



## California Symphony Music Director Barry Jekowsky Goes for Gold Third Year in a Row

*2009 – 2010 season to feature visual motion artist Michael Moschen, political satirist Will Durst, 14-year-old prodigies pianist /cellist Sarina Zhang and violinist Chad Hoopes, and a Mason Bates world premiere*

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- October 11 & 13, 2009: Visual motion artist MICHAEL MOSCHEN performing to Ravel's *Mother Goose Suite* and Mason Bates' *Mercury Interlude*. Also on the program: Rossini's *William Tell Overture* and Silbelius' *Symphony No. 2*
  - January 24 & 26, 2010: Political satirist WILL DURST narrating Copland's *Lincoln Portrait*. Also on the program: Mozart's *Symphony No. 35 (the Haffner)* and Mendelssohn's *Symphony No. 3 (Scottish Symphony)*
  - March 7 & 9, 2010: 14-year-old CHAD HOOPES playing Bruch's *Violin Concerto No. 1*. Also on the program: John Adams' *Common Tones in Simple Time* and Dvorak's *Symphony No. 8*
  - May 2 & 4, 2010: 14-year-old SARINA ZHANG performing as piano and cello soloist: Liszt's *Piano Concerto No. 1 in E flat* and Tchaikovsky's *Pezzo Capriccioso for Cello and Orchestra*. Also on the program: a Mason Bates' world premiere and Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5*

California Symphony Music Director Barry Jekowsky is throwing out the playbook for the third consecutive year after Russian handstand acrobats Iouri Safranov and Nikolai Melnikov, the West Coast premiere of the *Dead Symphony: An Orchestral Tribute to the Music of the Grateful Dead*, and the

world's first live symphonic concert in 3D all produced sold-out performances. Furthermore, a significant portion of the audiences for each concert was estimated to be classical first- or second-timers.

The 2009-2010 season is expected to have broad appeal as well. The October program will feature world-renowned visual motion artist Michael Moschen in a breathtaking performance choreographed to Ravel's *Mother Goose Suite* and Mason Bates' *Mercury Interlude*. In November, well-known political satirist Will Durst will narrate Copland's *Lincoln Portrait*. In March, 14-year-old Chad Hoopes will play Bruch's *Violin Concerto*. And for the season finale in May, the California Symphony will present the world premiere of a new work by its critically-acclaimed Young American Composer-in-Residence, Mason Bates, and a rare opportunity to hear a major young artist perform solos with the orchestra on two different instruments – especially one as young as 14-year-old Sarina Zhang. For the occasion, she will play Liszt's *Piano Concerto No. 1 in E flat*, as well as Tchaikovsky's *Pezzo Capriccioso for Cello and Orchestra*.

“I love designing programs that create a concert experience that is new, unusual, rewarding and fun – and the response we’re getting from patrons could not be more enthusiastic,” says Jekowsky. “Even before the recession, symphonic audiences in general were being eroded by aging and a lack of interest by younger generations. The only way interest in classical music can grow in the future is by offering a new and unique experience that can co-exist with other forms of entertainment. However, that doesn’t mean that you hand over your entire schedule to what might appeal to the iPod Generation. I always make sure each program is well-balanced.”

All performances of the California Symphony are held at the Hofmann Theater in the Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Sunday matinee concerts begin at 4 p.m.; Tuesday night concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. For subscription series tickets (four concerts; \$244), visit [www.CaliforniaSymphony.org](http://www.CaliforniaSymphony.org) or call (925) 280-2490. Tickets for individual concerts (\$44-64; students \$20) will be on sale in September. Call (925) 943-SHOW or purchase online at [www.LeshnerArtsCenter.org](http://www.LeshnerArtsCenter.org). For more information, call the California Symphony office at (925) 280-2490.

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## About MICHAEL MOSCHEN

“To call Michael Moschen ‘only’ a juggler is sort of like calling Mount Rushmore ‘only’ a carving,” the *Denver Post* has noted, adding that he is also a dancer, performance artist, illusionist and mime. The *Village Voice* has raved that his performance is “exhilarating, virtuoso entertainment. “His physical virtuosity is awesome,” claimed the *Boston Globe*. “I wonder if we shall see anything more beautiful than what Michael Moschen achieves with a ball of glass,” praised the *London Times*. The recipient of a McArthur Foundation Genius Grant, Moschen grew up in a mill town housing project in Massachusetts and began his juggling career with boyhood friend Penn Jillette (now of Penn & Teller). “In the late 1970s, after branching off on his own, Moschen's unprecedented juggling feats, combined with elements of music and dance, made him a cynosure of the ‘performance movement’ that changed the face of art in

New York,” reported the *Hartford Courant*. Moschen has been profiled on PBS’ “Great Performances” and in the A&E documentary, “The Mystery of Genius,” and appeared on numerous television shows, such as “Jay Leno,” “David Letterman,” and “L.A. Law.” For more information:

[www.michaelmoschen.com](http://www.michaelmoschen.com)

## About WILL DURST

Outraged and outrageous, Durst is as current as today’s headlines, as accurate as a sniper, and universally acknowledged by even his peers as the nation’s foremost political comic. A Midwestern baby boomer with a media-induced identity crisis, Durst, according to the *New York Times* is “quite possibly the best political satirist working in the country today.” Reigning as C-SPAN’s favorite comic, Durst is a five-time Emmy nominee and recipient of seven consecutive nominations for the American Comedy Awards’ Stand Up of the Year.’ He was the first comic invited to perform at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government and the first American to be nominated for the prestigious Perrier Award at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival for the show. “Myth America.” He has racked up more than 400 television appearances in 14 different countries while slinging jokes around the globe in his one man crusade to make people laugh out loud on purpose against their will. For more information: [www.willdurst.com](http://www.willdurst.com)

## About CHAD HOOPES

In April 2008, Chad Hoopes, now 14, won first prize in the Young Artists Division of the Yehudi Menuhin International Violin Competition. In addition to appearing with the Orchestra of the Yehudi Menuhin School (Cardiff, Wales), he has performed with numerous ensembles throughout the world including the Cleveland Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony, Orchestra of the Welsh National Opera, Cleveland Pops, South Dakota Symphony and Erie Philharmonic. Among his 2008-09 engagements, Hoopes performed with the Brussels Chamber Orchestra and at the Menuhin Festival in Switzerland. This summer, he will solo with the Minnesota Orchestra under the baton of Andrew Litton. For more information: <http://www.imgartists.com/?page=artist&id=931>

## About SARINA ZHANG

Pianist and cellist Sarina Zhang first performed on NPR’s “From the Top” at the age of eight, playing Chopin’s *E-minor Waltz* and Debussy’s *Arabesque No. 1*, returning at the age of 11 to play the third movement of Haydn’s *Cello Concerto No. 1 in C*. Zhang was also featured in the PBS television series, *From the Top: Live from Carnegie Hall*. Last year, Zhang was awarded first place in the Connecticut International Young Artist Competition in piano and second place in cello, as well as the special prize in the New York Grand Prix International Piano Competition. In 2007, she won the alternate in the Juilliard Pre-College Romberg Cello competition, the solo and concerto titles in the Virginia Waring International

Piano Competition, the first prize in MTAC California Piano Solo Competition, and first place in the Los Angeles Violoncello Society Scholarship Competition. She has performed with the Detroit Symphony, San Diego Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, New City Sinfonia and the Northridge Symphony Orchestra. For more information: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=88498398>, <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=88498398>

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