

Single Tickets Now Available for The Soraya's 2026–27 Season



Season opens on Sep 19, with Broadway's Sutton Foster and the Pacific Jazz Orchestra, led by Conductor Chris Walden.

Learn more at TheSoraya.org

(Los Angeles, CA) July 15, 2026 — Single tickets for The Soraya's 2026-27 Season are now available to the public. The 44-performance lineup features what the *Los Angeles Times* calls "eight noteworthy debuts," — **Sutton Foster** and the **Pacific Jazz Orchestra** led by conductor **Chris Walden**; **Snarky Puppy**; **Majo Aguilar con Mariachi y Banda**; **Dance Theatre of Harlem**; the **National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine**; the **LA Phil**; **Audra McDonald**; and the **National Symphony Orchestra**.

This season offers a vibrant mix of performances by both local and internationally acclaimed artists across genres, reflecting the performing arts center's continued commitment to the range and quality of its programming. The Soraya's Great Hall will also host leading jazz artists and

world-class symphony orchestras, continuing traditions that have defined the venue since it opened in 2011.

“Thor Steingraber, in collaboration with Justin Souza, Director of Programming, has assembled an exceptional 2026–27 lineup that reflects Thor's 12 years of visionary artistic leadership,” said new Executive and Artistic Director Chad Hilligus, who began his tenure at The Soraya on June 15. “I’m excited to see the season come to life and to collaborate with these remarkable artists.”

"The Soraya has hit a stride with attracting audiences from across the Valley and Greater Los Angeles, breaking ticket sales records in its 2025-26 Season," said Souza, "We're also attracting the best talent from every performing arts discipline, which is evident in the many eagerly anticipated debuts on the upcoming season schedule."

Upcoming Major Debuts at The Soraya

Sutton Foster featuring Pacific Jazz Orchestra, Chris Walden Conductor — Sat, Sep 19 at 8pm *Season Opening Night!*

A two-time Tony Award winner on Broadway, Foster has originated numerous roles in notable musicals including *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Shrek the Musical*, *Mel Brooks' Young Frankenstein*, and *The Drowsy Chaperone*, as well as bringing her signature comedic leading lady talents to major revivals such as *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Sweeney Todd*, *The Music Man*, and *Anything Goes*. She makes her Soraya debut on opening night, Sep 19, with the **Pacific Jazz Orchestra** and 40 of the finest L.A. studio musicians led by Hollywood veteran **Chris Walden**.

Snarky Puppy — Sat, Oct 3 at 8pm

Since winning their first of five GRAMMY Awards in 2014, Snarky Puppy has become one of the most in-demand ensembles of their generation, with bassist and composer Michael League leading a collective of 20 musicians and composers who rotate through their ranks, in ever-changing fresh combinations. The announcement of their Soraya debut aligns with another milestone, as Snarky Puppy was the cover feature of *DownBeat* magazine's February 2026 issue, demonstrating the band's widely recognized talent. Their November 2025 album, *Somni*, will be featured in the concert which will open with a special performance by the award-winning CSUN Jazz "A" Band.

Majo Aguilar con Mariachi y Banda — Thu, Oct 29 at 8pm

Majo Aguilar makes her Soraya debut with the premiere of an all-new concert. Accompanied by both mariachi and banda musicians for the very first time, Aguilar demonstrates her incredible versatility as a singer and performer by combining the two traditional formats. The U.S. premiere of this concert cues up a milestone in her career, as she prepares to take it to Mexico City's 9,000-seat Auditorio Nacional theater. A member of the Aguilar family dynasty, the three-time Latin GRAMMY® nominee has become a leading female voice, earning the 2026 Mexican Music Female Artist of the Year at the Premio Lo Nuestro awards, and leaving a mark on Mexican culture — honoring tradition while also using her influential talent to take music and fashion into the future.

Dance Theatre of Harlem — Sat, Nov 14 at 8pm

Renowned in the ballet world, the company makes its Soraya debut with the Los Angeles premiere of Robert Garland's *Higher Ground* (2022) on Nov 14. *Higher Ground* is a joyous, critically

acclaimed piece that combines classical ballet and vernacular Black dance to sharpen the social commentary found in six influential Stevie Wonder songs from the 1970's. Opening the performance is William Forsythe's *Blake Works IV* which was commissioned and created specifically for the company in 2023. A part of Forsythe's continuously evolving series, "The Barre Project," *Blake Works IV* was choreographed to highlight the diverse and formidable talents of the ensemble. The work derives its inspiration from the propulsive and rigorously structured electro-soul songs of British singer and composer James Blake.

Audra McDonald — Sat, Apr 3 at 8pm

Winner of an Emmy Award, two GRAMMY Awards, and a record-setting six Tony Awards—McDonald will make her debut at The Soraya on April 3. Described by *Time* magazine as "the greatest living stage actor," McDonald most recently headlined the Broadway revival of *Gypsy* in her Tony nominated role as Mama Rose (2024-25). Currently, McDonald can be seen in Julian Fellowes' historical drama "The Gilded Age" on HBO.

The LA Phil — Fri, Mar 26 at 8pm

Adding to The Soraya's tradition of presenting the world's greatest orchestras, the LA Phil will at last make their Soraya debut. In 2017, *The New York Times* described the LA Phil as "the most important orchestra in America. Period." LA Opera's newly appointed music director, Domingo Hindoyan, leads the LA Phil and soprano Sonya Yoncheva in the world premiere of an LA Phil-commissioned song cycle from Venezuelan-Chilean composer Miguel Farías. Farías' incandescent new work, *Mistralianas*, which pays homage to Nobel Prize-winning poet Gabriela Mistral, is paired with Barber's *Medea's Dance of Vengeance*, taken from his ballet *Cave of the Heart* which he wrote for Martha Graham, and Dvořák's beloved and enduring Ninth Symphony.

National Symphony Orchestra — Thu, Apr 29 at 8pm

Formerly based at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., the National Symphony Orchestra makes its Soraya debut with Music Director Gianandrea Noseda on the podium and returning violin soloist Ray Chen. Throughout its long history, the orchestra has served the nation as a cultural ambassador representing the U.S. on tours around the world as well as performing regularly in events and celebrations of national and international importance. For their debut concert, Rossini's *William Tell Overture* (familiar to TV audiences as the musical theme to "The Lone Ranger") will also be a Great Hall first. For the orchestra's tradition of always performing a work by an American composer, Barber's Violin Concerto, Op. 14 will round out the program.

National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine — Sat, Jan 23 at 8pm

Considered one of the finest symphony orchestras in Eastern Europe, the National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine with conductor Volodymyr Sirenko and featured pianist Antonii Baryshevskyi will make their Soraya debut. The GRAMMY Award-nominated maestro leads the symphony orchestra in a haunting piece by Silvestrov, one of Ukraine's most prominent composers, as well as Beethoven's "Fate Symphony."

Signature Season Highlights

Gershwin and the Golden Age

featuring Michael Feinstein and Los Angeles Jewish Symphony — Sun, Oct 11 at 7pm

After achieving massive success on Broadway and in classical music, George Gershwin moved to Hollywood, joining the predominantly Jewish composers behind Hollywood film scores of the 1930s. Composing original songs and scores for films starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers,

Gershwin and his contemporaries established the emotional, symphonic style of American film scoring. Through his work with lyricist Ira Gershwin, musician and educator Michael Feinstein is a preeminent historian and champion of the Gershwin legacy through The Great American Songbook Foundation. A renowned interpreter of the talented brothers' music, Feinstein is joined by the Los Angeles Jewish Symphony for a Soraya original celebration of the Gershwin's memorable contributions to the Golden Age of Hollywood — with a finale that features a rare performance of George Gershwin's Piano Concerto in F major.

Al Jardine & The Pet Sounds Band

The Music of Brian Wilson and The Beach Boys — Thu, Oct 22 at 8pm

The Beach Boys founder Al Jardine gathers The Pet Sounds Band to share the best of band co-founder Brian Wilson. Wilson, who died in June 2025, was often called the soul of The Beach Boys' sound and was responsible for the melodies and lyrics of many of their songs, creating the soundtrack for millions around the world. "Together, we gave the world the American dream of optimism, joy, and a sense of freedom," the band said on Wilson's passing. Come sing along with friends and fans to celebrate Wilson and the 60th anniversary of the *Pet Sounds* album in a concert that you won't hear anywhere else in L.A.

DIABOLO: Architecture in Motion

ESCAPE — Sat, Nov 21 at 8pm and Sun, Nov 22 at 3PM

DIABOLO: Architecture in Motion returns to The Soraya for its fifth engagement, this time with *ESCAPE*, a visceral and heart-pounding live show following a group of humans as they struggle to break free from the chaos around them, ultimately escaping into a surreal landscape of infinite possibilities. *ESCAPE* features a collection of the company's most famous architectural structures, some of which Soraya audiences may recognize from the 2024 Soraya-commissioned *Existencia*, and gravity-defying moves by the company's dynamic performers.

Nochebuena: A Christmas Spectacular

with special guest Aida Cuevas, featuring Ballet Folklórico de Los Ángeles and Mariachi Pueblo Viejo — Fri, Dec 19 at 7pm | Sat Dec 19 at 1 pm and 7pm | Sun Dec 20 at 1pm

Nochebuena: A Christmas Spectacular returns with a Soraya favorite and the Queen of Ranchera, Aida Cuevas — making The Soraya's 11th-annual tradition perhaps the most memorable yet. Experience and enjoy the holiday traditions of Mexico's many regions shared through the vibrant costumes and dances of Ballet Folklórico de Los Ángeles. Mariachi Pueblo Viejo returns for its third season, performing the musical soundscape that takes us on a journey across the regions of Mexico and their varying traditions on Christmas Eve.

Chamber Orchestra of America

Joshua Bell, music director and violin — Wed, Feb 3 at 8pm

In April 2025, GRAMMY Award-winning violinist Joshua Bell introduced the Chamber Orchestra of America to the world on a TED Talk in Vancouver, British Columbia. He created this new ensemble to illustrate the value and importance of classical music in today's world of artificial intelligence, bringing together some of the most promising young professionals alongside seasoned musicians to perform with refreshing vigor and intention. Under Bell's visionary leadership, the Orchestra's Los Angeles debut serves as a dynamic platform for extraordinary musicians to exchange ideas, collaborate, and to reinstitute an enlivened human spirit to chamber music performance.

Returning in the 2026-27 Season

LA Seen Festival — A celebration of Los Angeles artists, the LA Seen Festival returns following its debut in the 2024-25 Season. Performances run from Mar 13 to Mar 26 and begin with a double bill of groundbreaking works by **Jacob Jonas The Company** and former Soraya Artist-in-Residence **Etienne Gara** with chamber ensemble **Delirium Musicum**. In this Soraya original program, each will present a world-premiere piece. Choreographer, filmmaker, and artistic director **Jacob Jonas** will expand his piece *River*, and Delirium Musicum founder and violinist **Etienne Gara** will premiere his first-ever piece composed for movement titled *As Eternity Flows*. The piece will feature live musicians and soloist dancer **Shu Kinouchi**.

The collaboration between these two burgeoning artists will be the first to be funded by the newly established [**Thor Steingraber Fund for Artistic Innovation**](#), announced in December 2025. This new fund will underwrite high-quality public performances that exemplify The Soraya's artistic leadership and profile, preserving and perpetuating its commitment to new works, commissions, premieres, and major programs in scale or scope.

The full LA Seen Festival includes Jacob Jonas The Company and Delirium Musicum (March 13); violinists Simone Porter and Blake Pouliot's *Sounds of California* (March 17); pianist Angel Stanislav Wang (March 19); and the Soraya debut of the LA Phil (March 26). *Learn more at TheSoraya.org/LA-Seen*.

Jazz at Naz Festival — The sixth annual festival runs Feb 11 through Feb 25 and begins with a centennial celebration of John Coltrane and Miles Davis with two of the most esteemed living jazz artists, **Terence Blanchard** and **Ravi Coltrane**. The two modern-day giants come together in a once-in-a-generation partnership to pay tribute and continue the spirit of creativity and innovation. A Soraya favorite, the **Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra** will follow with special guest **José James** on Feb 13. The concert will bring to the stage a project that John Clayton is currently collaborating with James on to write arrangements for a new album paying homage to the music of Frank Sinatra.

In 2025 and 2026, *DownBeat* magazine named The Soraya as one of the "World's Great Jazz Venues," and its annual Jazz at Naz festival is featured in the magazine's annual "not to miss" guide. The festival has featured a who's who of jazz greats and debut artists alike.

A fan favorite for six seasons, The Soraya **Jazz Club** returns, providing a 200-seat onstage space for both artists and audiences to celebrate jazz, complete with table and riser seating, and curated supper club menus crafted by Valley local **Chef Jim Bonanno**, owner of Humble Bee Bakery and Café.

The Jazz Club line-up includes Alfredo Rodriguez Band featuring Pedrito Martinez with Special Guest the Hamilton de Holanda Trio (Feb 17-18); Emmet Cohen Trio featuring Ekep Nkwelle (Feb 20-21); Linda May Han Oh Quintet featuring Sara Serpa, Melissa Aldana, Fabian Almazan, and Mark Whitfield, Jr. (Feb 24-25). *Learn more at TheSoraya.org/Jazz*.

Membership at The Soraya

Now in its fifth season, there is no doubt that the Membership program and its Members strengthen the dynamic community that lives at the heart of The Soraya! The Soraya is pleased to continue the same benefit packages this year as last, with unmatched ticket discounts from between 15 and 25% off, exclusive seating at every performance, and special appreciation events. Membership starts at \$96 per household and provides benefits all season long. Learn more about joining the community at [TheSoraya.org/Members](https://www.TheSoraya.org/Members).

About The Soraya

The Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya) is one of Los Angeles' most prominent performance venues, recognized globally as the intellectual and cultural hub of the San Fernando Valley and its 1.8 million residents. The stunning, architecturally significant building was designed by HGA Architects and Engineers and launched as the Valley Performing Arts Center in 2011. In 2017, a transformative gift from Los Angeles residents and philanthropists Younes and Soraya Nazarian resulted in the venue being renamed The Soraya.

Today, The Soraya remains committed to innovation and amplifying access by presenting diverse performances representing LA's many distinctive communities, along with new works from local and international artists.

The Soraya's 2026-27 Season continues its journey by presenting the world's finest symphonic orchestras, innovative dance companies, the freestyle and vast vibes of jazz, innovations of dance luminaries, and as always, a vast array of global voices.

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 opportunities in the arts and performing arts. This partnership fosters academic opportunity and artistic excellence, elevating the talents of CSUN's students. A \$5 million contribution from record producer and former California Lieutenant Governor Mike Curb was pivotal in ensuring The Soraya was completed and opened 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.

The relationship between The Soraya and the Mike Curb College continues to grow, with robust offerings for students through master classes, student tickets, concerts of student ensembles, and students appearing alongside renowned artists such as jazz legends Wynton Marsalis and Jason Moran, Queen of Ranchera music Aida Cuevas, superstar violinist Joshua Bell, and the Martha Graham Dance Company whose Centennial Celebration was launched at The Soraya in 2025.

[*Click here*](#) for your press kit, complete with photos, and press releases.

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