



'Expect the unexpected' as Maestro Barry Jekowsky rolls out another thrilling California Symphony season

The award-winning California Symphony invites you to experience classical music in an exciting new way. Join Maestro

Barry Jekowsky and many of the Bay Area's finest musicians for a new season filled with the unexpected, along with enduring masterpieces by Sibelius, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Dvorák, and Beethoven.

It all begins on October 11 & 13, 2009, when the California Symphony presents world-renowned visual motion artist Michael Moschen in his first live symphonic performance. Don't miss this breathtaking fusion of movement and music, choreographed to Ravel's *Mother Goose Suite* and Mason Bates' *Mercury Interlude*. "His physical virtuosity is awesome," raved the *Boston Globe*. The *Village Voice* called his performances "exhilarating, virtuoso entertainment." And the *Denver Post* declared: "To call Michael Moschen 'only' a juggler is sort of like calling Mount Rushmore 'only' a carving."

On January 24 & 26, 2010, the California Symphony presents prominent satirist Will Durst, who will narrate Aaron Copland's *Lincoln Portrait*. Outraged and outrageous, Durst is as current as today's headlines and universally acknowledged by even his peers as the nation's foremost political comic. The five-time Emmy nominee, according to the *New York Times*, is "quite possibly the best political satirist working in the country today."

Then, on March 7 & 9, 2009, Jekowsky will present the first of two astonishing prodigies this season: 14-year-old Chad Hoopes playing Bruch's *Violin Concerto*. In April 2008, this young violinist won first prize in the Young Artists Division of the prestigious Yehudi Menuhin International Violin Competition. He has performed with numerous ensembles throughout the world, including the Brussels Chamber Orchestra and Menuhin Festival in Switzerland, the Cleveland Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony, and Orchestra of the Welsh National Opera. Hoopes has also been featured on the CBS' *Early Show*, National Public Radio, and PBS' "From the Top: Live at Carnegie Hall."

And for its season finale in May, the California Symphony will present the world premiere of a new work by its critically-acclaimed Young American Composer-in-Residence, Mason Bates, as well as a rare opportunity to hear a guest artist perform solos with the orchestra on two different instruments – especially one as young as 14-year-old Sarina Zhang. For the occasion, she will play Liszt's *Piano Concerto No. 1 in E flat*, as well as Tchaikovsky's *Pezzo Capriccioso for Cello and Orchestra*. Amazingly, Zhang was only eight when she first appeared on NPR's "From the Top," and has since been featured on PBS' "From the Top: Live from Carnegie Hall."

Ideal for the entire family, season passes are now available by calling the Symphony office at (925) 280-2490 or visiting their website: www.CaliforniaSymphony.org. Starting in September, tickets for individual concerts (\$44-64; students \$20) can be purchased online at www.LesherArtsCenter.org or by calling (925) 943-SHOW. All performances of the California Symphony are held at the Hofmann Theater in the Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Sunday matinee concerts begin at 4 p.m.; Tuesday night concerts begin at 7:30 p.m.

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