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CAL PHIL PRESENTS “MOVIE MAGIC”

The California Philharmonic continues its popular summertime tradition of performing excerpts from Hollywood blockbusters, which this year will include Casablanca, Robin Hood, Memoirs of a Geisha, The Lord of the Rings and The Curious Case of Benjamin Button

Saturday, August 8, 2009; 7:30 p.m.; The Arboretum
Sunday, August 9, 2009; 2 p.m.; Walt Disney Concert Hall
Calendar summary follows at end of release

SAN MARINO, Calif. Its 2009 season of “Summer Magic” may include works by classical music composers revered for centuries like Bach, Handel and Strauss...but, on Saturday, August 8 at 8 p.m. at The Arboretum in Arcadia and Sunday, August 9 at 2 p.m. at Walt Disney Concert Hall in downtown Los Angeles, film composers from Max Steiner to John Williams will have pride of place when the California Philharmonic presents “Movie Magic.” On the program are excerpts from *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* by Alexandre Desplat; *The Lord of the Rings* by Howard Shore; John Williams’ *Memoirs of a Geisha*; and two immortal soundtracks by Max Steiner, *Casablanca* and *Gone With the Wind*.

In addition, violinist Armen Anassian – who was Conductor for the World Music artist Yanni and, today, as a studio musician, performs regularly under such film composers as John Williams, James Horner, Hans Zimmer and Danny Elfman – will appear as guest artist for a performance of Erich Korngold’s *Violin Concerto*.

“I deeply love the Korngold Concerto and have been listening to it since I was a child,” says Anassian, who performed the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto with Cal Phil in 2002. “I am thrilled for this opportunity to perform it. I’m also looking forward to performing with my friends and colleagues at Cal Phil. I have lovely memories from my last appearance with them.”

Roger Allen Ward, Cal Phil’s composer in residence, shares Anassian’s passion for Korngold’s concerto. “It’s a beautiful work based on themes Korngold wrote for the films he scored,” says Ward, whose own *symphony no. 1* received its World Premiere on July 11 and 12.

Scores from which Korngold drew inspiration for the concerto include *Captain Blood*, *Adventures of Robin Hood*, *The Sea Hawk*, *The Sea Wolf*, and *Deception*, Ward adds.

“The great thing about programming an evening of wonderful music from Hollywood soundtracks is that we never run out of works to showcase,” says Dr. Victor Vener, founder and music director. “This year, we’ve included music from Hollywood’s classic Golden Age – like *Casablanca* and *Gone With the Wind* – to the 2008 soundtrack for *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, which was nominated for an Oscar for Best Original Score.”

Tickets for Cal Phil Festival on the Green at The Arboretum start at just \$20 and can be purchased by calling the Cal Phil box office at 1120 Huntington Drive in San Marino at 626.300.8200 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday or by visiting the website, www.calphil.org. The Arboretum is located at 301 No. Baldwin Avenue in Arcadia.

Patrons are encouraged to arrive at 5:30 p.m. when the gates at The Arboretum open, and picnic beforehand. Vendors are on site to provide food or orders can be made in advance online at www.calphil.org. Live jazz will be performed prior to the concert as well.

This year, for the first time at Cal Phil at Walt Disney Concert Hall, pre-concert lectures with Dr. Victor Vener will take place at 1 p.m.

Tickets for Cal Phil at Walt Disney Concert Hall are available by calling TicketMaster at 213.363.3500, Tuesday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. or online, 24 hours daily, at www.ticketmaster.com. Prices range from \$35 to \$90/person. Walt Disney Concert Hall is located at 111 South Grand Avenue in Los Angeles.

ABOUT ARMEN ANNASSIAN:

Armen Anassian is an Armenian violinist who has played with the Los Angeles Opera and is concertmaster of the Santa Clarita Symphony, in Santa Clarita, California.[1] He has performed in hundreds of concerts around the world with many notable symphony orchestras. He has also recorded violin with numerous artists including Conductor of the Yanni Symphony Orchestra, as well as working with the recording and film industries with violin credits on many film soundtracks. He frequently works with the recording and film industries, playing regularly with composers such as John Williams, James Horner, Hans Zimmer, James Newton Howard, Alan Silvestri, and Danny Elfman.[3] Soundtrack credits include *Rush Hour 2*, *Matchstick Men*, *Twisted*, *King Kong*, *The Legend of Zorro*, *The Nativity Story*, *Robots*, *The Skeleton Key*, *Spanglish*, *Steamboy*, *The Lost City*, *Blades of Glory*, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, *Transformers*, and *Gracie*. [

Armen Anassian was born in Armenia where he began his musical studies. He holds Master's degrees in Instrumental Conducting and Violin Performance, and studied in the United States, Armenia, and Germany. His teachers include Rainer Kussmaul, Sidney Weiss, Dorothy DeLay, and conductor Michael Zearott. Mr. Anassian has held Conducting and/or Concertmaster positions with such noted groups as the Hoboken

Chamber Orchestra, Freiburg Chamber Orchestra, Heidelberg Chamber Orchestra, and the International Zelt Musik Orchestra. He has performed hundreds of concerts in France, England, Belgium, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, China, India, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Japan, Australia, Canada, Mexico, and all over the United States. He was invited to perform the Khachaturian Violin Concerto in Armenian with the Armenian National Philharmonic under the baton of his father Henrik Anassian.

Locally, Mr. Anassian has been featured as soloist with the California Philharmonic, Pasadena Pops, Riverside Philharmonic, Burbank Symphony, Antelope Valley Symphony and Pacific Palisades Symphony. Currently, he is Concertmaster with the Symphony in the Glen and violinist with the Los Angeles Opera. Mr. Anassian is also a busy recording artist in the recording and film industries. He records regularly with composers such as John Williams, James Horner, Hans Zimmer, James Newton Howard, Alan Silvestry, Danny Elfman. Armen Anassian lives in Burbank with his wife Erlinda and their three children.

ABOUT CAL PHIL:

In 1995, Music Director and Conductor Victor Vener and a small group of enthusiastic, dedicated music lovers based in Pasadena, California founded 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 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), Cal Phil Festival on the Green, and Cal Phil at The Mill (The Old Mill in San Marino). For more information, visit www.calphil.org or call 626.300.8200.

Calendar summary:

August 8, 2009: Movie Magic

Program includes excerpts from such Hollywood blockbusters as The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, The Lord of the Rings, Memoirs of a Geisha, Gone With the Wind and Casablanca. Guest artist Armen Anassian will perform Korngold's Violin Concerto.

The Arboretum

301 N. Baldwin Ave in Arcadia

Gates open at 5:30; concert begins at 7:30 p.m.

For tickets, call **626.300.8200** or purchase online, www.calphil.org

Tickets start at \$20

August 9, 2009: Movie Magic

Program includes excerpts from such Hollywood blockbusters as The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, The Lord of the Rings, Memoirs of a Geisha, Gone With the Wind and Casablanca. Guest artist Armen Anassian will perform Korngold's Violin Concerto.

Walt Disney Concert Hall

111 South Grand Avenue in Los Angeles

Concert begins at 2 p.m.

For tickets, call **213.365.3500** or purchase online, www.ticketmaster.com

Tickets start at \$25

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http://www.calphil.org/meet_calphil/press_photos.asp

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