

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Holly Hickman
New West Symphony, Marketing Consultant
hhickman@newwestsymphony.org
303.507.7392



Download high-res photos [here](#)

**NEW WEST SYMPHONY PRESENTS SUMMERFEST,
A DINNER AND ROCK CONCERT FUNDRAISER, ON JUNE 23, 2024**

Outdoor event to be held at Rancho de las Palmas in Moorpark, CA

Concert features classic rock legends Jason Scheff, Steve Porcaro, Rick Cowling and Phil X



Thousand Oaks, CA, June 11, 2024 — New West Symphony will present its summer outdoor event of the season, **Summerfest 2024**, on Sunday, June 23. This intimate concert and dinner includes a rock concert with bassist/vocalist **Jason Scheff** of Chicago fame and his all-star band, plus a performance from New West Symphony musicians, awards and a live auction.

The event is at Moorpark's **Rancho De Las Palmas**, owned by Debi and Mark Cassar, who donated the venue. It will be the kick-off for New West Symphony's 30th Anniversary Season commencing in 2025, and proceeds will fund the organization's artistic and educational programs.

Summerfest 2024 will begin with cocktails at 4 p.m., with entertainment provided by **Devon Geyer** and a country music band to give guests a taste of the event theme, *Denim and Diamonds*. Attendees are encouraged to dress in *Denim Bling/Summer Chic*. A dinner buffet will follow accompanied by a classical music performance by members of the New West Symphony.

At 7:30 p.m., the stage will belong to the rock legend talents of **Jason Scheff** (long-time former lead singer of the iconic band Chicago and bassist), **Steve Porcaro** (original TOTO member and prolific songwriter/keyboardist), **Rick Cowling** (bassist and vocalist for Kenny Loggins and Ambrosia), **Phil X** (lead guitarist for Bon Jovi), with vocals provided by **Sherry Hursey** (film, television, award-winning theater actress/vocalist). Music will include hits “25 or 6 to 4,” “Hard to Say I’m Sorry,” “Africa,” “Biggest Part of Me,” “Baba O’Riley” and more.

Awards will be presented to honorees, including **Artistic and Music Director Michael Christie’s 50th birthday** and long-time New West Symphony supporter **Hope Rosenfeld’s 100th birthday**. **John Schwoppe and Karen Dean Fritts** will be acknowledged for their outstanding Board of Director contributions throughout the years.

A live auction featuring numerous luxury items such as vacations, an **AmaWaterways Cruise**, a VIP Dodger Dugout experience, and more will be available to bid on and win. In addition, whimsical sculptures by world-renowned artist **Ann Krasner** will be on display.

“We believe Summerfest 2024 offers the best of the best for an outdoor, summer, all-inclusive entertainment experience. If you’ve ever been to the Hollywood Bowl in box seats with a catered dinner and front row seats for a great rock concert, Summerfest ‘Denim and Diamonds’ rivals that experience. This intimate event provides up-close-and-personal access to rock legends, a delicious dinner, and chances to win amazing auction items, all without driving miles away. Summerfest is right in our backyard at the gorgeous Rancho De Las Palmas in Moorpark. This is a tremendous value for an unforgettable night out,” says CEO **Natalia Staneva**.

NEW WEST SYMPHONY’S SUMMERFEST 2024

Sunday, June 23

Rancho De Las Palmas, 3466 Sunset Valley Road, Moorpark, CA 93021

4 p.m. — Registration, Cocktails, Country Band

5:30 p.m. — Buffet Dinner, Classical Performance, Awards, Live Auction

7:30 p.m. — Rock Concert

Individual dinner and concert tickets are \$300. \$200 of that cost may be tax deductible. A limited number of tickets for the concert only are available for \$125. Tickets are available at

<https://newwestsymphony.org/summerfest-2024/> or by calling 866.776.8400.



JASON SCHEFF AND HIS ALL-STAR BAND, CHICAGO NIGHTS

Jason Scheff, New West Symphony Artistic Ambassador

Without missing a beat, Jason Scheff stepped into Chicago with the mega-hit “Will You Still Love Me” in 1986 and never looked back. He composed several original hit songs (“What Kind of Man Would I Be?” and “Heart of Mine”) and is the longest vocalist/bassist in the band’s history. He continues to perform and record with artists such as Todd Rundgren, Christopher Cross, Robbie Krieger (The Doors), Alex Lifeson (Rush), Tommy Thayer (KISS), Bill Champlin, and Jay DeMarcus (Rascal Flats) to name a few. He has also recorded as a solo artist.

Steve Porcaro

As a founding member of the GRAMMY® winning, platinum-selling rock band TOTO, songwriter/keyboardist Steve Porcaro had huge pop hits with “Hold the Line,” “Rosanna” and “Make Believe.” He also co-wrote “Human Nature” on Michael Jackson’s 30 million-selling Thriller album. TOTO also became in-demand session musicians, playing on numerous records.

Rick Cowling

A musician, singer and music producer, Rick Cowling played guitar for Kenny Loggins from 2007-09 and is currently his bass player. He played keyboards, guitar and vocals for Ambrosia from 2009-13. He produces radio spots, music for TV, and music for other artists including Bobby Womack, Harold Payne, Bonnie Raitt, Laura Brannigan and Melissa Manchester.

~more~

Phil X

On April 14, 2011, Jon Bon Jovi contacted Phil to prepare for the possibility of standing in for Richie Sambora for the Bon Jovi tour in progress. After the second time filling in for Sambora in 2014, Phil X stayed on and has been the guitar player for Bon Jovi ever since. He has been one of the top session players in LA with his background in songwriting and a freakish knack for coming up with unimaginable overdub parts on the spot. Phil X has recorded with Rob Zombie, Alice Cooper, Tommy Lee, Avril Lavigne, Kelly Clarkson, Daughtry, Edgar Winter and more.

Sherry Hursey

Sherry has an extensive list of credits spanning from stage to screen, but may be most recognized for her role as Al's fiancée, Ilene, on the long running ABC series *Home Improvement*, or Kirsten Dunst's mom in the universal box office hit, *Bring it On*. Sherry has also worked as a voice artist and stage credits have honored her with New York's Outer Critics Circle Award and Drama-Logue awards. Creating the original role of the sweetheart, Sherry made her New York debut in William Finn's *In Trousers* and joined the original cast of the hit, *Beehive*, a 60s rock & roll musical.

#

Founded in 1995, the New West Symphony is a professional orchestra that draws its players from the rich talent pool of professional Los Angeles-area musicians. With artistic direction led by GRAMMY® winner Maestro Michael Christie, appointed as music director in December 2018, the Symphony is the resident company of the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza and performs at the Rancho Campana Performing Arts Center in Camarillo. It presents six Masterpiece Series concerts annually, performing major works from the symphonic repertoire with internationally-acclaimed artists as guest soloists. The Symphony also provides quality outreach and educational opportunities for the communities it serves through its annual Symphonic Adventures concert programs for youth, its traveling Music Van, and the Laby Harmony Project, a year-round music and leadership program for underserved students.

newwestsymphony.org