

## ***Musical America* Names Executive and Artistic Director Thor Steingraber of The Soraya as a “Top 30 Professional” for 2023**

***Honor Comes on the Eve of the Performing Arts Leader’s 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as Head of The Soraya, One of California State & University of California’s Keystone Performing Arts Centers.***

(Los Angeles, CA) December 5, 2023 — *Musical America*, the oldest influential American magazine covering music, drama, and dance since 1899, has named **Thor Steingraber** as one of its Top 30 Professionals for 2023. The annual report profiles thoughtful, creative, and innovative leaders who persistently and relentlessly strive to ensure the performing arts remain vital in their communities.

“This year’s *Musical America* Top 30 Professionals are the entrepreneurs, the worker bees, the creative minds that ensure the health of the artform and its essential value in our lives, now and for generations to come,” said Susan Elliott, *Musical America* Editor.

“CSUN is honored to recognize and celebrate Thor Steingraber on being recognized as one of *Musical America*’s Top 30 Professionals of 2023,” said Erika D. Beck, PHD, President Cal State Northridge. “CSUN, the greater Los Angeles region, and the performing arts world have benefitted from his leadership and service.”

“Top Professionals” is a popular special report that is released annually to the *Musical America* list of 26,000+ performing arts industry professionals and is one of the most read issues of the year. It remains on [MusicalAmerica.com](https://MusicalAmerica.com) indefinitely, in the Special Reports Library. Click [here](#) to see the current list and full issue.

### **About Executive and Artistic Director Thor Steingraber**

Thor Steingraber’s artistic career spans more than 20 years, directing at major venues from Lincoln Center to theaters in Europe and Asia. Los Angeles has long been his artistic home where his work for Los Angeles Opera could be seen at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion from

1994 to 2008. Steingraber also taught and directed at Yale School of Music, Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, and the Curtis Institute.

Since his appointment as Executive Director of the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya) in 2014, Steingraber has brought acclaim to the 1700-seat venue. Located in the heart of the San Fernando Valley, The Soraya has come to be known as home to many Los Angeles artists and arts organizations, and Steingraber's lifetime experience as a producer has brought to The Soraya some of the most innovative and diverse programming in the region.

Steingraber is a graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School and was its first Fellow for Arts and Culture. He was subsequently Vice President of two of the nation's largest performing arts centers – The Kimmel Center in Philadelphia, and The Music Center in downtown Los Angeles, where he was responsible for opening Grand Park and establishing the vision that has made the park vital to LA as the home to its many celebrations and holidays.

### **About Musical America**

For over 100 years, *Musical America* Worldwide has been the voice of the performing arts industry. Musical America provides the digital and print touchpoints for performing arts professionals to reach out to each other to further their art and their businesses. It provides resources for presenters, managers, and artists all over the world. More than 14,000 performing arts organizations and 24,000 musicians and professionals in more than 95 countries actively engage with Musical America's news, information, and data.

*Musical America* provides in-depth coverage of performing arts industry news; Special Reports into the key issues and solutions driving the performing arts industry; extensive databases with critical information covering the international landscape of performing artists, facilities, managers, presenters, schools, media, services and organizations; blogs from industry experts exploring the crucial questions faced by businesses and performers; latest changes to managers' rosters; and news directly from industry groups and organizations through its Press Releases section.

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

- The Soraya Communications Associate [Marie Estrada \(marie.estrada@csun.edu\)](mailto:marie.estrada@csun.edu)
- PR Consultant [Gary Murphy \(garymurphypr@garymurphypr.com\)](mailto:garymurphypr@garymurphypr.com)
- ACCESS YOUR PRESS KIT [HERE](#).

### **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.

**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

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