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THE
SORAYA

NEWS RELEASE

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"In a way, you could call Younge a method producer - to make this album, he spent years discovering rare Brazilian records, learning to speak Portuguese and play the upright bass so he could be true to the sonic story he wanted to tell. He wrote the project for a 30-piece orchestra, and along with the bass, played almost every instrument himself. For the tour he has enlisted a trusted band of musicians to bring the songs to life," — KALW

Emmy-Winning Composer Adrian Younge Debuts *Something About April* at The Soraya's Inaugural LA Seen Festival

LA SEEN

The Soraya & ARTDONTSLLEEP present

JAZZ IS DEAD

with **Adrian Younge**

SOMETHING ABOUT APRIL
with Full Orchestra

THU APR 17 8PM

THE SORAYA

The Monthlong Series of Programs Dedicated to the Performing Arts in Los Angeles Launches April 6. Tickets start at \$22 and are now available at

TheSoraya.org

(Los Angeles, CA) March 26, 2025 — Self-taught multi-instrumentalist and Emmy Award-winning composer Adrian Younge will debut the concert experience of his vinyl psychedelic soul trilogy

Something About April with a 35-piece orchestra, including 25 of CSUN's best instrumentalists, on April 17. The concert is part of The Soraya's inaugural [LA Seen](#) festival, a monthlong series of programs dedicated to the performing arts in Los Angeles.

"In addition to being our first collaboration with the Jazz Is Dead brand, we were so pleased when Younge asked to supplement his musicians with forces from the CSUN Music Department," said Thor Steingraber, Soraya Executive and Artistic Director. "Younge's commitment to young people is evident in all that he does."

Presented by The Soraya, in conjunction with Younge's extraordinarily creative collective Jazz Is Dead and record label ARTDONTSLLEEP, the *Something About April* concert will feature music from Younge's album trilogy — *Something About April* (2011), *Something About April II* (2016), and his final installment ***Something About April III (April 18, 2025)***.

"Like its predecessors, (*Something About April III*) is similarly primed with morsels that can feed a hip-hop producer," Tshego Letsoalo wrote in an early review for radio station [KALW](#). "Younge is a devotee of analog recording, so the songs not only have the melodies and references from the late sixties and early seventies, but they also just have that aural feeling, like the doo-wopness and intimacy of one of the album's tracks 'Pôxa, Meu Amor.' It could easily fall into a wider genre titled 'Black Parent on a Sunday Morning' - the type of music sampled in the early '90s."

A rare force in the music world, Younge's work encompasses much more than releasing EPs, working with major artists, and his record label [Linear Labs](#). Because of his love for vinyl culture, Younge is also the founder of [Jazz is Dead](#), a project with A Tribe Called Quest's Ali Shaheed Muhammad that includes recording and performing with some of the world's great musicians. The group has collaborated with **Roy Ayers, Ebo Taylor, Jean Carne, and Marcos Valle**, among others.

"I'm a super analog guy, and all of my favorite records were recorded to tape with reels. When we have a name like Jazz is Dead, and we're bringing in icons that are in their seventies and their eighties, they walk into the studio, and they feel like they're 20 years old again," Young explained [in an interview with V13](#). "And they have the freedom to kinda be themselves and use the tools that created the platform for them to stand high above many others and just become everlasting."

[Speaking with The Soraya](#), Younge said the *Something About April Tour* he's currently embarking on is the show he's always dreamed of something that he calls the culmination of himself as an artist.

"I always wanted to wait for part three (*Something About April III*). And the reason why is that I wanted that to come out when I became who I wanted to be. I always wanted to be that ... composer, that conductor, that could run around the stage sweatin,' gettin' nasty and all that stuff with a full orchestra — and literally *Something About April III* comes out a day after our show," he

said. "This is like the trilogy this is me becoming me. It's very special. I might actually cry on stage. I've been waiting for this moment since the 90s and...it's just special for me."

Adrian Younger's April 17 Soraya debut is part of The Soraya's first-ever LA Seen festival, which launches April 6 with GRAMMY®-winning jazz trumpeter and composer Terence Blanchard. Additional LA Seen festival performances include the return of downtown LA's Colburn Orchestra with conductor Stéphane Denève on the podium, and a return of the Martha Graham celebration, GRAHAM100, featuring soloists from Martha Graham Dance, and LA-based Lula Washington Dance Theatre, Glorja 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.

For story development and interview requests, please contact:

- The Soraya Communications Associate Marie Estrada (marie.estrada@csun.edu)
- PR Consultant Gary Murphy (Garymurphypr@garymurphypr.com)
- **CLICK [HERE](#) to access your press kit.**
- **To watch Adrian Younger's full interview with The Soraya, click [here](#).**

About Adrian Younger

Adrian Younger is a rare force in the music world, a self-taught multi-instrumentalist and Emmy Award-winning composer whose artistry transcends boundaries and defies the digital tide. A modern-day polymath, Adrian's profound connection to sound finds its home at Linear Labs, a full analog studio nestled in Los Angeles. This sanctuary is not just a recording space but a living testament to his commitment to preserving the humanity of analog in a digital age. Younger's music has left an indelible mark on the hip-hop landscape. His seminal album, *Something About April* — showcasing a dark mix of psychedelic soul and cinematic instrumentals, became a treasure trove for artists like Jay-Z, whose sampling of Younger's work helped solidify his role as a transformative voice in contemporary music.

Yet, Adrian's impact isn't confined to the studio; it thrives on the stage through **Jazz Is Dead (JID)**, a revolutionary multimedia platform he co-founded with Ali Shaheed Muhammad. Together, they've reimagined the essence of collaboration, producing albums with legends like Roy Ayers, Lonnie Liston Smith, Tony Allen, and Brazilian icons such as João Donato, Hyldon, Marcos Valle, and Azymuth. Adrian's 2024 album release, *São Paulo*, illuminates the profound influence of Brazilian music on his work, paving the way for his awaited conclusion to the *Something About April* trilogy (*Something About April III*), composed entirely in Portuguese.

From his debut as the editor and composer for the cult hit *Black Dynamite*, a blaxploitation masterpiece lauded by the *Los Angeles Times* as "one of the year's best soundtracks," Adrian Younger has continually expanded his creative reach. His Emmy Award-winning scoring work alongside Ali Shaheed Muhammad, encompassing hit shows like *Marvel's Luke Cage* (Netflix), *Sugar* (AppleTV), *Reasonable Doubt* (Hulu), *Raising Kanan* (Starz), and *Cross* (Amazon Prime), reveals a master composer who seamlessly bridges the worlds of soul, funk, and cinematic jazz.

About Jazz is Dead

Founded in 2017 by music producers Adrian Younge, Ali Shaheed Muhammad (A Tribe Called Quest), concert producer Andrew Lojero and industry veteran Adam Block, Jazz Is Dead is a global movement experienced through community and culture. We travel the world searching for rare records and the artists who created them. We dig through the crates for the music and stories that capture our imagination and unite us. Our passion is driven by honoring the legacies of these musical heroes through live concerts, visual media and new analog recordings.

Our concerts have earned an ever-growing fanbase through national and international tours. Under the label, co-founders Adrian Younge and Ali Shaheed Muhammad have produced albums with their musical heroes including luminaires such as Roy Ayers, Lonnie Liston Smith, João Donato, Azymuth, Gary Bartz, Jean Carne, Marcos Valle and Tony Allen.

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.

For Calendar Listings:

Thu Apr 17 | 8PM

The Soraya and ARTDONTSLEEP Present

Jazz Is Dead

Adrian Young

Something About April

With Full Orchestra

Adrian Young 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*

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

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