

# Santa Cecilia Orchestra

Sonia De Leon de Vega, Music Director and Conductor

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### SANTA CECILIA ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES 2009-2010 SEASON

LOS ANGELES (July 23, 2009)- Under the direction of **Sonia Marie De Léon de Vega**, the Santa Cecilia Orchestra proudly announces programming for its 2009-2010 season. Marking its 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Orchestra will produce a series of six concerts this season: three full symphony concerts presented at Thorne Hall on the campus of Occidental College, and three chamber music performances held at Center for the Arts, Eagle Rock.

The Santa Cecilia Orchestra 2009-2010 season offers a variety of unique entertainment choices appealing to a wide range of musical tastes. Following last season's wonderfully successful performances, this season will begin with a captivating celebration of Santa Cecilia Feast Day, taking works from Italian composers Antonio Vivaldi and Ottorino Respighi, as well as the ever-creative Modest Mussorgsky. The jubilant festivities continue with a celebratory chamber concert presenting a delightful array of Mexican music featuring Gerardo Flores-Pacheco *flute* and Juan Pablo Contreras *vocalist*. The eloquence of the Baroque period will converge with the sounds of mystical Brazilian music in the February orchestra concert, filling the air with a magnificent melodic fusion of works from Antonio Vivaldi, Johann Sebastian Bach, and Heitor Villa-Lobos. Two chamber concerts follow exhibiting music of unparalleled fantasy, with the April concert featuring the superb guitarist and luteist, Michael Kudirka, joining the Formalist Quartet, with guest violinist Melinda Rice. The season will culminate with an orchestral celebration marking Mexico's Bicentennial of its Independence and the of its Centennial Revolution in 2010 with works from Mexico's greatest composers, Carlos Chavez, Blas Galindo, Arturo Marquez, and José Pablo Moncayo.

## **Sonia Marie De León de Vega, conductor**

Recognized as a noted symphony and opera conductor, **De León de Vega** has achieved distinction as a creative and consummate musician, as a woman in a groundbreaking career role, and as a leading influence in the growing Latino culture in the United States. She was the first Hispanic classical artist to ever be featured internationally on the Univision network's signature "Orgullo Hispano" (Hispanic Pride), which highlights the most successful Hispanics in the world. De Leon de Vega is also celebrated in educational circles for creating the dynamic Discovering Music program that continues to change the lives of thousands of youth each year through the power of music education. She has received numerous awards and recognitions and is featured in the Simon & Shuster book *Latina Power* by Ana Nogales.

*"We are so used to male conductors as the status quo that to sense Sonia's powerful feminine energy presiding over her musicians' interpretation of the classical works she had chosen was a uniquely thrilling experience. It was an evening I will never forget."*

- excerpt from the book *Latina Power!*, written by Dr. Ana Nogales

### **About the Orchestra**

The mission of the Santa Cecilia Orchestra is *to share the beauty and inspiration of classical music with Southern California audiences through live performances and stimulating music education programs, giving special focus to Latino communities that are underserved and underrepresented by the arts.* To date, these education programs have reached over 40,000 students in 35 schools in Los Angeles. The orchestra's dynamic *Discovering Music* program takes orchestra members into elementary schools in underserved Latino neighborhoods to introduce children to classical music and the instruments of the orchestra. The *San Antonio Express-News* cited *Discovering Music* as a "model" program for introducing children to classical music. The program is presented in 16 elementary schools annually, giving over 1,000 performances at schools and providing free violin lessons to over 150 children each year.

### **The 2009-2010 Concert Series Schedule is as follows:**

***Celebration: "St. Cecilia Feast Day"***  
**Sunday, November 22, 2009, 4 P.M.**  
**Thorne Hall, Occidental College**

#### ***Program:***

Vivaldi: *Concerto Grosso op. 3 no. 11 in D minor*

Respighi: *Pines of Rome*

Mussorgsky: *Pictures at an Exhibition (Orchestrated by Ravel)*

Our opening concert celebrates the Feast Day of Santa Cecilia, the patron saint of music. We mark the occasion with a programmatic feast for the ears. We are pleased to present two masterpieces from the symphonic repertoire: Respighi's "Pines of Rome," a work in four movements with each movement visualizing a different scene from the city of Rome, Italy. "Pines of Rome" celebrates the beautiful trees of Respighi's home using unusual rhythmic patterns that feature brass and woodwind instruments.

Next, we invite you to marvel at Mussorgsky's vivid paintings in sound! "Pictures at an Exhibition" is a masterpiece that conveys a wealth of striking images. Orchestrated by Ravel, "Pictures" captivates the spirit of imagination embodied by the creative soul. From its famous opening Promenade to the roof-raising final Great Gate of Kiev, it's one of the all-time brilliant orchestral showpieces – a glittering jewel-box full of spicy tunes and unforgettable images

**"Musica~Mexico"**

**Saturday, January 16, 2010, 8:00pm**  
**Center for the Arts, Eagle Rock**

Featured performers: Gerardo Flores-Pacheco, flute; Juan Pablo Contreras, vocalist

A celebratory concert of chamber music from this richest of musical repertoires . . . with a twist you are unlikely to find anywhere else during this significant 'Mexican' year. Our program features Mexican music- old, recent and new, with selections by Manuel Ponce, Juan Luis, Juan Hernandez, Juan Pablo Contreras and others . . . Improvisations on old and exotic instruments that form introductions, interludes, new horizons, and evocations of lost time . . . A musical feast full of surprise and delight.

**"Baroque Meets Brazil!"**

**Sunday, February 21, 2010, 4 P.M.**  
**Thorne Hall, Occidental College**

***Program:***

Vivaldi: *Concerto for 4 violins & violoncello Op. 3 No. 10 in b minor*

Vivaldi: *Lute Concerto*

Vivaldi: *Flute concerto Op. 10 No. 3 in D Major "Il Cardellino"*

Bach: *Prelude in b minor from the Well-Tempered Clavier (Arranged by Stokowski)*

Bach: *Brandenburg Concerto no. 3*

Villa-Lobos: *Bachianas Brasilieras No. 5*

Villa-Lobos: *Bachianas Brasilieras No. 9*

The Vivaldi concerti in this program offer a wonderful opportunity for our string orchestra to perform and for several of our musicians to shine as soloists. Then the Bach concerti set the stage magnificently for Villa-Lobos' Bachianas Brasileiras, which reflect both the composer's Brazilian heritage and his lifelong admiration for the music of Johann Sebastian Bach. The Bachianas Brasileiras combine contrapuntal techniques inspired by Bach with the melodic and rhythmic characteristics of the Brazilian folk idiom.

**“Phantasticus!”**

**Saturday, March 6, 2010, 8 P.M.**

**Center for the Arts, Eagle Rock**

The second program of our chamber season features the music from the birth of the baroque, and the original experiences in the tonal system we use and recognize today; very often ignored, for reasons quite unfathomable, this repertoire offers music of unparalleled fantasy and imagination, emotion and expressive complexity. Featuring both vocal and instrumental music, this program is performed by a mixed ensemble of vocalists, brass, wind and string players with music by Andrea and Giovanni Gabrieli, Gesualdo, and a selection of early 17<sup>th</sup> century Venetian composers.

**“Michael Kudirka with Formalist Quartet”**

**Saturday, April 10, 2010, 8 P.M.**

**Center for the Arts, Eagle Rock**

***Program:***

John Dowland: Lachrimae, or Seaven Teares, Figured in Seaven Passionate Pavans

Quintet by Luigi Boccherini

Dusan Bogdanovich: *Sevdalinka*

Guitarist and luteist Michael Kudirka has established a stellar reputation as an exciting artist performing both recent music and much older repertoire, often on the same program. Kudirka joins the Formalist Quartet, with violinist Melinda Rice, for this profound program of extraordinary variety. The repertoire features music for guitar and lute and string ensemble to create an intimately touching and sensitively enlivening musical experience.

Sound like an odd mix of adjectives? See if you'd describe it differently.

**“Mexico!”**

**Sunday, April 25, 2010, 4 P.M.**

**Thorne Hall, Occidental College**

## **Our celebration marking Mexico's Centennial/Bicentennial in 2010.**

### ***Program:***

Chavez: *Sinfonia India*

Chavez: *Chapultepec*

Galiindo: *Sones de Mariachi*

Marquez: *Danzon no. 4*

Marquez: *Danzon No. 2*

Moncayo: *Huapango*

Santa Cecilia Orchestra celebrates Mexico! 2010 is the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mexico's Independence and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its Revolution. We are commemorating these two important events with works from Mexico's greatest composers. Viva Mexico!

### **Concert Venues And Tickets:**

Orchestra concerts are performed at Thorne Hall at Occidental College located in Eagle Rock at 1600 Campus Road.

Chamber concerts are performed at Center for the Arts located at 2225 Colorado Blvd in Eagle Rock.

Orchestra Concert ticket prices are \$26 and \$20, \$7 for youth (17 and under).  
Chamber Music Concert ticket prices are \$19 and \$12 for youth (17 and under).

Santa Cecilia Orchestra also offers a variety of subscription packages at a savings of 15%, as well as group discounts.

Join the Santa Cecilia Orchestra in a celebration of exceptional music, terrific composers, and talented artists at the 2009-2010 concert series. For further information and to purchase tickets, please contact the Santa Cecilia Orchestra at 323-259-3011 or visit the website at [www.scorchestra.org](http://www.scorchestra.org).

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**Editors:** This press release, as well as all photos and biographies for conductor and soloists, can be found at [www.scorchestra.org/PressRoom.htm](http://www.scorchestra.org/PressRoom.htm)