



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pasadena Symphony Association

Pasadena Symphony & POPS

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For artist images and bios, visit: <https://pasadenasympphony-pops.org/california-dreamin-press-release/>

BROADWAY STAR BETSY WOLFE JOINS MICHAEL FEINSTEIN AND THE PASADENA POPS FOR AN EVENING OF MUSIC FROM THE GOLDEN STATE

Pasadena, CA – Principal Pops Conductor **Michael Feinstein** and the **Pasadena POPS** continue their popular, outdoor summer concert series with **California Dreamin'** on **Saturday, August 24** at the **LA County Arboretum**. Hear the hits that shaped the California state of mind from the Gold Rush through the 60s and 70s. Audiences will reminiscence to the surf rock and sunshine pop of **The Beach Boys, The Mamas and the Papas, the Eagles, Fleetwood Mac** and more, all in symphonic sound by the San Gabriel Valley's premiere orchestra.

Two of Broadway's hottest stars will join the orchestra for this special celebration. California native **Betsy Wolfe** is taking a quick break from her Tony-nominated role in Broadway's **& Juliet** to show off her chops to sing everything from **Bacharach** hits like **"Do You Know the Way to San Jose,"** to **"Landslide"** and **"Desperado."** Joining alongside Wolfe, Broadway legend **Hugh Panaro**, best known for performing the role of Phantom in Broadway's **Phantom of the Opera** over 2,000 times, will dazzle with his spin on **"California Dreamin'"** and other iconic 60s songs like **"Happy Together"** and **"Good Vibrations."**

All Pasadena POPS concerts are held at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Gardens. Gates open for picnic dining at 5:30pm and performances begin at 7:30pm. Don't miss the best outdoor dinner party in town with spacious circular table seating with fine linens, or lawn seating for those who want to bring a blanket – each option carries on the tradition of picnic-dining with your family and friends listening to Michael Feinstein and the San Gabriel Valley's premier orchestra! Concertgoers can pack their own food and drink or enjoy pre-ordered gourmet box dinners for on-site pickup, two full bars, and a variety of food trucks.

The Arboretum is located at 301 North Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA. Subscribers may purchase pre-paid onsite parking at the Arboretum, and all concertgoers can purchase guaranteed and convenient parking at Santa Anita Park, with non-stop shuttle service to the Arboretum's main entrance.

Single tickets start at \$35 and are available by calling the box office at (626) 793-7172, online at [PasadenaSymphony-Pops.org](https://pasadenasympphony-pops.org) or at the Arboretum on concert days.

IF YOU GO:

- **What:** The Pasadena POPS presents California Dreamin'
Michael Feinstein, *Principal Pops Conductor*
Betsy Wolfe & Hugh Panaro, *soloists*
- **When:** Saturday, August 24, 2024. Concert starts at 7:30pm. Gates open at 5:30pm.
- **Where:** The LA County Arboretum | 301 N Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA 91007
- **Cost:** Tickets start at \$35.00
- **Dining:** Gates open at 5:30pm for picnicking. Guests are welcome to bring their own food and drink, pre-order boxed meals, or purchase from onsite food and beverage vendors. [Click Here for menus and to order.](#)
- **Parking:** Subscribers have the opportunity to purchase onsite Arboretum parking. Single ticket holders may purchase guaranteed and convenient parking at Santa Anita Park Lot 6, located just across Baldwin Ave., with complimentary non-stop shuttle service to the Arboretum's main entrance. Lot 6 parking may be purchased in advanced at pasadenasympphony-pops.org or onsite (**cash only**) for \$20.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Michael Feinstein Principal Pops Conductor

In addition to his recognition as one of the leading musical entertainers and piano virtuosos of recent decades, Michael Feinstein's work as an educator, archivist, interpreter, and Ambassador of the Great American Songbook have established the popular and honored musician as a pre-eminent force in contemporary music. His dazzling career as a top-selling and critically acclaimed recording artist and a star performer on Broadway, and the world's great concert stages has earned him five Grammy Award nominations, two Emmy nominations of his PBS-TV specials and acclaim for his NPR series. His live concerts have spanned the globe including such iconic venues such as The White House, Buckingham Palace, Hollywood Bowl, Carnegie Hall, and the Sydney Opera House.

In 2022, Feinstein released to rave reviews, *Gershwin Country*, an album of standards in duet with some of the biggest names in Country Music from Dolly Parton and Alison Krauss to Brad Paisley and Amy Grant.

In 2007, as an extension of his work as a legendary performer and passionate guardian of his nation's greatest musical traditions, Mr. Feinstein founded the Great American Songbook Foundation. The Foundation works to preserve and elevate America's rich musical legacy by curating physical artifacts of its creators and performers; offering programs for the public and research opportunities for scholars, historians, and performers; and providing educational opportunities for student musicians, including the annual high school Songbook Academy®. For over a decade, Michael served as a Founding Member on

the Library of Congress' National Recording Preservation Board; an organization dedicated to ensuring the survival, conservation and increased public availability of America's sound recording heritage.

Feinstein earned his fifth Grammy Award nomination in 2009 for *The Sinatra Project*, his CD celebrating the music of "Ol' Blue Eyes." *The Sinatra Project, Volume II: The Good Life* was released in 2011. He released the CDs *The Power Of Two* – collaborating with *Glee* and *30 Rock* star Cheyenne Jackson – and *Cheek To Cheek*, recorded with Broadway legend Barbara Cook. For Feinstein's CD *We Dreamed These Days*, he co-wrote the title song with Dr. Maya Angelou.

His Emmy Award-nominated TV special *Michael Feinstein – The Sinatra Legacy*, which was taped live at the Palladium in Carmel, IN, aired across the country in 2011. The PBS series *Michael Feinstein's American Songbook*, the recipient of the ASCAP Deems-Taylor Television Broadcast Award, was broadcast for three seasons and is available on DVD. His most recent primetime PBS-TV Special, *New Year's Eve at The Rainbow Room* – written and directed by *Desperate Housewives* creator Marc Cherry – aired in 2014. For his nationally syndicated public radio program *Song Travels*, Michael interviewed and performed alongside of music luminaries such as Bette Midler, Neil Sedaka, Liza Minnelli, Rickie Lee Jones, David Hyde Pierce and more.

Feinstein was named Principal Pops Conductor for the Pasadena Symphony in 2012 and made his conducting debut in June 2013 to celebrated critical acclaim. Under Feinstein's leadership, the Pasadena Pops has quickly become a premier orchestral presenter of the Great American Songbook with definitive performances of rare orchestrations and classic arrangements. He launched an additional Pops series at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts in Palm Beach, Florida in 2014.

Michael's book *The Gershwins and Me* – the *Los Angeles Times* best-seller from Simon & Schuster – features a new CD of Gershwin standards performed with Cyrus Chestnut at the piano.

Feinstein serves as Artistic Director of the Center for the Performing Arts, a \$170 million, three-theatre venue in Carmel, Indiana, which opened in January 2011. The theater is home to diverse live programming and a museum for his rare memorabilia and manuscripts. Since 1999, he has served as Artistic Director for Carnegie Hall's "Standard Time with Michael Feinstein" in conjunction with ASCAP.

In 2010 he became the director of the Jazz and Popular Song Series at New York's Jazz at Lincoln Center.

Feinstein's at the Nikko, Michael's nightclub at San Francisco's Nikko Hotel, has presented the top talents of pop and jazz since 2013. He debuted at Feinstein's/54 Below, his new club in New York, late in 2015. His first venue in New York, Feinstein's at the Regency, featured major entertainers such as Rosemary Clooney, Glen Campbell, Barbara Cook, Diahann Carroll, Jane Krakowski, Lea Michele, Cyndi Lauper, Jason Mraz, and Alan Cumming from 1999 to 2012.

He has designed a new piano for Steinway called "The First Ladies," inspired by the White House piano and signed by several former First Ladies. It was first played to commemorate the Ronald Regan centennial on February 6, 2011.

In 2013 Michael released *Change Of Heart: The Songs of Andre Previn* in collaboration with four time Oscar and eleven time Grammy Award-winning composer-conductor-pianist Andre Previn. The album celebrates Previn's pop songs and motion picture classics. Earlier album highlights include *Hopeless Romantics*, a songbook of classics by Michael's late friend Harry Warren, recording with legendary jazz

pianist George Shearing. His album with songwriting icon Jimmy Webb, *Only One Life – The Songs of Jimmy Webb*, was named one of “10 Best CDs of the Year” by *USA Today*.

Feinstein received his fourth Grammy nomination for *Michael Feinstein with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra*, his first recording with a symphony orchestra. The year before, Rhino/Elektra Music released *The Michael Feinstein Anthology*, a two-disc compilation spanning 1987 to 1996 and featuring old favorites and previously unreleased tracks.

Michael was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio, where he started playing piano by ear as a 5-year-old. After graduating from high school, he moved to Los Angeles when he was 20. The widow of legendary concert pianist-actor Oscar Levant introduced him to Ira Gershwin in July 1977. Feinstein became Gershwin’s assistant for six years, which earned him access to numerous unpublished Gershwin songs, many of which he has since performed and recorded.

Gershwin’s influence provided a solid base upon which Feinstein evolved into a captivating performer, composer, and arranger of his own original music. He also has become an unparalleled interpreter of music legends such as Irving Berlin, Jerome Kern, Johnny Mercer, Duke Ellington, and Harry Warren. Feinstein has received three honorary doctorates.

Through his live performances, recordings, film and television appearances, and his songwriting (in collaboration with Alan and Marilyn Bergman, Lindy Robbins, Bob Merrill, and Marshall Barer), Feinstein is an all-star force in American music.

For more information, please visit www.MichaelFeinstein.com.

Hugh Panaro **Soloist**

Hugh Panaro is perhaps best known for having played the coveted role of the Phantom in Broadway’s *The Phantom of the Opera* over 2,000 times, including the 25th Anniversary production. In fact, Hugh is one of the few actors to be cast by Harold Prince as both The Phantom and Raoul in the show’s Broadway production and recently starred as the title role in the New York production of *Sweeney Todd*.

Hugh made his Broadway debut in the original production of *Les Misérables* as Marius, the role he originated in the First National Company. He also created the roles of Buddy in the original *Side Show* (Sony cast recording); Julian Craster in Jule Styne’s last musical, *The Red Shoes*; and the title role in the American premiere of Cameron Mackintosh’s *Martin Guerre*. Hugh was nominated for an Outer Critics Circle Award for his performance in the title role of Elton John’s *Lestat*, based on Anne Rice’s *Vampire Chronicles*. He made his West End debut in the original London company of Harold Prince’s *Show Boat* as Gaylord Ravenal, the role he previously played in the Broadway and Toronto productions.

At the prestigious 5th Avenue Theater in Seattle, Hugh played George Seurat in *Sunday in the Park with George*, and Robert in Stephen Sondheim’s *Company*. Hugh’s performance as Jean Valjean in the Walnut Street Theater’s production of *Les Misérables* earned him the prestigious Barrymore Award, for which

he was again nominated after a turn as Fagin in *Oliver!* In 2012, Hugh was honored with the Edwin Forrest Award for his long-term contribution to the theater.

An active concert artist, Panaro has performed with numerous symphony orchestras including the New York Pops at Carnegie Hall, The Cleveland Orchestra, Philly Pops, Dallas, Detroit, San Francisco, Seattle, Utah Symphonies, and the London Sinfonietta, among many others. Mr. Panaro's upcoming engagements include the Philly Pops, Charlotte Symphony, Cleveland Pops, Tucson Symphony, Maui Pops, Hawaii Symphony, among others. Hugh also recently returned as a guest soloist with the Festival Cesky Krumlov in the Czech Republic. He also had the privilege of performing in the world premiere of Penderecki's *Te Deum* at Carnegie Hall and was a guest soloist with the Buffalo Philharmonic, conducted by Marvin Hamlisch. His recordings include *Jerome Kern Treasury*, the original cast recording of *Side Show*, *Tap Your Troubles Away* (Herman), *The Centennial* (Weil), and *Life On The Wicked Stage* (Kern). In addition, he toured throughout Europe with the legendary Barbra Streisand. A native of Philadelphia, Panaro graduated from Temple University and was awarded the Boyer College of Music Certificate of Honor. His first solo CD, recorded live at 54 Below, is set to be released in 2023.

Betsy Wolfe **Soloist**

Betsy Wolfe can be seen in the new hit musical **& Juliet** as Anne Hathaway, where her performance was nominated for the 2023 Tony Award for Best Featured Actress in a Musical. Previously, Wolfe starred in the Tony nominated musical **Waitress**, where she gave a multi-faceted performance as Jenna. Prior to that, she played Cordelia, one of the lovable "lesbians from next door," in the Broadway revival of **Falsettos**, which airs frequently on PBS. She is perhaps best known for her critically acclaimed performance as Cathy in the Off-Broadway revival of **The Last Five Years**.

Wolfe most recently starred in the holiday film **Esetella Scrooge: A Christmas Carol With A Twist**. She can be seen in the indie feature **First One In** (on all streaming platforms) and had a guest starring role on the CBS series **Instinct**. Wolfe performed her one woman cabaret show **All Bets Are Off** to sold out crowds at Feinstein's/54 Below in NYC, Las Vegas, San Francisco, New Orleans, and more.

Originally from California, Betsy received her BFA in musical theatre from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. At age 20—she made her Carnegie Hall debut with the **Cincinnati Pops Orchestra** under Maestro Erich Kunzel. After receiving her BFA, Betsy quickly moved on to star as Rona Lisa Peretti in the San Francisco and Boston companies of **The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee**. Soon after, she made her Broadway debut in the revival of **110 in the Shade**. Betsy gained attention for her next role in both the Off-Broadway and Broadway productions of Sherie Rene Scott's **Everyday Rapture**, where she played one of the two Mennonettes.

Betsy's other Broadway credits include Ellen in the 2014 production of **Bullets Over Broadway**, directed by Susan Stroman, and Rosa Bud in the revival of **The Mystery of Edwin Drood**. Other notable productions include Beth in the City Center Encores! production of Sondheim's, **Merrily We Roll Along**, a world premiere production of Bobby Lopez and Kristen Anderson-Lopez's musical **Up Here**, and Mary Ann Singleton in ACT's world premiere of **Tales of the City**.

Betsy made her Metropolitan Opera debut in ***Die Fledermaus*** (Ida). She has been a guest artist for over 50 symphony, pops, and philharmonic orchestras across the U.S. and internationally, including the New York Philharmonic and BBC Symphony Orchestra. She has collaborated with **The New York Pops** and played to sold-out crowds at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center with their ***Broadway Today*** and ***Women of Notes*** concerts.

Recordings include ***& Juliet, Falsettos, Bullets over Broadway, The Last Five Years, The Mystery of Edwin Drood, Everyday Rapture, Stage Door Canteen, 35MM***, and ***Merrily We Roll Along***. She can also be seen in the film adaptation of ***The Last Five Years***.

In 2018 Wolfe founded BroadwayEvolved, a groundbreaking musical theatre training program for students which has been named (five years in a row) as one of the best summer programs along with top universities. www.broadwayevolved.com

ABOUT THE PASADENA SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION

Formed in 1928, the Pasadena Symphony and POPS is an ensemble of Hollywood's most talented, sought-after musicians. With extensive credits in film, television, recording and the orchestral industry, the artists of the Pasadena Symphony and POPS are some of the most heard in the world.

Brett Mitchell assumed the post of Pasadena Symphony Music Director on April 1, 2024. Michael Feinstein – the multi-platinum-selling, two-time Emmy and five-time Grammy Award-nominated entertainer dubbed “The Ambassador of the Great American Songbook” – leads the POPS as Principal Pops Conductor, succeeding Marvin Hamlisch.

The Pasadena Symphony and POPS performs in two of the most extraordinary venues in the United States: Ambassador Auditorium, known as the Carnegie Hall of the West, and the Los Angeles Arboretum & Botanic Garden.

A hallmark of its robust education programs, the Pasadena Symphony Association has served the youth of the region for over five decades through the Pasadena Youth Symphony Orchestras (PYSO). PYSO offers supplemental in-class instruction within the Pasadena Unified School District and eleven performance ensembles, serving over 700 4th-12th grade students from all over Southern California. The PYSO has performed at venues across the globe as well as on the television show *GLEE*.

The Pasadena Symphony Association provides people from all walks of life with powerful access points to the world of symphonic music.

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