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**SACRAMENTO PHILHARMONIC PRESENTS "SONGS OF HOPE"
CONCERT APRIL, 26. 2008 FEATURING DISTINGUISHED ARAB AND
ISRAELI MUSICIANS**

**MEMBERS OF *ORCHESTRA FOR PEACE* VISIT CALIFORNIA'S
CAPITAL FOR RESIDENCY AND CONCERTS**

**"Songs of Hope Concert", Saturday, April 26, 2008 at Sacramento Community Center
Theater**

Free Pre-concert discussion with guest artists, led by Capital Public Radio's

Donna Apidone

Master Classes & Panel Discussions

"Sound Bites" at 55 Degrees Restaurant on April 17

East-West Chamber Concert at Benvenuti Performing Arts Center on April 29

Sacramento Philharmonic Seeking Support and Funding from the Community

Sacramento, CA

On Saturday, April 26, 2008, the Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra will present a concert that will engage California in ways that perhaps only music can. "Songs of Hope" is dedicated to the premise that music is a universal language that can promote dialogue, harmony and cultural understanding.

In these troubled times, many musicians from Israel, Palestine and Middle Eastern countries have worked together performing their music as an example of dialogue and hope. One such group is the Orchestra for Peace lead by the Egyptian Maestro, Nader Abbassi. Under Mr. Abbassi's leadership this group of 45 Israeli and Arab musicians performed throughout Europe and the Middle East. Their promising example of dialogue and cooperation led to an invitation to perform at the Nobel Prize Conference in Petra, Jordan hosted by King Abdullah of Jordan and Nobel Laureate, Elie Wiesel in 2005.

The Sacramento Philharmonic has invited Maestro Abbassi and two other musicians for an unprecedented series of lectures and performances.

THE MUSICIANS

Along with Maestro Abbassi, Artistic Director of the Cairo Opera, the Sacramento Philharmonic has invited two other distinguished musicians from the Mid East for the “Songs of Hope” concert and related events. Joining Mr. Abbassi are Taiseer Elias, a leading figure in classical Arab music and master oud player and Grammy nominated pianist Sonia Rubinsky.



NADER ABBASSI

Nader Abbassi, Artistic Director of the Cairo Opera, regularly conducts in France, Germany, Russia and Switzerland. Maestro Abbassi led his Orchestra for Peace in six European tours and to the Nobel Prize Conference in Petra, Jordan, performing for Elie Wiesel, King Abdullah of Jordan and the Dalai Lama.



TAISEER ELIAS

Taiseer Elias, born in the Arab-Israeli village of Shafram, is a leading figure in classical Arab music. In 2004, he performed with the Orchestra for Peace. He is included in *2000 Outstanding Intellectuals of the 21st Century*. He was selected as the 2004 “Man of the Year” by the *American Biographical Centre*.



SONIA RUBINSKY

Sonia Rubinsky studied at the Rubin Academy in Jerusalem. Born in Brazil and an Israeli citizen, she is one of today’s leading interpreters of the works of Villa-Lobos. She performed with the Orchestra for Peace in 2004. Rubinsky performs throughout the world and is a Grammy nominee for best classical recording. 1999.

THE ‘SONGS OF HOPE’ CONCERT

On April 26th the Sacramento Philharmonic and guest artists will perform The “Songs of Hope” concert. Sacramento Philharmonic Music Director Michael Morgan worked with Maestro Abbassi to choose works for this unique concert that represent different aspects of our shared histories and cultures. The two maestros will share the podium.

Works to be performed at the “Songs of Hope” concert are;

- **Erwin Schulhoff’s “Joyous Overture,”** is an homage to a wonderful Jewish composer that lost his life in the horrors of the WW2 camps. Schulhoff’s brilliant music has been rediscovered due to the work of Gideon Kramer and James Conlon in the last few years.
- **Robert Schumann’s “Piano Concerto in A Minor”** attests to classical music’s universal appeal.
- The American Premiere of Israeli composer **Menachem Wiesenberg’s “Concertino for Oud, Piano and Strings”** mixes the Arab traditional and western music. Composed with Mr. Elias in mind, this work epitomizes music’s role in creating a space for dialogue and shared culture.
- As well as conducting, Nader Abbassi is also an accomplished composer. His works have been played in the Middle East and Europe. **Nader Abbassi’s “Dawn to Dusk”** will be an American Premiere. The work features seven Middle Eastern percussion instruments and full orchestra.
- **Leonard Bernstein’s “Chichester Psalms”**, is a plea for peace in troubled times. The text is sung in Hebrew. The Sacramento Philharmonic will be joined by the Sacramento Master Singers for this work. The final phrase is, *“Behold how good and pleasurable for brethren to dwell together in unity.”*

MC for the concert is Donna Apidone, “Morning Edition” host on Capital Public Radio.

Pre-Concert Lecture

A free pre-concert talk moderated by Capitol Public Radio’s Donna Apidone with Michael Morgan, Nader Abbassi and guest soloists will be offered in the CCT main theater. Join these musicians in a discussion about their music and their work creating a space for dialogue between communities in conflict. Pre-concert events start at 7pm.

RELATED EVENTS

In addition to the April 26 concert at the Sacramento Community Center Theater, these guest artists will conduct master classes at UC Davis, take part in a panel discussion at the Guild Theater in Oak Park, and perform with members of the orchestra at an East-West chamber concert at the Benvenuti Performing Arts Center in Natomas. There are also plans for additional appearances in the Bay Area.

East-West Chamber Concert at Benvenuti Performing Arts Center – Tuesday, April 29, 2008 at 8:00

Sonia Rubinsky and Taiseer Elias along with Philharmonic musicians will perform works that span the repertoire from Bach to traditional Middle Eastern music all the way to new works inspired by our different cultures, such as Jewish Klezmer, Arab Al-Andalous and Persian folk melodies.

Join composers Nader Abbassi and David Schiff for an intimate and up close musical experience. This concert has limited seating (350).

4600 Blackrock Drive in Natomas

916-491-1028

www.benarts.org

Sound Bites at 55 Degrees - Thursday, April 17, 2008 at 6:00pm

East Meets West – Imaginative music, wine tasting and food from 55's eclectic kitchen and music with guest artists and Philharmonic musicians.

555 Capitol Mall

\$50 limited reservations

Call 916-553-4100

www.restaurant55.com

Panel Discussion at the Guild Theater – Wednesday, April 23 at 7:00pm

Panel discussion with Nader Abbassi, Sonia Rubinsky and Taiseer Elias

2828 35th Street in Oak Park

Free admission

www.guildtheater.com

FUNDING & SUPPORT

The Sacramento Philharmonic is currently seeking support and funding for this ambitious project. A large array of businesses, governmental agencies, non-profits and donors has already expressed their willingness to support such a ground breaking event in our community.

The Delegata Corporation (Lead Sponsor)

The National Endowment for the Arts

The Israeli Consulate of San Francisco

The Egyptian Consulate of San Francisco

University of California Davis

Benvenuti Cultural Center

Capitol Public Radio

Downey Brand

Cable Commission

The Interfaith Service Bureau

The Sacramento Unity Council

Please contact Sacramento Philharmonic's Executive Director Marc Feldman at 916-732-9045.

TICKET INFORMATION

Single ticket prices range from \$15 to \$75, depending on seat location and availability. Concert tickets are available at www.tickets.com or by calling the Community Center Theater Box Office at (916) 264-5181.

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Now in its eleventh year of operation, the 83-member Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra Association, Inc. is the premier professional orchestra for the Sacramento Region. The Philharmonic receives support from a variety of regional sources, including the Sacramento Philharmonic Foundation, the Sacramento Philharmonic League,, Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission, the National Endowment for the Arts and numerous individuals, businesses and foundations. The Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra Association, Inc. is a non-profit corporation (501-c-3). Federal I.D. # 91-1841406. Recent financial information can be found at Guidestar.org. The Philharmonic operates under Collective Bargaining Agreements with the American Federation of Musicians Local 12 and the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 50. For additional information, please visit the Philharmonic website at www.sacphil.org.

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