

"Anyone who has made the journey learns that the drive to The Soraya compares favorably to any downtown venue, that parking is a breeze, and that the center is simply spectacular...you settle into your seat, share an armrest with a stranger, and immerse yourself in whatever creative, collaborative immersion Thor and his team have conjured for the evening,"
— Ventura Boulevard Magazine

Announcing The Soraya's 2025–26 Season

Highlights of the 15th Anniversary Season Include:

Opening Weekend - *Fiddler on the Roof in Yiddish* (Sept. 13 - 14)

***The Martha Graham Dance Company's 100th Season with a Special Centennial Creation* (Oct. 4)**

***Disney and Pixar's Toy Story 30th Anniversary Live-to-Film Concert* (Oct. 11 - 12)**

***Quincy Jones Tribute Concert; Chris Walden and Pacific Jazz Orchestra* (Oct. 18)**

***Gregory Porter: Christmas Wish* (Dec. 6)**

***Riccardo Muti Conducts Chicago Symphony Orchestra* (Jan. 22, 2026)**

***Duke Ellington Concert of Sacred Music: Led by Gerald Clayton* (Feb. 1, 2026)**

***Fifth-Annual Jazz at Naz festival* (Feb. 1-21, 2026)**

***Pianist Yuja Wang Leads the Mahler Chamber Orchestra* (Apr. 25, 2026)**

And more!

Members-Only Package Presale: May 9-June 16; Members-Only Single Ticket Onsale: June 17-July 8; Single Ticket Onsale Opens to the Public July 9.

(Los Angeles, CA) May 9, 2025 — The Soraya's 15th Anniversary Season was unveiled last evening at the annual Executive Director's Dinner held at the award-winning performing arts center on the CSUN campus. Executive and Artistic Director **Thor Steingraber** shared details of the 2025–26 Season which includes 41 performances across 32 events, and will run from Sept. 13, 2025, to Apr. 25, 2026.

"Each of The Soraya's performance seasons is a journey, an exploration of new or novel themes, as well as a return to timeless ideas," said Steingraber. "The Soraya's 2025–26 Season—our 15th—

encompasses diverse experiences including the nightlife of Lisbon, Buenos Aires, and Mexico City; the daily life of West Africa; the spiritual realms explored by Alice Coltrane and Duke Ellington; the masterworks of Brahms and the megahits of Quincy Jones; and much more.”

Continuing a Soraya tradition, the new season features events from nearly every performing arts genre — jazz, dance, classical, Broadway, film, and more, along with original productions found only at The Soraya. The season also includes returning favorites, 11 artists making their Soraya debuts, and Tony® Award-winner **Steven Skybell** as Tevye, along with the original Off-Broadway cast, in The Soraya’s Opening Weekend concert production of National Yiddish Theater Folksbiene’s ***Fiddler on the Roof in Yiddish*; three performances** from Sept. 13–14.

Milestones include the culmination of the **Martha Graham Dance Company** centenary with three monumental pieces on Oct. 4 — a rarely seen work based on the myth of Oedipus, Graham’s 1947 *Night Journey*; a 2024 creation inspired by her longstanding socio-political critique - *We the People* by **Jamar Roberts** with a folk score by **Rhiannon Giddens**; and a world premiere which extends The Soraya’s commitment to Graham’s collaborations with composers. This new commission is the first-ever pairing of two giants — Graham and **Leonard Bernstein**. **Wild Up** performs **Christopher Rountree’s** newly commissioned arrangement of Bernstein, as well as William Schuman’s composition for *Night Journey*.

The Soraya’s 15th Anniversary Celebration is another highlight with two significant concerts bookending the venue’s original opening day on **Jan. 29, 2011**. Music Director Emeritus for Life **Riccardo Muti** makes his Soraya debut conducting the **Chicago Symphony Orchestra** performing Brahms’ Symphony No. 4 on Jan. 22, 2026. Then, the **Duke Ellington Concert of Sacred Music** will take place on Feb. 1, 2026. For the February event, pianist **Gerald Clayton** leads a big band orchestra and choir as they explore Ellington’s lesser-known **Sacred Concerts**, originally performed in churches between 1965 and 1973.

Few artists in any field have had an impact as great as the legendary **Quincy Jones**. On Oct. 18, conductor **Chris Walden** pays tribute to his mentor by leading the **Pacific Jazz Orchestra** as they present ***Fly Me to the Moon, A Tribute to Quincy Jones***. Pianist **Yuja Wang** returns to The Soraya on Apr. 25, this time leading the **Mahler Chamber Orchestra** for a program featuring Chopin’s Piano Concerto No. 2.

The Oscar and GRAMMY Award-winning music of **Randy Newman** returns to The Soraya with the 30th anniversary live-to-film concert of Disney and Pixar’s groundbreaking hit film, ***Toy Story***. **CSUN’s Symphony Orchestra** brings the beloved score to life for two performances on Oct 11 and 12.

The 2025–26 Season Includes:

- The fifth-annual **Jazz at Naz** festival. Recently named by *DownBeat* magazine as one of the world’s top jazz venues of 2025 and the winner of “Best Festival” in San Francisco Classical Voice’s 2024 Audience Choice Awards, the February 2026 festival includes *Concert of Sacred Music with Gerald Clayton* (Great Hall), Arturo O’Farrill Trio (Jazz Club), Cécile

McLorin Salvant (Jazz Club), Anat Cohen Quartetinho (Jazz Club), Pacific Jazz Orchestra with Veronica Swift (Great Hall), Preservation Hall Jazz Band (Great Hall), and Alonzo King LINES Ballet with *Ode to Alice Coltrane* (Great Hall).

- The **Classical Music** series with the Soraya debut of violinist Ray Chen (Oct. 30; Onstage Concert); the return of Joshua Bell and Academy of St Martin in the Fields (Feb. 26, 2026), and The Soraya debut of the Mahler Chamber Orchestra with Yuja Wang (Apr. 25, 2026).
- The **Hecho en Las Américas** series returns for its 11th edition with 10 performances that feature the diverse music and dance forms of Mexico, and Central America. In their Soraya debut, Mariachi Herencia de México with Leonardo Aguilar opens the series on Sept. 26. The series includes Lila Downs (Oct. 24); four performances of The Soraya original *Nochebuena: A Christmas Spectacular* (Dec. 20-22); the Villalobos Brothers (Mar. 14, 2026); Ballet Hispánico: *CARMEN.maquia* (Mar. 28, 2026); and *Chavela y Sus Mujeres: Un Homenaje a Chavela Vargas* (Apr. 18-19), featuring Ofelia Medina, Eugenia León, and more in a celebration of the musical icon.
- The Soraya's **Music Knows No Borders** series, which brings not only a wide spectrum of world-class international musicians to The Soraya stage, but their cultures as well. The series will begin on Nov. 6 with Portuguese fado singer Mariza and will include the Tigran Hamasyan Trio (Mar. 7, 2026); Quinteto Astor Piazzolla (Mar. 21, 2026); and Cirque Kalabanté's *Afrique En Cirque*, where high-level acrobatics will take audiences on journey where the sets and costumes pay homage to the Guinean diaspora (Mar. 22, 2026).

Important Ticket Onsale Dates to Remember:

- **May 9 through June 16** — Members-only package presale
- **June 17 through July 8** — Single ticket onsale opens to Members
- **July 9** — Single ticket onsale opens to the general public

For story development and interview requests, please contact:

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- Click [HERE](#) to access your press kit

2025-26 Season Calendar

Opening Weekend: Sept. 13 & 14, 2025

The West Coast Premiere of National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene's Off-Broadway hit ***Fiddler on the Roof*** concert performance in Yiddish, directed by Broadway Legend **Joel Grey** and starring the original Off-Broadway cast led by Steven Skybell as Tevye.

15th Anniversary Crystal Series:

- ***Fiddler on the Roof in Yiddish*** (Sept. 13-14)
- **Martha Graham Dance Company** – The Soraya launches the final installment of the company's global celebration of its 100th year with the world premiere of a new featuring the first-ever pairing of two giants: Martha Graham and Leonard Bernstein, inspired by a musical excerpt discovered in their correspondence. Wild Up performs the newly commissioned music by Los Angeles-based composer Christopher Rountree's new arrangement of Bernstein. The program also includes Graham's *Night Journey* (1947) and *We the People* (2024) (Oct. 4).
- ***Fly Me to the Moon: Quincy Jones Tribute Concert*** - The Soraya and Christopher Walden's Pacific Jazz Orchestra Big Band and vocalist José James pay homage to Jones in a concert featuring his early work onstage and onscreen, transporting audiences through the beginnings of his vast career (Oct. 18).
- **Chicago Symphony Orchestra, with Maestro Riccardo Muti** - for The Soraya's 15th Anniversary Celebration (Jan. 22, 2026).
- **Duke Ellington Concert of Sacred Music** - Gerald Clayton, piano and music director; featuring Tonality and Josette Wiggan (Feb. 1, 2026).

Classical:

- **The Colburn Orchestra**, conducted by Carlos Miguel Prieto (Oct. 26)
- **Ray Chen, piano** (Oct. 30; Onstage performance)
- **Chicago Symphony Orchestra, with Maestro Riccardo Muti** - for The Soraya's 15th Anniversary Celebration (Jan. 22, 2026)
- **Academy of St Martin in The Fields with Joshua Bell** (Feb. 26, 2026)
- **Mahler Chamber Orchestra with pianist Yuja Wang** (Apr. 25, 2026)

Dance:

- **Martha Graham Dance Company** (Oct. 4)
- **Ballet BC** – *BOLERO X*, and more (Nov. 15)
- **MOMIX** – *Alice* (Nov. 22)
- **Alonzo King LINES Ballet** - *Ode to Alice Coltrane* (Feb. 21, 2026)
- **Ballet Hispánico** - *CARMEN.maquia* (Mar. 28, 2026)

Music Knows No Borders:

- **Mariza** (Nov. 6)
- **Tigran Hamasyan Trio** (Mar. 7, 2026)
- **Villalobos Brothers** (Mar. 14, 2026)
- **Quinteto Astor Piazzolla** (Mar. 21, 2026)
- **Cirque Kalabanté** (Mar. 22, 2026)

Fifth-annual Jazz at Naz festival:

- **Duke Ellington Concert of Sacred Music** (Feb. 1, 2026)
- **Arturo O’Farrill Trio** (Jazz Club; Feb. 5, 2026)
- **Cécile McLorin Salvant** (Jazz Club; Feb. 6-7, 2026)
- **Anat Cohen Quartetinho** (Jazz Club; Feb. 12, 2026)
- ***Love Inside Out: Valentine’s Day with Veronica Swift and Pacific Jazz Orchestra*** (Feb. 14, 2026)
- **Preservation Hall Jazz Band** (Feb. 18, 2026)
- **Alonzo King LINES Ballet: *Ode to Alice Coltrane*** (Feb. 21, 2026)

Holiday:

- **Gregory Porter: *Christmas Wish*** (Dec. 6)
- **The Klezmatics: *Happy Joyous Hanukkah*** (Dec. 7)
- **Christian Sands: *Christmas Stories*** (Onstage concert; Dec. 12-13)
- ***Nochebuena: A Christmas Spectacular*** (Dec. 20-22)

Hecho en Las Américas

- **Mariachi Herencia de México featuring Leonardo Aguilar** (Sept. 26)
- **Lila Downs: Dia de Muertos** (Oct. 24)
- **Quintetto Astor Piazzolla** (Mar. 21, 2026)
- **Ballet Hispánico: *CARMEN.maquia*** (Mar. 28, 2026)
- **Chavela y Sus Mujeres** - In a reflection of musical icon Chavela Vargas, Ofelia Medin, Eugenia Leon, Ely Guerra, LA Marisoul, Los Macorinos, and Mariachi Gama 1000 come together to pay tribute (Apr. 18-19, 2026).

Broadway/Film:

- ***Fiddler on the Roof in Yiddish*** (Sept. 13-14)
- **Disney and Pixar’s *Toy Story* 30th Anniversary Live-to-Film Concert** (Oct. 11-12)
- **Jeremy Jordan** (Apr. 11, 2026)

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.

“At The Soraya, we hold a very high standard of excellence for every performance; we uplift every performer equally; we constantly think about our audience, we uphold our mission in all that we do, especially the one that ties us to a major university,” said Soraya Executive and Artistic Director Thor Steingraber, “and we perpetuate our commitment to the performing arts as a critical piece of community-building and collective well-being.”

The Soraya’s 2025-26 Season is a journey through 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)
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