

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Pasadena Symphony Association**  
**Pasadena Symphony & POPS**  
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**For artist images and bios visit:**

[pasadenasympphony-pops.org/classical-mystery-tour-a-tribute-to-the-beatles](https://pasadenasympphony-pops.org/classical-mystery-tour-a-tribute-to-the-beatles)

**RELIVE THE BEATLES' GREATEST HITS WITH CLASSICAL MYSTERY TOUR AND THE PASADENA POPS**

*Concert Features Dozens of Beatles Songs Performed Exactly as They Were Recorded*

**Pasadena, CA** – The **Pasadena POPS** celebrate the best of **The Beatles** with **Classical Mystery Tour** on **Saturday, August 28** at the **Los Angeles County Arboretum**. Back by popular demand, **Classical Mystery Tour: A Tribute to the Beatles** brings the timeless hits of the Fab Four to life with a fresh set list of favorites from the early years to *Sgt. Pepper's* through their solo careers. Spanning The Beatles' vast catalog, tracks include "Yesterday," "Here Comes the Sun," "A Day in the Life," "While My Guitar Gently Weeps," "Hey Jude," "Imagine," plus many more.

Classical Mystery Tour performers include **Jim Owen** (John Lennon), **Paul Curatolo** (Paul McCartney), **Joe Bithorn** (George Harrison) and **Joe Bologna** (Ringo Starr). The quartet looks and sounds just like The Beatles, with unforgettable music and costumes, 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 with a full orchestra – like you've never heard them before. The *Los Angeles Times* raved that Classical Mystery Tour was "more than just an incredible simulation...the crowd stood and bellowed for more." You might say it's the best show the Beatles never did!

"The orchestral score is exact, right down to every note and instrument that was on the original recording," explains Jim Owen, one of the founders of Classical Mystery Tour. "It's always been our goal to play Beatles music as close as possible to the way they did it, because really, they did it the best."

In order to provide the safest possible experience for all concertgoers, **entry to all Pasadena POPS concerts will require proof of full Covid-19 vaccination**. For a list of accepted forms of proof and the most up to date venue safety protocols, please visit [pasadenasympphony-pops.org/covid-19-safety-protocols-pops](https://pasadenasympphony-pops.org/covid-19-safety-protocols-pops).

All concerts are held at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Gardens. Grounds open for picnicking and dining 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 listening to the San Gabriel Valley's premier orchestra! Among many venue amenities, concert goers can enjoy pre-ordered gourmet box dinners for on-site pickup from Claud's or Julienne, or VIP table service from the Peacock Café, as well as a variety of food truck options and two full-service beverage centers.

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, with complimentary non-stop shuttle service to the Arboretum's main entrance.

Single tickets start at \$25. Season subscriptions and single tickets are now on sale, and are available by calling the box office at (626)-793-7172, online at [PasadenaSymphony-Pops.org](http://PasadenaSymphony-Pops.org) or at the Arboretum on concert days.

#### IF YOU GO:

- **What:** The Pasadena POPS presents Classical Mystery Tour with Larry Blank, conductor
- **When:** Saturday, August 28, 2021 at 7:30 pm
- **Where:** The Los Angeles County Arboretum | 301 N Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA 91007
- **Cost:** Tickets start at \$25.00
- **Dining:** Gates open at 5:30pm. Guests are welcome to bring their own food and drink, pre-order from our restaurant partners, or visit one of the onsite food trucks.
- **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 complimentary non-stop shuttle service to the Arboretum's main entrance.

#### ABOUT CLASSICAL MYSTERY TOUR

Since its initial show at the Orange County Performing Arts Center (now renamed the Segerstrom Center for the Arts) in 1996, *Classical Mystery Tour* has performed with more than 100 orchestras across the United States and around the world, receiving accolades from fans and the media. The Los Angeles Times called the show "more than just an incredible simulation...the swelling strings and soaring French horn lines gave the live performance a high goose-bump quotient...the crowd stood and bellowed for more."

"We really make an effort to sound exactly like the originals," explains James Owen, the founder of *Classical Mystery Tour* who also portrays John Lennon in the show. "The orchestra score is exact, right down to every note and instrument that was on the original recording. On 'Got to Get You Into My Life,' we have two tenor saxes and three trumpets. That's what it was written for, and that's what we use. And on 'A Day in the Life,' that final big orchestra crescendo sounds amazing when it's played live."

The release of The Beatles music on iTunes, plus the popularity of The Beatles Box Set and Beatles Rock Band, set off a new wave of Beatlemania and proved that The Beatles are more popular than ever. Because many Beatles fans never had the opportunity to experience a live Beatles show, *Classical Mystery Tour* offers that live experience—with a symphony orchestra.

"We have some real show-stopping numbers," says Owen. "I wish I could actually be in the audience to see and hear this show, because the power of the emotional and nostalgic connection this music has with audiences is hard to put into words."

**Larry Blank**  
**Resident Pops 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.

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 three times for both the Tony Award and the Drama Desk Award for his orchestrations in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Irving Berlin's White Christmas* and with Marc Shaiman for *Catch Me If You Can*. Larry received a Drama Desk Nomination for orchestrations for *A Christmas Story*.

Larry contributed to the orchestrations for both the stage and film production of *The Producers*, the film *Chicago* and is a regular conductor and arranger for BBC RADIO 2 Friday Night Is Music Night in the UK. Larry is also the Music Supervisor and Orchestrator (along with Mark Cumberland) for the *Olivier Awards* in London.

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 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.

Mr. Blank has guest conducted most of the orchestras throughout the world, including The San Francisco Symphony, The New York Philharmonic, Western Australia Symphony Orchestra, The Los Angeles Philharmonic, Palm Beach Pops, Auckland Symphony, The National Symphony Orchestra, The Boston Pops, The Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Calgary Symphony, New Orleans Symphony and Toronto.

**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 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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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