

Classical Music Continues at The Soraya with the return of Joshua Bell and the debuts of the New York Philharmonic String Quartet and the Mahler Chamber Orchestra with Yuja Wang

- **Feb. 26** - *Joshua Bell returns with Academy of St Martin in the Fields*
- **April 1** - *Onstage Classical: New York Philharmonic String Quartet*
- **April 25** - *Mahler Chamber Orchestra with Yuja Wang, piano & director with Matthew Scott, violin*

Tickets Now on Sale at TheSoraya.org.

Los Angeles, CA (February 16, 2026) — The Soraya's 2025-26 Season of classical music continues this month with the welcome return of **Joshua Bell** and the **Academy of St Martin in the Fields** performing works by Brahms, Schumann and Ives. This concert will mark Bell's 10th appearance at The Soraya, the most by any artist in its 15-year history.

The spring schedule also features two prominent chamber ensemble debuts: The **New York Philharmonic String Quartet** will perform an intimate onstage concert on Wednesday, April 1 at 8pm. Acclaimed pianist and director **Yuja Wang** will return to The Soraya to close the season with the **Mahler Chamber Orchestra** and **Matthew Scott** on violin, performing on Saturday, April 25 at 8pm.

For story development and interview requests, please contact:

- The Soraya Communications Associate Marie Estrada (marie.estrada@csun.edu) or PR Consultant Gary Murphy (GARYMURPHYPR@GARYMURPHYPR.COM).
- Click [HERE](#) to access your press kit.

About Academy of St Martin in the Fields; Joshua Bell, Violin and Music Director

Joshua Bell and the Academy of St Martin in the Fields return to the Soraya for a program featuring Johannes Brahms's Violin Concerto, one of the instrument's greatest works and an exciting showcase for Bell.

Also on the program is Robert Schumann's First Symphony, *Spring*, a timely selection that heralds the season's reawakening and Variation on "America," a composition originally written by a 17-year-old Charles Ives in 1892 for an Independence Day Celebration. Based on the traditional "My Country Tis of Thee," the Academy of St Martin in the Fields arrangement is by Iain Farrington.

Program:

IVES Variations on "America" (arr. Iain Farrington)

BRAHMS Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 77

SCHUMANN Symphony No. 1 in B-flat major, Op. 38, *Spring*

About the New York Philharmonic String Quartet: Onstage Classical

The New York Philharmonic String Quartet was formed in 2017 during the Philharmonic's 175th anniversary season. The group is comprised of four principal musicians from the Philharmonic: concertmaster Frank Huang, principal second violin Qianqian Li, principal viola Cynthia Phelps, and principal cello Carter Brey. In addition to their performances at Lincoln Center, all four members have amassed extensive awards and recognition for their extensive careers as soloists and chamber musicians

Program:

SCHUBERT Quartettsatz, D. 703

MENDELSSOHN String Quartet No. 3 in D major, Op. 44 No. 1

SCHUBERT String Quartet No. 15 in G major, D. 887

About the Mahler Chamber Orchestra with Yuja Wang and Matthew Truscott

Yuja Wang makes a long-anticipated return to The Soraya, following her 2016 debut. Since, she has secured her reputation as one of the most celebrated artists around the world. Consistent with Wang's recent focus on Frédéric Chopin, she chose the composer's Piano Concerto No. 1. Wang is joined by her regular partner, the Mahler Chamber Orchestra, a pan-European ensemble created to tour globally, having performed in over 40 nations. The orchestra will also perform Sergei Prokofiev's Symphony No. 1, often called the "Classical Symphony" for Prokofiev's intent to model his early work after Mozart and Haydn.

Program:

PROKOFIEV Symphony No. 1

TSFASMAN Jazz Suite for Piano and Orchestra

CHOPIN Piano Concerto No. 1

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.

FOR CALENDAR LISTINGS:

What & When: Academy of St Martin in the Fields
Joshua Bell, violin and music director
Thu, Feb 26 at 8pm
Tickets: \$74-\$167

New York Philharmonic String Quartet
Onstage Classical
Wed, Apr 1 at 8pm
Tickets: \$106

Mahler Chamber Orchestra
Yuja Wang, piano and director
Matthew Truscott, concertmaster and leader
Sat, Apr 25 at 8pm
Tickets: \$74-\$167

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

Website: www.TheSoraya.org

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