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THE CALIFORNIA PHILHARMONIC LOOKS AHEAD TO SUMMER

Cal Phil reacts to bitterly cold economic climate this winter by canceling its remaining two concerts at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium and focusing instead on the orchestra's upcoming summer series:

The Festival on the Green at The Arboretum in Arcadia and a Sunday matinee series at Walt Disney Concert Hall in downtown Los Angeles

SAN MARINO, Calif. While its first two concerts of its “Cal Phil Adventures in Music” series at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium took place before enthusiastic, nearly sold-out crowds, the California Philharmonic will cancel its remaining two performances due to the grim economic climate challenging arts organizations not only throughout Southern California but worldwide. The cancelled concerts are “John Williams: Music for the Movies,” scheduled to take place on February 28, and “Maestro’s Choice” on April 4.

However, Cal Phil’s upcoming summer season – “Cal Phil Festival on the Green” on Saturday evenings at The Arboretum in Arcadia and a Sunday matinee series, “Cal Phil at Walt Disney Concert Hall” – remains unaffected and will continue as planned.

“Cal Phil is just like everyone else, from major corporations to individual families - we’re tightening our belt,” explains Cal Phil Founder Dr. Victor Vener. “But with the economic environment so uncertain, we took the steps necessary to ensure that, no matter what shape the economy is in over the next few months, our patrons can count on attending the first rate productions they have come to expect – and love – at The Arboretum and Walt Disney Concert Hall.”

It is the summer season, Vener adds, that is at the heart of Cal Phil. Founded 13 years ago to expand awareness of great timeless music with wide audience appeal – whether it was composed 5 years ago or 500 – the orchestra opened its inaugural season with the Festival on the Green and added the Disney Hall matinees in 2004. The decision to hold a winter season at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium took place only last spring.

“We’re trimming our product line and going back to our strength,” says Board Chairman Emeritus Robert Miller. “We didn’t want to risk having our newest endeavor jeopardize our core programs.”

Cal Phil’s summer season will open on Saturday evening June 27 at The Arboretum and Sunday afternoon, June 28 at Walt Disney Concert Hall with “By George!” The program

will consist entirely of works by famous “Georges” – from Gershwin and Cohan to Handel. Future performances, two weekends apiece throughout July and August, will continue to include the eclectic array of works for which Cal Phil has become famous.

“Broadway show tunes, Oscar-winning soundtracks, Beatles hits, and repertoire by giants from the world of classical music like Beethoven and Tchaikovsky – we play it all,” says Vener. “In fact, during tough times, the service Cal Phil provides is especially important. More than ever, you need a chance to recharge and relax, to laugh, be entertained and inspired. And what does that better than music?”

For more information or to order tickets for The Festival on the Green at The Arboretum or matinee performances at Walt Disney Concert Hall, call 626.300.8200 or visit www.calphil.org. Patrons and subscribers with questions regarding the two cancelled concerts at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, can call Ticketmaster at 213-365-3500.

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.

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