

"Quincy Jones, one of the most powerful forces in American popular music for more than half a century," — The New York Times

FLY ME TO THE MOON: A TRIBUTE TO QUINCY JONES

**Featuring the Pacific Jazz Orchestra with special
guests Ms. Lisa Fischer and José James
Chris Walden Conducts**

Saturday, Oct. 18 at 8 p.m.; Tickets Now on Sale Starting at \$54 at TheSoraya.org.

(Los Angeles, CA) **October 8, 2025**—The Soraya will pay homage to the giant of American music, **Quincy Jones**, on Saturday, Oct. 18 at 8 p.m. The concert, featuring vocalists **Ms. Lisa Fisher** and **José James**, will be led by **Chris Walden** as conductor of his **Pacific Jazz Orchestra's** 17-piece big band. This carefully curated concert will celebrate the artist's work from the 1960's to 1978, immersing audiences in the quintessential sounds of Quincy Jones.

"Quincy Jones is one of the most influential artists of our lifetimes," said Soraya Executive and Artistic Director Thor Steingraber. "His early years in jazz can become lost among his subsequent five decades at the pinnacle of popular music. As soon as the world lost Mr. Jones, The Soraya turned to Chris Walden and Pacific Jazz Orchestra to craft a celebration of Jones early successes, including his arrangements for Frank Sinatra."

Quincy Jones was one of the most powerful forces in American popular music for more than half a century, and a household name for decades. Long before Michael Jackson's *Thriller*, and "We Are the World," the musician/arranger/producer worked his way up — first from humble beginnings as a jazz trumpeter and then scoring films when he moved to Los Angeles. His lifelong impact remains huge, including a long list of those whom he mentored, among them GRAMMY Award-winning bandleader and arranger Chris Walden, who is also founder and artistic director, and conductor of the Pacific Jazz Orchestra (PJO).

"I actually got to know Quincy quite a bit after I came to Los Angeles about 30 years ago. At some point I was introduced to Quincy and I got to work a little bit with him — but most importantly

we became friends,” Walden said [in an interview](#) with Soraya Executive and Artistic Director Thor Steingraber.

“When I started the Pacific Jazz Orchestra, I asked him if he would join our board of advisors and he was the first person to say yes, so he played a huge part in my life and was sort of a father figure to me and therefore this concert is really special to me.”

In sharing details about the repertoire of this homage to Jones’ early work, Walden said he will include original arrangements Jones wrote for his own big band, singers that he worked with, compositions from his film and television accomplishments, and arrangements by Walden utilizing some of Jones’ themes from the period. He also shared the reason for the title of the concert.

"We're calling the concert *Fly Me to the Moon* because I think one of the most iconic big band arrangements that (Jones) has written is “Fly Me to the Moon” for Frank Sinatra (in 1964),” Walden said.

“It's not his own composition...but Quincy took it and kind of made this custom arrangement for Frank Sinatra which became one of Frank Sinatra's signature arrangements, and Quincy Jones so skillfully crafted that for Frank.”

The Soraya’s 15th Anniversary Celebration

Fly Me to the Moon: A Tribute to Quincy Jones on Oct. 18 at 8 p.m. is one of five [Soraya 15th Anniversary](#) events specially produced to celebrate The Soraya’s signature programming in Los Angeles. Remaining events begin in 2026 and include **Chicago Symphony Orchestra**, led by Conductor Emeritus Riccardo Muti, on Jan. 22 and *Sacredness*, Gerald Clayton Honors Duke Ellington's Concert of Sacred Music on Jan. 31.

For story development and interview requests, please contact:

- [Marie Estrada](#), Soraya Marketing & Communications Specialist
- [Gary Murphy](#), PR Consultant
- [Click here for your press kit](#), complete with photos, and press release.

About Quincy Jones

Quincy Jones distinguished himself in nearly every aspect of music, including as a bandleader, record producer, musical composer and arranger, trumpeter, and record label executive. He worked with everyone from Miles Davis and Count Basie to Frank Sinatra, Aretha Franklin, and Michael Jackson.

Born in Chicago in 1933, Jones was brought up in Seattle. He began learning the trumpet as a teenager and moved to New York City in the early 1950s, finding work as an arranger and musician with Count Basie, and Tommy Dorsey. In 1956 Dizzy Gillespie chose Jones to play in his big band, later having him put

together a band and act as musical director on Gillespie's U.S. State Department tours of South America and the Middle East. The experience honed Jones' skills at leading a jazz orchestra. Jones moved to Paris, France, in 1957, and studied music theory with the renowned Nadia Boulanger, and he put together a jazz orchestra that toured throughout Europe and North America. Though critically acclaimed, the tour did not make money, and Jones disbanded the orchestra.

Jones became music director for Mercury Records in 1960, rising to vice president four years later. Also in 1964, he composed his first film score for Sidney Lumet's *The Pawnbroker*. After the success of that film, he left Mercury Records for Los Angeles to pursue what became a highly successful career as a film score composer. He wrote scores for more than 35 films, including *In Cold Blood*, *In the Heat of the Night*, and *The Italian Job*.

In addition to his film scoring, he also continued to produce and arrange sessions in the 1960s, notably for Frank Sinatra on his album with Count Basie, *It Might as Well Be Swing* in 1964 and *Sinatra at the Sands* in 1966. He later produced Sinatra's *L.A. Is My Lady* album in 1984. Returning to the studio with his own work, he recorded a series of GRAMMY Award-winning albums between 1969 and 1981, including *Walking in Space* and *You've Got It Bad, Girl*. Following recovery from a near-fatal cerebral aneurysm in 1974, he focused on producing albums, most successfully with Michael Jackson's *Off the Wall* and *Thriller*, and the "We Are the World" sessions to raise money for the victims of Ethiopia's famine in 1985. In 1991, he coaxed Miles Davis into revisiting his 1950s orchestral collaborations with at the Montreux Jazz Festival, conducting the orchestra for Davis' last concert. In the 1980s and 1990s, Jones ventured into filmmaking, co-producing with Steven Spielberg *The Color Purple*, and managing his own record label Qwest Records, along with continuing to make and produce music. Jones was awarded the National Medal of Arts, the highest honor given to artists and arts patrons by the United States government, in 2010 by President Obama. Jones passed away in Los Angeles from pancreatic cancer on Nov. 3, 2024, at the age of 91.

About Chris Walden

A seven-time GRAMMY-nominated composer/arranger, Walden has worked with Michael Bublé, Josh Groban, Paul McCartney, Diana Krall, Aretha Franklin, Rihanna, Seal, Barbra Streisand, John Legend, Herb Alpert, and many more. He serves as lead arranger at the Oscars and has conducted the LA Phil, Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, Metropole Orkest, Boston Pops, Philadelphia Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony, WDR Big Band Cologne and many more. Walden was a close friend of Quincy Jones who considered him mentor. Jones also served on the advisory board for Walden's Pacific Jazz Orchestra (PJO) until his passing on Nov. 3, 2024.

About The Pacific Jazz Orchestra

The Pacific Jazz Orchestra® (PJO) is Los Angeles' premier 40-piece ensemble for jazz and beyond, redefining the orchestral jazz experience. With an annual concert season featuring five distinct projects and an impressive lineup of guest artists, the PJO transcends genres to present a vibrant array of musical styles. Performances take place across select LA venues, showcasing the city's rich cultural and musical diversity.

As the only orchestra of its kind in the United States, the PJO epitomizes the spirit of jazz—America's original art form—brought to life by the unmatched talent of LA's finest musicians. A 501(c)(3) non-profit, the PJO boasts an advisory board that includes legends like David Foster, Quincy Jones, Monica Mancini, Alan Bergman, Rickey Minor, Harvey Mason Jr., and Ledisi.

About José James

A jazz artist for the hip-hop generation, James artfully blurs the lines between traditional and contemporary jazz, hip-hop, soul, funk, pop and rock. He has released 12 critically acclaimed albums in as many years for labels such as Brownswood, Impulse, Blue Note and his own co-founded Rainbow Blonde Records and is the recipient of both the Edison Award and L'Académie du Jazz Grand Prix. James has collaborated with many notable artists such as Flying Lotus, Robert Glasper, Lalah Hathaway, Ledisi, Aloe Blacc and Jason Moran.

A celebrated international performer, James has presented his work at venues such as The Kennedy Center, Hollywood Bowl, Ancienne Belgique and Billboard Live Tokyo, and has performed as a guest artist with McCoy Tyner, Laura Mvula and the Jazz at Lincoln Center, Melbourne Symphony and Royal Concertgebouw Orchestras.

About Lisa Fischer

When the iconic Ms. Lisa Fischer sings, she brings a joyous sense of discovery to every song. The GRAMMY and Oscar-winning powerhouse vocalist is at the peak of her powers, blazing her own path, reveling in the chance to dive into every vocal possibility. While she carries traces of the legendary stars with whom she's collaborated over four decades, Fischer is a constellation in her own right, singing songs with "amazing power, energy, and projec2on" enthuses Keith Richards, after 26 years of musicmaking with Ms. Lisa Fischer in the Rolling Stones. Whether she's stretching out in an intimate duo with jazz piano maestro Taylor Eigste, raising the roof with the spiritually charged Gullah funk combo Ranky Tanky (The Soraya Jazz Club 2024), creating luminous soundscapes onstage with the dancers of Alonzo King LINES Ballet, or following her uninhibited muse with her trio Grand Baton and their organic fusion of Caribbean psychedelic soul and jazzy progressive rock, Fischer has taken her rightful place among America's greatest vocalists. With her infinite textures, shades and hues, combined with the bountiful soul, affectionate humor and exquisite taste that defines her music, Lisa Fischer leads listeners to whole new universes of her own design.

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 that opened in 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.

The Soraya is located on the campus of California State University Northridge, the intellectual and cultural heart of the San Fernando Valley. Executive and Artistic Director Thor Steingraber, in his 12th year leading the organization, sums up what makes The Soraya a central piece of Los Angeles arts and culture. "At The Soraya, we hold a high standard of excellence for every performance from a vast array of artistic disciplines, and we hold steadfast to our commitment to the value and impact of the performing arts in community-building, for the Valley's 1.8 million residents and beyond."

The Soraya's 2025-26 Season is a journey through the expansive sounds of orchestras, the freestyle vibes of jazz, the innovations of dance luminaries, and a vast array of global voices. The Soraya continues its vigorous commitment to excelling, innovating, and amplifying access for Valley residents, students, and arts lovers across Southern California.

What: ***Fly Me to the Moon, A Tribute to Quincy Jones***
Featuring the Pacific Jazz Orchestra

**with special guests Ms. Lisa Fischer and José James
Chris Walden, conductor**

Tickets: \$54-\$137

Where: The Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya)
18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330

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Tickets Office: 818-677-3000

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