



NEWS RELEASE

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## **The Soraya Presents Israel Philharmonic with Lahav Shani making his Los Angeles debut as music director and conductor**

### **Program:**

**Paul Ben-Haim, Symphony No. 1**

**Gustav Mahler, Symphony No. 1**

**Sat, Nov 5 at 8pm**

***Tickets start at \$95 and are on sale now at [www.TheSoraya.org](http://www.TheSoraya.org)***

(Los Angeles, CA) October 21, 2022 —An evening of firsts – the **Israel Philharmonic** makes a historic Soraya debut of new music director **Lahav Shani** who inherited the role from Los Angeles’ beloved Zubin Mehta. Maestro Shani will provide The Soraya another milestone – the first ever **Mahler** symphony to resound in the Great Hall. Dedicated to inspiring Israel’s creative artists and composers, the Israel Philharmonic will open the concert with the foremost Israeli composer of classical music, **Paul Ben-Haim** whose works uplifted Jewish life as the nation of Israel was first forming in the shadow of World War II.

“Numerous aspects of this concert are cause for great excitement. First, Maestro Shani was scheduled to perform at The Soraya in the spring of 2020 with our extensive *Violins of Hope* programming. Of course, the pandemic made that concert impossible, so we are ecstatic to have this subsequent opportunity to present such an important young artist in the world of classical music,” said The Soraya Executive and Artistic Director Thor Steingraber.

“Second, the first Mahler symphony in our venue is a notable milestone. Finally, not only are we proud to host the orchestra for the first time in our venue, in such an extraordinary acoustical environment, but we are also keenly aware that by having the organization in the Valley, they will be in the midst of one of the nation’s largest Jewish populations. This type of community-building is central to all that we do at The Soraya.”

The Israel Philharmonic is the leading orchestra in Israel, and globally recognized as a world class symphonic ensemble. They return to the United States on the first North American tour led by their new Music Director, Lahav Shani in his U.S. debut. Maestro Shani has established himself as one of the world's most talked about young conducting talents and is considered an inspiring successor to the legendary Maestro Mehta who led the orchestra for over 50 years.

The Israel Philharmonic will perform on Saturday, November 5 at 8pm. Tickets are \$95 -\$215 and can be purchased at [www.TheSoraya.org](http://www.TheSoraya.org).

**For media tickets and interview requests, please contact The Soraya Communications Associate Marie Estrada ([marie.estrada@csun.edu](mailto:marie.estrada@csun.edu)), or PR Consultant Gary Murphy ([gmurphypr@gmail.com](mailto:gmurphypr@gmail.com)). Access your press kit [here](#).**

### **About the Israel Philharmonic**

The Israel Philharmonic is one of Israel's oldest and most influential cultural institutions. Since its founding in 1936, the orchestra has dedicated itself to presenting the world's greatest music to audiences in Israel and around the world. Founded by Polish violinist Bronislaw Huberman, the Israel Philharmonic represents the fulfillment of his dream "to unite the desire of the country for an orchestra with the desire of the Jewish musicians for a country."

The Israel Philharmonic performs regularly in its home, the Charles Bronfman Auditorium in Tel Aviv, as well as across Israel, including Jerusalem and Haifa. Additionally, it tours internationally, from Europe to Asia to North and South America. Since its inception, it has enjoyed long-lasting relationships with renowned soloists and conductors which have kept it at the forefront of the classical music world.

### **About Israel Philharmonic Music Director Lahav Shani**

Lahav Shani became Music Director of the Israel Philharmonic in 2020. Since his conducting debut with the orchestra in October 2013, he has conducted it every season. His close relationship with the Israel Philharmonic began in his youth, when he performed as pianist in a Youth Concert, and in 2007 he appeared as soloist under the baton of Zubin Mehta. He went on to play regularly with the orchestra as a pianist and double bassist.

In 2013, Shani rose to fame after winning the prestigious Gustav Mahler International Conducting Competition in Bamberg. Since 2018, he has been serving as Chief Conductor of the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, the youngest conductor to hold the position in the orchestra's history. From 2017 to 2020, he was Principal Guest Conductor of the Vienna Symphony Orchestra.

Maestro Shani has appeared as guest conductor with the Vienna Philharmonic, Berlin Philharmonic, Bavarian Radio Symphony, London Symphony Orchestra, Royal Concertgebouw,

Budapest Festival Orchestra, Boston Symphony, Philharmonia Orchestra of London, Orchestre de Paris, Philadelphia Orchestra, Royal Swedish Philharmonic and Radio France Philharmonic Orchestra. He also works regularly with the Staatskapelle Berlin, both in opera productions and symphonic concerts.

Born in Tel Aviv in 1989, Shani began his piano studies at age six with Hannah Shalgi and continued at the Thelma Yellin High School. He studied with Prof. Arie Vardi at the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music, Tel Aviv University. He completed his studies at the Academy of Music Hanns Eisler, Berlin, where he studied conducting with Prof. Christian Ehwald and piano with Prof. Fabio Bidini. He was mentored by Daniel Barenboim during his studies.

In July 2018, Shani made his piano recital debut at the Boulez Saal in Berlin. He has appeared as solo pianist under the baton of Daniel Barenboim, Zubin Mehta and Valery Gergiev with many orchestras, including the Royal Concertgebouw, Vienna Philharmonic, Mariinsky Orchestra, Staatskapelle Berlin and Radio France Philharmonic Orchestra. An experienced chamber musician, he is a regular performer at the Verbier Festival, and has also appeared at the Aix-en-Provence Easter Festival and the Jerusalem International Chamber Music Festival.

### **About the Nov. 5 Program**

Written during the first years of World War II, Paul Ben-Heim's fiercely dramatic First Symphony intermingles the anguish of the composer's world with the joy and beauty of his homes for peace. Lahav Shani leads the Israel Philharmonic in an evening that concludes with Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 1, replete with pastoral scenes and nods toward the composer's Jewish roots.

- What:** *The Israel Philharmonic with Music Director and Conductor Lahav Shani*  
**When:** Saturday, November 5 at 8pm  
**Tickets:** \$95-\$215 For all ticket information visit [www.TheSoraya.org](http://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](http://www.thesoraya.org)  
**Phone:** 818-677-3000

### **About The Soraya's Classical Music Program**

The Soraya marks its 11th consecutive season of presenting the world's best orchestras, conductors, and soloists including Esa-Pekka Salonen, Itzhak Perlman, Ludovic Morlot, Pinchas Zukerman, JoAnn Falletta, Yuja Wang, Joshua Bell, Vladimir Jurowski, Vadym Kholodenko, and orchestras from more than 12 different nations.

With an auditorium recognized by musicians as one of the finest acoustic environments on their international tours, The Soraya is also home to many Southern California ensembles including Wild Up, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles, and the Colburn Orchestra, among others.

The Soraya's 2022-23 Classical lineup features star soloists, world renowned orchestras, and intimate chamber music.

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

**[Treelogy: A Musical Portrait of California's Redwood, Sequoia and Joshua Trees Featuring Billy Childs, Steven Mackey, Gabriella Smith, and Delirium Musicum Commissioned by The Soraya at CSUN](#)**

Renowned composers Billy Childs, Steven Mackey, and Gabriella Smith — all with deep California roots of their own — have each composed original pieces for this three-part concert. Commissioned, produced, and presented by The Soraya, ***Treelogy*** is a celebration and a call to action to save California's beloved and iconic trees.

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

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

The Sitkovetsky Trio celebrates Sergei Rachmaninoff's 150th birthday performing his *Trio Eligiaque*, 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, onstage seating chamber series designed to place audiences in the very heart of the performance.

**Thu Apr 6, 2023 at 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.

### **Thu, May 11, 2023 at 8pm | Onstage Sessions**

### [Delirium Musicum Chamber Orchestra with Artist in Residence Etienne Gara Perform 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, onstage seating chamber series designed to place the audience in the very heart of the performance.

### **About the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya)**

Located on the vibrant and diverse campus of California State University in the heart of Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley, the **Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (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.

The Soraya's 2022-23 season offers a joy-filled reunion featuring a vibrant program of nearly 50 classical and popular music, dance, theater, family, and international events that will further establish it as one of the top arts companies in Southern California that uplifts and inspires its audiences.

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