Regan centennial on February 6, 2011.

In 2005, Feinstein recorded *Hopeless Romantics*, a songbook of Harry Warren classics recorded with legendary jazz pianist George Shearing. The previous year, he completed a national tour with songwriting icon Jimmy Webb based on their album *Only One Life – The Songs of Jimmy Webb*. The disc was named one of "10 Best CDs of the Year" by *USA Today*.

In 2003, Feinstein received his fourth Grammy nomination for his release *Michael Feinstein with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra*, his first recording with a symphony orchestra. The year before, Rhino/Elektra Music released *The Michael Feinstein Anthology*, a two-disc compilation spanning the years 1987 to 1996 and featuring old favorites and previously unreleased tracks.

Michael's own record label, Feinery, a Concord Records subsidiary, released *The Livingston & Evans Songbook*, featuring Feinstein and special guest Melissa Manchester. Feinery also records favorite current artists and restores recordings and musical broadcasts from the golden age of popular song.

His Manhattan nightclub, Feinstein's at Loews Regency, presented the top talents of pop and jazz from 1999 - 2012, including Rosemary Clooney, Glen Campbell, Barbara Cook, Diahann Carroll, Jane Krakowski, Lea Michele, Cyndi Lauper, Jason Mraz and Alan Cumming. The club was closed in December of 2012 due to a year-long complete renovation of the Regency Hotel. Michael opened his new nightclub, Feinstein's at the Nikko in San Francisco's Nikko Hotel in May of 2013 and plans to reopen in New York at a new location in 2014 and also plans for future nightclub in London.

His many other credits include scoring the original music for the film *Get Bruce* and performing on the hits television series "Better With You," "Caroline in the City," "Melrose Place," "Coach," "Cybil" and "7<sup>th</sup> Heaven."

The roots of all this work began in Columbus, Ohio, where Feinstein started playing piano by ear as a 5-year-old. After graduating from high school, he worked in local piano bars for two years, moving to Los Angeles when he was 20. The widow of legendary concert pianist-actor Oscar Levant introduced him to Ira Gershwin in July 1977. Feinstein became Gershwin's assistant for six years, which earned him access to numerous unpublished Gershwin songs, many of which he has since performed and recorded.

Gershwin's influence provided a solid base upon which Feinstein evolved into a captivating performer, composer and arranger of his own original music. He also has become an unparalleled interpreter of music legends such as Irving Berlin, Jerome Kern, Johnny Mercer, Duke Ellington and Harry Warren. Feinstein has received three honorary doctorates.

Through his live performances, recordings, film and television appearances, and his songwriting (in collaboration with Alan and Marilyn Bergman, Lindy Robbins and Carole Bayer Sager), Feinstein is an all-star force in American music.

For more information, please visit [www.MichaelFeinstein.com](http://www.MichaelFeinstein.com).

## **August 22, 2015 – To Ella and Nat with Love**

### **Ann Hampton Callaway**

Ann Hampton Callaway is one of the leading champions of the great American Songbook, having made her mark as a singer, pianist, composer, lyricist, arranger, actress, educator, TV host and producer. A born entertainer, her unique singing style blends jazz and traditional pop, making her a mainstay in concert halls, theaters and jazz clubs as well as in the recording studio, on television, and in film. She is best known for Tony-nominated performance in the hit Broadway musical *Swing!* and for writing and singing the theme song to the hit TV series *The Nanny*. Callaway is a Platinum Award winning writer whose songs are featured on seven of Barbra Streisand's recent CD's. The only composer to have collaborated with Cole Porter, she has also written songs with Carole King, Rolf Lovland and Barbara Carroll to name a few.

Callaway has been a special guest performer with Wynton Marsalis and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, with Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops at Symphony Hall and Tanglewood and is featured at many of the Carnegie Hall tributes. She has sung with more than thirty of the world's top orchestras and big bands, and has performed for President Clinton in Washington, D.C. and at President Gorbachev's Youth Peace Summit in Moscow. Callaway performed with her sister, Broadway star Liz Callaway, in their award-winning show *Sibling Revelry* at London's Donmar Warehouse. Their newest act "*Boom!*," a critically acclaimed celebration of the baby boomer hits of

the 60's and 70's, was recorded on PS Classics which debuted in the top 25 on Billboard Jazz. Ann was featured in the Macy's Day Thanksgiving Parade telecast watched by 6 million people singing Emmy Award winning song "Yes, Virginia." Recently Ann debuted her latest symphony show "The Streisand Songbook" with The Boston Pops and continues to tour the show with top orchestras across the country into 2015. After performing the show at 54 Below, she garnered two Broadwayworld.com Awards and the 2013 MAC Award for Show of the Year.

Ann's new recording *The Sarah Vaughan Project: Live at Dizzy's* will be released on September 16th. She made her feature film debut opposite Angelina Jolie and Matt Damon in the Robert De Niro film "THE GOOD SHEPHERD", performing the standard "Come Rain or Come Shine". She recorded "Isn't It Romantic?" and "The Nearness of You" in Wayne Wong's "LAST HOLIDAY", starring Queen Latifah. Ann recently wrote songs for the upcoming movie musical "STATE OF AFFAIRS", to be directed by Philip McKinley. And, as a part of her mission to keep the American Songbook thriving, she has produced and hosted two TV specials Called "Singer's Spotlight With Ann Hampton Callaway" with guests Liza Minnelli and Christine Ebersole for WTTW National which will dovetail into her radio series for NPR in development for 2014.

## **Denzal Sinclair**

Born Densil Pinnock, he was raised in Toronto, Ontario, and studied piano at McGill University in Montreal. It was at this time that he encountered guitarist Bill Coon with whom he formed a long-lasting musical relationship. A 1995 appearance at the Du Maurier Jazz Festival in Vancouver led to Pinnock becoming resident in the city. The following year, he changed his name to Denzal Sinclair and had soon established a very strong local reputation. This was enhanced when he and Coon were presented in Unforgettable, a musical tribute to Nat 'King' Cole. Broadcasts on CBC Radio helped extend his reputation, as did glowing press reviews of the show and album. He has worked extensively with guitarist Coon and his trio and toured with him in a Cole tribute. Appearances on television and his signing to Verve Records have extended his reputation nationally and in the early 00s he was becoming recognized outside Canada. A singer of subtle skill and with a relaxed and sophisticated approach to songs, Sinclair's velvety baritone has an appeal that stretches well beyond the usual narrow confines of the jazz world.

Selected as Best Male Jazz Vocalist by Jazz Report for 4 consecutive years, a multiple Juno nominee and National Jazz Award winner in 2004 for Best Album, he has released three albums to date and has appeared at numerous jazz festivals, clubs, and even his own BRAVO special in 2005.

Denzal has performed with renowned artists such as Patrice Rushin, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Janis Siegal, Dee Daniels, Kevin Mahogany, Jimmy Heath, Barry Harris, The Count Basie Orchestra, Dame Cleo Laine, Sir John Dankworth, Peter Appleyard, Reuben Rogers, Gregory Hutchinson, Russell Malone, Seamus Blake, Nicholas Payton, Brian Blade, Jamie Lidell, and Holly Cole.

The list of artists he has supported includes Diana Krall, Dianne Reeves, Herbie Hancock, Anita Baker, Four Tops, Wayne Shorter, Holly Cole, Bill Charlap, Katie Melhua, Jane Monheit, and Matt Dusk.

He has recorded three albums for Universal Music, *I Found Love* (Juno Award Nomination, 2000), *Denzal Sinclair* (Best Album, National Jazz Awards, 2004) and *My One and Only Love* (CHOC Jazzman Award, France 2007).

## **September 12, 2015 - A Night at the Oscars!**

## **Jeremy Jordan**

Jeremy Jordan was born and raised in Corpus Christi, Texas. He was always a singer, but at the age of 17, he accidentally fell in love with acting when cast as The Mute in the musical, *The Fantasticks*. After high school, Jeremy went on to study drama at Ithaca College and moved to New York City after graduating in 2007.

After about a year of catering and waiting tables, he began to book some regional theatre work, and in early 2009, landed his first Broadway show, *Rock of Ages*. He was a swing, understudying several roles including the lead. In December of 2009, he left *Rock of Ages* to play Tony in Broadway's *West Side Story*.

After *West Side Story*, Jeremy traveled to Sarasota, Florida to play Clyde Barrow opposite Laura Osnes in *Bonnie & Clyde*. He then headed to Atlanta, Georgia to shoot his first feature film, "*Joyful Noise*," opposite Dolly Parton and Queen Latifah. Todd Graff, who wrote and directed the film, decided to cast him in the movie after coincidentally attending Jeremy's very first performance as the lead in *Rock of Ages*.

In the fall of 2011, Jeremy fulfilled a childhood dream when he was cast as Jack Kelly in Disney's world premiere production of *Newsies* at Paper Mill Playhouse in New Jersey. He played Jack at night, and during the day rehearsed *Bonnie & Clyde*, which was coming to Broadway shortly after *Newsies* finished its regional run.

*Bonnie & Clyde* opened on Broadway in November of 2011 but sadly would close after only 69 performances. Jeremy earned the Theatre World Award for his performance. Shortly afterward, Jeremy announced he'd return to *Newsies* to star in its new run on Broadway. *Newsies* opened to sold-out houses and critical raves for Jeremy, who received a Tony nomination as Best Actor in a Musical for this star-making role. He also earned a Grammy nomination for the *Newsies* cast album. Just four months into the run, Jeremy would pull double duty once again, filming a series regular role on NBC's hit series "*Smash*" while still starring in *Newsies*. After a couple months of sleepless nights and no days off, Jeremy left *Newsies* to film "*Smash*" full-time.

Soon Jeremy will be seen in the film adaptation of "*The Last 5 Years*," the cult musical from Jason Robert Brown. Starring opposite Oscar and Tony nominee, Anna Kendrick, and directed by Richard LaGravenese, the highly anticipated film will announce its theatrical release soon.

This year, Jeremy has been performing his solo cabaret show, "*Breaking Character*," in clubs around the country. He's been selling out shows in New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Long Island and Indianapolis. Joined by his wife, Ashley, he recounts iconic moments from his budding career and performs the songs that have defined his swift rise to stardom.

## **Shel a Frazier**

After receiving a musical degree from Oakwood University, Shel a worked as songwriter/vocalist with legendary producers, Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis. This experience led to her writing and producing for Chant  Moore's album, *Love the Woman*, including the album's single "*It's Not Supposed to Be This Way*." Shel a also lent her stellar vocals to soundtrack projects including *Hotel Rwanda*, *Akeelah* and *the Bee and Be Cool*.

In 2009, Sheléa teamed up with multi Grammy-award winning group, Take 6 to sing, Someone to Watch Over Me for their Grammy nominated album, The Standard.

In 2011, Sheléa composed and performed the theme song, Love Fell On Me for the Sony motion picture, Jumping the Broom.

In 2012, Sheléa was invited to perform at the White House at the suggestion of Stevie Wonder to honor composers, Burt Bacharach and Hal David with the Gershwin Prize. Later that year, Sheléa joined Annie Lenox, Herbie Hancock, Joan Osborne, Patti Austin, and the South African Children's Choir at the Kennedy Center to perform for the UN International AIDS Conference.

Sheléa's video tribute to Whitney Houston, singing a medley of the star's hits after her death became an instant Internet sensation. It has received over 800,000 views to date. This led to collaborations with Narada Michael Walden.

Sheléa also teamed up with Grammy Award-winning producer/songwriter, Tena Clark to sing the anthem, Break The Chain, for the global launch, One Billion Rising headed by Eve Ensler. Sheléa also performed for the National Women's History Museum honoring Jennifer Siebel Newsom and Dolores Huerta.

In 2013, Sheléa gave a standing ovation performance at the Songwriter's Hall of Fame Awards as she honored the late Hal David singing Anyone Who Had a Heart.

In May of 2014, Sheléa found herself back at the Library of Congress and performed with Narada Michael Walden for ASCAP's, We Write the Songs event.

Sheléa is currently touring internationally her newly released debut album, Love Fell On Me, featuring Stevie Wonder, Brian McKnight, and Narada Michael Walden. Her current single, I'll Never Let You Go peaked at #22 on the U.S. Billboard R&B charts and charted for 22+ weeks.