



Pasadena Symphony Association
Pasadena Symphony & POPS
Contact: Lora Unger
lunger@PasadenaSymphony-Pops.org
(626) 793-7172 ext. 13

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For Immediate Release

**Pasadena's Most Celebrated Annual Free Concert Returns
This Summer with an Inaugural Partnership
with Make Music Pasadena**

Presented by Bank of America, the free event showcases stars of the screen and stage

Pasadena, CA – As the summer season grows closer each day, it's time to join the Pasadena Symphony and Pops for its annual free Music Under The Stars concert on Saturday, June 6, on the steps of City Hall. Experience what crowds over 4,000 enjoyed last year, as for the first time the Pasadena Symphony and Pops joins the line-up of Make Music Pasadena, West Coast's largest free music festival. Presented with sponsorship support from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation, the 2015 Music Under the Stars concert will be a tribute to the Ladies of the Great American Songbook celebrating iconic music from Hollywood, Broadway and beyond!

"This year promises to be bigger than ever," stated Lora Unger, Chief Executive Officer of the Pasadena Symphony Association. "With our partnership with Make Music Pasadena, we're excited to join a day celebrating the musical tradition that builds such strong community within Pasadena."

The family fun begins at 5:30 p.m. with pre-concert activities, family-style picnicking, and gourmet food trucks. Families can discover the wonder of creating their own music with the instruments of the orchestra at the instrument "petting zoo," where kids of all ages can toot flutes, blow trumpets, bow strings, and bang on percussion instruments. Families can bring their own picnic along to enjoy at the site, or purchase a variety of offerings from a collection of gourmet food trucks.

Under the baton of multiple Tony Award-nominated Larry Blank, Resident Pops Conductor, the performance guest artists include Broadway sensations with the Tony award winning star Debbie Gravitte plus Meredith Patterson and Christina Saffran. Resident Conductor Larry Blank will emcee and lead the ensemble in musical selections from Rodgers and Hart, Marvin Hamlisch, Jule Styne, Steven Sondheim,

George Gershwin and so much more. The JPL chorus, composed of volunteer JPL employees and under the direction of Donald Brinegar, completes the line-up for this captivating evening of Music Under the Stars. Grounds open at 5:30 p.m., the concert will take place between 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Gravitte, one of Broadway's biggest personalities, a star on the Broadway stage to the concert stage and beyond won the prestigious Tony award for her performance in Jerome Robbins' "Broadway" and has played in roles including "They're Playing Our Song," "Perfectly Frank," "Chicago," and "Les Miserables."

Patterson made her Broadway premiere in the Tony Award Winning Revival of "42nd St" and graced the stage in "The Boyfriend" under the direction of legendary Julie Andrews. Celebrated for her solo jazz show "Sweet Old Fashioned Girl," Patterson voice has been heralded as "exquisite, a beguiling delight."

Saffran's career is extensive, having starred as Kathy Seldon in *Singin' in the Rain*, (cast recording), Maggie in *A Chorus Line*, Shoo Shoo in *Sophisticated Ladies*, Rosa Bud and Edwin Drood in *Drood*, and Zaneeta in *The Music Man*.

"As a major supporter of the arts, Bank of America is proud to once again help bring events like Music Under The Stars to Pasadena," said Jefferson Landers, Bank of America Merrill Lynch resident director, based in Pasadena. "By supporting cultural legacies like the Pasadena Symphony and POPS, we provide our communities with access to art and culture that not only offer social and education benefits, but also acts as an economic driver for the region."

Bank of America's arts program supports nonprofit arts and culture presenters at the local level and with leading world-class arts entities. Other programs include the Museums on Us® program, which offers Bank of America customers free access to 150 of America's finest cultural institutions, and the Art in our Communities® program through which the company shares its corporate collection with museums throughout the world.

Admission to this event is free, and guests are encouraged to bring a picnic, blanket, and low-back chairs. Rental chairs will also be available at the event. For more information, visit www.PasadenaSymphony-Pops.org or call 626.793.7172.

IF YOU GO:

- **What:** Bank of America's Music Under the Stars with the Pasadena Symphony and POPS as part of Make Music Pasadena
- **When:** Saturday, June 6. Pre-concert festivities at 5:30 p.m.; concert at 7:30 p.m.
- **Where:** Pasadena City Hall Centennial Square
- **Cost:** Free, Chair Rentals \$3
- **Parking:** Plaza Las Fuentes Structure (Union Ave & Los Robles); School House Parking Facility (Green St. & Raymond Ave); Pasadena Center/Sheraton Parking Structure (Marengo & Cordova); Paseo Colorado Subterranean Garage; Paseo Colorado Marengo Avenue Parking Structure; Paseo Colorado Los Robles Parking Structure; Arroyo Seco Park Parking (Raymond Ave or Arroyo Blvd), and Marriott Courtyard Hotel Parking (enter on Raymond).

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ABOUT THE PASADENA SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION

Recent Acclaim for the Pasadena Symphony and POPS

“The Pasadena Symphony signals a new direction...teeming with vitality...dripping with opulent, sexy emotion.” Los Angeles Times.

“...full of pulsating energy from first note to last... the strings were lushly resonant, the wind principals were at the top of their games, and the brass rang out with gleaming vigor.” –Pasadena Star News.

Formed in 1928, the Pasadena Symphony and POPS is an ensemble of Hollywood’s most talented, sought after musicians. With extensive credits in the film, television, recording and orchestral industry, the artists of Pasadena Symphony and POPS are the most heard in the world.

The Pasadena Symphony and POPS performs in two of the most extraordinary venues in the United States: Ambassador Auditorium, known as the *Carnegie Hall of the West*, and the luxuriant Los Angeles Arboretum & Botanic Garden. Internationally recognized, Grammy-nominated conductor, David Lockington, serves as the Pasadena Symphony Association’s Music Director, with performance-practice specialist Nicholas McGegan serving as Principal Guest Conductor. The multi-platinum-selling, two-time Emmy and five-time Grammy Award-nominated entertainer dubbed “The Ambassador of the Great American Songbook,” Michael Feinstein, is the Principal Pops Conductor, who succeeded Marvin Hamlisch in the newly created *Marvin Hamlisch Chair*.

A hallmark of its robust education programs, the Pasadena Symphony Association has served the youth of the region for over five decades through the Pasadena Youth Symphony Orchestras (PYSO) comprised of five performing ensembles, with over 250 gifted 4th-12th grade students from more than 50 schools all over the Southern California region. The PYSO Symphony often performs on the popular television show *GLEE*.

The PSA provides people from all walks of life with powerful access points to the world of symphonic music.

About Bank of America Corporate Social Responsibility

Bank of America’s commitment to corporate social responsibility (CSR) is a strategic part of doing business globally. Our CSR efforts guide how we operate in a socially, economically, financially and environmentally responsible way around the world, to deliver for shareholders, customers, clients and employees. Our goal is to help create economically vibrant regions and communities through lending, investing and giving. By partnering with our stakeholders, we create value that empowers individuals and communities to thrive and contributes to the long-term success of our business. We have several core areas of focus for our CSR, including responsible business practices; environmental sustainability; strengthening local communities with a focus on housing, hunger and jobs; investing in global leadership development; and engaging through arts and culture. As part of these efforts, employee volunteers across the company contribute their time, passion and expertise to address issues in communities where they live and work. Learn more at www.bankofamerica.com/about and follow us on Twitter at @BofA_Community.

About Larry Blank

Larry Blank is one of the most prolific and sought after composers, conductors, and orchestrators in the entertainment business today. His work has been presented all over the world, including some of Broadway's most successful musicals, Carnegie Hall, and top television and film projects.

He was the music director/conductor and/or vocal arranger for many shows on Broadway and in Los Angeles including "They're Playing Our Song," "Evita," "Sugar Babies," "La Cage Aux Folles," "Phantom Of The Opera," "Onward Victoria," "Copperfield," "Colette," "A Chorus Line," and "A Little Night Music." He has been nominated twice for both the Tony Award and the Drama Desk Award for his orchestrations in "The Drowsy Chaperone" and "Irving Berlin's White Christmas."

Mr. Blank has worked with top talent from varied fields of the entertainment world, notably as personal conductor to Michael Crawford. He has also worked with Michael Feinstein, Marvin Hamlisch, Bernadette Peters, Kelsey Grammar, Christine Baranski, Roberta Flack, Pete Fountain, Peabo Bryson, Sally Kellerman, Nancy Dussault, Marc Shaiman, Jerry Herman, Ann- Margaret, Davis Gaines, Bette Midler, George Benson, Placido Domingo, Randy Newman, Trisha Yearwood, Tom Scott, Quincy Jones, Michael Bolton, John Raitt and Diana Rigg.

Blank's background includes orchestrating and arranging songs for "South Park," and he was music supervisor and orchestrator for Jerry Herman's movie, "Mrs. Santa Claus," starring Angela Lansbury and Charles Durning. Some of the films he lent his talent to include "The Kid," "Kiss The Girls," "The American President," "Forget Paris," "City Slickers II," "The Net," "That's Entertainment III," "North," "I'd Do Anything," and "Stuart Saves His Family." Blank's music can be heard on the animated feature films, "Cats Don't Dance" and "All Dogs Go To Heaven," as well as the "101 Dalmatians Christmas Special."

Mr. Blank's television work includes orchestrating and composing music for several of the Grammy Awards and Academy Award shows as well as numerous television movies and shows.

About Debbie Gravitte

One of Broadway's biggest personalities, **Debbie Gravitte** has found herself in demand from the Broadway Stage to the concert stage and beyond. She won the prestigious Tony Award for Best Featured Actress in a Musical for her performance in JEROME ROBBINS' BROADWAY, along with a Drama Desk Award Nomination and New York Showstopper Award. After making her Broadway debut in the original cast of THEY'RE PLAYING OUR SONG, she went on to appear in: PERFECTLY FRANK (DRAMA DESK AWARD NOMINATION), BLUES IN THE NIGHT, AIN'T BROADWAY GRAND, ZORBA, CHICAGO, and LES MISERABLES. Debbie has appeared in the ENCORE'S series productions of THE BOYS FROM SYRACUSE, TENDERLOIN, and CARNIVAL at New York's CITY CENTER.

Debbie has performed her nightclub act worldwide, from New York's RAINBOW AND STARS, 54 BELOW, to London's PIZZA ON THE PARK, and back home again to Atlantic City, where she's had the honor of performing with JAY LENO, HARRY ANDERSON, and the legendary GEORGE BURNS. A favorite with Symphony audiences, she has sung with over 150 Orchestras around the world. She has toured with KEITH LOCKHART AND THE BOSTON POPS, appeared with LANG LANG and the CHINESE PHILHARMONIC in Beijing, along with PETER NERO AND THE PHILLY POPS, NATIONAL SYMPHONY (WITH MARVIN HAMLISCH), THE NY POPS WITH THE LEGENDARY SKITCH HENDERSON, ATLANTA SYMPHONY, CLEVELAND ORCHESTRA, PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY, UTAH SYMPHONY, ST. LOUIS, HOUSTON, DALLAS and SAN DIEGO SYMPHONIES.

Overseas, Debbie has sung with the LONDON, AALBORG and BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS, STOCKHOLM PHILHARMONIC, the GOTESBORG and JERUSALEM SYMPHONIES, MUNICH PHILHARMONIC, the ROYAL SCOTTISH NATIONAL ORCHESTRA, ORCHESTRA MASSIMO DEL PALERMO and SYMPHONICA OF BRAZIL, along with THE MALAYSIAN PHILHARMONIC. This month, she will make her debut in BILBAO, SPAIN!

On television, Debbie co-starred on the CBS series TRIAL AND ERROR, was seen on NBC'S PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS, and has starred in several specials for PBS, including LIVE FROM THE KENNEDY CENTER, THE BOSTON POPS CELEBRATE BERNSTEIN, RODGERS AND HART for GREAT PERFORMANCES, and IRA GERSHWIN'S 100th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION.

Debbie has 3 solo CD's to her credit: DEFYING GRAVITY, THE MGM ALBUM, and PART OF YOUR WORLD, THE MUSIC OF ALAN MENKEN. Her other recordings include: CALAMITY JANE, UNSUNG SONDHEIM, LUCKY STIFF, MISS SPECTACULAR., LOUISIANA PURCHASE, A BROADWAY CHRISTMAS, as well as MACK AND MABEL IN CONCERT: live from the DRURY LANE THEATRE among others. She is currently working on her latest project: BIG BAND BROADWAY.

Debbie has sung with the NEW YORK CITY BALLET in PETER MARTIN'S "THOU SWELL" at LINCOLN CENTER, appeared with BETTE MIDLER in the Universal Feature, ISN'T SHE GREAT?, and can be heard as one of the voices in DISNEY'S THE LITTLE MERMAID. Debbie is the proud mother of three beautiful children. For more info, please visit www.debbiegravitte.com or www.debbietunes.com.

About Meredith Patterson

Before leaving New York City, Meredith completed her Jazz EP with some of New York City's finest Jazz musicians; Tedd Firth, Tom Hubbard, and Warren Vache. Produced by Meredith and Aaron Weinstein. Available on iTunes. Meredith debuted her solo jazz show "Sweet Old Fashioned Girl" at Birdland Jazz Club on 54th Street in New York City accompanied by a stellar jazz quartet of piano, upright bass, guitar and drums. She made such an impression she was asked to play a return engagement in May. Then the prestigious Feinstein's asked her to debut her show in August as part of their summer series.

In the theater world, Meredith has an eclectic and impressive resume. She recently worked for The Weinstein Company portraying the role of "Mary Barrie" in a reading of FINDING NEVERLAND opposite Broadway's Jullian Ovendon and Kelli O'Hara. She originated the role of Gwen Greene in the new musical RADIO GIRL, based on the hit 1938 movie Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm, at Goodspeed's Norma Terris Theater in Chester, CT. Working alongside Broadway's best creative team Christopher Gatelli (South Pacific), Daniel Goldfarb (Martin Short's Fame Becomes Me), Henry Krieger (Side Show, Dreamgirls), and Susan Birkenhead (Jellys Last Jam).

Meredith doesn't just stick to stage work, she seamlessly moves from one medium to another. Working on Broadway, TV, Recordings and Film. She made her soap opera debut in 2009 as Francesca on ABC's All My Children. She is also featured as one of the last 3 girls for the role of Val in the critically acclaimed A Chorus Line Sony Classics documentary Every Little Step.

On January 4th 2009, Meredith finished her spectacular run on Broadway at The Marquis Theater after originating the role of Judy Haynes in Irving Berlin's White Christmas.

Meredith is no stranger to Guest Starring on Network Television. Guest Starring on LAW & ORDER SVU, THE GOOD WIFE, new series MADE IN JERSEY, but she began her TV career with her hilarious role on ABC's BOSTON LEGAL in a 5 episode arch opposite Candance Bergen and Tom Selleck.

Meredith lived the classic understudy's dream come true in 2001 when she took over the starring role of Peggy Sawyer in the Tony Award Winning Revival of 42nd ST, making her Broadway musical debut. Meredith's dream came true every performance, starring on Broadway in what's been deemed the best female tap dancing role in theater history from August 2001-August 2002. She also was the first only non-original principal to be recorded for posterity with the prestigious Lincoln Center Archives. When her contract was up on Broadway Meredith was asked to star in a groundbreaking production of 42ND ST in Moscow. Being the first American Actress to perform in an English speaking production in Russia.

In the summer of 2003, she graced the stage as Polly Browne in THE BOY FRIEND under the direction of the legendary Julie Andrews. In February 2004, Meredith made her Los Angeles theater debut starring as Louise Maske in Steve Martin's hilarious adaptation of the play THE UNDERPANTS at The Geffen Playhouse for which she received critical acclaim.

About Christina Saffran

Christina's Broadway career is extensive, having starred as Kathy Seldon in *Singin' in the Rain*, (cast recording), Maggie in *A Chorus Line*, Shoo Shoo in *Sophisticated Ladies*, Rosa Bud and Edwin Drood in *Drood*, and Zaneeta in *The Music Man*.

A true triple threat, audiences throughout the world have been thrilled by her leading performances in *My Fair Lady*, *Showboat*, *South Pacific*, *Phantom*, *White Christmas*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Damn Yankees*, *Sound of Music*, *Pajama Game*, *She Loves Me*, *Street Scene*, *Grease*, *Company*, *My One and Only*, *Chess*, *Aspects of Love*, *Me and My Girl*, *I Do I Do...*the list goes on.

Her concert work includes a multitude of styles ranging from engagements as the lead chanteuse for Herbie Hancock, to soloist with numerous national symphony orchestras, and the Duke Ellington Orchestra as well opening for Don Rickles, with her own show in Las Vegas.

She has provided animated voices for Disney's *Aladdin*, *Mulan*, *Magic Flute*, *102 Dalmatians*, *A Bug's Life*, *Armageddon*, *Pocahontas II*, *Hunchback II*, and *Lady and the Tramp II*, and is heard on *Enchanted*, *Cinderella*, *Galaxy Quest*, *Polar Express*, *Christmas with the Kranks*, *The Lorax* and *The Santa Clause II*. Her solo CD entitled *Temporary Insanity* is available at www.LMLMusic.com

Christina a Founding Board member of Retinoblastoma International (www.retinoblastoma.net), an active member of SGI-USA and the International Committee of Artists for Peace. She is a private vocal teacher/coach/vocal contractor in Los Angeles and the mother of two amazing daughters, Grace and Emma.