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FROM BACH TO BEBOP

Cal Phil's "Music, Martinis and the Maestro" to feature horn virtuoso Richard Todd playing both classical music and jazz on April 13



SAN MARINO, Calif. When devotees of the California Philharmonic's popular chamber music series – Music, Martinis and the Maestro – take their seats in the Romanesque Room of Pasadena's historic Green Hotel on April 13 at 2 p.m. to enjoy an afternoon of music featuring horn virtuoso Richard Todd, they probably won't be surprised to learn that Bach is on the program. Bach, after all, has been part of the chamber music canon for centuries.

Bebop, however, may raise a few eyebrows.

"We selected this program to demonstrate Richard's incredible ability to switch between classical and jazz styles at will," says Cal Phil founder and "maestro" Dr. Victor Vener. "He's an amazingly versatile musician, and Cal Phil is thrilled to have him be part of our orchestra family as Principal Horn."

While Todd has performed under the batons of such renowned conductors as Leonard Bernstein, Andre Previn, Seiji Ozawa, Neville Marriner and Carlo Maria Giulini, he is equally comfortable in the recording studio or on tour with artists representing more contemporary musical genres. Artists with whom he has worked range from singers Barbra Streisand, Madonna, and Natalie Cole to Michael Jackson and the Red Hot Chili Peppers to jazz greats Clark Terry, Ray Brown and Woody Herman.

As befitting a series with "martini" in its title, even Todd's selected piece by Bach will be served with a twist. The Partita in B flat, BWV 825 was originally written for keyboard. But Todd and guitarist Mike Scott will perform a transcription of the work for horn and guitar commissioned by the legendary Brazilian guitarist Lauro Almeida for himself and Vincent DeRosa on horn. This version of the Partita was recorded for Capitol Records in the early 1960s and today is considered a landmark recording.

"I chose this work because of its unique place in the horn pedagogy, the sound of the two instruments, and the rarity of performances," says Todd, who will premiere Kenneth Fuch's horn concerto with the Hartford Symphony on April 29. "Audiences invariably love to hear it. For that reason if for no other, it really should be performed more often."

Representing the jazz side of the musical equation are works by Astor Piazzolla, Duke Ellington, and Jimmy Van Heusen. Accordionist Frank Marocco will join Todd during this segment of the program as well. “Horn and accordion is a wonderful sound, and it is fun to create music with instruments one would not normally associate together,” Todd explains.

In fact, that afternoon— after the last round of applause for Music, Martinis and the Maestro dies away – the fun will continue. Audience members can simply walk across the street to the jazz club and restaurant, redwhite+bluezz, at 70 South Raymond and embark upon the Old Pasadena Annual Wine and Jazz Walk. Venues joining redwhite+bluezz for the Walk – which takes place from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. – include Bodega Wine Bar, D’Vine Wine, Heritage Wine Company, Holly Street Bar & Grill, Pasadena Jazz Institute, The Crepe Vine and Vertical Wine Bistro. Tickets are available for \$40/person, with proceeds benefiting the California Philharmonic and Five Acres, The Boys’ and Girls’ Aid Society.

Tickets for Cal Phil Music, Martinis, and the Maestro start at just \$30/person. For more information or to order tickets, visit www.calphil.org or call 626.300.8200. The box office is located at 1120 Huntington Drive in San Marino and is open Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Green Hotel is located at 50 East Green Street in Pasadena. To purchase tickets to the Old Pasadena Annual Wine and Jazz Walk, call the Cal Phil box office or visit any participating venue.

In 1995, Music Director and Conductor Victor Vener and a small group of enthusiastic, dedicated music lovers based in Pasadena, California founded the The CalPhil Foundation. The Foundation, a nonprofit community benefit organization, supports the California Philharmonic in its quest to expand awareness of classical music, thus increasing the interest and support for great timeless music with wide audience appeal, from the classical and operatic repertoire to diverse genres of jazz, pops, Hollywood and Broadway. Also, with a strong commitment to new music and to expanding the symphonic repertoire, the California Philharmonic has presented numerous world premieres of both orchestral and chamber works.

The California Philharmonic began regular programming in 1997 with a five-concert inaugural summer season of Cal Phil Festival on the Green on the grounds of the Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden in Arcadia. Now, Cal Phil presents twenty four concerts per year in five different, but equally impressive, venues throughout Los Angeles County. These series include Cal Phil at Walt Disney Concert Hall (downtown Los Angeles), Cal Phil at the Ambassador (Pasadena), Cal Phil Music, Martinis and the Maestro (Castle Green Hotel in Pasadena) and Cal Phil at The Mill (The Old Mill in San Marino). For more information, visit www.calphil.org or call 626.300.8200.