

Santa Barbara Symphony New Year's Eve Pops Concert

Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!

THE SANTA BARBARA SYMPHONY will *Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!* in 4/4 time during a medley of tunes by Jule Styne, celebrating the composer's 110th birthday on December 31st at the Granada Theatre, part of the Symphony's New Year's Eve Pops Concert which begins at 8:30pm and will end in plenty of time for patrons to scurry to their favorite midnight parties.

Maestro Nir Kabaretti, who is celebrating his tenth season with the orchestra and will be conducting his first pops concert in Santa Barbara, has selected a program of seasonal favorites and popular classics by Gershwin, Irving Berlin, and Johann Strauss among others, including well-known passages from *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Back to the Future*, and *Star Wars*.

"It'll be a musical celebration spanning several traditions, from Viennese New Year's concerts up to and including some of the most iconic and beloved tunes from Broadway and Hollywood," explained Maestro Kabaretti. "Several of our great musicians have performed on the soundtrack for the new *Star Wars* movie, and we'll conclude our concert with excerpts from John Williams' memorable scores for those films and discuss what it's like to participate in such a project."

Guest Soloist Lisa Vroman

Special guest soloist for the evening will be Soprano Lisa Vroman, who starred for several years on Broadway as Christine Daaé in Andrew Lloyd Webber's hit musical *The Phantom of the Opera* and who made an appearance with the Symphony in 2008.

DANIEL KEPL training, but I've been
MUSIC INTERVIEW required to sing lots of
different styles for years,"

Vroman shared during a recent SKYPE interview, as she was winding down a ten concert holiday engagement with the Philly Pops. "For ten years I did Christine in *The Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway, in San Francisco, and Los Angeles. It was such a great training for repetition and keeping yourself fresh; kind of like being a professional athlete in training for that long."

Above and beyond her considerable vocal talents, Vroman is also an actor as a result of her musical theater career.

"I love how physical, theater work is," she confessed. "I love singing in English, I love telling stories, I love all the crossover literature that allows me to do that. I love working with classical conductors also, because I come from that world of training."

Vroman's journey toward a life filled with music started early. "Everyone's path is so different," she acknowledged. "My mother was a music teacher, so I think that started me on the path of loving music. Choral music was second nature, and I was a flute player and went to college playing the flute also. I was trained as a musician and I have an education degree as my undergrad degree. I was auditioning for a concerto program in my senior year at college and two of the professors there said, 'We want you to go to grad school, you have great ears, you're a great musician.' I hadn't considered it until then, and that started me on the path of stepping up what it was about me that would eventually be worthy of having a career on stage."

Not unknown to Santa Barbara audiences, this will be Vroman's third appearance with the Santa Barbara Symphony – her first under Kabaretti's baton. Since she and her husband live in Pasadena she's happy to ring in the new year with the Symphony, explaining, "I don't have to fly to the next gig... I can drive to Santa Barbara... Who wouldn't want to spend New Year's Eve there?"



Soprano Lisa Vroman

2016 - A Great Year for Classical Music!

The Santa Barbara Symphony's 2015-16 season will continue with the U.S. premiere of Italian composer Cristian Carrara's *Machpelah* featuring guest artists Francesca DeGo (violin) and Robert deMaine (principal cellist of the Los Angeles Philharmonic) on January 16th and 17th. That program will also include Gabrielli's stirring brass fanfare *Canzona Septimi Toni*, Handel's *Water Music*, and Bartók's ever-popular *Concerto for Orchestra*. Additional upcoming highlights include a program of Rachmaninoff featuring guest artists James Judd (conductor) and Ian Parker (piano) on February 13th and 14th, Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto* featuring guest soloist Timothy Chooi on April 9th and 10th, and guest artist Pablo Sainz-Villegas performing Elmer Bernstein's *Guitar Concerto* in the season's final concerts on May 14th and 15th.



Maestro Nir Kabaretti



Photo by David Bazemore

Named music and artistic director of the Santa Barbara Symphony in 2006, Nir Kabaretti has established an international career as a dynamic and innovative conductor with experience in both the symphonic and operatic repertoire. He continues to collaborate with many of the world's renowned musicians, orchestras, and opera houses. Maestro Kabaretti has conducted the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, Orquesta Filarmonica de Buenos Aires, the Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Vienna Chamber Orchestra, to name just a few. His extensive operatic experience includes productions at the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino in Florence, Teatro Real in Madrid, Switzerland's Opéra de Lausanne, and Teatro alla Scala in Milan. Winner of the 1993 Forum Junger Kunstler Conducting Competition in Vienna, he was named the music director of the Southwest Florida Symphony in 2014.

The New Year's Eve concert is generously supported by the Santa Barbara Center for the Performing Arts, Patricia Gregory for the Baker Foundation, Robin and Kay Frost, the City of Santa Barbara, and the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission.

Tickets start at \$38 and can be purchased at www.granadasb.org or by calling 899-2222.

The Santa Barbara Symphony was founded in 1953 on the belief that a special city deserves a special orchestra. Consistently lauded for its unique ability to present brilliant concerts, engage the community, and deliver dynamic music education programs, the organization prizes both innovation and artistic excellence, and is widely recognized as one of the region's premier cultural institutions. Its award-winning Music Education Center serves some 5,000 students throughout Santa Barbara County each year. For info, visit www.thesymphony.org

Daniel Kepl has been writing music, theatre, and dance reviews for Santa Barbara publications since he was a teenager. His professional expertise is as an orchestra conductor.

To watch the SKYPE video interview with **Lisa Vroman**, visit www.bravocalifornia.com

