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**NO STRINGS ATTACHED: GUESTS WILL HAVE THEIR ‘PHIL’ OF FUN AT CAL PHIL’S “WINE AND STRINGS”**

**The California Philharmonic presents its annual fundraiser at the historic Rose Bowl on Sunday, July 20**

**SAN MARINO, Calif.** Most of the time, if there are musicians at the Rose Bowl, they’re marching. Groups like the USC Trojan Marching Band or the UCLA Bruin Marching Band are a familiar sight at the historic landmark’s 50-yard line. But when the California Philharmonic presents its annual Wine and Strings fundraiser at the Rose Bowl on Sunday evening, July 20, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., the bill of musical fare will encourage guests not so much to “Fight On” as to dance on...through the night, to music provided by Rik Howard and His Orchestra.

“We’re so excited to have this year’s event offer dancing under the stars,” says Cal Phil General Manager Grace Thompson, who is also co-chair of Wine and Strings. “Rik and his musicians have performed for the Los Angeles Lakers, on the Oprah Winfrey Show, and with Barbra Streisand at the Shrine Auditorium. What an extraordinary experience it will be to dance the night away with them on the green at the Rose Bowl.”

Guests will also have an opportunity to sample dishes from top local restaurants and renowned wines from redwhite+bluezz, selected especially for the event by certified sommeliers, Russ and Marie Meek. The wine list at the popular jazz club and restaurant in Pasadena was rated #1 for its exceptional value and worldwide selection by local polls of over 2000 restaurants and wine bars.

Equally stunning are the medley of live and silent auction items featured at Wine and Strings. “I expect to face stiff competition when I bid on the chance to have a private dinner catered at my home – with Maestro Victor Vener and a chamber ensemble providing music,” says co-chair Lynn Caffey Gabriel with a smile. Other auction items include an opportunity to conduct the *Spar Spangled Banner* at the opening of a Cal Phil concert or a backstage tour of KOCE studios during filming.

“The best part of all is that this is an event at the Rose Bowl where everyone wins,” says Thompson. “Even if you’re out-bid for an item, you know that the money raised will benefit an extraordinary orchestra with a unique mission to expand the awareness of great timeless music – whether it was composed in 1600 or 2008, or performed on Broadway or in the concert hall.”

“Cal Phil has received many awards since it was founded in 1995,” adds Victor Vener, Founder and Music Director of the California Philharmonic. “We’ve been honored by the U.S. Congress, the California Legislature State Assembly, and the County of Los Angeles. But the greatest reward of all is looking out over the audience at a performance and seeing hundreds upon thousands of smiling faces. That’s what the joy of music is truly all about.”

Tickets for Wine and Strings are \$100 per person, which covers the cost of entry, food and beverage. To purchase tickets, call 626.300.8200 or visit [www.calphil.org](http://www.calphil.org) The Rose Bowl is located at 1001 Rose Bowl Drive in Pasadena. Guests are encouraged to wear casually elegant attire and heels suitable for walking on the Rose Bowl’s green.

*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](http://www.calphil.org) or call 626.300.8200.*

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