



Pacific Symphony Pops is Underwritten by
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BEN RECTOR: SYMPHONIES ACROSS AMERICA WITH JON MCLAUGHLIN

Friday, Mar. 13, 2026 @ 8 p.m.
Saturday, Mar. 14, 2026 @ 8 p.m.

Enrico Lopez-Yañez, conductor
Ben Rector, singer/songwriter
Jon McLaughlin, pianist/vocalist
Pacific Symphony

Ben Rector has independently released seven studio albums including *Brand New* and *Magic* which both charted #1 on the U.S. Folk and #2 on the U.S. Rock and U.S. Indie Billboard chart. His songs have received both RIAA Gold and RIAA Platinum certifications, amassing more than a billion streams, and have been licensed in more than 100 ad campaigns, television shows, and movies.

Symphonies Across America audiences encounter a new dimension to Ben's music only experienced at the symphony. Pulling from more than 15 years of cross-country travel as a touring artist, Rector masterfully brings anthem sing-a-longs, quippy humor, and deep, meaningful lyrics—all beautifully backed by orchestra arrangements.

Joining Ben is his good friend, Jon McLaughlin. Jon's recently released album, *Scenarios* (October 2025), marks a bold new chapter, featuring songs that showcase both his storytelling and signature piano-driven sound.

Program selections will be announced from the stage.

Both concerts are generously sponsored by



Performance at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts
Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall



ABOUT THE CONDUCTOR

Enrico Lopez-Yañez, conductor



Enrico Lopez-Yañez is redefining what it means to be a conductor in the 21st Century.

Celebrated for his charismatic stage presence, genre-defining collaborations, and passion for making orchestral music accessible to all, Lopez-Yañez is one of the most

innovative and in-demand conductors in North America. He currently serves as Principal Pops Conductor of the Detroit and Pacific Symphonies, Principal Conductor of Dallas Symphony Presents, and Principal Guest Conductor of Pops at the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. He previously spent eight seasons conducting the Nashville Symphony, where he served as their Principal Pops Conductor.

As a trailblazer in the symphonic world, Lopez-Yañez has premiered dozens of groundbreaking symphonic collaborations with artists including Dolly Parton, Kelsey Ballerini, Portugal. The Man, The Mavericks, Tituss Burgess, and The War and Treaty. His wide-ranging collaborations span genres and generations, featuring artists such as Nas, Patti LaBelle, Itzhak Perlman, Kenny Loggins, Stewart Copeland, Toby Keith, Richard Marx, Bernadette Peters, Leslie Odom Jr., Patti LaBelle, Gladys Knight, Ben Folds, The Beach Boys, Tower of Power, and Kenny G.

As a composer and arranger, Lopez-Yañez's versatility is equally expansive. He has written for artists like Big Sean and Mariachi Los Camperos, and his works have been commissioned and performed by major orchestras including the Cincinnati Pops, Detroit, Houston Symphony, San Diego Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, National Symphony, Seattle Symphony, Toronto Symphony, and many more.

Highlights of the 2025–26 season include performances with Ben Rector, Cody Fry, Common, Pepe Aguilar, Trisha Yearwood, and Pink Martini. He will make appearances with the Cleveland Orchestra, Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, and Canada's National Arts Centre Orchestra, while returning to lead the Baltimore Symphony, Cincinnati Pops, Minnesota Orchestra, National Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, and Seattle Symphony, among others. Past guest engagements include the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Houston Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, and Toronto Symphony.

In 2023, Lopez-Yañez was honored with the "Mexicanos Distinguidos" award by the Mexican government, recognizing outstanding career achievements by Mexican citizens abroad. A passionate advocate for Latin music, he has arranged and produced concerts featuring Latin Fire, Mariachi Los Camperos, and The Three Mexican Tenors, and collaborated with Aida Cuevas, Arturo Sandoval, Lila Downs, and Lupita Infante.

Lopez-Yañez is also Artistic Director and Co-Founder of Symphonica Productions, LLC, a creative production company developing innovative Pops, Family, and Educational concerts for orchestras. Symphonica's shows have been praised as "incredibly special—and something that needs to become the new norm" (Lima Symphony) and have been performed by the Baltimore, Milwaukee, North Carolina, Phoenix, Seattle, Toronto, and Utah Symphony, among others.

His work as a producer, composer, and arranger can be heard on numerous recordings, including the UNESCO benefit album *Action Moves People United* and award-winning children's albums such as *The Spaceship that Fell in My Backyard* and *Kokowanda Bay*. His work has received honors from the John Lennon Songwriting Contest, Hollywood Music in Media Awards, Parents' Choice Foundation, and Global Media Awards, where he was recognized for his "catchy arrangements."

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Ben Rector, singer/songwriter



Fifteen years after starting his career writing songs and touring in his Honda Accord on the weekends, Ben Rector found himself at home and at the piano in March 2020. The alchemy of life's big questions, more downtime than he'd had in a decade, and those now all-too-familiar "unprecedented

times" resulted in his career album: *The Joy of Music*. The project includes a breathtaking short film (featuring seven songs brought to life with stunning cinematography), inviting listeners and viewers to visit a dream world that communicates Rector's creative process and his reckoning with his job as an artist. He is led through the film's chapters by his new friend Joy, a muppet monster he created with Jim Henson's Creature Shop. In this fantastic and dream-like landscape we see and hear Rector overcome a deep-seated fear of failure, dancing and singing his way through the journey of rediscovering the joy of music.

Rector has amassed over a billion streams across all platforms, has performed on numerous late night and morning TV shows including *Conan*, *The Today Show*, *Jimmy Kimmel*, *Live With Kelly and Ryan*, *The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade*, and as a celebrity mentor on *American Idol* alongside

Ryan Tedder, Jewel, Brian McKnight, Jason Aldean, and more. His records have topped numerous *Billboard* charts, with his last two records landing at #1 on *Billboard*'s U.S. Folk and #2 on *Billboard*'s U.S. Rock and U.S. Indie charts.

Rector has built a dedicated touring base, regularly selling out theaters and amphitheaters across the country, including three consecutive nights at the legendary Ryman Auditorium in Nashville.

Jon McLaughlin, piano/singer



Indiana-born singer-songwriter and pianist Jon McLaughlin first broke out with his 2007 debut *Indiana*, earning fans through heartfelt songwriting, virtuosic piano work, and unforgettable live shows. Since then, he's toured with Billy Joel, Kelly Clarkson, and Adele, collaborated

with Sara Bareilles and Demi Lovato, and even performed at the Academy Awards. His newest album, *SCENARIOS* (October 2025), marks a bold new chapter, featuring brand-new songs that showcase both his storytelling and signature piano-driven sound. This holiday season, Jon brings his beloved *Home For The Holidays* tour—featuring Morgan James, Kris Allen, David Davis, and T.3—to 13 U.S. cities after two sold-out years in Carmel, IN.

PACIFIC SYMPHONY POPS

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Experience the rest of the 2025–26 pops season. Scan the QR code to purchase tickets.



My Fair Lady in Concert

April 24 – April 25, 2026 | 8:00 PM

This beloved classic returns in a lavish concert version that lets its unforgettable music shine. Relive the wit, romance, and transformation of Eliza Doolittle's story through songs that defined an era—"Wouldn't It Be Lovely," and more—performed by Analisa Leaming as Eliza Doolittle and a cast of celebrated vocalists with Pacific Symphony providing the emotional heartbeat. This is a semi-staged production.



An Enchanted Evening with The Three Mexican Tenors

May 15 – May 16, 2026 | 8:00 PM

Enrico Lopez-Yañez, conductor

Jorge Lopez-Yañez, Bernardo Bermudez, Alfredo Carrilloz, tenors

Mariachi Garibaldi de Jaime Cuéllar

Cocktails with the Conductor in the lobby at 7:15 p.m.



Windborne's Music of Journey

June 5 – June 6, 2026 | 8:00 PM

Enrico Lopez-Yañez, conductor | Juan Del Castillo, lead singer | Windborne

Relive the anthems that defined a generation as Pacific Symphony and a powerhouse rock band bring Journey's greatest hits to life with full-orchestra intensity. From "Separate Ways" to "Don't Stop Believin'," it's a night of electrifying sound and pure arena energy—minus the traffic.

Cocktails with the Conductor in the lobby at 7:15 p.m.