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Pasadena Symphony Association

Pasadena Symphony & POPS

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For images visit: <http://www.pasadenasympphony-pops.org/press-release-vivaldi-four-seasons>

October 13, 2016

**PASADENA SYMPHONY ANNOUNCES BILLBOARD'S 2014 TOP-SELLING
CLASSICAL INSTRUMENTALIST, ANNE AKIKO MEYERS, TO PERFORM HER
VIVALDI FOUR SEASONS**

Pasadena, CA - The Pasadena Symphony continues their newly-expanded 2015-2016 Singpoli Classics Series on Saturday, **November 7th** with **Anne Akiko Meyers** performing her poetic and powerful **Vivaldi's Four Seasons**. Billboard's 2014 Top-Selling Classical Instrumentalist, Meyers' recordings have consistently met with acclaim, with her Four Seasons debuting # 1 on the Classical Billboard charts. Audiences can hear Meyers bring this chart-topping recording to life at Ambassador Auditorium with both matinee and evening performances at 2:00pm and 8:00pm. A Native of Southern California and a former student of the Colburn School of Performing Arts, Meyers returns to her roots for this exclusive Los Angeles performance, further cementing the Pasadena Symphony as the premiere destination for live symphonic music in the Pasadena region.

"Violinist Anne Akiko Meyers is one of the most adventurous soloists on the international scene today." – *Chicago Classical*

"A no-nonsense account...she vividly portrays the varying moods in Vivaldi's Four Seasons with playing that is quite remarkable in its dexterity and technical brilliance." – *The Strad Magazine*

The Symphony's performance of Vivaldi's Four Seasons brings a reunion for Music Director David Lockington and Anne Akiko Meyers, who recorded her #1 Four Seasons album together in 2014. The Vivaldi album marked many milestones, as it was the recording debut of the precious '**Ex-Vieuxtemps' Guarneri del Gesu violin**, which was recently awarded to Meyers for her lifetime use. Dating from 1741, the 'Mona Lisa' of violins is considered by many to be the finest sounding violin in existence. In near-pristine condition, this legendary instrument is the most expensive violin on record, selling for an estimated \$16 million to Anne's anonymous benefactor. "I had to try it, and instantly fell in love," Meyers says. "It was an incredible chemistry that occurred."

Meyers has noted that her Four Seasons recording with the Vieuxtemps del Gesu marks an "incredible coincidence in history...1741 was the year that Antonio Vivaldi died and that was the year that this violin was made, or born." The genius of both Northern Italian men lay undiscovered for centuries, with Vivaldi's Four Seasons making a come back in the 1950s and to this day remaining as one of the most beloved musical compositions worldwide. To learn more about the Four Seasons or Anne's exquisite violin, join Music Director David Lockington for Insights – a free pre-concert dialogue, which begins one hour prior to each performance.

The Pasadena Symphony provides a socially vibrant experience specially designed for the music lover, the social butterfly or a date night out, and the inner epicurean in us all. Enjoy a drink or a bite in the luxurious Sierra Auto Symphony Lounge, yet another addition to the delightful and elegant concert experience the Pasadena Symphony offers. A posh setting at Ambassador Auditorium's beautiful outdoor plaza, the lounge offers specialized menus for each concert by Claud & Co for both lunch and dinner, a full bar and fine wines by Michero Family Wines, plus music before the concert and during intermission.

The Pasadena Symphony presents matinee and evening performances at 2:00pm and 8:00pm at Ambassador Auditorium, located at 131 South St. John Avenue, Pasadena, CA. Ticket prices start at \$35 and may be purchased online at www.pasadenasympphony-pops.org or by calling (626) 793-7172.

IF YOU GO:

- **What:** The Pasadena Symphony presents Vivaldi Four Seasons.
- **When:** Saturday, November 7 at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
- **Where:** Ambassador Auditorium | 131 South St. John Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91105
- **Cost:** Tickets start at \$35.00
- **Parking:** Valet parking is available on Green Street for \$15. General parking is available in two locations: next to the Auditorium (entrance on St. John Ave) at the covered parking structure for \$10 and directly across the street at the Wells Fargo parking structure (entrance on Terrace at Green St). ADA parking is located at the above-ground parking lot adjacent to the Auditorium (entrance on St. John Ave.) for \$10. Parking purchased onsite is cash only.
- **Sierra Auto Symphony Lounge:** Located on the plaza at Ambassador Auditorium. Opens at 12:30 pm before the matinee and 6 pm before the evening performance.
- **Pre-Concert Discussion:** Pre-concert discussions with David Lockington begins one hour before curtain and is available to all ticket holders at no cost.

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Anne Akiko Meyers

Anne Akiko Meyers is one of the most celebrated violinists embraced around the world today. Her passionate performances, purity of sound and deeply poetic interpretations, innovative programming and commitment to commissioning new works, her rare ability to connect with audiences from the concert stage, online, in television, and radio broadcasts, Meyers has actively maintained an extensive touring schedule for close to 30 years. She regularly performs in recital and as guest soloist with many of the world's top orchestras, and is a best-selling recording artist who has released 32 albums. In 2014, Meyers was the top-selling traditional classical instrumental soloist on Billboard charts.

This fall highlights include a nationwide PBS broadcast special and Naxos DVD release featuring the world premiere of Samuel Jones Violin Concerto with the All-Star Orchestra led by Gerard Schwarz and the French premiere of Mason Bates Violin Concerto with Leonard Slatkin and the Orchestre de

Lyon. Two new recordings will be released – Naïve Classics celebrates Arvo Pärt's 80th birthday with works for violin and orchestra, led by Kristjan Järvi and the MDR Leipzig Orchestra and "Serenade: The Love Album" a recording with Keith Lockhart and the London Symphony Orchestra, features the Bernstein Serenade and 10 newly commissioned arrangements from the American Songbook/Golden Movie Era. Meyers will perform recital and solo appearances throughout North America, Europe and the Middle East.

This past spring, on 24 hours notice, Meyers stepped in to perform and lead the conductor-less Orpheus Chamber Orchestra with the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto in Carnegie Hall and PA and garnered rave reviews. In 2014, eOne Music released *The American Masters*, Ms. Meyers's 30th release, featuring the world premiere recordings of the Mason Bates Violin Concerto and John Corigliano's 'Lullaby for Natalie' (written for the birth of Ms. Meyers's first born daughter). Also featured, the Samuel Barber Violin Concerto, with the London Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Leonard Slatkin. This recording made Google Play's, Best of 2014 and was heralded by critics and audiences alike. Anne also released the *Four Seasons: The Vivaldi Album*, which debuted at #1 on the classical Billboard charts. The Vivaldi Album was the recording debut of the 'Ex-Vieuxtemps' Guarneri del Gesù violin, dated 1741, which was awarded to Meyers for her lifetime use. This instrument is considered by many to be the finest sounding violin in existence.

Meyers's recent performances included recital and concerto appearances in North and South America, Europe and Asia, including performances with the Chicago, Detroit, Nashville, and Richmond Symphony Orchestras of the Mason Bates Violin Concerto, a work she co-commissioned and premiered with the Pittsburgh Symphony in December 2012. A champion of living composers, Meyers has actively added new works to the violin repertoire by commissioning and premiering works by composers such as Mason Bates, Jakub Ciupinski, John Corigliano, Brad Dechter, Jennifer Higdon, Samuel Jones, Wynton Marsalis, Akira Miyoshi, Arvo Pärt, Gene Pritsker, Einojuhani Rautavaara, J.A.C. Redford, Somei Satoh and Joseph Schwantner.

Anne Akiko Meyers has collaborated with a diverse array of artists outside of traditional classical, including jazz icons, Chris Botti and Wynton Marsalis, avant-garde musician, Ryuichi Sakamoto, electronic music pioneer, Isao Tomita, popera group, Il Divo and singer, Michael Bolton. She performed the National Anthem in front of 42,000 fans at Safeco Field in Seattle, and appeared twice on *The Tonight Show* and was featured in a segment on MSNBC's *Countdown* with Keith Olbermann that became the third most popular story of the year.

Recently, she was featured on *CBS Sunday Morning*, CBS' *The Good Wife*, NPR's *Morning Edition* with Linda Wertheimer and *All Things Considered* with Robert Siegel among many other media outlets. Anne was also featured on the popular Nick Jr. show *Take Me to Your Mother*, with Andrea Rosen on the episode, 'Andrea Gets in Tune'. Best-selling novelist Courtney Sullivan consulted with Ms. Meyers for *The Engagements*, and based one of the main characters loosely on Ms. Meyers's career. Anne also collaborated with children's book author and illustrator, Kristine Papillon, on *Crumptet the Trumpet*. A beautiful story/CD about a baby trumpet with Violetta, the violinist, played by Ms. Meyers.

Anne Akiko Meyers was born in San Diego, California and grew up in Southern California. Her teachers include Alice and Eleonore Schoenfeld at the Colburn School of Performing Arts, Josef Gingold at Indiana University, and Felix Galimir, Masao Kawasaki and Dorothy DeLay at the Juilliard School. She received the Avery Fisher Career Grant and serves on the advisory board of Composers Concordance and Young Concert Artists. Ms. Meyers lives with her husband and two young daughters in Austin, Texas.

David Lockington

Over the past thirty-five years, David Lockington has developed an impressive conducting career in the United States. A native of Great Britain, he served as the Music Director of the Grand Rapids Symphony from January 1999 to May 2015, and is currently the orchestra's Conductor Laureate. He has held the position of Music Director with the Modesto Symphony since May 2007 and in March 2013, Mr. Lockington was appointed to the same position with the Pasadena Symphony. He also has a close relationship with the Orquesta Sinfonica del Principado de Asturias in Spain where he is currently the orchestra's Principal Guest Conductor, and beginning with the 15/16 season he will be one of three Artistic Partners with the Northwest Sinfonietta in Tacoma, Washington.

In addition to his current posts, since his arrival to the United States in 1978 Mr. Lockington has also held additional positions with American orchestras, including serving as Assistant Conductor of the Denver Symphony Orchestra and Opera Colorado and Assistant and Associate Conductor of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. In May 1993 he accepted the position of Music Director of the Ohio Chamber Orchestra, assumed the title of Music Director of the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra in September 1995 and was Music Director of the Long Island Philharmonic for the 96/97 through 99/2000 seasons.

Mr. Lockington's guest conducting engagements include appearances with the Saint Louis, Houston, Detroit, Seattle, Toronto, Vancouver, Oregon and Phoenix symphonies; the Rochester and Louisiana Philharmonics; and the Orchestra of St. Luke's at Carnegie Hall. Internationally, he has conducted the Northern Sinfonia in Great Britain, the Israel Chamber Orchestra, the China Broadcasting Symphony Orchestra in Beijing and Taiwan and led the English Chamber Orchestra on a tour in Asia.

Recent and upcoming guest conducting engagements include appearances with the New Jersey, Indianapolis, Vancouver, Utah, Pacific, Colorado, Nashville, San Diego, Syracuse, Edmonton, Alabama, Columbus and Kansas City symphonies, the Florida and Louisville Orchestras, the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa and the Buffalo and Calgary Philharmonics. Mr. Lockington's summer festival activities include appearances at the Grand Teton, Colorado Music, Interlochen, Chautauqua and Eastern Music festivals.

David Lockington began his career as a cellist and was the Principal with the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain for two years. After completing his Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Cambridge, Mr. Lockington came to the United States on a scholarship to Yale University where he received his Master's degree in cello performance and studied conducting with Otto Werner Mueller. He was a member of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra and served as assistant principal cellist for three years with the Denver Symphony Orchestra before turning to conducting.

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.

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