



NEWS RELEASE

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***The Soraya Presents the World Premiere of
“Invocations”
Composed and Performed by Serj Tankian
With CSUN Symphony Orchestra and Special Guests***

***Sat, Apr 29 at 8PM; Tickets starting at \$41 at
www.TheSoraya.org***

(Los Angeles, CA) March 13, 2023 —With a vocal range over four octaves, CSUN alumnus **Serj Tankian** is considered one of the greatest vocalists in Rock Metal history and best known for fronting the popular band **System Of A Down**. The songwriter, poet, painter, producer, and political activist returns to The Soraya on Sat, Apr 29 at 8pm to perform vocals on his new suite of compositions, **“Invocations”**— music that calls on spirits to co-inspire or inter-inspire. The performance features the CSUN Symphony Orchestra, and special guest vocalists Azam Ali, Charles Elliot, Brian Thorsett, Francesca Genco, and special guest instrumentalists Antranig Kzirian, Jivan Gasparyan Jr., and Lilit Khojayan.

Tickets starting at \$41 are available now at www.thesoraya.org or by calling the Box Office at (818) 677-3000.

“I’m really excited to be back at The Soraya for “Invocations,” a completely new performance, this time an operatic piece for an ensemble,” [said Tankian](#). “I find these pieces—from all the compositions I’ve done—invoke something, they invoke a spirituality, this connection in us that music is meant to do. This is going to be a really unique performance that I really want to share with people, and they will leave changed. That is our goal.”

Spanning over a decade of his career from different sources and backgrounds, “Invocations” is music that plays on the deepest heart strings of the listener at a tempo that sets the heart to rest and the spirit to wander. Sonically, Tankian’s new work is symphonic, cinematic, and emotive and will bring the CSUN Symphony Orchestra, ethnic instrumentalists, and a variety of vocalists together on stage.

“Some artists stick to their lane, while others keep morphing, ever-curious and ever-creative. Serj Tankian is definitely the latter,” said Thor Steingraber, The Soraya’s Executive and Artistic

Director. “There seem to be no limits to his imagination, and we’re very fortunate that he brings some of these artistic adventures to us here at The Soraya and CSUN, his alma mater.”

For more information visit www.thesoraya.org or call the Ticket Office at (818) 677-3000. For ticket holds and interview requests, please contact The Soraya Communications Associate [Marie Estrada](#), or PR Consultant [Gary Murphy](#).
[DOWNLOAD IMAGES FROM PRESS KIT HERE](#).

About Serj Tankian

A singer, poet, songwriter, visual artist, film producer, activist, and composer, Serj Tankian has always created music as an outlet to express his thoughts and feelings with a level of passion and consciousness that few in today’s world of music can rival. An Armenian born in Lebanon and re-rooted in Los Angeles, Tankian was introduced to the melding of cultures, ideas, and ideals from a very young age. The principles learned from this integration and adaptation have led to his understanding of the oneness of all things and have since maneuvered and transfigured into the music and art that he lives to create. As the lead singer and songwriter for System Of A Down, Serj has released five studio albums, winning a GRAMMY Award in 2006 for “B.Y.O.B.” and selling over 40 million albums worldwide.

Despite this success, Serj has never grown complacent with his art, always striving to open new channels of sound and arrangement to articulate his artistic expressions. He has released multiple albums of solo material, beginning with 2007’s chart-topping hard rock album *Elect The Dead*. His sophomore solo album *Imperfect Harmonies* was released in 2010, followed by *Harakiri* in 2012. 2013 saw two distinct releases from Serj, the first being the critically acclaimed *Orca Symphony No. 1*, released in June of that year, followed up with the unique *Jazz-Iz Christ* one month later. Throughout 2021, Tankian released a treasure trove of new music beginning with his critically acclaimed rock EP *Elasticity*. *Cool Gardens Poetry Suite* came next, which was an amalgam of cinematic music and Serj’s recital of his own poetry. This was followed up by a two-part collection of instrumental music dubbed *Cinematique Series: Illuminate* and *Cinematique Series: Violent Violins*. 2021 was capped with *Live in Edmonton*, a raucous live performance Tankian and his backing band The F.C.C. recorded shortly after the release of *Elect The Dead*. *Live at Leeds*, another concert performance recording was released in April of 2022 followed by *Perplex Cities* in October of the same year. The five-song EP is Tankian’s latest studio release that he describes “is a completely different sound than what I’ve done before. More electronic, subtle and deeper in terms of its layers of presentation musically.”

Over the past few years, his time spent in the recording studio has been focused on creating musical scores and compositions for film and video game projects. Serj recently lent his vocals to a modern-day cover of Blue Öyster Cult’s rock classic “Godzilla” for the blockbuster Michael Dougherty film *Godzilla: King Of The Monsters*. In 2022, Serj also lent his vocals for critically acclaimed video game *Metal:Hellsinger* on the epic track "No Tomorrow." He also recorded a

modern version of the Armenian folk song “Sari Siroun Yar” along with the Authentic Light Orchestra for the film *The Promise*, directed by Terry George and starring Christian Bale and Oscar Isaac. Serj was also brought on by Survival Pictures, the producers of the film, to serve as an Executive Music Consultant.

His most recent cinematic works include music for upcoming Netflix Original series “Crime Scene – The Texas Killing Fields” created by Oscar-nominated director Joe Berlinger as well as composing for the second season of Zac Efron's “Down To Earth” series.

Serj’s resume also includes the formation of record label, Serjical Strike Records (established in 2001), which has released albums from many critically acclaimed artists, including Fair To Midland, Buckethead and Death By Stereo.

Along with fellow musician Tom Morello (Rage Against The Machine, Audioslave), Serj co-founded the non-profit organization Axis Of Justice in 2002, which strives to bring together musicians, music fans and grassroots political organizations to fight for social justice. He has also dabbled in the world of broadcasting as co-host of the Axis Of Justice Radio Network, which can be heard via Sirius Satellite Radio and KPFK in Los Angeles.

About CSUN Symphony Orchestra

The CSUN Symphony Orchestra is regarded as one of the finest university orchestras in the Western United States. Under the direction of Dr. John Roscigno, the CSUN Symphony offers a full range of orchestral experiences for the career-oriented student, including four major concerts a year as well as choral, opera and musical theater performances.

Alumni of the CSUN Symphony have gone on to careers with Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, the New World Symphony, and the Symphonies of San Francisco, Houston, Toronto, San Diego, and others.

What: “Invocations” Composed and Performed by Serj Tankian with CSUN Sympony Orchestra and Special Guests

When: Sat, Apr 29 at 8pm

Tickets: Tickets are \$41-\$109

For all ticket information visit www.thesoraya.org or call the Ticket Office at (818) 677-3000.

**Where: Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya)
18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330.**

Website: www.thesoraya.org

Phone: 818-677-3000

About The Soraya

Located on the vibrant and diverse campus of California State University in the heart of Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley, The Soraya continues its vigorous commitment to innovating, exceling, and amplifying access by offering a wide variety of performances that reflect LA's many distinctive communities and featuring new and original work from the Los Angeles region as well as artists from around the world.