

Valley Performing Arts Center brings the world to its stage for the 2017-18 season!

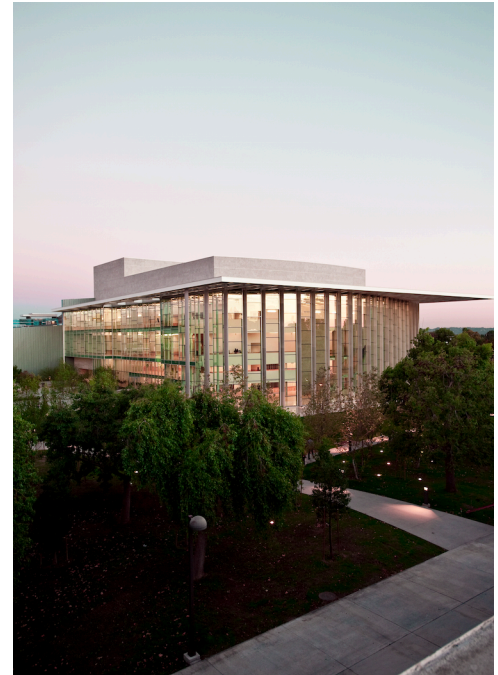
VPAC's new season makes a strong commitment to international artists, and to artists who demonstrate VPAC's theme "Music Knows No Borders."

In addition to artists from Spain, Mexico, United Kingdom, Ireland, Cuba, Russia, Guatemala, Pakistan, Israel, Australia, and Japan, VPAC features multiple performances that focus on social justice and civil rights closer to home in the United States, including Kathleen Battle, Terence Blanchard, and Step Afrika.

Also diverse Jazz programming, Leonard Bernstein Centenary, DIAVOLO 25th Anniversary, Upright Citizen's Brigade All-Stars, Cheech Marin hosts, David Sedaris, Milos Forman's AMADEUS LIVE with LA Chamber Orchestra and Members of the LA Opera Chorus, and *South Pacific*

(Los Angeles, CA) May 8, 2017 – Following a series of popular world music performances, VPAC's Executive Director Thor Steingraber announces today a 2017-18 Season that features international and local artists representing a convergence of cultures from around the globe. From the Afro-Cuban All-Stars to Pakistan's The Sachal Ensemble, from a mariachi opera to the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra, from Japan's Yamato Drummers to American prima donna Kathleen Battle performing her concert dedicated to the Civil War Era Underground Railroad, VPAC's new season embraces music that knows no borders.

"At Valley Performing Arts Center we give voice to the musical diasporas," said Steingraber. "This is our foremost value and the under-pinning of our programming. VPAC is committed to an earnestly non-political idea—the concert hall is an inclusive place. After all, ears know no borders. Hands clap and feet stomp regardless of nation-of-origin, religion, or cultural background. The communal joy of music and dance is immediate, intergenerational, and accessible."



The many highlights next season include: Spain's *The Paco de Lucia Project* (November 4); the Afro-Cuban All-Stars with Harold López-Nussa (January 19); Step Afrika!: *Migration*, rooted in Zulu and South African gumboot dance (February 9), the return of Flamenco dancer Leilah Broukhim with *Dejando Huellas*, tracing her Jewish and Persian lineage (January 21); Chicano band Quetzal with the soulful Mariachi Flor de Toloache (May 5), and *¡La Nueva Cuba! The Next Generation* Featuring Pedro Martinez, Daymé Arocena and Roberto Fonseca (April 21).

“As the venue that serves the San Fernando Valley’s 1.9 million residents, we take seriously our responsibilities as the purveyor of multi-disciplinary artists. In the past two years, we have found that diverse programming attracts diverse audiences. And more recently, we find that our audience craves being a part of a global community. In February, VPAC’s daylong Global Currents Festival featured 70 artists representing 13 nations and cultures. The response was resounding, and provided us the added courage to boldly reflect the values of our community on our stage,” adds Steingraber.

In addition to the impressive line-up of international artists, VPAC furthers its commitment to Los Angeles artists and arts organizations. The season will commence with an Opening Night performance on September 16, featuring a screening of *AMADEUS LIVE*, directed by Milos Forman, with live classical accompaniment by Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra (Richard Kaufman, conductor) as well as vocal accompaniment from members of the LA Opera Chorus.

Later in the fall, VPAC will welcome Los Angeles trailblazers: DIAVOLO – Architecture in Motion to celebrate their 25th anniversary with a day’s worth of DIAVOLO favorites, including a family-friendly performance and interactive outdoor experiences (November 11). The day will culminate in a performance in the Great Hall featuring *The Veteran’s Project*, a new piece inspired and danced by members of the veterans’ community. Other collaborations with Los Angeles artists include New West Symphony, Colburn Orchestra, Clayton-Hamilton Orchestra, Cheech Marin, Upright Citizens Brigade, Quetzal, Gaby Moreno and locally sourced casts for its original productions of Mariachi Opera *Cruzar La Cara de la Luna* and Justin Roberts’ family-friendly *Hansel & Gretel: A Deliciously Wicked Musical Treat*.

Subscription tickets are now available at ValleyPerformingArtsCenter.org or by calling (818) 677-3000. Valley Performing Arts Center is located on the campus of California State University, Northridge (CSUN), 18111 Nordhoff Street Northridge, CA 91330-8448, at the corner of Nordhoff and Lindley.

Valley Performing Arts Center 2017-18 Season

Music Knows No Borders

Flamenco Legends by Javier Limón: *The Paco de Lucía Project*

November 4, 2017 | 8PM

For fifty years, the feverish and fierce art of flamenco guitar spread like wildfire from Spain to points around the globe, ignited by the late Paco de Lucia. He inspired many young artists and collaborators, melding sound, both old and new, in the U.S. and abroad. De Lucia often shared the stage and recording studio with musical greats such as Carlos Santana and Eric Clapton. Honoring that legacy, 10-time Latin Grammy-winner Javier Limón reassembles the original band that toured with Paco de Lucia. Limón

revives both the vibrant folkloric music traditions of Southern Spain and modern flamenco in this tribute performance, *The Paco de Lucia Project*.

Anat Cohen Tentet

Musical Director, Oded Lev-Ari

November 30, 2017 | 8PM

Israeli clarinet virtuoso Anat Cohen is the Pied Piper of jazz and folk music, and wherever she leads, her band and audience follow, bolstered by the expert musicians of her ten-piece band. As *JazzTimes* says, "With the clarinet she becomes a singer, a dancer, a poet, a mad scientist, laughing — musically — with the sheer delight of reaching that new place, that new feeling, with each chorus." The charismatic female bandleader stands out in a predominantly male environment, and her distinct style emanates from her homeland to influence the broader jazz landscape. Cohen was awarded "Clarinetist of the Year" from *DownBeat*, *JazzTimes* and for eight years in a row, was recognized by the Jazz Journalists Association. Cohen's tapestry of sounds captures the jubilation of many genres, spanning modern and traditional jazz, classical music, klezmer, Brazilian choro, and Argentine tango. Cohen's sound breaks the confines of genre and region.

Juan de Marcos and the Afro-Cuban All-Stars

With Harold López-Nussa Trio

January 19, 2018 | 8PM

Many of the veteran Cuban musicians and singers of the Afro-Cuban All Stars have careers dating back to the 1950s Havana scene. The big band performs all the styles of Cuban music, honoring the rich heritage of bolero, chachachá, salsa, son montuno, timba, guajira, danzón, rumba and abakua. Internationally known for their 1997 album *A Toda Cuba le Gusta*, the Afro-Cuban All-Stars' success blazed the trail for many more Cuban artists and helped open the door for the music's popularity in North America. This quintessential Cuban band can be seen in the Oscar-nominated documentary, *Buena Vista Social Club*, which follows the revived careers of musicians largely forgotten in the wake of Castro's takeover of Cuba. The All-Stars' earthy music, featuring rhythms from African traditions dating as far back as slavery, carrying the heart of the downtrodden with an exuberant and upbeat spirit.

Step Afrika! Migration: Reflections on Jacob Lawrence

February 9, 2018 | 8PM

Step Afrika! is rooted in Zulu and South African gumboot dance and the African tradition of stepping, which blend percussive dance to create earth-shaking movement and electrifying rhythms. Step Afrika! performers employ precise timing, complex compositions, call-and-response chants and impressive feats of athleticism. Their theatrical piece, *Migration* incorporates costumes and music to tell the moving story of black families migrating to the North to escape sharecropping, poverty and discrimination in the American South in the early 1900s. As backdrop to the performance, legendary artist Jacob Lawrence's 60 painted panels, "The Migration Series," capture the hope and movement of the Great Migration. *Step Afrika!* makes Lawrence's images come to life as performers recreate the images on stage, depicting a pivotal chapter in American history, a story told with breathtaking emotion and artistry.

Leilah Broukhim: Dejando Huellas (Traces)

January 21, 2018 | 7:30PM

Flamenco powerhouse Leilah Broukhim returns to VPAC after her wildly popular performance in 2015, this time with a personal story about her own Jewish and Persian lineage, *Dejando Huellas (Traces)*. Through dance, she tells a story that begins with the Alhambra Decree in 1492, which forced the Sephardic Jews to choose between their homes and their religion, expelling tens of thousands of practicing Jews from Catholic Spain. Broukhim's furious flamenco footwork exalts the Spanish art form, while her emotional expression tells the tale of a woman searching for the meaning and identity. *Dejando Huellas* makes its LA debut after performances in Paris, New York, Madrid and Copenhagen.

¡La Nueva Cuba! The Next Generation

Roberto Fonseca | Daymé Arocena | Pedrito Martinez Group

April 21, 2018 | 8PM

As a new generation of Cuban jazz artists explode onto the global scene, the island nation's musical traditions collide with head-spinning innovation.

NPR's *All Things Considered* proclaimed that the Pedrito Martinez Group is "writing a new chapter in Cuban music history." The polished and upbeat Grammy-nominated drummer-singer Pedrito Martinez began honing his lightning-fast drumming skills since the age of 11 in his native Cuba. His thrilling conga drum performances bring audiences to their feet in exhilaration. Vocalist Daymé Arocena loses herself in her music, using lyrics and scat singing to improvise on the sounds around her. Arocena deploys her powerful voice, like a cry from Havana, breaking out and breaking free. Her relationship with jazz is always fresh, always evolving, as it bubbles up from her heart and her soul. *The New York Times* called Cuban jazz artist Roberto Fonseca "a charismatic spark plug of a pianist." Fonseca toured with the Buena Vista Social Club and recorded in Japan, all of which helped him cultivate his unique sound. His solo project *Zamazu*, is a culmination of his influences: Afro-Cuban, jazz, classical and traditional Cuban music.

Hecho in Las Americas

iLe, Special Guest Gaby Moreno

November 18, 2017 | 8pm

A double-bill that will go straight to the heart. Each boasts a Grammy win, and each serves up a unique blend. iLe hails from Puerto Rico and spent a decade with her brothers in the band Calle 13. Her recent album combines alt-rock with traditional boleros. Moreno left Guatemala as a child and now calls Los Angeles her home. Her guitar and bluesy vocals move easily between pop, soul, and classical Latin sounds.

Cruzar la Cara de la Luna A Mariachi Opera featuring Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán

Music & Lyrics by José "Pepe" Martínez & Leonard Foglia

Book by Leonard Foglia

February 16-17, 2018 | 8PM

Tackling a timely tale, these legendary Mexican artists combine their traditional music with high drama to depict the cross-border story of two families and three generations. Band member and composer José "Pepe" Martínez joined forces with writer Leonard Foglia to create a full-length mariachi opera that premiered in 2010 at Houston Grand Opera. Seven years later, its themes of human struggle are more relevant than ever. VPAC presents the West Coast premiere, following successful performances in Chicago and Paris.

Quetzal with Mariachi Flor de Toloache

May 5, 2018 | 8PM

A one-of-a-kind VPAC double bill! The bilingual Chicano band, Quetzal has been mixing jazz, R&B and rock for over 20 years, using their art to spread positive social change and awareness. Hailing from East L.A., the Grammy Award-winning band joins a long lineage of Chicano musicians to find widespread success in America. Their danceable rhythms come with compelling lyrics and stories about overcoming struggles, inspired by the people and neighborhoods of East Los Angeles. Quetzal contributed to the formation of Artist Entertainment, which fosters art that promotes positive social change. Mariachi band Flor de Toloache isn't content to grab a Latin Grammy nomination while breaking the gender barrier as an all-female mariachi band. Their backgrounds are also far more diverse than any other

mariachi band, with ancestries that are German, Puerto Rican, Italian, Mexican, Cuban, Australian, and Dominican. Named for a magical flower used to make a legendary love potion, the soulful band sings in Spanish and English while transcending culture and gender by forging new paths for mariachi music.

Jazz Club

The Sachal Ensemble *Song of Lahore* / Onstage Sessions

November 14, 2017 | 8PM

When Sharia law was instituted in Pakistan in 1977, the government cracked down on non-religious music, turning the city of Lahore, a once a thriving hotspot, into a musical desert. Music producer Izzat Majeed says, "We were losing our instruments, losing our musicians, losing our culture," and so he convened a devoted group of surviving Lahore musicians to rehearse and record privately. With scarce local listeners, The Sachal Ensemble made music for a global audience, fueled by a love of American jazz. The courageous artists are the subject of *Song of Lahore*, a documentary film about the ensemble's first trip to America to collaborate with Wynton Marsalis and Jazz at Lincoln Center. The ensemble merges Eastern and Western music, crafting a sound that transcends war and oppression. Musician Nijaat Ali says, "God willing, this will help the entire world see that Pakistanis are artists, not terrorists."

Cécile McLorin Salvant / Onstage Sessions

April 18-19, 2018 | 8PM

Cécile McLoren Salvant coos like a dove and bites like a hawk. The Grammy Award-winning vocalist has a range that is unmatched, soaring to the rafters and diving to the earthy depths. In addition to carrying on the legacies of Sarah Vaughn, Ella Fitzgerald, and Billie Holiday, McLoren Salvant tackles racial stereotypes reaching back more than a century, performing forgotten Vaudeville numbers once performed in black face. Once attracted by the drama and grandness of the opera stage, McLoren is classically trained. But the young 27-year-old artist found a home in the world of jazz, embracing the broad themes and flexibility it offers her.

Amir ElSaffar's Two Rivers Ensemble / Onstage Sessions

April 26, 2018 | 8PM

Jazz trumpeter Amir ElSaffar, born to an American mother and Iraqi father, studied classical music in the U.S. and Iraqi *maqam* music in Baghdad. *The Wire* says that "ElSaffar is uniquely poised to reconcile jazz and Arabic music... the result of engagement across the board, presented with clarity and eloquence." His unique fusion uses microtones and ornaments common in Arab music to create fresh harmonies and melodies not typically heard in Western jazz. ElSaffar's album *Two Rivers* released in 2007 to critical acclaim, and his Newport Jazz Festival performance in 2015 was touted by *DownBeat* magazine as "certainly the first Middle Eastern-imbued jazz combo at Newport to win a standing ovation for its first song." ElSaffar and his sextet push music forward with one foot in each culture, blending, borrowing, improvising and breaking down barriers.

Terence Blanchard Feat. The E-Collective, *Breathless* / Onstage Sessions

May 1-2, 2018 | 8PM

Five-time Grammy winner Terence Blanchard has composed scores for dozens of films, including all of those by director Spike Lee since 1991. Blanchard has layered funky grooves and R&B with powerful social and political messages to tremendous effect. The jazz composer-trumpeter created *A Tale of God's Will (A Requiem for Katrina)* as a meditation on the destruction and suffering left in the wake of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. With his E-Collective, Blanchard then debuted the album *Breathless*, tragically inspired by and dedicated to Eric Garner, the Staten Island man who was fatally suffocated in an altercation with police. Although Blanchard does not shy away from difficult topics, he is committed to the healing impact of his music.

Jazz Swinging Series

To Ray with Love

Starring Maceo Parker | Featuring The Ray Charles Orchestra & The Raelettes

October 19, 2017 | 8PM

Maceo Parker recalls the exact moment as a child when he first heard Ray Charles on the radio. Following a career of acclaimed solo hits, playing with James Brown, and weeks atop the Billboard Contemporary Jazz Charts, Parker brings it full circle as he performs with the Ray Charles Orchestra. The full, hard-hitting big band sound comes complete with The Raelettes, the American girl group that provided back-up vocals to Ray's signature style. Parker's soulful voice evokes the authentic spirit of Ray Charles. Parker is both a music historian and a part of music history, paying tribute in a precise and confident recreation of Ray Charles classics with the funk sound we know so well.

Miles Electric Band

March 1, 2018 | 8PM

Jazz is in the blood. Legendary jazz trumpeter, bandleader and composer Miles Davis spent 50 years on the cutting edge of 20th-century music. His Grammy Award-winning nephew, drummer Vince Wilburn, Jr., proves that jazz runs in his veins with his commanding leadership of the Miles Electric Band. Recreating the repertoire from Davis' electric period, the 11-member ensemble features The Rolling Stones' bassist, Darryl Jones, Grammy-nominated performers John Beasley, Robert Irving III, and Badal Roy, along with a posse of top shelf trumpeters. Miles Electric Band does what no other group can -- owning the rights to Davis' music and having Davis' blood relative at center-stage, it is the quintessential Miles Davis experience.

The Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra

May 12, 2018 | 8PM

The Grammy-nominated Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra captures the infectious fun at the heart of big band music from the Swing Era of the 1930s and '40s. The Los Angeles based ensemble is both swinging and sophisticated. These 19 musicians comprise the most reliably excellent big band around. *Jazz Times* called them "one of current jazz's most vital large ensembles." As a child, co-founder and drummer Jeff Hamilton fell in love with his parents' big band records, going on to perform with Ella Fitzgerald, Barbara Streisand, Rosemary Clooney, the Count Basie Orchestra and many more on nearly 200 recordings. Jeff Clayton majored in the oboe at CSUN, thereafter touring and recording with Stevie Wonder and playing with such stars as Kenny Rogers, Michael Jackson, Patti Labelle and Madonna. Their exceptional skills and passionate love of the craft make them an irresistible firmament in jazz and big band history.

Soaring

AMADEUS LIVE

Richard Kaufman, conductor

Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra

Members of the LA Opera Chorus

September 16, 2017 | 7PM

One of the greatest biopics ever made, this look at the incomparable life of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart swept the 1984 Oscars. Newly mastered for live accompaniment, VPAC invites two of LA's most esteemed musical groups to bring the film to life. The Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra's performance also honors Sir Neville Marriner, the company's founding Music Director who conducted the film's original soundtrack. The Great Hall will resound with Mozart's masterpieces, none more poignant than

his Requiem building to the film's tragic ending.

Moscow State Symphony Orchestra

Pavel Kogan, Conductor

Dmitry Masleev, Piano

Rachmaninov: *The Rock* | Tchaikovsky: *Piano Concerto No. 1* (Dmitry Masleev, piano)

Scriabin: *Symphony No. 2*

November 2, 2017 | 8PM

For three decades, this quintessential Russian orchestra has been led by conductor Pavel Kogan. Under his leadership, MSSO has traveled the world and recorded extensively. They bring to VPAC an all-Russian program.

The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of London

Charles Dutoit, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor

Debussy: *Petite Suite* | Haydn: *Cello Concerto No. 1 C-Major* | Stravinsky: *The Firebird* (complete)

January 26, 2018 | 8PM

Stravinsky's *The Firebird* caps an important farewell performance by Charles Dutoit, one of the most recorded conductors of all time. He brings to VPAC the granddaddy of London's symphony orchestras as part of his final tour, concluding six decades on the podium.

Academy of St Martin in the Fields

Joshua Bell, Director and Violin

Edgar Meyer: New Commission

Mozart: *Violin Concerto No. 5*

Beethoven: *Symphony No. 6*

March 15, 2018 | 8PM

For the fourth time, Joshua Bell returns to VPAC. Witnessing the violin virtuoso at the helm of the ensemble, while performing a solo or even from the chair at the head of the section, is a lesson in leadership for audiences from all walks of life. The remarkable symbiosis, musician to musician, is unparalleled. In addition to Beethoven and Mozart, Bell will perform a brand-new violin concerto by American composer Edgar Meyer.

Kathleen Battle *Underground Railroad: A Spiritual Journey*

March 29, 2018 | 8PM

Performing five encores to a sold-out house at the Metropolitan Opera, the once reigning prima donna returned last year with her new program "Kathleen Battle: Underground Railroad - a Spiritual Journey." Wrought from her childhood in Ohio in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Battle performs a program of spirituals, dedicated to our nation's early civil rights activists, those who secretly aided in the escape of slaves from the South. VPAC brings this rare program for its only Los Angeles engagement.

Onstage Chamber Music

VPAC's intimate onstage experience has become a staple for chamber music. Mark Swed wrote in the *Los Angeles Times*, "Our perspective was the musician's perspective. We all heard the balances a little differently, depending on whom we sat nearest to, just like performers do. Immersive art is all the rage, and here for good reason."

Academy of St Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble / Onstage Sessions

October 12, 2017 | 8PM

Korngold: *Sextet for strings in D-Major, Op. 10* (1916)

Shostakovich: *Prelude and Scherzo for String Octet, Op. 11*

Mendelssohn: *Octet for strings in Eb-Major, Op. 10*

Erich W. Korngold escaped Austria for Los Angeles, becoming one of the most prolific film composers of the era, on contract with Warner Brothers from 1935 to 1947. Before his escape, Korngold's early years in Europe shaped him to become one of leading figures in modern music. The Academy of St Martin in the Field Octet performs his 1916 *Sextet* along with pieces by Shostakovich and Mendelssohn.

Eliot Fisk - Guitar

J.S. Bach Cello Suites / Onstage Sessions

December 6, 2017 | 8PM

Fisk has boldly transcribed Bach's cello suites for classical guitar, a feat not to be underestimated – plucking is entirely different than bowing. He provides us an opportunity to experience one of the most enduring pieces of classical music in a fresh way.

Danish String Quartet / Onstage Sessions

Bartok: *String Quartet No. 1* | DSQ Nordic Folk Music Selections (Traditional)

Beethoven: *String Quartet No. 7, Op.59 No.1*

Feb 21, 2018 | 8PM

They call themselves “modern Vikings.” Everywhere they go, these four young firebrands are making waves, pairing exquisite ensemble playing with a level of intensity that seems a national birthright. VPAC is proud to present their Los Angeles debut in a program that adds Nordic traditional music to Beethoven and Bartok.

Leonard Bernstein at 100

Bernstein On Stage

John Mauceri, Conductor | New West Symphony

November 17, 2017 | 8pm

Conductor John Mauceri has created a concert packed with pieces from the entire canon of Bernstein's compositions for the stage, including the rarely performed *1600 Pennsylvania Avenue* and *Trouble in Tahiti*. The former music director of the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra is known for his onstage commentary between pieces, and on this occasion, as a once young protégé of Bernstein's, Mauceri will recall both personal anecdotes and musical insights.

KEIGWIN + COMPANY Celebrates Bernstein

February 3, 2018 | 8PM

In 2012 at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., choreographer Larry Keigwin premiered two original pieces performed to Bernstein's lush orchestral suites from *On the Town* and *On the Waterfront*. Bernstein's music is brought to life by Keigwin's graceful dancers whose technique embraces a strong nod to showbiz as well. Keigwin and his company will bring these two pieces to VPAC along with two world premieres choreographed to two other Bernstein compositions, *Piano Trio* and *Sonata for Clarinet and Piano*.

***On the Waterfront*, Film with Live Orchestra**

February 24, 2018 | 8pm

The American Film Institute ranks *On the Waterfront* as one of the 10 best American films of all time. With eight Academy Awards, the 1954 classic starring Marlon Brando depicts the violent and corrupt world of the New Jersey longshoremen. It is the only film that Leonard Bernstein scored, and VPAC presents the original symphonic arrangements performed by New West Symphony.

Scenes & Songs

Bill Porter

The Soul of Richard Rodgers

March 23, 2017 | 8pm

Billy Porter does not hold back. The powerhouse performer earned a 2013 Tony Award for his performance as the drag queen Lola in *Kinky Boots*, adding to a Broadway resume that includes *Miss Saigon*, *Five Guys Named Moe*, *Grease*, *Smokey Joe's Café*, *Shuffle Along* and the 20th Anniversary Broadway concert of *Dreamgirls*. The busy actor, composer, and director has also produced four solo albums. The most recent, *Billy Porter Presents: The Soul of Richard Rodgers*, features Porter's fresh take on the composer's classics, from *My Funny Valentine* to *Edelweiss*. Porter brings Rodgers to VPAC, along with his cool style and searing vocals.

Rodgers and Hammerstein's

South Pacific

McCoy Rigby Entertainment

& La Mirada Theatre

April 13 - 15, 2018 | 8pm; 3pm & 8pm

In their third year at VPAC, McCoy Rigby Entertainment brings another classic to the stage. Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein were not shy about using the Broadway stage to address the difficult issues of their time. Their 1949 musical is based on James Michener's Pulitzer prize-winning wartime novel. But it is the infectious songs that are most enduring, from the romantic *Some Enchanted Evening* to the rollicking *There is Nothing Like a Dame*.

Shape & Motion

DIAVOLO - 25 Year Anniversary Marathon

Signature works from the company's Past, Present, and Future

November 11, 2017 | 7PM

In 1992, in a Valley studio not far from where VPAC stands, one of LA's most innovative dance companies was born. In the 25 years since, few have captured the spirit of LA better than DIAVOLO founder and Artistic Director Jacques Heim. VPAC celebrates his company's milestone with an entire day of programming, starting with a free outdoor community festival at 1 pm. At 7 pm that evening, the Great Hall performance features awe-inspiring pieces from three separate eras of the company's history. Capping the day is DIAVOLO's newest work, the Veterans Project, which brings together the company's dancers with veterans from US armed forces. In all, DIAVOLO will perform ten different pieces in a single day. Festival times and activities to be announced on the VPAC website.

Dublin Irish Dance: *Stepping Out*

February 25, 2018 | 3PM

Teaming with an eight-member traditional Irish band, this Celtic sensation introduces a new generation to the fervor of traditional Irish dance. This company of high-steppers have toured the world, many appearing in the original *Riverdance* and Michael Flatley's *Lord of the Dance*. This new show tells the story of a bygone generation who escaped famine in Ireland, immigrating across the ocean to New York City and points beyond, lured by the promise of the American Dream.

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet

April 7, 2018 | 8PM

Returning for its third year at VPAC, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet brings three works accompanied by pianist and Van Cliburn Silver medalist Joyce Yang, performing works by Janacek and Philip Glass. The

performance will feature a newly choreographed piece by Jorma Elo and two of the company's standards – *Where We Left Off* by Nicolo Fonte and *Return to a Strange Land* by Jiri Kylian

Family

Imago Theatre

La Belle, Lost in the World of the Automaton

Plaza del Sol Performance Hall

November 19, 2017 | 3PM

This telling of *Beauty and the Beast* trades the castle, forest and provincial town for a wondrous new setting on a steamship inhabited by a living mechanical man. *La Belle* captures youthful imaginations with elegant puppets, animatronics, and an endless stream of visual effects. The story of the beautiful woman and the mechanical man comes to life through songs, storytelling, and a vast land of make-believe. The adults will enjoy a touch of slapstick humor, reminiscent of silent film stars Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton. The whole family will marvel at the touching tale of love between two very different beings, united in a wonder-filled world. VPAC has imported this inventive theater company, Imago, from Portland Oregon.

Hansel & Gretel: A Wickedly Delicious Musical Treat

Musical by Justin Roberts and Ernie Nolan

Fairy Tale by The Grimm Brothers

Micah Chambers-Goldberg, Animator

Directed by Michael Matthews

December 3, 2017 | 3PM

Returning after a sold-out engagement last season, the whole family will be tempted by this delicious musical treat. Two-time Grammy nominated kid-indie songwriter Justin Roberts reimagined the Grimm fairy tale with a contemporary rock vibe and clever lyrics that will stick to your memory like cotton candy. The fast-paced hour of family-friendly theater, features 14 joyful musical numbers such as "Crumb by Crumb," and animated backdrops that are as magical as they are colorful. VPAC's original stage production of *Hansel & Gretel* is the perfect treat for your family to unwrap this holiday season.

MUMMENSCHANZ *you & me*

February 11, 2018 | 3PM

The theater troupe Mummenschanz uses masks, props, choreography, light and shadow to create dreamlike performances without uttering a word. The Swiss group gained international attention on *The Muppet Show* in 1976, delivering a funny and profound nonverbal message about appreciating everyone's unique individuality. Mummenschanz's new family-friendly show *you & me* brings grace and whimsy to the present day, to our relationship with technology and with each other. The inventive props and choreography go far past pantomime, transforming performers into fanciful beings plucked from the far reaches of imagination.

Yamato – The Drummers of Japan

Chousensha – The Challengers

March 11, 2018 | 3PM

Your chest will pound and the walls will shake with wadaiko drumming, the ancient Japanese art performed by Yamato, a masterful troupe that has performed for over 23 years in 53 countries. The Yamato Drummers' technique combines pinpoint precision with jaw-dropping power and athleticism, as they concentrate every ounce of their strength into their tremendous drum blows. Their dedication to their art also compels them to live together in a community and create each element of their performance themselves, including the music, lighting design, choreography, costumes and props.

Manuel Cinema: *The Magic City*

Plaza del Sol Performance Hall

March 18, 2017 | 3PM

Immersive, innovative, intimate, ingenious - everywhere they go, this Chicago troupe wins rave reviews. They come to VPAC following debuts in Australia, France, and Germany. Manual Cinema combines the old and the new, from shadows created on vintage projectors to innovative multi-media storytelling with multiple screens and live cameras. *The Magic City* is a loose retelling of Edith Nesbit's 1910 novel about a young girl, Philomena, who escapes a difficult childhood by creating an imaginative world in a secluded attic. Philomena's journey inspires her to accept a new definition of what family can be. There's no age limit on imagination in this striking new shadow puppet performance. Ben Brantley describes their work in *The New York Times*, "...a spectral parade of fantastical images."

Comedy

Upright Citizen's Brigade All-Stars

October 14, 2017 | 8PM

From television sets and movie screens the world over to center stage at VPAC, the alums of Upright Citizens Brigade come together for a one-of-a-kind reunion performance. The troupe has spawned three decades of comedy's biggest superstars, and in their New York and Hollywood clubs, they keep audiences laughing nightly with fresh up-and-comers. In an unprecedented partnership, VPAC invites them to bring their best to the big stage.

An Evening with David Sedaris

May 12, 2018 | 8PM

Over-sharing: Sedaris makes it a fine art. With only a podium, a mic, and his unbridled storytelling, Sedaris delivers laughs at a painful pace. His witty and wise insights of human nature have made him America's favorite raconteur for more than two decades, and now Sedaris brings fresh material wrought from writing two new books since his last appearance at VPAC in 2015.

Cheech Marin Hosts an Evening of Comedy

January 12, 2018 | 8PM

"The border crossed me," observed Cheech about the Chicano experience and life as a Los Angeles native. With an unequalled catalog of film, T.V., and recordings, the five-decade veteran has done it all - from king of counter culture to his familiar voice in Disney's *The Lion King*. Cheech returns to his old CSUN stomping grounds and brings some of the young guns of comedy with him to VPAC.

Holiday

A Michael Feinstein Christmas

December 8, 2017 | 8PM

'Tis the season as five-time Grammy nominee, Michael Feinstein, performs holiday classics from his iconic album, *A Michael Feinstein Christmas*. Early in his career, Feinstein worked closely with famed composer Ira Gershwin, honing his talents and evolving into a captivating performer, composer and arranger. This consummate entertainer built an astounding career spanning the last three decades, introducing the music of the Great American Songbook to the world through educational programs, master classes, his Emmy-nominated PBS-TV specials, NPR series, and concerts at iconic venues such as The White House, Buckingham Palace, The Hollywood Bowl, Carnegie Hall and Sydney Opera House.

VPAC & Star Entertainment presents

Fiesta Mexicana Feliz Navidad

December 9, 2017 | 7PM

Back for an encore performance, this Mexican fiesta celebrates Christmas with traditional music and dance. Choreographer Kareli Montoya has distinguished the Ballet Folklórico de Los Ángeles as the nation's premier Mexican American folk dance company, and Grammy Award winner Jaime "Pollo" Cuellar leads Mariachi Garibaldi, the West Coast's premier mariachi ensemble. Vocalists Shay, Paulina and Joana Marri Núñez, violinist Ashlie Neilson and Paige Brooks Ruiz perform classic Yuletide favorite. The fiesta isn't complete without the "Pride of Pacoima," the show-stealing Haddon Mariachi, a 35-member children's mariachi from the Valley's Haddon Elementary School.

The Klezmatiks

Happy, Joyous Hanukkah

December 16, 2017 | 8PM

The Klezmatiks celebrate Yiddish culture and the miraculous legacy of Hanukkah for audiences of all cultures and backgrounds. The Grammy Award-winning klezmer superstars, The Klezmatiks, revitalized the Eastern European Jewish music tradition, performing in over 20 countries. Outspoken human rights advocates, their contemporary themes and eclectic musical influences embrace rhythms from far corners of the globe. *Happy Joyous Hanukkah* brings hip, East Village sensibilities to this time of year, when candles and family warm the dark nights.

Special Events

Colburn Orchestra

FREE EVENT

December 10 | 3PM

The TEN Tenors

Wish You Were Here

March 3, 2018 | 8PM

Australia's all-male vocalist group The TEN Tenors has nabbed six platinum and gold records, and sold over 3.5 million concert tickets doing what they do best: delivering an explosive live concert experience, merging contemporary with classical, from Buckley to Bocelli, Broadway to hard rock. The TEN have performed alongside music legends Andrea Bocelli, Keith Urban, Rod Stewart, Willie Nelson and Christina Aguilera, and has appeared on the Jerry Lewis MDA Telethon for an audience of 32 million viewers. Their complex harmonies and powerful vocals have delivered flat-out fun concert experiences and earned fans around the world.

LA Opera presents *Great Opera Choruses*

FREE EVENT

April 28, 2018 | 3PM

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