

LONG BEACH SYMPHONY

NEWS RELEASE

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Long Beach Symphony Announces 2015-16 Season

Symphony on Strong Footing to Provide 11-Concert Season to Local Area
Platinum Artist, Oleta Adams and Molly Ringwald Headline POPS! Series



LONG BEACH, CA, January 26, 2015

– The Long Beach Symphony’s 2015-2016 Classical and POPS! concert season will be a feast for the ears as it continued its new Music Director search and showcases its own impressive roster of virtuosic principle musicians. Beginning October 10, 2015 and running through June 4, 2016, the season will bring six Classical and five exciting POPS! concerts to the stages of the Terrace Theater and Long Beach Arena.

Sponsored by LEXUS, the Classical season combines popular, crowd-pleasing American, French, German and Russian masterworks with some rarely heard works by composers such as Lukas Foss, Jules Massenet, and Samuel Barber. The Symphony will both showcase its own world-class musicians in the role of guest artists with flutist Heather Clark, harpist Marcia Dickstein, cellist Cécilia Tsan and concertmaster, Roger Wilkie and will also be joined by celebrated local soprano, Elissa Johnston, as well as virtuosic young pianist, Natasha Paremski, who, among other awards, earned distinction as the Classical Recording Foundation’s Young Artist of the Year in 2010.

Remarking on the season, Executive Director Kelly Ruggirello said, “Long Beach Symphony is on solid ground, ending in a surplus last fiscal year and solidifying a two-year contract negotiation with its union. We are poised to provide what Long Beach, the South Bay, and North Orange County expect of us – exceptional music by the finest musicians performed right here in the local area.”

Opening night for the Classical Series, on October 10, 2015 features music from the late Romantic period with Berlioz’ short Roman Carnival Overture, followed by Lalo’s Symphonie Espagnole featuring Concertmaster Roger Wilkie. It concludes with Mussorgsky’s Pictures at an Exhibition, a 10-movement suite that was originally composed for piano and then transcribed for orchestra by Maurice Ravel.

A concert of 20th Century American music follows on November 14 with works by Bernstein, Ticheli, Gershwin, and Lukas Foss' Renaissance Concerto for Flute and Orchestra with soloist Heather Clark. In 2016, the Classical series returns to the lush sounds of the late Romantic and Impressionist periods with French composers Massenet and Ravel, as well as Saint-Saens' Cello Concerto No. 1 featuring the Symphony's Principal Cellist, Cécilia Tsan. Subsequently, the Symphony welcomes celebrated local soprano, Elissa Johnston, for two vocal-orchestral works: a performance of Mahler's magnificent Symphony No. 4 and Barber's 1947 work, Knoxville: Summer of 1915. In April, the Symphony's harpist, Marcia Dickstein, will be featured in Handel's Harp Concerto – part of an evening that includes much-loved symphonies by Mozart and Beethoven. The season concludes in June with 3 works from the Romantic period: a short work by Brahms, Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4, and Chopin's beloved Piano Concerto No. 1, with guest soloist, Natasha Paremski.

There is a lot of celebration and celebrity in store for POPS! patrons this season, including dance lessons, Halloween pranks, holiday whimsy and charismatic guest conductors, not to mention Platinum recording artist, Oleta Adams and 80's film icon, Molly Ringwald. Those who have already experienced the POPS! know that these musical indoor picnics are the hottest ticket in town, and the 2015-16 season will be a truly festive experience.

The popular Bistro-style seating section, a more intimate, elevated seating area with 4-top tables, a complimentary drink based on the evening's musical theme and private Bistro bartender service, will be offered again this year, in addition to the usual tables of ten or Loge seating. Regardless of seating preference, all POPS! patrons are invited to bring their own libations or to purchase food and beverage from Arena concessionaires or select local caterers. Doors open at 6:30 pm to allow time for dining and mingling with friends; the concert begins at 8:00 p.m.

The five-concert POPS! Series, sponsored by Farmers and Merchants Bank, kicks off October 17, 2015 with a Halloween Spooktacular full of musical tricks and treats as guest conductor Benjamin Rous leads the orchestra in haunting, popular melodies by film composers John Williams, Bernard Hermann, and Danny Elfman. Then on December 19th, audiences can literally get in the swing of the holiday season with raucous audience sing-alongs and toe-tapping swing dancing as Byron Stripling brings new arrangements of holiday favorites to the Arena. Swing dance lessons will be available before the music begins, so bring your dancing shoes and get ready to jingle – the perfect place to host a holiday party!

In February 2016, platinum recording artist, **Oleta Adams** joins contemporary jazz pianist and composer, David Benoit for an unforgettable orchestra event blending jazz, soul, and pop, including Ms. Adams' signature hit, "Get Here" and some of Maestro Benoit's favorite compositions. This concert is sponsored in part by Dougherty Company Insurance Brokers. In March, guest conductor Sean O'Laughlin will present Broadway Blockbusters with 80's film icon and recording artist, Molly Ringwald - making her POPS! debut. For the season finale on May 14, Matt Catingub, long-standing Pops Conductor of the Honolulu and Hawaii symphonies will take audiences to an island paradise with traditional and popular Hawaiian music featuring HAPA, often described as the "Sound of Maui." Come early to hone your hula moves!

For more information, or to purchase a season subscription, please visit the Symphony's website at www.longbeachsymphony.org or call 562-436-3203.

ABOUT LONG BEACH SYMPHONY

Established in 1935, the **Long Beach Symphony** marks its 81st season in 2015-2016. Each year the Symphony draws loyal audiences from the South Bay, Long Beach, and North Orange County area to its six Classical concerts in the Terrace Theater and five POPS! events in the Long Beach Arena, plus intimate, free chamber music concerts at various locations. The Symphony partners with the Long Beach Unified School District to provide sequential, curriculum-based music education opportunities throughout the year. Through its comprehensive music education programs—including professional ensembles in elementary and middle schools and widely acclaimed Miller Foundation Symphony Concerts for Young People – the Symphony reaches more than 25,000 students a year. For more information, please visit www.longbeachsymphony.org.

SEASON DETAILS – 2015-16

CLASSICAL SEASON – All concerts in the Terrace Theater of the Long Beach Performing Arts Center at 8 pm.]

October 10, 2015 – OPENING NIGHT!

Roger Wilkie, violin

[Berlioz](#) *Roman Carnival Overture*

[Lalo](#) *Symphonie espagnole*

[Mussorgsky/Ravel](#) *Pictures at an Exhibition*

November 14, 2015

Heather Clark, flute

[Bernstein](#) *Candide Overture*

[Foss](#) *Renaissance Concerto for flute and orchestra*

[Ticheli](#) *Radiant Voices*

[Gershwin](#) *An American in Paris*

February 6, 2016

Cécilia Tsan, cello

[Massenet](#) *Orchestral Suite No. 5, “Scènes Napolitaines”*

[Saint-Saëns](#) *Cello Concerto No. 1*

[Ravel](#) *Rapsodie espagnole*

[Ravel](#) *Boléro*

March 5, 2016

Elissa Johnston, soprano

[Bach](#) *Overture to Orchestral Suite No. 4*

[Barber](#) *Knoxville: Summer of 1915*

[Mahler](#) *Symphony No. 4*

April 30, 2016

Marcia Dickstein, harp

[Mozart](#) *Symphony No. 32*

[Handel](#) *Harp Concerto*

[Beethoven](#) *Symphony No. 3, “Eroica”*

June 4, 2016

Natasha Paremski, piano

[Brahms Hungarian Dance No. 5](#)

[Chopin Piano Concerto No. 1](#)

[Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 4](#)

POPS! SEASON 2015-16 – All concerts are held at Long Beach Arena, doors open at 6:30 pm for picnicking, concerts begin at 8 pm

October 17, 2015 – Halloween Symphony Spooktacular! – Benjamin Rous, conductor

An evening of haunting melodies that will include the works of John Williams, Bernard Hermann, Danny Elfman and some other scary surprises. Costumes encouraged!

December 19, 2015 - Holiday Swing with the Byron Stripling Trio - Damon Gupton, conductor

Expert virtuosic trumpet playing, raucous audience sing-alongs, and toe-tapping swing dancing as Byron Stripling brings celebratory orchestral arrangements this holiday season. Bring your dancing shoes and get ready to jingle!

February 20, 2016 - An Evening with Oleta Adams and David Benoit

Platinum recording artist, Oleta Adams joins contemporary jazz pianist and composer, David Benoit for an unforgettable orchestra event blending jazz, soul, and pop. Set to include, Oleta Adams' signature hit, "Get Here" and some of Maestro Benoit's favorite compositions.

March 19, 2016 - Broadway Blockbusters! - Sean O'Loughlin, Conductor

With Special Guest Star, Molly Ringwald

Broadways' most beloved show tunes, with 80's film icon and recording artist, Molly Ringwald making her Symphony debut.

May 14, 2016 - A Portrait of Paradise with HAPA - Matt Catingub, Conductor

A showcase of traditional and popular Hawaiian music featuring hypnotic guitar runs woven around clear vocals with immaculate harmonies, HAPA is often described as the "Sound of Maui". Hula lessons too!

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