



NEWS RELEASE

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The Soraya's Classical Programming for 2023

A celebration of Rachmaninoff at 150, 4 new commissions, World and West Coast Premieres, and a focus on Eastern European composers.

Upcoming Highlights Include:

- **The World Premiere of *Treelogy: A Musical Portrait of California's Redwood, Sequoia and Joshua Tree*** featuring Billy Childs, Steven Mackey, Gabriella Smith, and Delirium Musicum (Feb 23)
- Pianist H el ene Grimaud and Wild Up **Celebrate Ukrainian Composer Valentyn Silvestrov** (Jan 26)
- Sitkovetsky Trio to Premiere New Work by Julia Adolphe, Commissioned by The Soraya (Mar 5)
- Delirium Musicum's ***Four Seasons Reimagined*** by Philip Glass & Max Richter (May 10 & 11)

(Los Angeles, CA) December 20, 2022—The New Year will usher in a new season of classical music performances to the stage of **The Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts** (The Soraya) on the campus of Cal State Northridge. **The Soraya** puts the spotlight on West Coast and world premieres, star soloists, world renowned orchestras, and intimate chamber music that will reverberate within the walls of The Soraya's pristine acoustics.

A World Premiere

Treelogy, a three-part musical reflection in response to California's recent deadly wildfires, the most destructive in history, will receive its world premiere on Thu, Feb 23. The Soraya commissioned three composers—Billy Childs, Steven Mackey, and Gabriella Smith—to honor California's beloved and threatened native tree species, the Giant Sequoia, the Coastal Redwood, and the Joshua Trees. Performed by the composers and Delirium Musicum.

The concert, produced by The Soraya, follows another recent first—[The Israel Philharmonic made a historic Soraya debut](#) on Sat, Nov 5 with new music director **Lahav Shani** whose appearance prompted *LA Times* critic Mark Swed to salute it as one of the Best Classical events

of 2022. Along with hailing Shani as a “new Israeli leader,” the performance also marked another milestone – the first ever Mahler symphony to resound in The Soraya’s Great Hall.

Extraordinary Talents

Pianists **Hélène Grimaud** and **Conrad Tao**, and **Kariné Poghosyan** – a trio of superstars – offer new ways of interpreting classical works from Mozart, Rachmaninoff, and Purcell. Masters of their instruments, these musicians will enthrall audiences and illuminate a bridge from each composer’s era to the 21st Century. **Hélène Grimaud** teams up with LA’s own **Wild Up** music ensemble under the baton of **Christopher Rountree** to celebrate Ukrainian composer **Valentyn Silvestrov**.

The Soraya’s **Artist-in-Residence Étienne Gara** and his ensemble, **Delirium Musicum** Chamber Orchestra, will close out the 2022-23 Season with artists performing two evenings of Vivaldi’s *Four Seasons* Reimagined by Max Richter and Philip Glass.

Rachmaninoff at 150

The last of the Romantics, Russian composer **Sergei Rachmaninoff** forged a new musical path for modern composers. The Soraya celebrates Rachmaninoff’s piano prowess – both as a performer and composer – and the 150th anniversary of his birth with three stellar performances. The artist not only influenced the lush Hollywood sound of movie-music, but also frequented New York Jazz clubs for creative inspiration after his emigration from Russia in 1917.

The Sitkovetsky Trio kicks off our celebration on Sunday, March 5, 2023 with the composer’s early work, *Trio élégiaque* and then piano wonder **Conrad Tao** juxtaposes the piano works of Art Tatum and Billy Strayhorn with modern interpretations of Rachmaninoff’s piano études on Thursday, April 6. In between, CSUN alumna **Kariné Poghosyan** tackles Rachmaninoff’s re-written Piano Sonata No. 2 played just feet away from the audience in The Soraya’s popular Onstage Sessions series.

For tickets and information, visit TheSoraya.org/calendar or call the Ticket Office at (818) 677-3000. For interview and ticket requests, contact Marie Estrada, Communications Associate (marie.estrada@csun.edu), or Gary Murphy, Consultant (gmurphypr@gmail.com).

[Access your press kit here for photos.](#)

The Soraya’s 2023 Classical Series

Thu, Jan 26, 2023 | 8pm, Great Hall

[Hélène Grimaud Plays Silvestrov and Mozart with Wild Up; Christopher Rountree, Music Director and Conductor](#)

French pianist Hélène Grimaud celebrates **contemporary Ukrainian composer Valentyn Silvestrov**, pairing his music with none other than Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. The restless and

revered pianist has dominated classical music for three decades, not only with her dazzling performances, but for her many other passions as well, including wildlife conservation and the wolf sanctuary she founded.

She will join forces with Soraya favorite Christopher Rountree and his ensemble Wild Up for this one-of-a-kind musical pairing. Beginning with Mozart's dark and stormy Piano Concerto in D Minor, the concert transitions into Silvestrov's *The Messenger* that offers both a response to, and an echo of, Mozart's music. Grimaud will also perform Silvestrov's *Two Dialogues with Postscript* with its echoes of both Schubert and Wagner.

Wed, Feb 15, 2023 | 8pm, Great Hall

**[Filharmonie Brno Perform music by Czech composers Dvořák, Janáček, and Martinů;](#)
[Dennis Russell Davies, Chief Conductor and Artistic Director](#)**

This concert takes audiences on a journey to historic Czechoslovakia. The pastoral landscape and folklore of Eastern Europe are brought to life through the music of three esteemed Czech composers – Dvořák, Janáček, and Martinů – performed by the Czech Republic's own Brno Philharmonic. This authentic and memorable program recalls the spirit of the Czech people during its bucolic pre-World-War II empire.

Thu, Feb 23, 2023 | 8pm, Great Hall

[Treelogy: A Musical Portrait of California's Redwood, Sequoia and Joshua Trees](#)

World Premiere / Commissioned and produced by The Soraya

Treelogy is a celebration and a call to action to save California's beloved and iconic trees. Inspired by California's epic wildfires chronicled by *The New York Times* journalist John Branch, The Soraya's Executive and Artistic Director, Thor Steingraber, and artist in residence Etienne Gara, have created a musical response to the fires, and a tribute to these precious trees. Renowned composers Billy Childs, Steven Mackey, and Gabriella Smith — all with deep California roots of their own — have each composed original music for this three-part concert. Produced, commissioned, and presented by The Soraya, ***Treelogy*** will tour the state bringing together scientists, educators, activists & advocates along with its inspiring message to campuses across California. This unprecedented multi-disciplinary effort will emphasize the pride of our state and the memories of every family's national park vacation.

Sun, Mar 5, 2023 | 7pm, Onstage Sessions

[Sitkovetsky Trio Perform Rachmaninoff, Ravel, Mendelssohn and a Premiere by Julia Adolphe](#)

Co-commissioned by The Soraya

West Coast Premiere

The Sitkovetsky Trio celebrates Sergei Rachmaninoff's 150th birthday performing his *Trio élégiaque*, composed for piano, violin and cello when he was 18-years old. In addition to Ravel's technically challenging trio and Mendelssohn's richly harmonic trio No. 2, Sitkovetsky Trio will premiere a new work by L.A. based composer Julia Adolphe whose music is described as "alive with invention."

This concert is part of The Soraya's intimate, on-stage seating chamber series designed to place audiences in the very heart of the performance.

Wed, Mar 8, 2023 | 8pm, Onstage Sessions

[Kariné Poghosyan](#)

CSUN Alumni Concert

Armenian-American pianist and CSUN alumna **Kariné Poghosyan** has been described as an “extraordinary” and “larger than life” musician, whose playing “goes to the heart of the music.” Following a successful performance at Carnegie Hall, she returns to her alma mater with a program rich with music from Armenia's best-known composer, **Aram Khachaturian**, including two excerpts from his ballet works and his rarely performed Piano Sonata. **Sergei Rachmaninoff's** 150th birthday celebration continues with the 1931 re-written version of his Piano Sonata No. 2 played with the audience seated on-stage, just feet away from the piano.

Thu, Apr 6, 2023 | 8pm, Great Hall

[Conrad Tao Plays Rachmaninoff](#)

Firebrand pianist Conrad Tao is shaping the future of classical music through his rich and unique interpretations of the Classical Canon.

For his debut appearance at The Soraya, the prodigy breaks open Rachmaninoff, reflecting on the composer's contemporary influence in celebration of the 150th anniversary of his birth. Weaving in contemporary works from Stephen Sondheim, Billy Strayhorn, and Art Tatum with improvisations on Rachmaninoff's breathtakingly lush melodies, Tao illuminates the work for new generations of music lovers.

Wed & Thu, May 10 & 11, 2023 | 8pm, Onstage Sessions

[Delirium Musicum Chamber Orchestra](#)

[Four Seasons Reimagined by Max Richter and Philip Glass](#)

In the signature style of a young artist shaking up the classical music scene, violinist and Soraya's Artist-in-Residence Étienne Gara leads an ensemble renowned for its fearless interpretations that the San Francisco Classical Voice calls “ferocious and rhythmically mesmerizing.”

This is a rare opportunity to experience the works of two contemporary composers — Philip Glass and Max Richter — written in response to Vivaldi's beloved *The Four Seasons*. This concert is part of The Soraya's intimate, on-stage seating chamber series designed to place the audience in the very heart of the performance.

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,

excelling, 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.

Each season The Soraya features a vibrant program of nearly 50 classical and popular music, dance, theater, family, and international events that establish it as one of the top arts companies in Southern California that uplifts and inspires its audiences.

Where: **Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya)**
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The Soraya

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