

Thierry Fischer Conducts the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in Debut at The Soraya

with Gautier Capuçon, Cello

Debussy *Petite Suite*

Haydn *Cello Concerto No. 1 in C major*

Stravinsky *The Firebird*

Friday, January 26 at 8:00pm

(Los Angeles, CA | January 5, 2017) The Younes and Sarah Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya) presents the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Thierry Fischer, Music Director of the Utah Symphony since 2009 and Principal Guest of the Seoul Philharmonic since January 2017 at the Great Hall on Friday, January 26 at 8:00pm.

The program, which spotlights Gautier Capuçon on cello, features Debussy's *Petite Suite*, Haydn's *Cello Concerto No. 1 in C major* and Stravinsky's *The Firebird*. The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra announced in a [statement](#) last week that Fischer would replace the previously announced conductor Charles Dutoit.

"The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra is one of the finest international ensembles performing on the best around the world," said Thor Steingraber, The Soraya's Executive Director. "For over seventy years, RPO has been at the forefront of great music-making. I am particularly eager to welcome Maestro Thierry Fischer and to experience on our stage one of the most powerful musical masterpieces, Stravinsky's *The Firebird*."

Tickets for Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, starting at \$43, are now available ValleyPerformingArtsCenter.org or by calling (818) 677-3000. Valley Performing Arts Center (The Soraya) is located on the campus of California State University, Northridge (CSUN), [18111 Nordhoff Street Northridge, CA 91330-8448](http://18111NordhoffStreetNorthridge,CA91330-8448), at the corner of Nordhoff and Lindley.

About the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO)

For more than seven decades the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra has been at the forefront of music-making in the UK. Its home base since 2004 at London's Cadogan Hall serves as a springboard for seven principal residencies as well as more than forty-five concerts per year in long-term partnership venues across the country, often in areas where access to live orchestral music is very limited. With a wider reach than any other UK large ensemble, the RPO has truly become Britain's national orchestra.

The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Thierry Fischer, with soloist Jean Yves-Thibaudet, also performs January 24 at McCallum Theater for the Performing Arts in Palm Desert (Respighi *Fountains of Rome*, Liszt Piano Concerto No. 2, and Stravinsky *Petrushka* 1911 version) and January 25 at Segerstrom

Concert Hall in Costa Mesa (Respighi *Fountains of Rome*, Saint-Saëns Piano Concerto No. 5, and Stravinsky *Petrushka* (1911 version).

About Thierry Fischer

During conductor Thierry Fischer's tenure in Utah, he has revitalised the orchestra, and his contract was recently extended to 2022. He led the orchestra in annual single composer cycles including Mahler, Ives and Nielsen, has toured to Utah's five national parks, and forged outreach links in Haiti. In celebration of its 75th anniversary season in 2016, the orchestra appeared at Carnegie Hall to critical acclaim and released an album of newly commissioned works by Nico Muhly, Andrew Norman, and Augusta Read Thomas on Reference Recordings. Following a well-reviewed Mahler 1 CD, they recorded Mahler's 8th symphony in Utah with the world-renowned Tabernacle Choir, due for release in Autumn 2017. He visits Seoul at least 4 times a season, will tour internationally with the orchestra, and plays an important role in the artistic planning.

Fischer has guested with many leading orchestras, most recently the Boston, Atlanta, Cincinnati and Detroit Symphonies and Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra (New York), London Philharmonic, BBC Symphony, Oslo Philharmonic, Bergen Philharmonic, Rotterdam Philharmonic, Maggio Musicale Firenze, Salzburg Mozarteumorchester and the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, and in Autumn 2016 visited South America for the first time to conduct the Sao Paulo Philharmonic. In the past year or two he has also conducted the Scottish, Swedish and Munich chamber orchestras, London Sinfonietta and Chamber Orchestra of Europe.

He is committed to contemporary music and has performed and commissioned many world premieres – this season he conducts the Ensemble Intercontemporain for the first time.

About Cellist Gautier Capuçon

Cello Soloist Gautier Capuçon is a true 21st century ambassador for the cello. Performing each season with many of the world's foremost conductors and instrumentalists, he is also founder and leader of the *Classe d'Excellence de Violoncelle* at the Fondation Louis Vuitton in Paris – based in the stunning new Auditorium designed by Frank Gehry. He is acclaimed internationally for his deeply expressive musicianship and exuberant virtuosity, as well as for the glorious sonority of his 1701 Matteo Goffriller cello.

During 2017/18 Capuçon will appear as soloist in a number of orchestral tours across Europe, the US and in Asia. In Europe he will tour with Orchestre de Chambre de Paris, Wiener Symphoniker (Philippe Jordan), and the Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester. In the US he will tour with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (Thierry Fischer) and the National Center for Performing Arts; and in Asia with hr-Sinfonieorchester (Andres Orozco-Estrada) and as part of the Verbier Festival with Gabor Takacz. Other concerto highlights include return performances with Gewandhausorchester Leipzig (Herbert Blomstedt), Wiener Philharmoniker (Semyon Bychkov), Orchestre de Paris (Yu Long), San Francisco Symphony Orchestra (Stephen Deneve), City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla) and London Philharmonia (Paavo Järvi).

More About The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

For more than seven decades the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO) has been at the forefront of music-making in the UK. Its home base since 2004 at London's Cadogan Hall serves as a springboard for seven principal residencies as well as more than forty-five concerts per year in long-term partnership venues across the country, often in areas where access to live orchestral music is very limited. With a wider reach than any other UK large ensemble, the RPO has truly become Britain's national orchestra.

The regional program, plus regular performances at Cadogan Hall, Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall and a hugely popular series at the Royal Albert Hall, are conducted by a distinguished roster of musicians: Pinchas Zukerman, the inspirational Principal Guest Conductor; Alexander Shelley, the dynamic young Principal Associate Conductor since January 2015, and the esteemed Permanent Associate Conductor Grzegorz Nowak.

International touring is vital to the Orchestra's work, taking it to many prestigious destinations worldwide. Recent engagements include concerts at the festivals of Montreux, Lucerne and Granada, an extensive tour of the USA, and visits to central Europe and the Far East, including South Korea and China.

In 2018, RPO Resound, the Orchestra's community and education programme, marks its twenty-fifth anniversary. Throughout its history it has thrived on taking music into the heart of the regions that the Orchestra serves. From Azerbaijan to Jamaica and from Shanghai to Scunthorpe, the team – comprising the majority of the Orchestra – has worked with young people, the homeless, recovering stroke patients (in the award-winning STROKESTRA project in Hull) and in settings ranging from the Sea Life London Aquarium to hospitals, orphanages and children's hospices.

In 1986, the RPO became the first UK orchestra to launch its own record label. The Orchestra has embraced digital advances and continuing its tradition of entrepreneurial innovation, in 2017 the RPO teamed up with concert-enhancing app, EnCue by Octava, becoming the first orchestra in Europe to offer its audiences real-time programme notes for selected performances delivered to their mobile or tablet devices. The Orchestra has become increasingly active on social media platforms, inviting audiences to engage informally on Facebook and Twitter (@rpoonline) and to enjoy behind-the-scenes insights on the RPO website (www.rpo.co.uk), YouTube (RPOOnline) and Instagram (@RPOOnline).

Although the RPO embraces twenty-first-century opportunities, including appearances with pop stars and on video game, film and television soundtracks, its artistic priority remains paramount: the making of great music at the highest level for the widest possible audience. This would have been lauded by its Founder and first conductor, Sir Thomas Beecham, who set up the RPO in 1946, leading a vital revival in the UK's orchestral life after World War II.

Since then, the Orchestra's principal conductors have included Rudolf Kempe, Antal Doráti, Walter Weller, André Previn, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Yuri Temirkanov and Daniele Gatti; and its repertoire has encompassed every strand of music from the core classical repertoire to music of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, and works by leading composers of recent years, including Sir Peter Maxwell Davies and Sir John Tavener.

More about conductor Thierry Fischer

Whilst Principal Conductor of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales 2006-2012 Fischer appeared every year at the BBC Proms and toured internationally. He also made many recordings, notably for Hyperion (Honegger, d'Indy, Florent Schmitt) but also Stravinsky for Signum and Orfeo. His Hyperion recording of Frank Martin's opera *Der Sturm* with the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus won the International Classical Music Award in 2012 (opera category). In 2014 he released a Beethoven disc with the London Philharmonic on the Aparte label.

Fischer started out as Principal Flute in Hamburg and at the Zurich Opera. His conducting career began in his 30s when he replaced an ailing colleague, subsequently directing his first few concerts with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe where he was Principal Flute under Claudio Abbado. He spent his apprentice years in Holland, and became Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor of the Ulster Orchestra 2001-2006. He was Chief Conductor of the Nagoya Philharmonic 2008-2011, making his Suntory Hall debut in Tokyo in May 2010, and is now Honorary Guest Conductor.

More about soloist Gautier Capuçon

"It's the rare performer who can bring such ease and refinement to this music, while still giving everything he plays a sense of dramatic urgency." (San Francisco Chronicle)

Last season Capuçon appeared with, among others, London Symphony Orchestra, Staatskapelle Dresden, Berliner Philharmoniker, Münchner Philharmoniker, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic and San Francisco Symphony. Over recent years he has also performed with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich, Chamber Orchestra of Europe, New York Philharmonic, NHK

Symphony, Sydney Symphony and Mariinsky orchestras, as well as with all of the major orchestras across France.

A regular recital and chamber musician, Capuçon appears annually in the major halls and festivals worldwide. Highlights this season include a return to Carnegie Hall (with Daniil Trifonov), an extensive international recital tour with duo partner Jérôme Ducros, supporting the international release of the album 'Intuition' featuring the same repertoire, and performances at Verbier Festival with: Lisa Batiashvili, Christoph Eschenbach, Janine Jansen, Leonidas Kavakos, Yuja Wang and Tabea Zimmermann. Other artists with whom Capuçon regularly performs include Nicholas Angelich, Martha Argerich, Daniel Barenboim, Frank Braley, Renaud Capuçon, Katia and Marielle Labèque, Menahem Pressler, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, and the Artemis and Ébène quartets.

Gautier Capuçon continues to work regularly with conductors such as Semyon Bychkov, Valery Gergiev, Gustavo Dudamel, Lionel Bringuier, Andris Nelsons, Christoph Eschenbach, Andrés Orozco-Estrada and Yannick Nézet-Séguin; and collaborates with contemporary composers including, amongst others, Lera Auerbach, Karol Beffa, Esteban Benzecry, Nicola Campogrande, Qigang Chen, Jerome Ducros, Henry Dutilleux, Thierry Escaich, Philippe Manoury, Bruno Mantovani, Krzysztof Penderecki, Wolfgang Rihm, and Jörg Widmann.

Recording exclusively for Erato (Warner Classics), Capuçon has won multiple ECHO Klassik awards and holds an extensive discography. In 2016/17 he released Beethoven Sonatas with Frank Braley to critical acclaim. Other recent recordings include Shostakovich's Cello Concertos with the Mariinsky Orchestra and Valery Gergiev; and Schubert's String Quintet with Quatuor Ébène. Prior to that he won plaudits for a recital disc of music by Schubert, Schumann, Debussy, Britten and Carter with Frank Braley, and Saint-Saëns' First Cello Concerto and *la Muse et le poète* with the Orchestre philharmonique de Radio France and Lionel Bringuier. He has also recorded chamber music with Martha Argerich, Nicholas Angelich, Renaud Capuçon and Gabriela Montero; and in 2013 Deutsche Grammophon released a DVD featuring Capuçon as soloist with the Berliner Philharmoniker and Gustavo Dudamel in a live performance of Haydn's Cello Concerto No.1.

Born in Chambéry in 1981, Capuçon began playing the cello at the age of five. He studied at the Conservatoire National Supérieur in Paris with Philippe Muller and Annie Cochet-Zakine, and later with Heinrich Schiff in Vienna. The winner of various first prizes in many leading international competitions, including the International André Navarra Prize, Capuçon was named 'New Talent of the Year' by *Victoires de la Musique* in 2001.

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

The Soraya opened its 2017-2018 season on September 16 with a performance of *AMADEUS Live* (Milos Foreman's 1984 Academy Award-winning Best Picture with live orchestra) with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and members of the LA Opera Chorus. The evening honored the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Foundation in recognition of the family's recent \$17 million gift that will rename Valley Performing Arts Center as the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Performing Arts Center, known as The Soraya. The gift is one of the largest in the history of the California State University and the system's largest single gift to support the arts; gift to support the programming and operations of the award-winning Valley Performing Arts Center – which has become one of the cultural jewels of the region in the six years since it opened.

The 2017-18 Soraya season signals a new era for the premier event venue. Under the leadership of Executive Director Thor Steingraber, the renamed Younes and Soraya Nazarian Performing Arts Center expands its programming and outstanding multidisciplinary performances. The mission of The Soraya is to present a wide variety of performances that not only includes new and original work from the Los Angeles region but also work from around the world that appeal to all of LA's rich and diverse communities.

Located on the campus of California State University, Northridge, The Soraya's season offers a vibrant performance program of nearly 50 classical and popular music, dance, theater, family and international events that will serve to establish The Soraya as the intellectual and cultural heart of the San Fernando

Valley, and further establish itself as one of the top arts companies in Southern California. The award-winning, 1,700-seat theatre was designed by HGA Architects and Engineers and was recently cited by the Los Angeles Times as “a growing hub for live music, dance, drama and other cultural events.”

Calendar Listing for Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Date: Friday, January 26 at 8:00pm

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

Program: Debussy *Petite Suite*
Haydn *Cello Concerto No. 1 in C Major*
Stravinsky *The Firebird*

Tickets: **Prices** Starting at \$43. Prices subject to change.
By Phone (818) 677-3000
Online ValleyPerformingArtsCenter.org

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