



Pacific Symphony Pops is Underwritten by Sharon J. and Thomas E. Malloy Family

# BEN FOLDS

Friday, Apr. 25, 2025 @ 8 p.m.  
Saturday, Apr. 26, 2025 @ 8 p.m.

Enrico Lopez-Yañez, conductor  
Ben Folds, vocalist  
Pacific Symphony

It's an evening of genre-bending music with the incomparable Ben Folds and Pacific Symphony. It's anything but ordinary.

Dubbed a musical wizard, Folds blends pop anthems with symphonic genius. Widely regarded as one of the major influencers of our generation, he continues to push boundaries, redefining what it means to be a modern-day musical icon. Fresh from his Emmy nod and always ready to drop knowledge, whether on his podcast or in his bestselling books, this award-winning singer-songwriter-composer is set to deliver a show that's as unpredictable as it is unmissable. Get ready to be schooled in the art of cool.

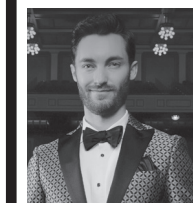
Selections to be announced from the stage.

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 the Principal Pops Conductor of the Detroit, Nashville, and Pacific Symphonies as well as the Principal Conductor of the Dallas Symphony Presents and Principal Guest Conductor for Pops of the Indianapolis Symphony. Lopez-Yañez has quickly established

himself as one of the nation's leading conductors of popular music and become known for his unique style of audience engagement. Also an active composer/arranger, he has been commissioned by the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, Houston Symphony, San Diego Symphony, and Omaha Symphony, and has had his works performed by orchestras including the Atlanta Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, National Symphony, Phoenix Symphony, Seattle Symphony, and Utah Symphony among others.

Lopez-Yañez has conducted concerts with a broad spectrum of artists including: Nas, Patti LaBelle, Itzhak Perlman, Trisha Yearwood, Kenny Loggins, Stewart Copeland, Kelsea Ballerini, Leslie Odom Jr., Renee Elise Goldsberry, Portugal The Man, Ben Rector, Cody Fry, Hanson, The Beach Boys, Kenny G and more. Each year Lopez-Yañez conducts the annual *Let Freedom Sing! Music City July 4th* fireworks show which is televised annually on CMT reaching millions of viewers across the nation.

This season Lopez-Yañez will collaborate with artists including Dolly Parton, Bernadette Peters, Lyle Lovett, War & Treaty, Ben Folds, Indigo Girls, Joss Stone, Girl Named Tom, Lettuce, and Tower of Power. He will appear with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, St. Louis Symphony, Toronto Symphony as well as make return appearances with the Baltimore Symphony, Houston Symphony, National Symphony, Seattle Symphony, Utah Symphony, and more. Previously, Lopez-Yañez has appeared with orchestras throughout North America including the Cincinnati Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony, and the San Francisco Symphony among others.

Lopez-Yañez was the recipient of the 2023 "Mexicanos Distinguidos" Award by the Mexican government, an award granted to Mexican citizens living abroad for outstanding career accomplishments in their field. As an advocate for Latin music, he has arranged and produced shows for Latin Fire, Mariachi Los Camperos, The Three Mexican Tenors, and collaborated with artists including Aida Cuevas, Arturo Sandoval and Lila Downs.

As Artistic Director and Co-Founder of Symphonica Productions, LLC, Lopez-Yañez curates and leads programs designed to cultivate new audiences. Symphonica's show offerings range from Pops shows to Family and Education productions which have been described as "incredibly special – and something that needs to become the new norm" (Lima Symphony). Symphonica's productions have been performed by major orchestra across North America including the

Baltimore Symphony, Edmonton Symphony, Florida Orchestra, Milwaukee Symphony, North Carolina Symphony, Tucson Symphony and many more.

As a producer, composer, and arranger, Lopez-Yañez's work can be heard on numerous albums including the UNESCO benefit album *Action Moves People United* and children's music albums including *The Spaceship that Fell in My Backyard*, winner of the John Lennon Songwriting Contest, Hollywood Music and Media Awards, Family Choice Awards and Kokowanda Bay, winner of a Global Media Award as well as a Parents' Choice Award where Lopez-Yañez was lauded for his "catchy arrangements" (Parents' Choice Foundation).

For more information visit: @enricolopezyanez

# ABOUT THE ARTIST

Ben Folds, artist



Ben Folds is widely regarded as one of the major music influencers of our generation. The Emmy-nominated singer-songwriter-composer has created an enormous body of genre-bending music that includes pop albums with Ben Folds Five, multiple

solo albums, and numerous collaborative records.

His latest pop solo album *What Matters Most* was released in 2023 to rave reviews and sold-out performances. He recently released his first Christmas album *Sleigher* in time for the 2024 holiday season, and recently record a LIVE album with the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center in DC slated for release in 2025.

He currently tours as a pop artist, while also performing with some of the world's greatest symphony orchestras at the Kennedy Center in DC where he served for eight years as the first Artistic Advisor to the NSO.

A *New York Times* Best Selling author and former podcast host, Ben is also working on new compositions for film, TV, and theatre. He also frequently guest stars in films and TV.

In 2022, Ben launched a music education charitable initiative in his native state of North Carolina entitled "Keys For Kids," which provides funds and keyboards to existing nonprofits that offer free or affordable piano lessons to school-age children from economically- disadvantaged households. And he continually advocates for improving public policies for the arts and arts education on the national level as a member of Americans For The Arts and the Arts Action Fund.