



NEWS RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Marie Estrada | (818) 677-6691
marie.estrada@csun.edu

Gary Murphy | (213) 700-9645
gmurphypr@gmail.com

"A jazz destination for performers and Southern Californian audience members alike since its opening in 2011," — Downbeat Magazine

Fall Jazz Concerts at The Soraya with Four New Artists Announced

Snarky Puppy with Special Guest

Varijashree Venugopal (*Sat, Oct 3*)

A John Coltrane Celebration with **Branford Marsalis**

and **Dianne Reeves** (*Thu, Oct 8*)

The Bad Plus Farewell Concert with

Guest Trio Jeff Parker, Paul Bryan, and Scott Amendola (*Thu, Dec 3*)

Tickets start at \$42 and are available at TheSoraya.org.

(Los Angeles, CA) Aug. 26, 2026 – The Soraya announced today that four artists will join the first half of the 2026-27 Season—**Varijashree Venugopal**, **Jeff Parker**, **Paul Bryan**, and **Scott Amendola**. Venugopal will join as special guest of **Snarky Puppy** on Sat, Oct 3 and Jeff Parker, Paul Bryan, and Scott Amendola will join as the opening trio for **The Bad Plus** on Thu, Dec 3.

Snarky Puppy (Sat, Oct 3)

Since winning the first of five GRAMMY® Awards in 2014, **Snarky Puppy** has become one of the most in-demand ensembles of their generation, with bassist **Michael League** leading a collective of 20 musicians who rotate through their ranks, in ever-changing fresh combinations. "Maybe you didn't notice, but this is Snarky Puppy's world, and the rest of us only live in it," music critic Nate Chinen wrote for *The New York Times*, praising the group's massive impact on jazz.

Snarky Puppy's Oct 3 concert marks the group's Soraya debut — and is the only Los Angeles stop they'll make on their *Somni* World Tour. "It's by far the most ambitious project we've ever done," bandleader Michael League said of the *Somni* project. "...and it was one of the smoothest records we've ever made." GRAMMY-nominated singer-songwriter and Carnatic Raga performer **Varijashree Venugopal** will join as a special guest artist.

A John Coltrane Celebration with Branford Marsalis and Dianne Reeves (Thu, Oct 8)

Branford Marsalis and **Dianne Reeves** pay tribute to **John Coltrane** with a new album set to be released on Sep 18. In celebration of the jazz legend's centennial, the two artists have recorded ***Dedicated to You***, an album that features the acclaimed saxophonist and his quartet performing with the award-winning vocalist. Together they offer new renditions of the six standards that appeared on the 1963 Impulse album John Coltrane and Johnny Hartman —

Coltrane's only collaboration with a vocalist — as well as additional instrumental performances of compositions from Coltrane's canon, to create an exquisite homage. The album was introduced in July with a trailer that can be watched, [here](#).

The Bad Plus Farewell Concert (Thu, Dec 3)

After 26 years, **The Bad Plus** announced they will be no more after one final tour, and the band is making just one stop in L.A. at The Soraya on Thu, Dec 3. Founding members Reid Anderson (bass) and David King (drums) made the announcement in Jan 2026, telling fans, "We share this news with heavy hearts, but also with great pride in what we have accomplished. It has been a privilege to share our music with the world, and we leave behind a body of work that we could not be more proud of." This concert marks the close of jazz in the first half of the 2026-27 Season and features a special opening guest trio led by **Jeff Parker** (guitar), **Paul Bryan** (bass), and **Scott Amendola** (drums).

About Snarky Puppy & Special Guest Varijashree Venugopal

Snarky Puppy — The five-time GRAMMY®-winning collective, "has always been a band that prioritizes the *sound* of the music," says bandleader and bassist Michael League. Displaying a wide array of influences including funk, rhythm & blues, hard rock, classic soul, modern gospel, new tech, fusion and jazz, Snarky Puppy isn't exactly a jazz band, it's not a fusion band and it's definitely not a jam band. It's probably best to take Nate Chinen of *The New York Times*' advice, as stated in an online discussion about the group, to "take them for what they are, rather than judge them for what they're not."

In January 2025 the band collaborated once more with the Metropole Orkest— the Netherlands-based hybrid ensemble renowned for fusing jazz, classical, and popular music on a symphonic scale. Captured live over three nights (January 17–19, 2025) in Utrecht, the project reunites the two groups a decade after their first joint effort, *Sylva* — an orchestral suite released in 2015 that earned the GRAMMY for Best Contemporary Instrumental Album the following year. The result of this collaboration - *Somni* - was released in November 2025 via GroundUP Music.

Varijashree Venugopal — Varijashree is widely recognized as a child prodigy who could identify 100 Carnatic ragas at the tender age of 18 months, who began performing Carnatic concerts at the age of 4. She initially trained under her musician parents Vidwan H S Venugopal and Vidhushi T V Rama, Vidhishi H Geetha, Vidhushi Vasantha Srinivasan, Vidwan D S Srivatsa, and later under Ganakalanidhi Vidwan Salem P Sundaresan. Coming from a rich background of an intricate classical form of music such as Carnatic music, Varijashree is one of the pioneering artists in applying the techniques, fundamentals, and the sound & soul of Indian singing in the global music context. In addition to being a singer, Venugopal is also a flautist, composer, songwriter, and music educator. Her unique capabilities of using her voice as an instrument and the blending of her singing with various music cultures using the Indian singing techniques, has led her to being featured alongside and collaborating with few of the most notable musical personalities in the world such as Bobby McFerrin, Michael League (Snarky Puppy), Victor Wooten, Bèla Fleck, Hamilton de Holanda, Eddie Gomez, C4 trio, Trio Bobo, Anat Cohen, Jacob Collier, Sandeep Chowta, Praveen D Rao, Ricky Kej, EYM trio, and more. She recently received a Grammy® nomination for her work as a featured artist on British musician Jacob Collier's "A Rock Somewhere," along with Anoushka Shankar.

About the Branford Marsalis Quartet

Saxophonist Branford Marsalis is one of the most influential and revered figures in contemporary music. The NEA Jazz maverick, three-time GRAMMY Award winner, and Tony and Emmy Award nominee is equally at home performing concertos with symphony orchestras and sitting in with members of the Grateful Dead, but the core of his musical universe remains the Branford Marsalis Quartet. After more than three decades of existence with minimal personnel changes, this celebrated ensemble is revered for its uncompromising interpretation of kaleidoscopic range of both original compositions and jazz and popular classics. After receiving Grammy nominations on its last two albums, “Upward Spiral” and “The Secret Between the Shadow and the Soul,” the Quartet made its Blue Note Records debut in 2025 with the release of Grammy-nominated “Belonging,” a full album interpretation of Keith Jarrett’s 1974 ECM album of the same name.

About Dianne Reeves

Five-time GRAMMY winner Dianne Reeves is the world’s pre-eminent jazz vocalist. As a result of her virtuosity, improvisational prowess and unique jazz and R&B stylings, Reeves received the Grammy for “Best Jazz Vocal Performance” for three consecutive recordings — a GRAMMY first in any vocal category. Reeves was featured in George Clooney’s award-winning film “Goodnight at Good Luck,” for which she received a GRAMMY Award. Her most recent release, “Beautiful Life,” features Gregory Porter, Robert Glasper, Lalah Hathaways and Esperanza Spaulding. Produced by Terri Lyne Carrington, “Beautiful Life” also won a GRAMMY. Reeves has received honorary doctorates from DePaul University, the Berklee College of Music, and The Julliard School and, like Branford Marsalis, she was designated a Jazz Master by the National Endowment for the Arts — the highest honor the United States bestows on jazz artists. Apart from a duo recording with Romero Lubambo slated for early 2026, her collaboration with the Branford Marsalis Quartet will be Reeves’ first album in twelve years.

About The Bad Plus & Special Guest Trio

The Bad Plus — The Bad Plus are the ultimate originals. A democratic unit with a clear vision and a refusal to conform to convention. For the past two decades they have played with spirit and adventure, made their own rules and done so with a bold sense of creativity and intent. Avoiding easy categorization, The Bad Plus has won critical acclaim and a legion of fans worldwide with their unique sound and flair for live performance. The band continues to push boundaries as founding members Reid Anderson (bass) and Dave King (drums) embark on a new piano-less incarnation of the band with Ben Monder(guitar) and Chris Speed (tenor saxophone) – instigating a new wave of excitement and anticipation within the band that is re-energizing their sound and inspiration. The Bad Plus has constantly searched to bridge genres and techniques while exploring the infinite possibilities of exceptional musicians working in perfect sync. The Bad Plus is currently in its 27th year and on its final worldwide tour.

Jeff Parker, Paul Bryan, and Scott Amendola — A guitarist and composer with deep L.A. roots, **Jeff Parker** was most recently featured on [Flea's jazz record](#). **Scott Amendola**, a drummer from the Bay Area, is known as a savvy bandleader and ambitious composer who has worked closely with Charlie Hunter and Nels Cline. **Paul Bryan**, a GRAMMY®-winning bassist, composer and producer, joins this trio as bassist. His creative and intuitive approach to recording as bassist has added to the albums and concerts of a diverse range of artists over the years, including Aimee

Mann, Norah Jones, Susan Tedeschi, Bettye Lavette, Sam Phillips, Mavis Staples, Nick Lowe, Elvis Costello, and many more.

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.

Calendar Listings:

Sat Oct 3 | 8PM

[Snarky Puppy](#)

with special guest Varijashree Venugopal

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. Their November 2025 album *Somni* will be featured in the concert.

Thu Oct 8 | 8PM

[Branford Marsalis & Dianne Reeves](#)

Celebrate John Coltrane

featuring the Branford Marsalis Quartet

This year marks the centennial of late jazz master John Coltrane's birth. The saxophonist, bandleader, and composer revolutionized jazz and has long been considered one of the most influential figures in American music. Honoring his legacy, Dianne Reeves unites with the Branford Marsalis Quartet for their take on the work of Coltrane's one and only record with a vocalist, his 1963 collaboration with baritone Johnny Hartman. Marsalis, an acclaimed saxophonist and composer, and Reeves, "the most admired jazz diva since the heyday of Sarah Vaughan, Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holiday" (*The New York Times*), return to The Soraya following the anticipated release of their Coltrane tribute album on Blue Note Records. *Tickets \$59-104 and are subject to change based on availability.*

Thu Dec 3 | 8PM

The Bad Plus Farewell Concert

with special opening performance by Jeff Parker, Paul Bryan, and Scott Amendola

An iconoclastic jazz group known for its "genre-eschewing" style (*Billboard*), The Bad Plus returns to The Soraya for its last-ever concert in Los Angeles, giving fans an epic night to say their farewells to the sounds of the band's hits from the last two decades. After 26 years of pushing the boundaries of music with their innovative approach, band founders Reid Anderson (bass) and Dave King (drums) gather fans for an up-tempo finish, including pieces from their final album, *Complex Emotions*. *Tickets \$42-95 and are subject to change based on availability.*

Where: The Soraya
18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330

Website: www.TheSoraya.org

Tickets: Tickets range from \$42 to \$149 and can be purchased by visiting TheSoraya.org or by calling (818) 677-3000.

Soraya Press Contacts

Marie Estrada, Marketing and Communications Specialist, The Soraya
P: 818-677-6691 | E: marie.estrada@csun.edu

Gary W. Murphy, Consultant
P: 213-700-9645 | E: gmurphypr@gmail.com

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

#