



NEWS RELEASE

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The Soraya Launches LA SEEN FESTIVAL

A Monthlong Series of Programs Dedicated to the Performing Arts in Los Angeles

- April 6 | **Terence Blanchard** World Premiere Arrangement of *Champion* and *Fire Shut Up in My Bones* Featuring the E-Collective and Turtle Island Quartet; promotional partnership with LA Opera Off Grand
- April 12 | **The Colburn Orchestra with Stéphane Denève**, Conducting Gershwin, Ravel and Dvorak
- April 17 | **Jazz Is Dead Co-Founder Adrian Younge** debuts the concert experience of his vinyl psychedelic soul trilogy *Something About April* with a 35-piece orchestra, including 25 of CSUN's best instrumentalists
- April 26 | **LA Dances GRAHAM100** featuring soloists from Martha Graham Dance as well as LA-based Lula Washington Dance Theatre, Gloria Kaufman USC School of Dance, CSUN School of Dance and LACHSA School of Dance

Tickets start at \$22 and are now available at [TheSoraya.org](https://www.thesoraya.org).

(Los Angeles, CA) February 12, 2025—Beginning on Sunday, April 6, **The Soraya** will unveil its newest programming initiative, the **LA Seen festival**, a monthlong series of programs dedicated to shining the spotlight on the performing arts in Los Angeles. For more than a decade, Los Angeles artists have had a home at The Soraya. They are standouts throughout the seasons, performing original works, undertaking first-time collaborations, and rising to new heights.

“Engaging in deep collaboration with Los Angeles based artists and arts organizations is something I brought to The Soraya over a decade ago,” said Thor Steingraber, The Soraya’s Executive and Artistic Director. “I’m not sure that it has always received the full attention it deserves, because it has been integrated with all other programs in our seasons. Now, with the

launch of LA Seen festival, we are continuing that tradition which brings a greater intentionality and a higher level of visibility to this important work.”

Opening the **LA Seen** festival on April 6 is seven-time GRAMMY-winner and two-time Academy Award nominee **Terence Blanchard** who is the first Black composer to premier an original opera at the Metropolitan Opera. *Fire Shut up in My Bones* took the world by storm, and then he did it again in 2023 with another groundbreaking hit, *Champion*. The Soraya commissioned a world premiere of selections from both operas to be performed by Blanchard himself. In this promotional partnership with LA Opera's Off Grand program, the renowned American trumpeter and film composer leads his own **E-Collective** and **Turtle Island Quartet** with baritone **Justin Austin** and soprano **Adrienne Danrich**.

Additional LA Seen festival performances include the return of downtown LA's Colburn Orchestra with conductor **Stéphane Denève** on the podium. The extraordinarily creative collective **Jazz Is Dead** presented in collaboration with ARTDONTSLEEP and featuring the concert debut of **Adrian Younge's** vinyl psychedelic soul trilogy *Something About April* with a 35-piece orchestra, including 25 of CSUN's best instrumentalists, and a return of the Martha Graham celebration, **GRAHAM100**, featuring soloists from Martha Graham Dance, and LA-based Lula Washington Dance Theatre, Gloria Kaufman USC School of Dance, CSUN School of Dance, and Los Angeles County High School for the Arts School of Dance (LACHSA) performing several classic Martha Graham works.

ABOUT LA SEEN PERFORMANCES

SUN APR 6 | 7PM

WORLD PREMIERE / LA OPERA OFF GRAND—PROMOTIONAL PARTNER

TERENCE BLANCHARD

Champion and Fire Shut Up in My Bones

Featuring the E-Collective and

Turtle Island Quartet

Visuals by Andrew F. Scott

Justin Austin, baritone

Adrienne Danrich, soprano

Blanchard made history in 2021 as the first Black composer to premiere an original opera at the Metropolitan Opera. *Fire Shut up in My Bones* took the world by storm, and then he did it again in 2023 with another groundbreaking hit, *Champion*. A collaboration with Los Angeles Opera, The Soraya commissioned a world premiere of selections from both operas performed by Blanchard himself. The American trumpeter and film composer leads his own E-Collective and Turtle Island Quartet with baritone Justin Austin and soprano Adrienne Danrich. LA Opera Off Grand – Promotional Partner. *Tickets \$48–\$118*

“Poetic, poignant, dramatically effective.” – *The New York Times*

SAT APR 26 | 8PM

LA DANCES GRAHAM100

Featuring Soloists from Martha Graham Dance, and Los Angeles based Lula Washington Dance Theatre, USC Gloria Kaufman School of Dance, CSUN School of Dance, and LACHSA School of Dance

Program :

Panorama

Clytemnestra Suite

Lamentation Variations

Satyric Festival Song

Deep Song

Acts of Light

Masterpieces rarely seen come to life when dancers from across Los Angeles join forces for The Soraya’s second contribution to Graham100, the multi-year celebration of America’s longest running dance company. Digging deep into Martha Graham’s vast catalog, more than 180 pieces strong, the centenary celebration engages outstanding dancers from one of Los Angeles’ most revered dance companies alongside soloists from Martha Graham Dance and students from L.A.’s most distinguished dance study programs. *Tickets \$43–\$65*

THU APR 17 | 8PM

The Soraya and ArtDontSleep Present

JAZZ IS DEAD

Adrian Younge, and 35-piece orchestra

Adrian Younge makes his Soraya debut on the evening before the release of the third album in his *Something About April* psychedelic soul trilogy. This exclusive Los Angeles concert experience, performed only at The Soraya with full orchestra and choir, features a 35-piece orchestra, including 25 of CSUN’s best instrumentalists to play compositions from his *Something About April* albums and more. *Tickets \$43–\$95*

SAT APR 12 | 3PM

THE COLBURN ORCHESTRA /The Colburn School, Los Angeles

Stéphane Denève, conductor

Downtown Los Angeles’ Colburn Conservatory stands at the pinnacle of classical music in Los Angeles with its flagship orchestra. Stéphane Denève, one of the most sought-after conductors at concert halls around the world, leads their next Soraya appearance. The French maestro inspires the next generation of classical musicians in multiple venues, including New World Symphony where he is Artistic Director. *Tickets \$22*

For story development and interview requests, please contact:

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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 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.

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

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