



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENTS LOVE SONGS OF HOLLYWOOD & BROADWAY TRIO OF BROADWAY VOCALISTS JOIN NJSO FOR A ROMANTIC EVENING OF THEATER AND MOVIE CLASSICS

SAT., FEB. 13 IN NEWARK

Newark, NJ—The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra sets the mood for Valentine's Day with **Love Songs of Hollywood and Broadway**, the second program of the 2009–10 NJSO POPS series, on Saturday, February 13. From timeless classics of Porter and Berlin to the slinky jazz of *Chicago*, the NJSO and a trio of guest vocalists present love songs from the stage and the silver screen—and sometimes both.

Stage and screen veterans **Jodi Benson**, **Melissa Errico** and **Marc Kudisch** bring their dynamic voices to the NJSO stage. **Steven Reineke** conducts.

The performance takes place on Saturday, February 13, (8 p.m.) at NJPAC in Newark. Tickets range in price from \$20 to \$82 and are available for purchase by phone at 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476) or online at www.njsymphony.org.

For the perfect Valentine's Day gift, special "**Symphony Sweetheart**" packages are available for \$105. Each package includes two seats to the performance, a box of gourmet chocolates, a romantic rose and an entry to win the grand prize of dinner for two at NJPAC's Theater Square Grill. For more information on "Symphony Sweetheart" packages or to purchase, call 1.800.ALLEGRO or visit www.njsymphony.org/sweetheart.

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About the Music

Medleys sprinkle the Valentine-inspired program, saluting musicals that have flourished both live and on film—*West Side Story* and *Mamma Mia!* Legendary Broadway composer Richard Rodgers receives his own medley tribute.

The NJSO and its guest vocalists shine the spotlight on an exciting collection of songs that have lit up both Broadway and Hollywood. Gershwin's "I Got Rhythm" shot from the stage to the screen right into popular culture—originally debuted by Ethel Merman in the Broadway musical *Girl Crazy*, the song came into its own through Gene Kelly's interpretation in the movie *An American in Paris* and has since been covered by dozens of American artists.

NJSO audiences will have the very rare opportunity to hear a Disney princess sing her signature song—Benson, the voice of Ariel from the Disney motion picture *The Little Mermaid*, brings the inquisitive mermaid heroine back to life with "Part of Your World."

From *Titanic*, one of the ultimate movie romances of its generation, "My Heart Will Go On" receives a symphonic send-up, as do classics from Lerner & Lowe, Stephen Sondheim, Andrew Lloyd Webber and more. It all adds up to a romantic evening at the symphony.

About the Artists

This season, **Steven Reineke** begins his tenure as music director of the New York Pops and as principal pops conductor of the Long Beach Symphony Orchestra. He embarks on his second season as principal pops conductor of the Modesto Symphony Orchestra. Reineke holds the title of associate conductor of the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra. Recent appearances include engagements with the orchestras of Los Angeles, Cincinnati, Houston, Dallas, Detroit, Indianapolis, Baltimore and Edmonton. Reineke conducted, arranged and orchestrated the music for the orchestral shows of Wayne Brady and Peter Frampton.

The creator of more than 100 orchestral arrangements for the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, Reineke's arrangements have been performed worldwide and on numerous recordings. An established symphonic composer, his works *Celebration Fanfare*, *Legend of Sleepy Hollow* and *Casey at the Bat* have been performed by orchestras including the New York and Los Angeles Philharmonics.

The Ohio native is a graduate of Miami University of Ohio, where he earned bachelor of music degrees with honors in both trumpet performance and music composition.

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Jodi Benson has received worldwide recognition and critical acclaim as the voice of Ariel in the Academy Award-winning Walt Disney animated feature film, *The Little Mermaid*, as well as the bubbly voice of Tour Guide Barbie in *Toy Story II* and *Toy Story III*. She has voiced characters in multiple Disney films and on animated television series including “Camp Lazlo,” “Pepper Ann,” “The Wild Thornberrys.”

Benson received a Tony Award and a Helen Hayes Award nomination for Best Actress in a Musical for creating the starring role of Polly in the Tony Award-winning Broadway musical *Crazy For You*. Other Broadway credits include the original Doria Hudson in *Smile*, along with roles in *Welcome To The Club* and *Marilyn: An American Fable*.

Benson has performed with orchestras including the Tokyo Philharmonic and National, Cleveland and Dallas Symphonies. Recordings include Varese Sarabande’s “Unsung Musicals I” and “A Hollywood Christmas.” She is resident guest soloist for the Walt Disney Company/Disney Cruise Line and ambassador for feature animation.

Melissa Errico, one of Broadway’s brightest stars, received a Best Leading Actress Tony Award nomination for her work in *Amour* and has garnered the Lucille Lortel Award, five Drama Desk nominations, two Helen Hayes Awards, four Outer Critics Award nominations and two Drama League Honors.

Errico, whom *The New York Times* called “the voice of enchantment,” burst onto the Broadway scene at 18, starring as Cosette in *Les Misérables*, followed by a star turn as Kitty in *Anna Karenina*. At 22, she earned raves as Eliza Doolittle in the Broadway revival of *My Fair Lady*. She has since been seen on Broadway, on television and in film, including CBS’s “Central Park West” and the movies *Frequency* and *Life or Something Like It*. Her symphonic engagements have included performances with the Harrisburg, Santa Rosa, Alabama and Eastern Connecticut Symphonies. She has released three solo albums.

For almost two decades, **Marc Kudisch** has been one of the busiest actors in New York City. On Broadway, he was most recently seen as the Snake, Balladeer and Narrator in the Roundabout Theatre’s revival of *The Apple Tree*; he simultaneously performed as the Pirate King in New York City Opera’s revival of *The Pirates of Penzance*. Kudisch received Tony Award nominations for his performances in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. Other Broadway credits include roles in *Assassins*, *Bells Are Ringing*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *High Society*, *Beauty and the*

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Beast and Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. He has received multiple Drama Desk nominations for his Broadway and off-Broadway performances.

Kudisch's concert appearances include engagements with the Portland Symphony and at the Ravinia Festival. His television and film credits include Conrad Birdie in *Bye Bye Birdie* for ABC television, guest appearances on "Sex and the City" and "The Late Show with David Letterman" and a recurring role on "All My Children." He appears on original cast recordings for several Broadway shows.

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra is comprised of some of the country's finest musicians. The Orchestra is proud to have Jacques Lacombe as its Music Director Designate and Neeme Järvi as its Conductor Laureate. Artistic excellence, innovative programming and community engagement are hallmarks of its mission. To best serve the people of New Jersey, the orchestra brings its programs to seven different venues throughout the state. Education and outreach programs enrich the listening experience for children and adults alike. The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra Broadcast Series, presented in part by the Merck Company Foundation, is a syndicated radio program broadcast regionally and throughout North America. Continental Airlines is the official airline of the NJSO.

For more information about the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, visit www.njsymphony.org or e-mail information@njsymphony.org. Tickets are available for purchase by phone 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476) or on the Orchestra's website.

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