



NEW WEST SYMPHONY  
MICHAEL CHRISTIE | Music Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **NEW WEST SYMPHONY PRESENTS “MOZART AND AMERICAN VOICES”: A GENRE-DEFYING CELEBRATION OF MUSICAL STORYTELLING**

**THOUSAND OAKS & CAMARILLO, CA (February 5, 2026)** — The New West Symphony (NWS), under the direction of Artistic and Music Director **Michael Christie**, announces its upcoming 2026 Masterpiece Series concert, "**Mozart and American Voices**." This dynamic program explores the rich tradition of musical storytelling, juxtaposing the classical wit of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart with the bold, emotional landscapes of American opera and musical theater. Performances are scheduled for **March 7, 2026, at 7 PM** at the Bank of America Performing Arts Center in Thousand Oaks, and **March 8, 2026, at 3 PM** at the Rancho Campana Performing Arts Center in Camarillo.

**A Journey Through Storytelling** "Mozart and American Voices" blends timeless elegance with bold American spirit. The first half features selected “semi-staged” scenes and arias from Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, showcasing the chaotic comedy that redefined opera. The program then shifts to the American stage, featuring powerful works by legendary composers such as **Leonard Bernstein** (*Candide*), **George Gershwin** (*Porgy and Bess*), **Stephen Sondheim**, **Philip Glass**, **Samuel Barber**, and more. "This program shows the extraordinary range of musical storytelling," says Maestro Christie. "We are exploring how composers from two very different eras used the human voice to tell stories of love, humor, and life."

The concert highlights a significant collaboration with **Angels Vocal Art (AVA)**, a Los Angeles-based opera company dedicated to championing the next generation of vocal artists. Joining them is the **New West Symphony Chorus**, a skilled ensemble of volunteer singers under the direction of **Dr. Wyant Morton**. A true treat for the audience.

Grammy Award winning Maestro Michael Christie says of the program, "*Everyone can sing, but only the most AMAZING masters can CREATE those songs we hold dear. Stephen Sondheim, the “father of the modern musical” is credited with reinventing America’s theatrical pass time with timeless classics like “Send in the Clowns” and “Getting Married Today.”*"

*Sondheim draws on a distinguished line of composers, also featured in this program, such as Aaron Copland, Leonard Bernstein, and...MOZART! Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro," considered a top-five opera of all time, is jam-packed with heart-felt melodies and great comic timing. New West Symphony partners with Angels Vocal Art to present a "favorites" version of Figaro with vocalists acting as they sing: semi-staged.*

New West Symphony's 2026 concert season celebrates the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, America's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. In partnership with the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and with the nation-wide effort to recognize this historic moment for the United States (A250), each New West Symphony program touches on America's distinct musical heritage and impact on music around the world. For example, *Mozart wrote his Marriage of Figaro as the United States founding fathers were convening to draft the US Constitution. Little would anyone know that the years 1786-1788 would be so consequential for world and music history.*"

**Tickets & Information** Tickets are available at <https://newwestsymphony.org/2026-masterpiece-series/mozart-and-american-voices/> or by calling 866-776-8400

### **Performance Dates & Venues:**

- Thousand Oaks: Saturday, March 7, 2026, at 7:00 PM | Bank of America Performing Arts Center (BAPAC), 2100 Thousand Oaks Blvd.
- Camarillo: Sunday, March 8, 2026, at 3:00 PM | Rancho Campana Performing Arts Center (RCPAC), 4235 Mar Vista Drive.

Tickets & Subscriptions: Tickets and subscription packages for the 2026 Masterpiece Series are available now, offering savings of up to 20% and exclusive benefits including free ticket exchanges. To purchase tickets or subscriptions, visit [NewWestSymphony.org](http://NewWestSymphony.org) or call 866-776-8400

### **About New West Symphony**

Founded in 1995 and celebrating its 30th Anniversary season, the New West Symphony (NWS) is a professional orchestra that draws players from the rich talent pool of professional LA-area musicians. NWS is guided by the artistic direction of GRAMMY®-winning Maestro Michael Christie and CEO Natalia Staneva, recipient of the ACSO 2023 Executive Director of the Year award. NWS is the resident company of the Bank of America Performing Arts Center in Thousand Oaks and also performs at the Rancho Campana Performing Arts Center in Camarillo. The organization presents six Masterpiece Series concerts annually, performing major works from the symphonic repertoire with internationally-acclaimed guest artists. 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.

### **About Michael Christie**

Named New West Symphony's Artistic and Music Director in December 2018, GRAMMY® Award-winning conductor Michael Christie is a thoughtfully innovative conductor, equally at home in the symphonic and opera worlds, who is focused on making the audience experience at his performances entertaining, enlightening and enriching. Deeply committed to bringing new works to life, he has championed commissions by leading and emerging composers. Christie served as Music Director of the Minnesota Opera (2012-18), Phoenix Symphony (2005-13), Brooklyn Philharmonic (2005-10) and Colorado Music Festival (2000-13), and as Chief Conductor of the Queensland Orchestra (2001-04) in Australia. For more information, visit [michaelchristieonline.com](http://michaelchristieonline.com) and follow him on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

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