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### **Music in the Mountains Announces Headliners for SummerFest Concert Series including Music Legend Randy Newman**

Music in the Mountains is pleased to announce music legend Randy Newman will headline the annual SummerFest concert series on Friday, June 26, at the beautiful, Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley, CA. Recognized as the region's top classical music festival, SummerFest stretches its wings this year by bringing contemporary and classic together in a two-week long celebration of community, art and music.

The other outdoor headliners include Cirque de la Symphonie, Saturday, June 27, which pairs the Music in the Mountains orchestra led by conductor Florin Parvelescu, with the breathtaking Cirque de la Symphonie aerialists, acrobats and clowns. Happy Birthday USA, with conductor Constantine Kitsopolous, is the perfect family event celebrating Broadway, Disney, and favorite patriotic tunes, on Friday, July 3.

"We want to take festival-goers on a sonic journey where they will not only be entertained, but will experience true musical excellence," explains Cristine Kelly, Executive Director of Music in the Mountains. "Randy Newman was the perfect artist to headline this year's festival. He is a master musician and storyteller who is known for his incredible body of work."

Newman's many honors include six Grammys, three Emmys, and two Academy Awards. Both a tender balladeer and a master satirist, Newman's songs have spanned the length and breadth of popular music for the past five decades. This very special evening under the stars with one of the world's greatest singer-songwriters and film composers is one of only two performances in Northern California, and Newman's first Sacramento region performance ever.

With songs that run the gamut from heartbreaking to satirical and a host of unforgettable film scores, Newman has used his many talents to create musical masterpieces widely recognized by generations of audiences. Often referred to as a musician's musician, many of the world's most notable singers have covered his songs including Alan Price, Van Dyke Parks, Judy Collins, Cass Elliot, Art Garfunkel,

the Everly Brothers, Dusty Springfield, Nina Simon, Wilson Pickett, Pat Boone and Peggy Lee, to name just a few.

After starting his songwriting career as a teenager, Newman launched into recording as a singer and pianist in 1968 with his self-titled album Randy Newman. Throughout the 1970s he released several other acclaimed albums such as: *12 Songs*, *Sail Away*, and *Good Old Boys*. In addition to his solo recordings and regular international touring, Newman began composing and scoring for films in the 1980s. The list of movies he has worked on since then includes *The Natural*, *Awakenings*, *Ragtime*, all three *Toy Story* pictures, *Seabiscuit*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *A Bug's Life*, and most recently, Disney/Pixar's *Monsters University*, the prequel to *Monsters Inc.* (which he also scored).

### **Prelude to the Season: Here And Now**

Leading up to the outdoor performances are several concert series include *Prelude to the Season: Here And Now*. Music in the Mountains and Nevada County Composers Cooperative join forces to present a mini-festival to kick off SummerFest, bringing music to life that is being written right here, right now. These concerts include June 16 & 17 Young Composer Works I & II respectively.

"Wet Ink" featuring the Left Coast Chamber Ensemble on June 19 and "Messiaen, Quartet for the End of Time, on June 29. This is a multi-media exploration of one of the most ethereally beautiful pieces of music to rise from the ashes of war. All concerts will be held at Peace Lutheran Church in Grass Valley, CA.

### **SummerFest Classics Series**

This year, three great conductors take on three monumental concerts in the Amaral Center at the Nevada County Fairgrounds. At the heart of SummerFest is the Festival Orchestra, comprised of renowned musicians from some of the finest orchestras in the country. "The Glory of Russian Ballet" with conductor Daniel Stewart is on June 24 and features Maia Wilkins and Michael Levine, former principal dances of the Joffrey Ballet. They will be performing selections from Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*, Stravinsky's *Firebird Suite* and selections from Prokofiev's *Romero and Juliet*.

On June 23 is "The Mozart Requiem" with resident conductor Ryan Murray and features the Music in the Mountains Chorus and outstanding soloists. This is Mozart's final masterpiece, paired with the symphony Haydn wanted to be played at his own funeral.

Wrapping up the Classics Series on July 1 is "Beethoven's 'Emperor' Concerto. Led by conductor Constantine Kitsopoulos, this was Beethoven's epic last piano concerto and features Conrad Tao, pianist, and the monumental Sibelius's *Symphony No. 2*.

### **Encore Performances**

Whether it's the virtuosity of piano, or jazz vocal stylings, these performances at the Amaral Center promise audiences that they will be up close and personal to the music and the musicians. First up is Conrad Tao, In Recital on Thursday, July 2. Tao is an extraordinary performer and composer whose musical journey has landed him on the stages of Carnegie Hall, the Dallas Symphony, and Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, just to name a few. Tao has been dubbed a musician of "probing intellect and open-hearted vision" by the New York Times, a "thoughtful and mature composer" by NPR, and "ferociously talented" by TimeOut New York. This recital will feature contemporary and classic works.

Well-known as the lead singer of Pink Martini, Storm Large's remarkable voice has sold out the Kennedy Center, the Hollywood Bowl, and Carnegie Hall. Storm and her band the Crazy Arc of Love join the Music In the Mountains orchestra in covering standards from the Great American Songbook all the way to modern classics and popular hits on Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Tickets**

Tickets for SummerFest go on sale Wednesday, April 1. For more information, or to order tickets, please log onto [www.MusicInTheMountains.org](http://www.MusicInTheMountains.org) or call the MIM Box Office at (530) 265-6124.

Fact Sheet: SummerFest

Tickets On Sale April 1 unless otherwise noted

Tuesday, June 16      Young Composers I  
Peace Lutheran Church  
Show 7:30pm

Wednesday, June 17 Young Composers II  
Peace Lutheran Church, Grass Valley  
Show 7:30pm

Friday, June 19      Wet Ink featuring the Left Coast Chamber Ensemble  
Peace Lutheran Church, Grass Valley  
Show 7:30pm

Saturday, June 20    Messiaen, Quartet for the End of Time  
Peace Lutheran Church, Grass Valley  
Show 2pm

Wednesday, June 24 The Glory of Russian Ballet  
Nevada County Fairground, Amaral Center  
Show 7:30pm  
Tickets On Sale Now Through Season Subscription Only

Friday, June 26      Randy Newman

Nevada County Fairgrounds, Outdoor Main Stage  
Gates 6:30pm, Show 8pm  
Tickets \$85 premium meet and greet the artist; \$55 premium  
high/low; \$37.50 general admission; \$85 family pass (two  
adults and two children; \$15 youth under 18

- Saturday, June 27    Cirque de la Symphonie  
Nevada County Fairgrounds, Outdoor Main Stage  
Show 8pm  
Tickets \$49.50 premium hi/low, \$35 general admission Special  
\$80 family pass (two adults and two children),  
\$15 youth under 18
- Sunday, June 28    The Mozart Requiem  
Nevada County Fairgrounds, Amaral Center  
Show 3pm  
Tickets On Sale Now Through Season Subscription Only
- Wednesday, July 1    Beethoven's "Emperor" Concerto  
Nevada County Fairgrounds, Amaral Center  
Show 7:30pm  
Tickets On Sale Now Through Season Subscription Only
- Thursday, July 2    Conrad Tao, In Recital  
Nevada County Fairgrounds, Amaral Center  
Show 7:30pm  
Tickets \$25
- Friday, July 3    Happy Birthday USA  
Nevada County Fairgrounds, Outdoor Main Stage  
Show 8pm
- Sunday, July 5    Storm Large of Pink Martini and the Crazy Arc of Love  
Nevada County Fairgrounds, Outdoor Main Stage  
Show 7:30pm