

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

ARAT PACK CHRISTMAS WITH TONY DESARE

Friday, Dec. 19, 2025 @ 8 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 20, 2025 @ 8 p.m.

Evan Roider, conductor
 Dr. Evan Siegel, special guest conductor
 Tony DeSare, vocalist/piano
 David Rourke, guitar
 Dylan Shamat, bass
 Michael Klopp, drums
 Pacific Symphony

TRADITIONAL <i>Arr. Jeff Tyzik</i>	A Christmas Overture (Variations on "Deck the Halls")
POLA/WYLE <i>Arr. Podd</i>	It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year
COOTS/GILLESPIE <i>Arr. DeSare & Firth</i>	Santa Claus is Comin' to Town
GANNON/KENT <i>Arr. Barton</i>	I'll Be Home for Christmas
WILSON <i>Arr. Barton</i>	It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas
BERLIN	I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm
DESARE <i>Arr. Barton</i>	Family Christmas Home
BERNARD/SMITH	Winter Wonderland
STYNE/CAHN <i>Arr. Firth</i>	Let it Snow
VARIOUS <i>Arr. Prechel</i>	A Very Merry Sing-Along Deck the Halls and Jingle Bells

—INTERMISSION—

TRADITIONAL <i>Arr. Catingub</i>	Twelve Days of Christmas
MARTIN/BLANE <i>Arr. Barton</i>	Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas
BERLIN/THOMPSON <i>Arr. Firth</i>	Happy Holidays/It's the Holiday Season
TRADITIONAL <i>Arr. DeSare</i>	Oh Holy Night
GRUBER <i>Arr. Dragon</i>	Silent Night
BAXTER/MOORE	Merry Christmas Baby
DESARE <i>Orch. Firth</i>	Christmas For You and Me
DESARE	The Jingle Bell Variations
ANDERSON <i>Arr. DeSare</i>	Sleigh Ride



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

This evening's performance is generously sponsored by **Steve & Susie Perry**.

Dr. Evan Siegel joins Pacific Symphony as Guest Conductor for the December 20 concert, an opportunity he secured through the Symphony's Gala auction.

ABOUT THE CONDUCTOR

Evan Roider, conductor



Evan Roider is a sought-after Pops conductor, celebrated for his versatility and dynamic presence. Equally at home on the symphonic stage and in the orchestra pit, he maintains an active guest conducting schedule, captivating audiences across the country.

The 2025-26 season brings debuts with the National Symphony, Houston Symphony, Oregon Symphony, and Rochester Philharmonic, among others. In recent years, he has appeared with the Detroit Symphony, Utah Symphony, San Diego Symphony, Fort Worth Symphony, Pacific Symphony, Charlotte Symphony, Louisiana Philharmonic, Sarasota Orchestra, Tucson Symphony, Toledo Symphony, and the Philly Pops. Driven by a passion for genre-spanning performances, Roider has led concerts featuring film and television music, Broadway favorites, classical masterworks, and iconic hits spanning the decades.

His Broadway credits include *The Great Gatsby* and *Wicked*, a show for which he recently completed a four-year tenure as Music Director/Conductor of the North American tour. Previously, he toured with *Les Misérables* and *Cats*, performing in such venues as the Kennedy Center, National Arts Centre, and Hollywood Pantages Theatre. In New York, he was Assistant Conductor for *Candide* at Carnegie Hall with the Orchestra of St. Luke's, starring John Lithgow. Currently he serves as an Associate Music Supervisor for the MUNY in St. Louis, having previously worked at Barrington Stage, the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center and other theatres across the country.

Roider is a graduate of the College-Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati and The Hartt School in Connecticut.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Tony DeSare, vocalist/piano



Tony DeSare performs with infectious joy, wry playfulness and robust musicality. Named Rising Star Male Vocalist in *Downbeat magazine*, DeSare has lived up to this distinction by winning critical and popular acclaim for his concert performances throughout North America and

abroad. From jazz clubs to Carnegie Hall to Las Vegas and headlining major symphony orchestras, DeSare has brought his fresh take on old school class around the globe. DeSare has four top ten Billboard jazz albums under his belt and has been featured on the *CBS Early Show*, *NPR*, *A Prairie Home Companion*, the *Today Show*, and his music has been posted by social media celebrity juggernaut, George Takei. DeSare has also collaborated with YouTube supergroup Postmodern Jukebox. He has been a featured guest artist with over 100 symphony orchestras with some highlights including the Cleveland Orchestra, The New York Pops, The San Francisco Symphony, The Houston Symphony, and the Chicago Symphony.

Notwithstanding his critically acclaimed turns as a singer/pianist, DeSare is also an accomplished award-winning composer. He not only won first place in the USA Songwriting Contest, but has written the theme song for the motion picture, *My Date With Drew*, several broadcast commercials, and has scored five films. His sound is romantic, swinging, and sensual, but what sets DeSare apart is his ability to write original material that sounds fresh and contemporary, yet pays homage to the Great American Songbook.

DeSare has a strong presence on social media and continues to release his "song diaries", recordings from his home studio that started in 2020 and now number in the 100's. Tony has numerous recordings available on all platforms and playlists.

Tony DeSare is a Yamaha Artist.



David Rourke, guitar



David Rourke is a NYC-based jazz guitarist, singer-songwriter, and producer whose music seamlessly blends jazz, pop, and rock. A Montreal native, Rourke began his musical journey at the age of five studying classical piano before transitioning to guitar at 10. He later earned

a Bachelor's degree in Jazz Performance from McGill University, where he honed his craft and collaborated with some of Canada's top jazz musicians.

In 2019, David's talent was recognized internationally when he won first place at the Jarek Smietana Jazz Guitar Competition in Kraków, Poland, judged by renowned guitarists Mike Stern and Peter Bernstein. Following this success, Rourke moved to New York City to pursue a master's degree at The Juilliard School, graduating in 2022. During his final semester at Juilliard, David released his debut album, *An Evening of Fiction*, in which he played all the instruments and vocals, showcasing his skills as a multi-instrumentalist, composer, and producer.

Since then, he has been regularly releasing singles and performing his original music at iconic NYC venues such as Rockwood Music Hall, Arlene's Grocery, and PIANOS.

As a member of Tony DeSare's group, Rourke has performed with symphony orchestras including the Edmonton Symphony, Minnesota Symphony, and the New York Pops at Carnegie Hall. He is also a regular presence at top jazz clubs like Smalls, Mezzrow, and Dizzy's.

In addition to his work as a guitarist, Rourke is an accomplished producer and mixing engineer, having worked on numerous albums and projects. His anticipated second full-length album, *Apple Hill*, was released in April 2025, further cementing his reputation as a dynamic and innovative voice in modern music.

Dylan Shamat, bass



Bassist, composer, and educator Dylan Shamat is based in New York City, where he maintains an active and wide-ranging career spanning jazz, classical, and popular music. Born and raised in St. Paul, Minnesota, he began violin studies at the age of four before discovering his

passion for the bass. He later moved to New York to study at the Manhattan School of Music and The Juilliard School. In 2010, Shamat was selected for the Jazz Aspen Snowmass Summer Academy, where he studied with Christian McBride, Dianne Reeves, Russell Malone, and Terence Blanchard.

As a performer, Shamat appears regularly with artists including Lea DeLaria, Allan Harris, Tony DeSare, Cyrille Aimée, and the Konrad Paszkudzki Trio, as well as in the

long-running off-Broadway production *Sleep No More*. His playing can be heard on Cyrille Aimée's *Live* (2018) and on several albums with the Konrad Paszkudzki Trio for Japan's Venus Records label. Shamat has performed at venues such as the Kennedy Center and the North Sea Jazz Festival, appeared at the Cannes Film Festival, and has been featured on NPR's *Jazz Night in America*.

Since 2016, Shamat has performed pops concerts with major North American orchestras, including the Houston Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, and the Cleveland Orchestra, and has collaborated with jazz legends such as Peter Bernstein, Dick Oatts, Janis Siegel, and members of the Count Basie Orchestra. In 2021, he was featured in the EMMY®-nominated television special *Take Me Back to Manhattan*, performing alongside Pasquale Grasso, Catherine Russell, and Champian Fulton.

A dedicated educator, Shamat leads master classes across the United States for students of all ages. Since 2019, he has participated in Lincoln Center's *Jazz for Young People* program, teaching and performing in public schools throughout New York City.

Michael Klopp, drums



lifelong musician, Michael "Mike" Klopp began drumming at the age of seven and has never put down the sticks. Classically trained from grade school through college, he has performed both nationally and abroad, developing a dynamic style that blends precision with showmanship. Known

for his inventive solos and rhythmic versatility, Klopp often incorporates unexpected elements—using everything from music stands to water bottles as percussion instruments—to create high-energy, crowd-pleasing performances. Equally skilled with brushes and sticks, he moves effortlessly between powerful jazz rhythms and subtle, romantic accompaniments.

