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Santa Rosa Symphony Presents RACH & the Hollywood Sound

Featuring SRS Principal Cellist Adelle-Akiko Kearns and Saxophonist Andrew Harrison
January 11, 12, & 13, 2025 Weill Hall, Green Music Center

(Santa Rosa, Calif.) – Santa Rosa Symphony, under the baton of Music Director Francesco Lecce-Chong, presents RACH & the Hollywood Sound. This season marks the stunning conclusion to this four-year series, showcasing music from iconic films such as *The Magnificent Seven*, *Catch Me if You Can*, and *Deception*. Concluding the performance is Rachmaninoff's final work, *Symphonic Dances*, a tour de force with a kaleidoscope of emotions that ends with a feeling of gratitude. Performances at Weill Hall, Green Music Center, on January 11, 12, & 13, 2025. Tickets available at srsymphony.org.

Saxophonist Andrew Harrison joins the Symphony for a thrilling duel between alto saxophone and orchestra in John Williams' *Escapades* taken from the score of *Catch Me if You Can*. SRS Principal Cellist Adelle-Akiko Kearns interprets Erich Korngold's *Concerto in C major for Cello and Orchestra*, featured in the film *Deception*. Hailed by critics as an "impressive" cellist with "beautifully sensuous cello playing," Kearns brings her remarkable artistry to this energetically dark concerto, filled with lush melodies and intense, agitated passagework.

"As we complete this four-year project, RACH and the Hollywood Sound, I am so grateful to have been able to share so much beloved music that is often absent from the concert stage. From *Gone with the Wind* to *Lawrence of Arabia*, composers for films have often struggled to have their music taken seriously as classical orchestral music. Likewise, Rachmaninoff struggled to be recognized outside his famous piano concertos, and it has meant a great deal to me to be able to share all four of his orchestral masterpieces with our community. We finish this project with the *Symphonic Dances* – his last major composition that sizzles with brilliant orchestral colors and driving rhythms."

- **Francesco Lecce-Chong**, Music Director and Conductor

BIOGRAPHIES:

Francesco Lecce-Chong, Music Director and Conductor

Francesco Lecce-Chong has established himself as a respected leader in the orchestral world through acclaimed performances, innovative projects, and passionate arts advocacy.

Appointed Music Director of Eugene Symphony and Santa Rosa Symphony (SRS) before age 30, he launched groundbreaking projects, commissioned over a dozen major works, and forged innovative community partnerships. Now in his seventh season, he has grown the SRS's reputation as one of the most prominent US regional orchestras, with performances at the world-class Green Music Center. This season, he also serves as Artistic Partner with the Eugene Symphony, further advancing his artistic vision.

Lecce-Chong regularly appears with major US orchestras, from the San Francisco Symphony to the New York Philharmonic, collaborating with top soloists such as Renée Fleming and Itzhak Perlman. Additional debuts include Seattle Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, Utah Symphony, North Carolina Symphony, Louisville Orchestra, Kansas City Symphony, and Detroit Symphony. In 2023, Lecce-Chong debuted in Europe at the prestigious George Enescu Festival with the Romanian National Radio Orchestra, which led to a regular relationship with the orchestra.

Throughout his career, Lecce-Chong has fostered an unparalleled dedication to the orchestral art form's future. One of his first large-scale endeavors was the "First Symphony Project," which consisted of major commissions from next-generation composers across four seasons, including multiple residencies. He has integrated a dozen new orchestral works into the repertoire from composers like Grammy winner Michael Daugherty, Conrad Tao, Clarice Assad, and Gabriella Smith. To keep SRS connected to its community during the pandemic, he spearheaded SRS @ Home, which brought live internet performances to thousands of households. Several performances were broadcast on local PBS TV, reaching two million viewers. This series included works by living composers and a partnership with Pulitzer Prize winner Ellen Taaffe Zwilich, culminating in a CD release in 2022.

Trained as a pianist and composer, Lecce-Chong studied at the Curtis Institute of Music, Mannes College of Music, and Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Italy before winning positions as Associate Conductor of the Pittsburgh Symphony and Milwaukee Symphony. Lecce-Chong has received several distinctions, including the Solti Foundation Award. He has been mentored by renowned conductors, including Bernard Haitink, David Zinman, Edo de Waart, Manfred Honeck, Donald Runnicles, and Michael Tilson Thomas.

Adelle-Akiko Kearns, cello

Hailed by critics as an "impressive" cellist exhibiting "beautifully sensuous cello playing," Adelle-Akiko Kearns currently serves as the principal cellist of the Santa Rosa Symphony, a position she has held since 2011.

The recipient of the prestigious Artists International Award, Kearns made her New York recital debut at Carnegie's Weill Hall in November of 2008. Since then, she has appeared on the world's most important stages, including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, Suntory Hall, Davies Symphony Hall, and many others.

In 2006, she gave the Japanese premiere of the Korngold Cello Concerto with the Tokyo Philharmonic and was immediately engaged to return the following season to perform the Dvořák Concerto. Other solo appearances include concerto collaborations with the Auburn Symphony, Juilliard Conductors' Orchestra, the West Valley Symphony (Arizona), the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Orchestra, the Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra, and the Pacific Chamber Symphony.

As a chamber musician, Kearns has performed at the world's leading music festivals including the Saito Kinen, Aspen, Tanglewood, Yellow Barn, and Spoleto Festivals. She has collaborated with members of the legendary Juilliard String Quartet as well as renowned chamber musicians Jorja Fleezanis, Axel Strauss, Ian Swensen, Paul Hersh, Jodi Levitz, Daisuke Suzuki, and the Da Capo Chamber Players.

Before joining the Santa Rosa Symphony, Kearns served as the Assistant Principal Cello of the Louisiana Philharmonic and as a member of the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra. In addition to her position in Santa Rosa, she also performs as principal cellist of the Merced Symphony; assistant principal cellist of Symphony Silicon Valley, the Music in the Mountains Festival, and the Monterey Symphony Orchestra; Associate Principal Cellist of the Stockton Symphony; and as a member of the Marin Symphony.

Kearns holds degrees from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and The Juilliard School. Her principal teachers include Bonnie Hampton, Joel Krosnick, Sadao Harada, and Irene Sharp.

A native of San Francisco, Kearns currently resides in San Jose, where she maintains an active teaching studio.

Andrew Harrison, saxophone

Acclaimed for his unique approach, virtuosic performances, and as a champion for both new and forgotten works, Indian American Saxophonist Andrew Harrison has captured the hearts of audiences across the globe with "electric performances of stunning expression (*Classical Sonoma*)" while introducing the world to important voices and showcasing the beauty and brilliance of the saxophone. Described as a "magician showing off his tricks" (*Austin American Statesman*), Harrison uses his distinctive style to create a new

environment for classical music, connecting the saxophone to its rich tradition while offering performances that are "high voltage" and "brimming with lyricism (*New York Concert Review*)."

He has commissioned and premiered works by a diverse group of emerging and celebrated composers, including Jules Pegan, Giovanni Santos, Viet Cuong, and Nina Shekhar.

Harrison's playing, which has been described as "spectacular" (*LA Opus*) with a sound that is "broad and rich" (*The Instrumentalist*), has garnered him numerous awards in prestigious competitions, including the U.S. "Pershing's Own" Collegiate Concerto Competition, the LMC Frances Walton Competition, and most recently the American Prize in Music. He has been a featured soloist with several symphonic groups, including the Cal Poly Pomona and La Sierra University Wind Ensembles, South Valley Symphony Orchestra, Sonoma County Philharmonic, the Pacific Symphony Youth Wind Ensemble, and has upcoming performances with the Chandler Symphony and the Santa Rosa Symphony among others. As a chamber musician, Harrison has toured the US extensively, performing at prestigious universities and venues from Los Angeles to New York City as a recitalist with and with his saxophone quartet, TC4.

Harrison is passionate about mentoring the next generation of artists to find their unique perspectives and craft a singular and meaningful professional journey. Currently, he serves as the Professor of Classical Saxophone at Sonoma State University and previously served at San Diego State School of Music, Mt. San Antonio College, Cerritos College, the French Conservatory of Music, and the Colburn School. As an in-demand clinician, he has presented masterclasses at Southern Illinois State University, the University of Southern California, Webster University, Franklin College, and the New England Conservatory. He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music and a master's degree from the University of Texas at Austin Butler School of Music. Harrison performs exclusively on Eastman Winds Saxophones and is an endorsing artist with them, as well as Key Leaves Saxophone Accessories.

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE:

ELMER BERNSTEIN: *The Magnificent Seven*: Symphonic Suite for Orchestra

ERICH WOLFGANG KORNGOLD: Concerto in C major for Cello and Orchestra from *Deception*, Opus 37

JOHN WILLIAMS: Escapades from *Catch Me if You Can* for Alto Saxophone and Orchestra

SERGEI RACHMANINOFF: Symphonic Dances for Orchestra, Opus 45

High-res photos and interview opportunities available: Francesco Lecce-Chong, Adelle-Akiko Kearns, and Andrew Harrison

CONCERT ENHANCEMENTS:

Concert Program books: Available at all Classical Series concerts.

Concert Program notes: These can be read on the [Digital Program Books & Notes](#) page.

Pre-concert talk: Conductor Francesco Lecce-Chong, Adelle-Akiko Kearns, and Andrew Harrison provide a 30-minute pre-concert talk one hour prior to the performances.

SPONSORS:

Classical Series underwritten by **Anderman Family Foundation**

Concert sponsored by **Willow Creek Wealth Management**

Conductor Francesco Lecce-Chong sponsored by **David & Corinne Byrd**

Guest Artist Adelle-Akoko Kearns sponsored by **Garth Bixler**

Guest Artist Andrew Harrison sponsored by **Garth Bixler**

Discovery Rehearsal Series sponsored by **The Stare Foundation & David Stare of Dry Creek Vineyard**

Pre-concert Talk sponsored by **Jamei Haswell & Mack Schwing**

Season Media Sponsor: ***The Press Democrat***

AT A GLANCE / CALENDAR LISTINGS:

WHO: [Santa Rosa Symphony](#), [Francesco Lecce-Chong, Conductor](#)

WHAT: [RACH & the Hollywood Sound](#)

WHERE: Weill Hall, Green Music Center, Sonoma State University

WHEN:

Saturday, January 11, 2025 at 2:00 pm – Discovery Open Rehearsal, (no Pre-concert talk)
Saturday, January 11, 2025, at 7:30 pm (Doors at 6:00 pm, Pre-concert Talk 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm)
Sunday, January 12, 2025, at 3:00 pm (Doors at 1:30 pm, Pre-concert Talk 2:00 pm - 2:30 pm)
Monday, January 13, 2025, at 7:30 pm (Doors at 6:00 pm, Pre-concert Talk 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm)

TICKET PRICES:

\$20 / adult; \$10 / youth (7-17) for Discovery Open Rehearsal.

\$34-\$110 for Classical Series performances.

Youths 7-17 may receive one complimentary ticket with every paid adult. Request tickets through Patron Services at (707) 546-8742. Classical Series concerts only.

\$10 student rush tickets for college students with a valid student ID. Available at the door only.

HOW TO PURCHASE TICKETS:

srsymphony.org or (707) 546-8742 or in person: 50 Santa Rosa Ave, 1st Floor, Santa Rosa, CA. (Weekdays 9:00 am – 5:00 pm; 10:30 am – 5:00 pm on Wednesday; closed Saturday & Sunday.)

ABOUT SANTA ROSA SYMPHONY

Santa Rosa Symphony, the Resident Orchestra of the Green Music Center, is the third-oldest professional orchestra in California and the largest regional symphony north of Los Angeles. Francesco Lecce-Chong began his tenure in 2018 as the Symphony's fifth music director in its 97 years. J. Andrew Bradford joined SRS as President and CEO in 2023. The Symphony is committed to the core values of artistic excellence, innovative programming, comprehensive music education, and community service.

The Symphony's performance schedule includes 21 Classical Series concerts grouped into seven sets, seven Discovery Dress Rehearsal concerts, a three-concert Family Series, a four-concert Pops Series, and special concerts.

Awards include an American Symphony Orchestra League MetLife Award for Community Engagement and a first-place award for adventurous programming in the 2012-2013 season from the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP).

The Symphony is recognized as having one of California's most comprehensive music education programs, serving nearly 20,000 youths annually. Collaborations with schools and organizations across Sonoma County have gained the Santa Rosa Symphony national attention and support.

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