



NEWS RELEASE

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

**JUST ANNOUNCED:**  
**The Full Cast of The Soraya’s Production of**  
***Randy Newman’s FAUST: The Concert***  
**Now Complete with Ryan McCartan in Title Role**

*Saturday, Sept. 28 and Sunday, Sept. 29.*

*Single Tickets to all Performances on Sale Now at [TheSoraya.org](https://TheSoraya.org).*

**(Los Angeles, CA) Sept. 4, 2024** — A trio of powerhouse Broadway stars will take to **The Soraya’s** Great Hall stage on Sept. 28 & 29 for two performances of ***Randy Newman’s FAUST: The Concert*** featuring music from Newman’s rarely performed masterwork *Faust*. **Ryan McCartan** (*Wicked* and *Rocky Horror Picture Show*) performs the titular role alongside **Reeve Carney** (*Hadestown*) as the Devil, and **Javier Muñoz** (*Hamilton*; *In the Heights*) playing the Lord. Rounding out the stellar cast is **Joanna Lynn-Jacobs** (the recent opera *Comet/Poppea* at the Geffen Contemporary) as Margaret, **Veronica Swift** (jazz recording artist) as Martha and **Jordan Temple** (comedian/ “Abbot Elementary” TV writer) as the Narrator. Also performing is a nine-piece band led by Music Director and pianist Michael Roth, and LA-based GRAMMY Award-winning vocal ensemble, **Tonality** as the Gospel Chorus.

Good and evil battle it out in an American retelling of Goethe’s legendary story. ***Randy Newman’s FAUST: The Concert*** features music from the songwriter’s only musical, *Faust* and showcases his unmatched wit and some of his greatest songs. *Randy Newman’s FAUST* concept (or studio) album debuted in 1995, and the rock, Gospel, pop, and Broadway-inspired tunes are as timely and catchy as ever. Following in the footsteps of that recording’s James Taylor, Linda Ronstadt, Elton John, and Bonnie Raitt, this **Soraya-produced original concert** will feature an extraordinarily talented cast.

**“Randy Newman’s FAUST** has had a cult-like following for thirty years,” said Thor Steingraber, Executive and Artistic Director of The Soraya. “Although the stage productions did not endure, the concept album secured a legacy for these outstanding songs by Newman at the height of his powers. More recently, when the album appeared on streaming services, interest was sparked for a new generation, and The Soraya has taken it a step further by producing a concert version for stage with a cast of young talent from multiple backgrounds – Broadway, television, jazz, and opera.”



*“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

In The Soraya’s version of **FAUST**, the story will be overseen by **Jordan Temple** who is adapting the narrative script and will voice the Narrator during the performances. The screenwriter joins the cast between episodes of the hit television comedy “Abbott Elementary,” where he is a regular in the writer’s room. With a sense of humor to match Newman’s, Temple will guide the audience through the proceedings as the narrator of each performance.

“I very much look forward to seeing the *Faust* concert,” said Randy Newman in a statement shared with The Soraya. “I never had more fun doing anything than I did working on *Faust*. I hope you all like it.”

**For story development and interview requests, please contact:**

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

**Ryan McCartan (Faust):** Ryan McCartan originated J.D. in *Heathers: The Musical* at Hudson Backstage in Los Angeles and then at New World Stages Off-Broadway. He went on to make his Broadway debut as Fiyero in *Wicked*. Additional theatre credits include Hans in *Frozen* (Broadway), Tony in *West Side Story* (Lyric Opera of Chicago), and Celtis in *Lone Star* (Ruth Stage, Off-Broadway). McCartan starred as Brad Majors in Fox's *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* alongside Laverne Cox and Victoria Justice, directed by Kenny Ortega. He has recurred on "The Winchesters" (CW), "Royal Pains" (USA), and "Liv and Maddie" (Disney). He is represented by Gersh and Thruline.

**Reeve Carney (Devil):** An American actor, musician, singer and songwriter who 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*.

**Javier Muñoz (Lord):** An American actor and singer, who 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.

**Jordan Temple (Writer/Narrator):** An L.A.-based comedian and TV writer-producer from Queens, NY, Temple has written for Emmy-winning shows such as "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel," "Atlanta," and "Abbott Elementary." Temple wrote and starred in his own mashup plays such as *The Color Urkel* and *Hidden Fences*. The latter was a satirical play based on the viral mistake made at The Golden Globes and Oscars in 2017 that combined *Hidden Figures* and *Fences* that was staged in 2017 and 2018. Currently, Jordan is writing for season four of "Abbott Elementary." Using Randy Newman's retelling of *Faust*, Temple will adapt a script following the wit and humor of Newman himself.

**Joanna Lynn-Jacobs (Margaret):** A classically trained vocalist, mover and performer who blends her strong background in opera with diverse musical influences, such as folk music from around the world, musical theater, blues and jazz. Some of her recent appearances include the role of "Poppea" opposite Anthony Roth Costanzo in *The Comet/Poppea* at The Geffen Contemporary MOCA, co-produced by American Modern Opera Company and The Industry. She has also played "Tess/chorus" in Rhiannon Giddens and Michael Abels' *Omar* at San Francisco Opera, and the role of "Iphigenia of the Sea" in the U.S. premiere and tour of *(...Iphigenia)* by Wayne Shorter and Esperanza Spalding. Previously, Joanna performed in The Los Angeles Philharmonic's *War of the Worlds* narrated by Sigourney Weaver and directed by MacArthur Grant winner Yuval Sharon and

starred in their production of *ATLAS* by Meredith Monk the following year. Joanna currently performs in Europe and the U.S. with Meredith Monk's Cellular Songs.

**Veronica Swift (Martha):** While Swift's first two albums solidified her position in modern jazz, she shows that she's more than a jazz singer, exploring French and Italian opera, European classical music, bossa nova, blues, industrial rock, funk, and vaudeville. She pulls the feat off without the results sounding callow or pastiche. Swift's expansive artistic voice remains firmly intact regardless of genre. Her new eponymously titled album, her third for Mack Avenue Records, is a masterful coming-out story. The daughter of jazz singer and educator, Stephanie Nakasian, and bebop pianist, Hod O'Brien, Swift first gained major international attention in 2015 when she won second place in the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz International Vocals Competition. Four years later, Mack Avenue Records released her acclaimed album *Confessions* when she was 25 years old. Swift describes the personal artistic statement on her new album as "transgenre," meaning that while she has long been immersed in jazz music, she also feels a strong creative connection to rock and soul music and utilizes the passion for all three and more to create her unique style.

**TONALITY (chorus):** An award-winning ensemble, established in 2016, known for "open hearted singing" (*Lauri's List*). Tonality was recently recognized as a 2024 GRAMMY® winner in New Age, Ambient, or Chant Album for Carla Patullo's *So She Howls* with the Scorchio Quartet. Led by founder and Artistic Director Alexander Lloyd Blake, he imagined Tonality as an ensemble that represents the diverse cultures and ethnicities within the Los Angeles area. Within a year of its forming, Tonality's mission evolved to use their collective voices to present concerts on themes of social justice in hopes to act as a catalyst toward empathy and community activism. The group premiered its first album in 2019 titled *Sing About It*. Tonality is the recipient of the 2020 Chorus America/ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming, a prize given for commitment to singing and commissioning new works. Tonality has collaborated with choral composers and film composers to create the works presented in concert, striving for diverse voices and perspectives within the composer community. Collaborators include Joe Trapanese, Roman Gianarthur, Gaayatri Kaundinya, Reena Esmail, Shawn Kirchner, Zanaida Robles, Moira Smiley, Alex Wurman and composer Michael J. Giacchino. Tonality has performed with MacArthur Fellow Taylor Mac, Pete Townsend of The Who, pianist Lara Downes, internationally acclaimed performer Björk and most recently Dutch DJ Tiësto and Kelly Clarkson in support of her album *Chemistry*.

### **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. *Randy Newman's FAUST* tells the story of Henry Faust in 17 songs. In the recorded version, Faust is a student at the University of Notre Dame and voiced by Don Henley of American rock band The Eagles. The recording's cast includes 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 Randy Newman**

With songs that run the gamut from heartbreaking to satirical and a host of unforgettable film scores, Randy Newman has used his many talents to create musical masterpieces widely recognized by generations of audiences.

After starting his songwriting career as a teenager, Newman launched into recording as a singer and pianist in 1968 with his self-titled album *Randy Newman*. Throughout the 1970s, 80s, and 90s he released several acclaimed albums such as: *12 Songs*, *Sail Away*, *Good Old Boys*, *Little Criminals*, *Born Again*, *Trouble in Paradise*, *Land of Dreams*, and *Bad Love*. Since 2003, Nonesuch Records has released three *Randy Newman Songbook* volumes, the *Randy Newman: Live in London* CD/DVD, *Harps and Angels*, and *Dark Matter*.

The 1995 album *Randy Newman's Faust*, a modern interpretation of the nineteenth century Goethe play, featured performances by Newman as well as James Taylor, Don Henley, Elton John, Bonnie Raitt, and Linda Ronstadt. A musical theater production of *Faust* was performed at San Diego's La Jolla Playhouse in 1995 and at Chicago's Goodman Theatre in 1996, and a concert version was part of the *Encores!* series at New York's City Center in 2014.

In addition to his solo recordings and regular international touring, Newman began composing and scoring for films in the 1980s. The list of movies he has worked on includes *The Natural*, *Awakenings*, *Ragtime*, all four *Toy Story* pictures, *Monsters Inc.* and *Monsters University*, *Seabiscuit*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *A Bug's Life*, *Meyerowitz Stories*, and *Marriage Story*.

Randy Newman's many honors include seven Grammys, three Emmys, and two Academy Awards, as well as a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. He is in both the Songwriters Hall of Fame and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and has been awarded an Ivor Novello PRS for Music Special International Award as well as a PEN New England Song Lyrics of Literary Excellence Award. Newman is the subject of a new biography by former *Los Angeles Times* journalist Robert Hilburn, *A Few Words in Defense of Our Country*, due in October 2024.

### **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](http://www.TheSoraya.org)

**Ticket Office:** 818-677-3000

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