

*“One of the world’s great jazz venues,” – DownBeat Magazine*

## Veronica Swift and The Pacific Jazz Orchestra Unite for *Love Inside Out* in The Soraya’s Fifth Annual Jazz at Naz Festival *Chris Walden, arranger and conductor*

**Saturday, Feb. 14 at 8 p.m.; Tickets start at \$59. Livestream Passes are \$19.99. Available at [TheSoraya.org](http://TheSoraya.org).**

**LOS ANGELES, CA (January 29, 2026)** – With romance in the air, **Veronica Swift and the Pacific Jazz Orchestra (PJO)** return to The Soraya for *Love Inside Out*, paired together for the first time for a lush, musical, love-centric evening on Saturday, Feb. 14 at 8 p.m. Piercing hearts with her remarkable vocal stylings, Swift delivers love-themed torch songs, anthems, and spine-tingling ballads exploring, as she says, all forms of love — passion, romance, self-love, and heartbreak. Several surprise guests will also add to the evening!

“I’ve been wanting to sing with an orchestra my entire career...being a vocalist who sings all different genres I find that an orchestra is a really exciting unit that can flow between (genres),” Swift said in a [recent interview](#) with Soraya Executive and Artistic Director Thor Steingraber. “I’m never one to do a Valentine’s Day themed show — but when discussing this with The Soraya (and Chris Walden) we came up with a *Love Inside Out* celebration, a journey of all of the facets of what love is, from person-to-person, age-to-age...from first person, second person, and third person.”

### **About the Program**

The Valentine’s Day concert marks the Pacific Jazz Orchestra’s fourth appearance at The Soraya. The group was last in house for its 2024-25 season finale, led by GRAMMY® and Tony-winning actress and singer Eva Noblezada with special guests Reeve and Paris Carney. The pairing of PJO with Noblezada was also created and curated with The Soraya as an Original Program.

Seven-time GRAMMY®-nominated composer/arranger Chris Walden, the founder and artistic director of Pacific Jazz Orchestra, conducts, leading a program of enduring hits from all over the

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genre spectrum — including Eric Carmen’s “All By Myself,” “Luck Be a Lady” by Frank Losser, Lionel Bart’s “As Long As He Needs Me,” and “Fever” by Eddie Cooley and Otis Blackwell.

“Pacific Jazz Orchestra is delighted to feature Veronica Swift on our special Valentine’s Day concert,” Walden said in a recent note released by PJO. “Her captivating vocals bring tremendous depth and emotion to her performances.”

Pacific Jazz Orchestra has garnered critical acclaim for thrilling performances that “entertain, inspire, and enrich” (*Variety*). Thanks to the generosity of The Herb Alpert Foundation (HAF), the Pacific Jazz Orchestra’s inaugural season was fully funded, and HAF continues to support the ensemble in its 2025-26 season. Additional support in its current season is provided by Grow @ Annenberg.

### **For story development and interview requests:**

- **Marie Estrada**, Soraya Marketing & Communications Specialist  
(Marie.Estrada@csun.edu)
- **Gary Murphy**, Soraya PR Consultant (GaryMurphyPR@garymurphypr.com)
- [Click HERE](#) for your press kit, complete with photos and press releases.

### **About Veronica Swift**

Veronica Swift, a versatile jazz and bebop singer, is equally versed in French and Italian opera, European classical music, bossa nova, blues, industrial rock, funk, and vaudeville. *DownBeat* proclaims, “Veronica Swift is a woman of many voices, and she uses every one of them to refract a dizzying kaleidoscope of moods.” The *Wall Street Journal* adds, “She has a miraculous voice, musical ability and technique, as well as an innate gift for entertaining a crowd.” Swift has appeared with Chris Botti, Michael Feinstein, and Benny Green, and toured with Wynton Marsalis and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, among others. She has recorded three albums on the Mack Avenue Records label: *Veronica Swift* (2023), *Confessions* (2019), and *This Bitter Earth* (2021).

### **About Pacific Jazz Orchestra**

PACIFIC JAZZ ORCHESTRA embraces and reflects the diverse and enthralling soundscape of Los Angeles, where the 40-piece ensemble was born, bred, and resides. The ultimate cross-over sensation, the nimble hybrid jazz big band and string orchestra comprised of powerhouse studio musicians deftly navigates musical styles ranging from jazz, Latin, hip hop, and R&B, to pop, musical theater, symphonic, and cinematic soundtracks. Founded in 2022 by seven-time

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GRAMMY®-nominated composer/arranger/conductor Chris Walden, Pacific Jazz Orchestra has garnered critical acclaim for thrilling performances that “entertain, inspire, and enrich” (Variety). As artistic director and conductor, Walden creates a melting pot of original music and unique arrangements for every show, each with a specific theme, distinctive jazz flair, and lush orchestrations. The ensemble is also noted for its ambitious collaborations with a wide range of guest artists, among them acclaimed singer/songwriter Rufus Wainwright, singer/actress Katharine McPhee, GRAMMY®-winning vocal group TAKE 6, and Tony Award-winner Aaron Tveit. Other projects have featured eminent violinist Caroline Campbell, celebrated saxophonist Ben Wendel, GRAMMY®-winning artist Ledisi, R&B/soul singer Adam “AeJaye” Jackson, vocal stylist Sheléa, and veteran blues and funk singer Billy Valentine. For information about Pacific Jazz Orchestra, visit [www.pacificjazz.org](http://www.pacificjazz.org).

### About Chris Walden

Seven-time GRAMMY®-nominated composer/arranger **CHRIS WALDEN** is the artistic director and conductor of Pacific Jazz Orchestra. Hailed as a “distinguished conductor” (*Audio Media International*) and “gifted and well-connected arranger-composer” (*Santa Barbara Independent*) who pens “exquisite string arrangements” (*The Arts Desk*), Walden “has built an illustrious career working behind the scenes with some of music's biggest names” (*grammy.com*). He has scored more than 40 feature and TV films and written more than 1,500 orchestral and big band arrangements for such artists as John Legend, Michael Bublé, Aretha Franklin, Paul McCartney, SEAL, Stevie Wonder, Rihanna, Barbra Streisand, and Josh Groban. He has also collaborated as an arranger and bandleader with jazz artists Diana Krall, Herb Alpert, Michael Brecker, Arturo Sandoval, and the Count Basie Orchestra and served as the lead arranger for the Academy Awards, Kennedy Center Honors, American Idol, and even the Super Bowl, arranging Jennifer Hudson's National Anthem performance. In addition to working closely with producers David Foster, Tommy LiPuma, and Phil Ramone, Walden's credits include conducting the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, Holland's Metropole Orkest, Boston Pops, Philadelphia Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony, and WDR Big Band Cologne, among others. The German-born musician, who performs on trumpet and flugelhorn as well, composed music for German films and TV before emigrating to Los Angeles at the age of 29. Walden, who lives in Los Angeles, has served as trustee on the national board of the Recording Academy and past president of the American Society of Music Arrangers and Composers (ASMAC).

### About Jazz at Naz

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Long before the 2011 opening of The Soraya, CSUN Jazz Studies was a national standard bearer—winning awards and training the next generation of artists. Since opening its doors, The Soraya has furthered CSUN's profile with a nonstop procession of jazz greats performing in both The Soraya's Great Hall and its innovative Jazz Club. Now, the annual Jazz at Naz festival has been recognized as one of the best winter jazz festivals on the West Coast and The Soraya is the only L.A.-area performing arts center to be recognized by *DownBeat Magazine* in 2025 as one of the top jazz venues in the world and a “jazz destination for performers and Southern Californian audience members alike since its opening.”

A jazz epicenter in Los Angeles, Jazz at Naz has showcased major debuts for emerging artists such as two-time GRAMMY®-winner Samara Joy and created a home for the world's jazz legends such as John Pizzarelli, Branford Marsalis, Dianne Reeves, Chucho Valdés, and Charles Lloyd, and turned the spotlight on influential crossover artists such as Bobby and Taylor McFerrin, Diana Krall, Jon Batiste, Gregory Porter, and Herb Alpert and Lani Hall.

The Soraya's Great Hall, with 1,700 seats, has become home to the Big Band sound with Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra featuring Wynton Marsalis, Christian McBride, The Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra, Maria Schneider Orchestra, Vince Giordano & The Nighthawks, Buena Vista Social Club, and Delfeayo Marsalis' Uptown Orchestra. Its pioneering Jazz Club, a unique and intimate setting for jazz performances complete with food and drink, is built on The Soraya's main stage and has featured a wide breadth of talent, including Terence Blanchard, Gerald Clayton, Cécile McLorin Salvant, Luciana Souza, Antonio Sánchez, Lisa Fischer, Booker T. Jones, and Vijay Iyer. Since the inception of the festival The Soraya's multi-camera live streaming has expanded availability for audiences around the world. The virtual streams feature behind-the-scenes content and backstage interviews with the artists, in addition to the complete concert.

### **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.”



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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:** *Love Inside Out*  
*Valentine's Day with Veronica Swift*  
Featuring the Pacific Jazz Orchestra  
Chris Walden, conductor

**When:** Sat Feb 14 | 8PM

**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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