

# Chris Walden Leads the 40-Piece Pacific Jazz Orchestra with Tony Award-Winning Aaron Tveit Making His Debut at The Soraya!

Tveit's debut comes less than one week after his starring role in Broadway's revival of *Sweeney Todd*.

Saturday, May 11 at 8pm; Limited ticket availability starting at \$56.  
Tickets available at [TheSoraya.org](https://www.thesoraya.org).

**(Los Angeles, CA) April 25, 2024** —Fresh from his leading role in Broadway's revival of *Sweeney Todd*, Tony award-winning **Aaron Tveit** comes to **The Soraya** for one night only on Saturday, May 11 as **Chris Walden** and **The Pacific Jazz Orchestra** take center stage for an unforgettable night of Broadway, jazz and American standards music. Bringing his powerhouse vocals and matinee idol charisma, Tveit will join The Pacific Jazz Orchestra, forty of the finest musicians who have quickly emerged as the latest addition to the Los Angeles musical landscape.

## **About Aaron Tveit**

Aaron Tveit is a Tony Award-winning theatre, television, and film actor. Currently finishing a run as the "Demon Barber of Fleet Street" in Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*, Tveit earned a Tony Award for his performance in *Moulin Rouge! The Musical*. He also received an Outer Critics Circle honor for this role. Previously, Tveit was seen on Broadway in *Catch Me If You Can*, *Next to Normal* (Helen Hayes Award), *Wicked* and *Hairspray*. He also starred in the national tours of *Hairspray* and *Rent*. He is featured on the cast recordings for *Catch Me If You Can* and *Next to Normal*, as well as his solo album, *The Radio In My Head: Live at 54 Below*.

Tveit can also be seen in both seasons of the Apple TV+ musical comedy series "Schmigadoon!" Additional film and TV appearances include "Grease: Live," *One Royal Holiday*, *Les Misérables*, *Out of Blue*, *Created Equal*, *Better Off Single*, *Undrafted*, *Premium Rush*, *Howl*, *Ghost Town*, "American Horror Stories," Audible and Broadway Video's podcast *Hit Job*, *Graceland*, *Braindead*, "The Good Fight," "Gossip Girl," "The Good Wife," "Ugly Betty" and "Law & Order: SVU." He will be making his debut at New York's Café Carlyle this June.

## **About Pacific Jazz Orchestra**

The Pacific Jazz Orchestra (PJO) is LA's new resident 40-piece ensemble for jazz and beyond, presenting an annual concert season consisting of 5 projects, each with different guest artists. Spread out over a select few venues in LA, the program reaches far beyond the boundaries of jazz, as it features music of a diverse range of styles, genres, and backgrounds.

The PJO is the only orchestra of its kind in the country, and with its talent pool of musicians, Los Angeles is the only city where an ensemble like this can be put together, representing jazz, the uniquely American art form. A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the members of the advisory board of the PJO include names like David Foster, Quincy Jones, Monica Mancini, Alan Bergman, Rickey Minor, Harvey Mason Jr., and Ledisi.

The artistic director and conductor of the orchestra is seven-time Grammy-nominated composer/arranger **Chris Walden**, who has worked for artists such as Rufus Wainwright, Michael Bublé, Josh Groban, Paul McCartney, Diana Krall, Aretha Franklin, Rihanna, Seal, Barbra Streisand, John Legend, Herb Alpert, and many more. He has been the lead arranger at the Oscars, the Kennedy Center Honors, and has conducted the LA Phil, Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, Metropole Orkest, Boston Pops, Philadelphia Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony, WDR Big Band Cologne and many more.

Walden's vast experience in writing orchestral and big band arrangements in many different styles and working with artists from different backgrounds makes him uniquely qualified to serve as music director, as he can draw from his many connections to artists he has worked with to attract talent for a program.

### **Calendar Listing:**

**What:** Pacific Jazz Orchestra with Aaron Tveit  
**When:** Saturday, May 11 at 8pm  
**Where:** Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya)  
18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330  
**Tickets:** Limited availability starting at \$56  
**Website:** [TheSoraya.org](http://TheSoraya.org)  
**Phone:** 818-677-3000

### **For tickets and interview requests, please contact:**

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- PR Consultant Gary Murphy ([garymurphypr@garymurphypr.com](mailto:garymurphypr@garymurphypr.com))
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## **About the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya)**

The Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for The Performing Arts (The Soraya) is an award-winning, state-of-the-art 1,700-seat theatre designed and built by HGA Architects and Engineers and opened in January 2011 as the Valley Performing Arts Center (VPAC). Through a transformative gift by Younes and Soraya Nazarian the venue was renamed as The Soraya in 2017. Vibrant programming has served to establish The Soraya as

the intellectual and cultural heart of the San Fernando Valley and its 1.8 million residents, and as one of the top arts and culture venues in Southern California. Since its inaugural season, The Soraya has presented over 500 artists and companies across the genres of music, dance, theater and film and is a highly in demand location for filming and rental events.

The Soraya's 2023/2024 Season boldly advances the expansive sound of orchestras both traditional and contemporary; the freestyle vibe of jazz; an array of dance luminaries, and a cultural bounty drawn from the musical well of global voices. The Soraya continues its vigorous commitment to innovating, excelling, and amplifying access by offering a wide variety of performances that reflect Los Angeles' many distinctive communities and featuring new and original work and artists from the local region as well as nationally and around the world.

Located on the vibrant campus of California State University Northridge (CSUN), The Soraya and the Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication share an integral link that enhances student access and opportunities in the arts and performing arts. A \$5 million contribution from record producer and former California Lieutenant Governor Mike Curb was pivotal in ensuring the completion and opening of The Soraya in 2011. For his founding support and in acknowledgment of the integral relationship between the Mike Curb College and The Soraya, Mike Curb is recognized as one of The Soraya's Cornerstone Benefactors. This partnership fosters academic and artistic excellence, elevating the talents and the future growth of CSUN's students through master classes, student tickets, concerts of student ensembles, and students appearing alongside renowned artists such as Wynton Marsalis, Aida Cuevas, and Martha Graham Dance Company.

### **The Soraya Press Contacts**

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