

*“For more than a decade, Los Angeles artists have found a home at The Soraya, whose presentations serve the city’s multicultural audience and emphasize a breadth of artistic experience.”*

— San Francisco Classical Voice

## The Soraya’s LA Seen Festival Continues with the Return of The Colburn Orchestra

Conductor **Stéphane Denève** will lead performances of Ravel’s Piano Concerto in G major and Dvořák’s Symphony No. 8 in G major, and The Soraya debut of Gershwin’s “An American in Paris”

*Saturday, April 12 at 3PM; Tickets are \$22 and are now available at [TheSoraya.org](https://www.thesoraya.org).*

**(Los Angeles, CA) April 8, 2025** — The Colburn Orchestra, the flagship ensemble of The Colburn Conservatory, returns to **The Soraya** on Saturday, April 12 at 3 p.m. This concert is the second of four events in monthlong The Soraya’s inaugural **LA Seen** festival, dedicated to shining the spotlight on the performing arts in Los Angeles.

Conducted by **Stéphane Denève**, St. Louis Symphony Music Director and New World Symphony Artistic Director, the Colburn Orchestra performance will include Ravel’s Piano Concerto in G major, Dvořák’s Symphony No. 8 in G major, and The Soraya debut of Gershwin’s “An American in Paris.”

For more than a decade, Los Angeles artists have called The Soraya home. They are standouts throughout the many seasons, performing original works, undertaking first-time collaborations, and rise to new heights. The Soraya both keeps an eye out for rising local talent and uplifts the ongoing work of the region’s favorites. The LA Seen festival is The Soraya’s first monthlong series of programs dedicated to these performers and their work.

“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**, Soraya 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 Colburn Orchestra’s return to The Soraya, we are continuing that tradition which brings a greater intentionality and a higher level of visibility to their work.”

The Soraya “brightens April with (the) LA Seen festival,” wrote Victoria Looseleaf in a recent article for [San Francisco Classical Voice](#), adding that The Soraya’s presentations, “serve the city’s multicultural audience and emphasize a breadth of artistic experience.”

Two LA Seen festival events remain following the April 12 Colburn Orchestra performance. The first is **Adrian Younge’s April 17** Soraya debut — the concert experience of his vinyl psychedelic soul trilogy *Something About April* complete with a 35-piece orchestra, including 25 of CSUN’s best instrumentalists. The second is **LA Dances Graham100**, a continuation of Martha Graham centenary celebration featuring LA-based Lula Washington Dance Theatre, Gloria Kaufman USC School of Dance, CSUN School of Dance, Los Angeles County High School for the Arts School of (LACHSA), and three soloists from the company performing seven masterful Martha Graham works along with **two world premieres** on April 26. Read more about the full festival [here](#).

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

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- **Click [HERE](#) to access your press kit**, complete with photos and additional press releases related to the festival.

**About The Colburn Orchestra**

Now in its 21st season, the Colburn Orchestra is the flagship ensemble of the Colburn Conservatory of Music. Under the direction of Music Director Yehuda Gilad, the Colburn Orchestra performs for Southern California audiences at venues such as the Walt Disney Concert Hall, Ambassador Auditorium, The Wallis, The Broad Stage, Segerstrom Concert Hall, and The Soraya. Dedicated to serving the greater Los Angeles community, the Colburn Orchestra performs for schools in neighboring communities every year, giving five concerts in a one-week period to school children of all ages.

Since the inception of the Orchestra, Gilad and the esteemed Colburn faculty have invited leading guest artists to perform with the Colburn Orchestra to mirror a professional orchestral experience. Previous visiting conductors include James Conlon, Gustavo Dudamel, Valery Gergiev, Sir Neville Marriner, Kurt Masur, Nicolas McGegan, Ludovic Morlot, Esa-Pekka Salonen, and Michael Tilson Thomas. Guest soloists include violinists Joshua Bell, Cho-Liang Lin, Elmar Oliveira, and Pinchas Zukerman; soprano Elizabeth Hynes; mezzo-sopranos Sasha Cooke and Michelle DeYoung; pianist Vladimir Feltsman; and saxophonist Claude Delangle. Acclaimed artists such as Mstislav Rostropovich and Itzhak Perlman actively worked with the orchestra during its inaugural year.

The ensemble made its United Kingdom debut at the Edinburgh International Festival in August 2018, followed by a performance in Dublin. In 2012, the Colburn Orchestra opened the Grammy Foundation's 14th Annual Music Preservation Project, *One Night Only: A Celebration of the Live Music Experience*, sharing the stage with Grammy Award winners, nominees, and stars of the future from all musical genres. In 2010, Oscar- and Grammy-winning composer Michael Giacchino conducted the Colburn Orchestra at Royce Hall in a special concert, "Lost" Live: The Final Celebration, coinciding with the finale of the worldwide hit television show.

Colburn Orchestra recordings include the music of Menachem Wiesenberg (Live Classics, 2006) with now-retired faculty Ron Leonard playing Wiesenberg's Cello Concerto, and *If You Love for Beauty* (Yarlung Records, 2012), featuring works by John Adams, Chausson, Handel, and Mahler. The Colburn Orchestra's live performance of Mahler's Symphony No. 5, led by guest conductor Gerard Schwarz, was released by Yarlung Records in 2011.

### **About Stéphane Denève, Conductor**

Stéphane Denève is Music Director of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, Artistic Director of the New World Symphony, and from 2023 will also be Principal Guest Conductor of the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic. He recently concluded terms as Principal Guest Conductor of The Philadelphia Orchestra and Chief Conductor of the Brussels Philharmonic, and previously served as Chief Conductor of Stuttgart Radio Symphony Orchestra (SWR) and Music Director of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.

Recognized internationally for the exceptional quality of his performances and programming, Stéphane Denève regularly appears at major concert venues with the world's greatest orchestras and soloists. He has a special affinity for the music of his native France, and is a passionate advocate for music of the 21st century.

Stéphane Denève's recent and upcoming engagements include appearances with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, NHK Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Sinfonica dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra (with whom he conducted the 2020 Nobel Prize concert), Orchestre National de France, Czech Philharmonic, NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra, Vienna Symphony, DSO Berlin, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, and Rotterdam Philharmonic.

In North America, Stéphane Denève made his Carnegie Hall debut with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, with whom he has appeared several times both in Boston and at Tanglewood, and he regularly conducts the New York Philharmonic, The Philadelphia Orchestra, The Cleveland Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, New World Symphony, and Toronto Symphony. In 2022, Denève was the conductor for John Williams' official 90th Birthday Gala with NSO Washington; he is also a popular guest at many of the US summer music festivals, including the Hollywood Bowl, Bravo!Vail, Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Blossom Music Festival, Festival Napa Valley, Grand Teton Music Festival, and Music Academy of the West.

Stéphane Denève frequently performs with many of the world's leading solo artists, including Leif Ove Andsnes, Emanuel Ax, Joshua Bell, Nicola Benedetti, Yefim Bronfman, Renaud and Gautier Capuçon, James Ehnes, Kirill Gerstein, Hélène Grimaud, Augustin Hadelich, Hilary Hahn, Sheku Kanneh-Mason, Leonidas Kavakos, Lang Lang, Olivier Latry, Paul Lewis, Nikolai Lugansky, Yo-Yo Ma, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Kelly O'Connor, Víkingur Ólafsson, Stéphanie d'Oustrac, Gil Shaham, Akiko Suwanai, Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, and Frank Peter Zimmermann. He also treasures the memory of Nicholas Angelich and Lars Vogt, two exceptional artists with whom he enjoyed a close musical friendship over many years.

In the field of opera, Stéphane Denève led a new production of *Pelléas et Mélisande* with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra and Netherlands Opera at the 2019 Holland Festival. Elsewhere, he has led productions at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, Opéra National de Paris, Glyndebourne Festival, Teatro alla Scala, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Saito Kinen Festival, Gran Teatro del Liceu, La Monnaie, and Deutsche Oper am Rhein.

As a recording artist, Denève has won critical acclaim for his recordings of the works of Poulenc, Debussy, Ravel, Roussel, Franck and Connesson. He is a triple winner of the Diapason d'Or of the Year, has been shortlisted for Gramophone's Artist of the Year Award, and has won the prize for symphonic music at the International Classical Music Awards. His most recent releases include a live recording of Honegger's *Jeanne d'arc au bûcher* with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, and two discs of the works of Guillaume Connesson with the Brussels Philharmonic (the first of which was awarded the Diapason d'Or de l'année, Caecilia Award, and *Classica Magazine's* CHOC of the Year). A box-set of his complete Ravel recordings with Stuttgart Radio Symphony Orchestra was released in 2022 by Hänssler Classic. A graduate and prize-winner of the Paris Conservatoire, Stéphane Denève worked closely in his early career with Sir Georg Solti, Georges Prêtre and Seiji Ozawa. A gifted communicator and educator, he is committed to inspiring the next generation of musicians and listeners, and has worked regularly with young people in programs such as those of the New World Symphony, Tanglewood Music Center, the Colburn School, the European Union Youth Orchestra, and the Music Academy of the West.

### **About the LA Seen festival**

For more than a decade, Los Angeles performing artists have had a home at The Soraya. They are standouts throughout the many seasons, performing original works, undertaking first-time collaborations, and rising to new heights. The Soraya both keeps an eye out for rising local talent and uplifts the ongoing work of the region's favorites. Thousands of fresh eyes in The Soraya's Great Hall have been introduced to hometown dancers, jazz artists, and other musicians.

Opening the **LA Seen** festival on April 6 was eight-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 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 10-piece ensemble joined by 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, Glorya 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 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:**

**SAT APR 12 | 3PM**

**The Colburn Orchestra**

**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

### **Program:**

GERSHWIN: "An American in Paris" (17 min)

RAVEL: Piano Concerto in G major (22 min)

I. Allegro moderato

II. Adagio assai

III. Presto

DVOŘÁK: Symphony No. 8 in G major, Op. 88 (36 min)

Allegro con brio

II. Adagio

III. Allegretto grazioso — Molto vivace

IV. Allegro ma non troppo

**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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