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**Pasadena Symphony Association
Pasadena Symphony & POPS**
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For hi res images please visit: <https://pasadenasympphony-pops.org/music-of-elton-john-starring-michael-cavanaugh/>

**TONY AND GRAMMY-NOMINATED SINGING SENSATION MICHAEL
CAVANAUGH BRINGS THE MUSIC OF ELTON JOHN TO THE ARBORETUM**

Pasadena, CA - The Pasadena POPS continue their one-of-a-kind, popular outdoor summer concert series with **The Music of Elton John Starring Michael Cavanaugh** on **Saturday, August 24** at the **LA County Arboretum**. Hand-picked by Billy Joel himself, Cavanaugh got his start as the lead role in the Broadway musical *Movin' Out*, which earned him both Grammy and Tony Award nominations. Acclaimed for his highly energized piano and lead vocals, Cavanaugh has expanded his repertoire to include an electrifying tribute to Sir Elton John, which he brings to the Arboretum stage for one night only with the Pasadena POPS.

Hear your favorite "Rocket Man" hits with "Crocodile Rock," "Tiny Dancer," "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road," "Bennie and the Jets," "Candle in the Wind" and many more. For this exclusive Southern California engagement, Cavanaugh will breathe new life into these rock 'n roll classics for a night of sing-along favorites with the POPS Orchestra and a full back-up band. "[Cavanaugh] has reinvented these songs into something that dare I say sometimes improves upon the originals." (*MD Theatre Guide*).

This is not Cavanaugh's first rodeo with the POPS, having performed The Music of Billy Joel in 2016 to a nearly sold-out audience. "Michael's show is hands down the best contemporary symphony pops show we have had the honor to present," commented Chief Executive Officer Lora Unger. "The combination of popular songs, his talent as a superb showman and the excellent charts make this a must-have for both the orchestra and the audience."

All concerts are held at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden. Grounds open for picnicking at 5:30pm and performances begin at 7:30pm. Don't miss the best outdoor dinner party in town with spacious circular table seating with fine linens, or lawn seating for those who want to bring a blanket – each option carries on the tradition of picnic-dining with your family and friends and Pasadena's premier orchestra. Among many venue amenities, concert goers can enjoy pre-ordered gourmet dining packages for on-site pickup from Julienne, Marston's and Claud & Co. The venue also hosts mouth-watering food trucks and the convenience of two full beverage centers serving fine wines, beer, coffee and soft drinks.

Audiences get the ultimate outdoor concert experience with large LED video screens to see Michael Cavanaugh and the orchestra up close, superior sound and the high-quality production value that is a signature of the Pasadena POPS. For those who want to make a night of it, exclusive hotel packages are available for POPS patrons at Pasadena's landmark Hotel Constance.

The Arboretum is located at 301 North Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA. Subscribers may purchase pre-paid onsite parking at the Arboretum, and all concertgoers can purchase guaranteed and convenient parking at Santa Anita Park, located just across Baldwin Ave. with complimentary non-stop shuttle service to the Arboretum's main entrance.

Single tickets start at \$25 and are available by calling the box office at (626)-793-7172, online at PasadenaSymphony-Pops.org or at the Arboretum on the day of the concerts.

IF YOU GO:

- **What:** The Pasadena POPS presents *The Music of Elton John Starring Michael Cavanaugh*
Michael Cavanaugh, soloist
Larry Blank, conductor
- **When:** August 24, 2019 at 7:30pm
- **Where:** The LA County Arboretum | 301 N Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA 91007
- **Cost:** Tickets start at \$25.00
- **Dining:** Gates open at 5:30pm for picnicking. Guests are welcome to bring their own food and drink or visit one of the many onsite food vendors.
- **Parking:** Subscribers have the opportunity to purchase onsite Arboretum parking. Single ticket holders may purchase guaranteed and convenient parking at Santa Anita Park, located just across Baldwin Ave., with non-stop shuttle service to the Arboretum's main entrance for \$10 in advance or onsite (cash only).

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*.

"In his five years leading the PSO, Lockington has taken an ensemble that was already quite good and elevated it into one where excellence is the byword." – *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.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Michael Cavanaugh Soloist

Michael Cavanaugh is the new voice of the American Rock & Roll Songbook and a charismatic performer and musician made famous for his piano/lead vocals in the Broadway musical *Movin' Out*. Handpicked by Billy Joel to star in *Movin' Out*, Cavanaugh evokes a style rivaling the Piano Man. He appeared in the show for 3 years with over 1,200 performances, and received multiple accolades. The show culminated in 2003 with both Grammy and Tony award nominations.

Michael began playing at age 7, when his parents bought their first piano. Encouraged by family and friends, and inspired by his hero Billy Joel, Michael formed his first band at age 10 and began playing local functions, fine-tuning the craft that would become his chosen career. His first full time gig as a musician was an extended engagement in Orlando, Florida at a piano bar called Blazing Pianos. In January of 1999, Michael received an offer that would unknowingly change his life: an opportunity to play Las Vegas at the famed New York, New York Hotel and Casino. It was there that Billy Joel spotted Michael and joined him on stage one fateful night of February 2001. It only took 2 songs before Billy was convinced that he had found his new Piano Man: Michael Cavanaugh. Michael closed up shop at New York, New York and moved to New York City to work alongside Billy Joel and Twyla Tharp, to shape the Broadway Musical that would be called *Movin' Out*. In the lead role, he received both Tony and Grammy nominations.

With the close of *Movin' Out* at the end of 2005, Michael began touring in his own right, creating a show that reinterprets the modern pop/rock songbook. Michael soon became one of

the hottest artist's in the private events market and he continues to perform worldwide for company and charity events as well as sporting events including countless PGA tour events, the Super Bowl, and the Indy 500. His interpretation of the modern rock/pop songbook led to *Billboard* calling him "The New Voice of the American Rock and Roll Songbook" and he was recognized by Reuters as Entertainer of the Year for the private events market.

It wasn't long before Symphony Orchestras discovered Michael's talents and audience appeal. He accepted his first orchestral booking, "Michael Cavanaugh – The Songs of Billy Joel and More" which debuted in April 2008 with the Indianapolis Symphony and continues to tour today. In October 2008, he signed with Warner/ADA to distribute his first CD, *In Color*. In June 2010, Michael debuted his second symphony show in the Generations of Rock series entitled "Michael Cavanaugh: The Songs of Elton John and More" and then debuted his third symphony show "Singers and Songwriters: the Music of Paul Simon, Neil Diamond and James Taylor," in 2012. In 2015, He debuted his fourth symphony show: Rockin' Christmas with the Pops. He continues to tour all four symphony productions along with performing with his band in Performing Arts Centers and other public venues.

The Way I Hear It, his second commercial album, was released in April 2017 and it debuted at #17 on the Billboard Heatseekers chart.

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 and conducted the *Olivier Awards* at the Royal Opera House in 2015 and 2016.

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