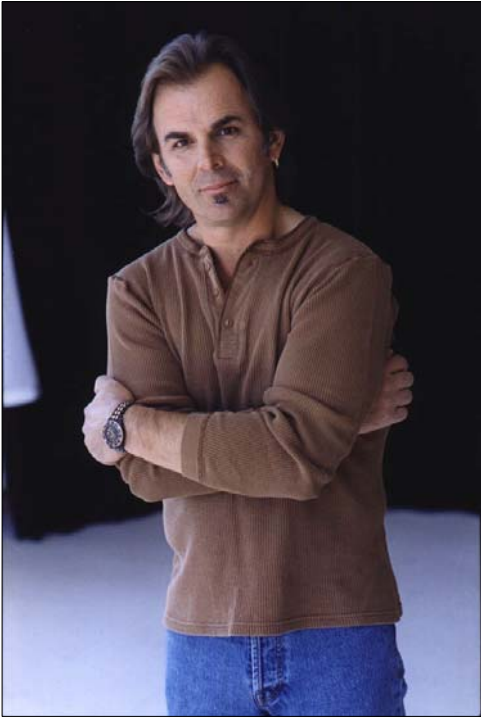


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Walnut Creek, CA – August 20, 2007



California Symphony to perform at free concerts in Concord and San Ramon on September 15 - 16

Events to also feature well-known “Journey” keyboardist Jonathan Cain

Pack a picnic basket and bring the family when the award-winning California Symphony with conductor Barry Jekowsky presents its immensely-popular free annual concerts in the park in Concord and San Ramon the weekend of September 15 – 16, 2007.

This year’s events will be more jam-packed than ever with entertainment for the entire family. Among the unusual guest line-up will be the Dogs Can Dance pooch act, the extraordinary 13-year-old vocalist Carrie Brandon of Mill Valley, and some of your favorite “Star Wars” characters appearing as part of a tribute to the blockbuster film’s 30th anniversary. An hour before the concerts, kids of all ages can play with ARF's lovable “Pet Hug Pack” dogs, who regularly visit hospitals and other facilities throughout the county to provide a “healing connection” for abused children, victims of violence and the elderly.

This year’s musical repertoire will include selections from such popular films and Broadway musicals as “West Side Story,” “How the West Was Won,” “Cats,” “Beauty and the Beast” and “Star Wars”; such patriotic standards as “Stars and Stripes” and “Salute to the Armed Services”; and a variety of songs about animals. Among the latter will be “Man’s Best Friend” by well-known “Journey” keyboardist Jonathan Cain – who will personally perform it at both concerts.

The 8th annual “Pops on the Plaza” concert presented by Target is scheduled for Saturday, September 15, at 6 pm at in downtown Concord at Todos Santos Plaza (Willow Pass and Grant). ABC7 news anchor Dan Ashley will emcee.

The 3rd annual “Bishop Ranch Symphony in the Park Concert” is scheduled for Sunday, September 16, at 5:30 pm at San Ramon’s Central Park (12501 Alcosta Blvd.). Classical 102.1 KDFC’s Hoyt Smith will emcee.

Free parking and senior and handicapped seating available. Bring a picnic lunch and blanket and enjoy this live concert with the whole family.

The Concord and San Ramon concerts are just part of California Symphony’s on-going commitment to the communities of Contra Costa County, which has been home to the internationally-acclaimed orchestra since its founding in 1986. Its *Music-in-the-Schools* program – supported through grants and private donations – has provided 51,000 elementary school children with in-classroom interaction with professional musicians from the Symphony since its inception in 1992. Another 3700 young people in seven county schools will be visited three times during the upcoming academic year. For more information, please visit www.CaliforniaSymphony.org.

Among the Symphony’s other popular annual programs, it provides a popular participatory Family Concert and Instrument Petting Zoo; a Children’s Art Competition for elementary school children to express their thoughts and feelings about music through drawings, short stories and poetry; and the Artist Outreach and Composer Outreach programs, in which well-known visiting guest musicians or resident composers visit local schools.

Led by Barry Jekowsky, the award-winning former Associate Conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D.C., the Walnut Creek-based California Symphony has received world-wide recognition for its unparalleled commitment to American music in particular. In 1991, Jekowsky introduced the one-of-a-kind Young American Composer-In-Residence Program to nurture talented, emerging young composers through three-year residencies and commissions of new works. Four past participants have since distinguished themselves by winning such prestigious world competitions as the Rome Prize and the BBC International Masterprize. The Symphony also features the debut premieres of young musicians each season, thereby assisting in the advancement of their careers.

To learn more about California Symphony’s programs or its upcoming season performances, please visit www.CaliforniaSymphony.org.

DETAILS

WHAT:

Conductor Barry Jekowsky and the California Symphony present two free family concerts during the weekend of September 15 - 16, 2007. Entertainment will include music from popular

Broadway shows and films, patriotic standards and more; "Journey" keyboardist Jonathan Cain performing his own song, "Man's Best Friend"; the Dogs Can Dance performing act; 13-year-old vocalist Carrie Brandon of Mill Valley; and characters from "Star Wars." Come early to visit with ARF's "Pet Hug Pack" dogs, who provide a "healing connection" for abused children, victims of violence and the elderly.

WHERE:

- The 8th annual "Pops on the Plaza" concert presented by Target is scheduled for Saturday, September 15, at 6 pm at in downtown Concord at Todos Santos Plaza (Willow Pass and Grant). ABC7 news anchor Don Ashley will emcee.
- The 3rd annual Bishop Ranch Symphony Concert is scheduled for Sunday, September 16, at 5:30 pm at San Ramon's Central Park (12501 Alcosta Blvd.). Classical 102.1 KDFC's Hoyt Smith will emcee.

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