



NEWS RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Marie Estrada | (818) 677-6691
marie.estrada@csun.edu

Gary Murphy | (213) 700-9645
gmurphypr@gmail.com

*"A devilishly good time ... a smart, clever score that showcases Newman at his finest."
– TheaterMania*

*"Newman's music — incorporating elements of blues, gospel, ragtime, pop and old-time Americana — shines, and his lyrics not surprisingly contain strong doses of his acidic wit."
– The Hollywood Reporter*

JUST ANNOUNCED:

**Broadway Stars Reeve Carney & Javier Muñoz
Headline The Soraya's Opening Weekend Performances
of *Randy Newman's FAUST: The Concert*
Saturday & Sunday, Sep 28 & 29**

**Tony Award-winner Lea Salonga
Returns for Two Holiday Concerts on December 15**

*Also New to the 2024-25 Season — Mummenschanz's
half-century celebration 50 Years on Nov 2. Single Tickets to all
Performances On Sale Starting July 9 at [TheSoraya.org](https://www.thesoraya.org).*

(Los Angeles, CA) July 10, 2024 — The Soraya Season Opening Weekend launches Sep 28 and 29 with a Soraya original, **Randy Newman's FAUST: The Concert**. For two performances only, Stars from two of Broadway's biggest hits in recent years, **Javier Muñoz** from *Hamilton* and *In the Heights* and **Reeve Carney** from *Hadestown* and *Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark*, face off as good and evil as the headliners of *Randy Newman's FAUST: The Concert*. This American retelling of Goethe's classic story unfolding in over a dozen songs that highlight Newman's genius and wit. At its 1995 premiere, the *LA Times* hailed Newman's *FAUST* as "a score, thrilling and stage-worthy... a score that brings idiosyncratic, smart humor back into the American musical."

About the Cast of *Randy Newman's FAUST: The Concert*

Reeve Carney is an American actor, musician, singer and songwriter. He is best known for originating the role of Orpheus in the original Broadway cast of the Tony Award-winning musical

Hadestown. He also played Peter Parker/Spider-Man in the Broadway musical *Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark*, Dorian Gray in the Showtime series “Penny Dreadful,” and Riff Raff in the TV musical television film “The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Let’s Do the Time Warp Again.”

American actor and singer, **Javier Muñoz** is most notable for his Broadway performances as Usnavi de la Vega in the 2008 musical *In the Heights* and Alexander Hamilton in the 2015 musical *Hamilton* in which he played the title role from July 11, 2016, until January 14, 2018.

About FAUST and Randy Newman’s FAUST: The Concert

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe’s *Faust, a Tragedy* is a play centered on Heinrich Faust, a scholar striving to learn everything and — God’s favorite human. Some of the additional main characters include God, Mephistopheles (the Devil), and Gretchen, Faust’s love (short for Margaret). In the story Mephistopheles bets God that he can lure Faust away from the right path. So begins a story in which Faust sells his soul to Mephistopheles.

In 1995, Randy Newman released his ninth studio album, *Randy Newman’s FAUST*, basing it on the classic story with modern day references, allusions to John Milton’s *Paradise Lost*, and lyrics filled with humorous cynicism and the melodic sounds audiences have come to know and love from the GRAMMY©-winning singer-songwriter.

Newman tells the story of Henry Faust in 17 songs. In his version, Faust is a student at the University of Notre Dame voice by Don Henley of American rock band The Eagles. The cast includes Randy Newman as Mephistopheles, James Taylor as the Lord, Elton John as Angel Rick, Linda Ronstadt as Faust’s love interest, Margaret, and Bonnie Raitt as Martha.

About Mummenschanz “50 Years”

Also new to the 2024-25 Season is the Swiss theatre troupe, Mummenschanz, returning to The Soraya on Nov 2 for its third performance — this time with “**50 Years**,” an anniversary production celebrating a half century of enchanting audiences with its poetic, non-verbal performances. Mummenschanz will take audiences “on a journey filled with imagination and poetry” performing from a selection of the foundation’s most beloved sketches pulled from its five decades of creations.

About Lea Salonga at Christmas

Joining for the holidays for two performances on December 15 is one of Broadway’s biggest stars, the multiple award-winning **Lea Salonga**. Best known for her roles as the voice of two Disney animated princesses—Mulan from *Mulan* and Jasmine from *Aladdin*, in addition to her Tony Award-winning performance in *Miss Saigon*, the powerhouse performer returns to The Soraya with *Lea Salonga at Christmas*, a brand-new show for all ages ensured to get audiences in the holiday spirit. Program details have not yet been announced. *This presentation is by special arrangement with Amplified Entertainment.*

Memberships at The Soraya

Launched in 2021, Membership gives Soraya patrons the opportunity to belong to a community of people who love the performing arts and gives them a space to gather and enjoy the arts. This season features a new \$120 Jazz Membership that offers 20% off all Jazz at Naz festival concerts, priority seating, Jazz Lounge access, and more.

Memberships start at the Bronze level for \$96 (or four payments of \$24), and offer between 15% and 25% off ticket purchases, based on which level is joined. Most Membership levels are fully tax deductible.

Beyond ticket discounts, Members enjoy the Members-Only Seating Section, first access to tickets, flash sales, Member appreciation nights, and Membership events before and after select performances! To learn more about Membership, [click here](#).

For story development and interview requests, please contact:

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

About The Soraya 2024-25 Season

The 2024-25 Season is a unique mix of world music, one-of-a-kind productions, holiday programming, a fourth-annual Jazz at Naz festival (recognized as one of the best winter festivals on the West Coast) and will launch the first-ever La Seen festival in April 2025. The season will open on Sept. 28, 2024, with Randy Newman's FAUST: The Concert and close with Stephen Schwartz, celebrating a career spanning more than five decades with Defying Gravity: An Evening with Stephen Schwartz & Friends on May 3, 2025.

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 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 2024-25 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.

What: *Randy Newman's FAUST: The Concert*

Tickets: \$55-\$138

When: Sat Sep 28 | 8PM

Sun Sep 29 | 3PM

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

18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330

Website: www.TheSoraya.org

Ticket

Office: 818-677-3000

Soraya Press Contacts

Marie Estrada, Communications Associate, The Soraya

P: 818-677-6691 | E: marie.estrada@csun.edu

PR Consultant Gary Murphy

E: garymurphy@garymurphypr.com

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