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The California Symphony to present free POPS ON THE PLAZA outdoor concert on Saturday, 9/20

13-year-old Charlie Baggett of Concord to make orchestral debut singing

Pack your picnic baskets and a blanket and head out to the Todos Santos Plaza in downtown Concord on Saturday, September 20, for one of the best free family events in the East

Bay! The 9th Annual POPS ON THE PLAZA outdoor concert, which begins at 6:30 pm, will once again feature a jam-packed evening of entertainment performed live by the award-winning California Symphony under the direction of Maestro Barry Jekowsky.

Presented by Target, this year's POPS ON THE PLAZA will showcase a dazzling line-up of musical selections and extraordinary soloists. Highlights include a celebration of the Olympic spirit, with the passing of the torch as the California Symphony performs Léo Arnaud's "Bugler's Dream" (heard throughout this summer's televised coverage). Video game fans will have the thrill of hearing the scores to such popular titles as "Halo," "Civilization IV," "Bounty Hunter," and "Kingdom Hearts." Two of the California Symphony's many talented musicians will solo: Catherine Matovich performing Henry Mancini's "Oklahoma Crude" on an electric fiddle, and principal trombonist Don Benham playing his own arrangement of "My One and Only Love." Excerpts from "Fiesta Mexicana" will showcase the extraordinary range of folk music indigenous to Mexico, and a rarely-heard Aboriginal didgeridoo will be played with a symphony orchestra for the first time. And an unprecedented closing tribute to the American patriotic spirit will feature a poignant rendition of "Liberty for All," with stirring quotes from

the Declaration of Independence, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and John F. Kennedy, narrated by ABC7 news anchor Dan Ashley.

As an inspiration to the young people attending this year's POPS ON THE PLAZA concert, Jekowsky will also present the orchestral debut of Concord's own rising star – 13-year-old vocalist Charlie Baggett. The Berean Christian High School freshman will perform Josh Groban's "The Prayer," Sarah Brightman's and Andrea Bocelli's "Time to Say Goodbye," and "Music of the Night" from the Broadway musical, *Phantom of the Opera*. Notably, the California Symphony was named "The Best Symphony Orchestra in America" by *Reader's Digest* magazine in 2005, in part for its unique heritage of presenting gifted prodigies early in their careers. Many of them have gone onto worldwide fame, including Sarah Chang and pianist Joyce Yang.

DETAILS:

Target presents the 9th Annual POPS ON THE PLAZA outdoor concert by the California Symphony on Saturday, September 20, at 6:30 pm in downtown Concord at Todos Santos Plaza (Willow Pass and Grant). Guest emcee: ABC7 news anchor Dan Ashley. FREE admission and parking. Senior and handicapped seating available. Bring a picnic and a blanket and enjoy this live concert with the whole family.

This event is being made possible by the generous support of the City of Concord, Chevron, the *Contra Costa Times*, the Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County, Classical 102.1 KDFC, Comcast, the Concord Chamber of Commerce, 92.1 KKDV, the Lesher Foundation, TJ Long Foundation, and the Todos Santos Business Association.

To learn more about the California Symphony, go to www.CaliforniaSymphony.org.

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Photo ID: Charlie Baggett

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