

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pasadena Symphony Association
Pasadena Symphony & POPS
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For images and artist bios visit: <https://pasadenasymphony-pops.org/press-release-music-under-the-stars-2019/>

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**THE PASADENA SYMPHONY AND POPS BRINGS BROADWAY TO HOLLYWOOD FOR
MUSIC UNDER THE STARS, A FREE CONCERT AT PASADENA CITY HALL**

Presented by Bank of America, this annual family friendly event brings Pasadena's premiere orchestra to Centennial Square for one night only

Pasadena, CA – Stars of stage and screen will illuminate the night sky when The Pasadena Symphony and POPS presents its annual free **Music Under the Stars** concert on **Saturday, June 1** at **Pasadena City Hall's Centennial Square**. Presented with sponsorship support from **Bank of America**, the 2019 Music Under the Stars concert will celebrate treasured music that traveled from 42nd St. to Hollywood and back, spanning the Broadway canon from **Hello Dolly** to **Meet Me in St. Louis** to **Gigi**. Highlights include "The Trolley Song," "My Funny Valentine," and "New York New York" among many other classics.

Under the baton of Tony Award-nominated, **Resident POPS Conductor Larry Blank**, the orchestra will welcome three guest vocalists and the **JPL Chorus** to the stage. Best known for his role as Ian Troi on *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, multiple Emmy and Grammy nominee **Amick Byram** brings his dynamic range to the program. Returning again this year, **Valerie Perri**, who made a successful career of performing the role of the charismatic Eva Peron from "Evita," will sweep you away with her dulcet tones. La Cañada native **Finn Sagal** rounds out the pack as a young and charismatic singer who was crowned the Great American Songbook Youth Ambassador as winner of the 2017 Songbook Academy® Award.

The family fun begins at 6:00pm 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.

This family-friendly event is presented with the support of Bank of America's arts program, which supports nonprofit arts and culture presenters at the local level and 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.

Gates open at 6:00pm and the concert begins at 8:00pm. 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 for purchase. For more information, visit 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
- **Special Guests:** Larry Blank (conductor), Amick Byram, Valerie Perri & Finn Sagal (soloists), JPL Chorus
- **When:** Saturday, June 1, 2019. Gates open for pre-concert festivities at 6:00pm; concert begins at 8:00pm
- **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 ARTISTS

Larry Blank Conductor

Resident Pops Conductor, 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.

Larry has received Tony and Drama Desk nominations for his orchestrations of *Catch Me If You Can*, *The Drowsy Chaperone* and *White Christmas*. Larry also received Drama Desk nominations for *A Christmas Story* and *Honeymoon in Vegas*.

Other Broadway orchestrations can be heard in the Lincoln Centre production of *The Nance* as well as *Fame Becomes Me*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *The Producers*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *Tommy Tune: White Tie and Tails*.

Larry is currently orchestrating *Roman Holiday* (Golden Gate Theatre, San Francisco).

Recent projects include *Holiday Inn* (Universal/Roundabout Theater); *Guys and Dolls* (Chichester Festival Theatre, West End and Tour); *Mrs Henderson Presents* (Theatre Royal Bath, West End & Toronto); *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Vaudeville) and *Mack & Mabel* (Chichester Festival Theatre and UK Tour).

In the West End, Larry orchestrated *City of Angels* (Donmar Warehouse); *White Christmas* (Dominion); *Singin' in the Rain* (Palace Theatre, UK tour, Japan, International tour, Russia and Australia); *Carousel*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Guys and Dolls*, *The Producers*, *The Beautiful and Damned* and *Mack & Mabel*.

Larry's film orchestrations can be heard in *The Producers* and *Chicago*. Larry was the conductor/arranger/orchestrator for Jerry Herman's title song for the film *Barney's Great Adventure*, sung by Bernadette Peters, as well as orchestrating/arranging two songs for *South Park* for Marc Shaiman; music supervisor/orchestrator for Jerry Herman's *Mrs Santa Claus* with Angela Lansbury; arranger/orchestrator for the films *What's the Worst That Could Happen?*, *The Kid*, *Kiss the Girls*, *The American President*, *Forget Paris*, *City Slickers II: the Legend of Curly's Gold*, *The Net*, *That's Entertainment! III*, *All Dogs Go to Heaven 2*, *Bogus*, *North*, *Speechless*, *I'd Do Anything*, *Stuart Saves His Family*, *Aladdin and the King of Thieves*, *The Jungle Book 2* and *Cats Don't Dance*; composer for two episodes of the television series *In the Heat of the Night*, as well as music for *Sweating Bullets* and the Grammys.

Larry has arranged and/or conducted for Barbra Streisand, Michael Feinstein (including two tours of Australia and New Zealand), Marilyn Horne, Michael Crawford, Christine Andreas, Joe Williams, Yanni, Marvin Hamlisch, Bernadette Peters, Steve Lawrence, Vikki Carr, Pete Fountain, Elaine Stritch, Lorna Luft, Elaine Paige, Jason Alexander, Martin Short, Georgia Brown and many others.

Larry has orchestrated and arranged for four Academy Awards shows including parts of the (Marc Shaiman-arranged) Billy Crystal medleys.

Larry regularly conducts for BBC Radio 2 *Friday Night is Music Night*. Larry orchestrates the *Olivier Awards* for the Society of London Theatre. Larry conducted the *Olivier Awards* at the Royal Opera House in 2015 and 2016.

Amick Byram

Soloist

Amick Byram's talents are well established in film, television, and theater. He sang the role of Moses in the Dreamworks animated film, *The Prince of Egypt* and was featured on camera as soloist Marcus Thornton in the film, *A Million Ways to Die in the West*. Other films include: *La La Land*, *Star Trek*, *Planet of the Apes*, *The Grinch*, *Night at the Museum*, *Shrek*, *Aladdin*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Lion King*, *Pocahontas*, *Hercules*, *Mulan*, and *The Greatest Game Ever Played* just to name a few.

Amick is a two-time Grammy Award nominee and his solo vocal performance of "Christmas Time is Killing Us" was nominated for an Emmy Award for best song. He has voiced over 100 episodes of *The Simpsons*, is a regular on *Family Guy* and *American Dad* and is the singing voice of David in *West Bank Story*, which won an Academy Award for best short live action film.

In theater Amick has appeared in *Phantom of the Opera* (Broadway), *Les Miserables*, and *Sunset Boulevard* as Joe Gillis opposite Glenn Close. Other roles include *Sky/Guys and Dolls*, *Tommy/Brigadoon*, *Jesus/Superstar*, *Freddy/My Fair Lady*, *Julio/Paint Your Wagon*.

Amick has also guest starred on prime time television from *Frasier* to *Friends* and was a series regular for three years on *Superior Court* playing Attorney Darrell Guillary. Trekkies know him as Ian Troi, Counselor Troi's father on *Star Trek: The Next Generation* and Amick is featured on three *Star Trek* trading cards.

He is a regular concert and symphony soloist in the US and internationally having performed at Disney Hall, John Anson Ford Theater, and at Victoria Hall in Geneva just to name a few.

Valerie Perri

Soloist

Valerie Perri recently starred as Dolly Levi in 3D-Theatricals *Hello Dolly*. Eric Marchese of the *Orange County Register* said, "Valerie Perri delivers a knockout performance as Dolly. Proving a worthy successor to past stars, she's part Channing, part Streisand, part Fanny Brice and 100 percent Dolly."

Valerie's career began under the direction of legendary Director/Producer Harold Prince when he chose her to play Eva Peron in the Broadway National of *Evita*. She has also had the honor of working with esteemed Director/Choreographer Jerome Robbins in the Broadway National of *Jerome Robbins' Broadway*. She starred as Norma Desmond in the hit musical *Sunset Blvd* at The Karen and Richard Carpenter Center, which garnered her best actress nomination from Broadway World and also a Los Angeles Stage Scene Award for Best Performance of the Year 2013. She is a recipient of the John Raitt Award for best Cabaret Performance 2014.

She has sung for concert hall audiences worldwide, from Disney Hall to Carnegie Hall and internationally at the Opera House in Frankfurt and the London Palladium. Her television and film credits include *Criminal Minds*, *ER*, *Another World*, *The Out of Towners*, *George of the Jungle*, *Grease*, and *Dickie Roberts*. Valerie's compact disc, *Sweet Conversation* is available on iTunes and you can find her on all social media platforms.

Finn Sagal

Soloist

Finn Sagal is the winner of the 2017 Songbook Academy® competition and served that year as the Songbook Youth Ambassador. He is a recent graduate of La Cañada High School, and is now a freshman at UCLA's Herb Alpert School of Music, majoring in Vocal Performance/Opera studying under Juliana Gondek.

Finn is the winner of the prestigious ASCAP Foundation's: Leiber and Stoller Scholarship, as well as UCLA'S Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme Scholarship and Gluck Fellows Scholarship. This summer he is looking forward to working with the Seraphic Fire Professional Choral Institute at the Aspen Music Festival and also studying with Mikael Eliassen at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia. Recently, Finn was one of the winners of UCLA's Vocal Vision Awards Competition and will be performing in the World Premiere of the new Opera "Lost Childhood" at UCLA Opera this May.

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 300 gifted 4th-12th grade students from more than 50 schools all over the Southern California region. The PYSO has toured internationally at prestigious venues in New York, Vienna, and most recently San Jose, Costa Rica. They regularly perform throughout Southern California and have appeared 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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