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For Immediate Release

## **SAN DIEGO REPERTORY THEATRE ANNOUNCES THE 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LIPINSKY FAMILY SAN DIEGO JEWISH ARTS FESTIVAL**

*The 2019 lineup includes Israel's 3 Tenors, Soulfarm celebrating Bob Dylan, Jews and Blues, Perla Batalla's Songs of Leonard Cohen, and the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Women of Valor.*

**San Diego, CA (April 16, 2019)** – San Diego Repertory Theatre is pleased to announce the lineup for the **26<sup>th</sup> Annual Lipinsky Family San Diego Jewish Arts Festival (JFEST)**, which brings another fantastic year of Jewish music, theatre and art to the community. This year's festival will take place **May 26 - July 11, 2019**, and features a slate of 13 performances across multiple San Diego and North County venues celebrating San Diego's diverse performing arts community. The venues include San Diego REP/Lyceum Theatres, Encinitas Library, Leichtag Commons, New Village Arts Theatre, and The Museum of Making Music, Carlsbad.

"The Festival is 26 and still growing! The music of this year's festival will delight across cultures," shared Festival Artistic Director **Todd Salovey**. "I think audiences will love our many original programs of theatre, dance and music exploring the Jewish experience in art."

The festival kicks off on Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, with the world premiere of **San Diego Ballet's *Song of Songs***. Bringing to life King Solomon's timeless mystical love song, 22 dancers ignite the stage with rousing jazz and klezmer music to celebrate a poem beloved by people from all walks of life and beliefs.

Highlights of this year's festival include **A Community Unity Concert with Kol Esperanza** an exciting young operatic pop-trio who perform a mix of Broadway hits, classical arias and inspirational Hebrew favorites. **Soulfarm**, led by Grammy Award-winner **C Lanzbom** and guitarist/lead singer **Noah Solomon**, salute the legendary Bob Dylan with covers of his most transcendent music with a Jewish twist of faith in ***Knockin' On Dylan's Door***. **Perla Batalla** returns to The REP following last spring's sold-out standing ovation triumph with a new selection of Leonard Cohen's greatest songs in ***Perla Batalla Sings the Songs of Leonard Cohen***. Plus, festival favorites **Yale Strom & Hot Pstromi** present an all-star concert celebration of the intersection of Jews and Blues with **The Klezmer Summit: *Blueish: Jews and the Blues***, which includes special guests **Tomcat Courtney** (guitar), **Sue Palmer** (piano) and **Robin Henkel** (dobro guitar).

This year also celebrates the **10th Annual Women of Valor** with music, stories and images of six women who have made a significant impact in San Diego. "Each of the 64 strong, committed, fearless and compassionate women we have featured over the years have inspired me to pursue a life of service and meaning," said Festival Associate Producer **Ali Viterbi**. "Like the Lipinsky Family San Diego Jewish Arts festival itself, *Women of Valor* celebrates the diverse and vibrant Jewish community here in San Diego, and we've been honored to tell ten years of these inspiring women's stories."

The festival will also feature two staged readings: ***In Every Generation*** directed and written by **Ali Viterbi**, a mystical journey through continents, languages and generations of an Italian Jewish family and a nation's

stories; and ***Asimov's Last Chapter***, a science fiction docu-comedy by San Diego REP Playwright-in-Residence and Culture Clash co-founder, **Herbert Siguenza**.

Rounding out the festival is Russian klezmer virtuoso **Alexander Gourevitch** joined by Latin, Flamenco and Romany guitarist **Sasha Kolpakov** performing moving and joyous klezmer gems. To celebrate the upcoming Festival of First Fruits, **Soulfarm** leads a sunset concert over-looking the Pacific Ocean at The HIVE at Leichtag Commons with world-beat original and popular Jewish songs; and local teens unite to perform ***In the Room Where It Happens***, a San Diego Jewish Teen Performance Showcase.

Finally, to close the festival, **Yale Strom** and **Hot Pstromi** return with a concert of music ranging from classical to folk to unique improvisations by accordion maestro **Peter Stan**, with the world premiere of **The Klezmer Accordion**.

Tickets for the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Lipinsky Family San Diego Jewish Arts Festival are currently on sale and can be purchased in-person at the San Diego REP Box Office, by calling 619-544-1000, or online at [sdrep.org](http://sdrep.org).

**Festival Calendar:** San Diego Ballet's *Song of Songs* (5/26), Gourevitch & Guitarist Kolpakov (5/26), *In the Room Where It Happens* (5/29), Knockin' on Dylan's Door (6/4), Sunset Concert with Soulfarm at The HIVE (6/5), *In Every Generation* (6/6), Kol Esperanza: The Israeli 3 Tenors (6/11), 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Women of Valor (6/13), *Asimov's Last Chapter* (6/19), Perla Batalla Sings the Songs of Leonard Cohen (6/17), 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Women of Valor (6/23), Klezmer Summit: Blueish: Jews & the Blues (6/24), The Klezmer Accordion with Yale Strom & Hot Pstromi (7/11).

**About San Diego Repertory Theatre:** San Diego Repertory Theatre (San Diego REP) produces intimate, provocative and inclusive theatre. Founded in 1976, San Diego Repertory Theatre is downtown San Diego's resident theatre, promoting an interconnected community through vivid works that nourish progressive political and social values and celebrates the multiple voices of our region. The company produces and hosts over 550 events and performances year-round on its three stages at the Lyceum Theatre. Since moving to the Lyceum, The REP has produced 50 main stage productions by Latinx playwrights, and more than 40 world premieres. The company has received more than 200 awards for artistic excellence from the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle, Patté Theatre Awards, NAACP, Backstage West, Dramalogue and StageSceneLA. In 2005, the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle presented The REP with the Craig Noel Award "For 30 Years of Artistic Dedication to Downtown and Diversity." San Diego Repertory Theatre feeds the curious soul. To learn more about San Diego Repertory Theatre, to purchase tickets, or make a donation, visit [www.sdrep.org](http://www.sdrep.org). Join us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter (@SanDiegoREP).

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## FACT SHEET

**San Diego Repertory Theatre presents**  
**The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Lipinsky Family San Diego Jewish Arts Festival**

**Festival Artistic Director: Todd Salovey**  
**Festival Associate Producer: Ali Viterbi**

### Calendar of Events:

Sunday, May 26 @ 2:00 p.m. – Gourevitch & Guitarist Kolpakov  
Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup> @2:30 p.m. – San Diego Ballet – *Song of Songs*  
Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> @7:30 p.m. – In the Room Where It Happens  
Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> @7:30 p.m. – Knockin' on Dylan's Door  
Wednesday, June 5 @7:00 p.m. – Sunset Concert with Soulfarm at The HIVE

Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 p.m. – *In Every Generation*  
Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 p.m. – A Community Unity Concert with Kol Esperanza  
Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 p.m. – 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Women of Valor  
Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 p.m. – *Asimov's Last Chapter*  
Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 p.m. – Perla Batalla Sings the Songs of Leonard Cohen  
Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 2:00 p.m. – 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Women of Valor  
Monday, June 24 @ 7:30 p.m. – Klezmer Summit: Blueish: Jews & the Blues  
Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 p.m. – The Klezmer Accordion with Yale Strom & Hot Pstromi

**Ticket Information:** Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased in-person at the San Diego REP Box Office, by calling 619-544-1000, or online at [sdrep.org](http://sdrep.org).

### **Festival Locations:**

#### **San Diego Repertory Theatre [The Lyceum Theatres]**

79 Horton Plaza, San Diego, CA 92101

#### **Encinitas Library**

540 Cornish Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024

#### **The HIVE @ Leichtag Commons**

441 Saxony Rd, Encinitas, CA 92024

#### **New Village Arts Theatre**

2787 State Street, Carlsbad, CA 92008

#### **Museum of Making Music, Carlsbad**

5790 Armada Drive, Carlsbad, CA 92008

### **ABOUT THE 26<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL LIPINSKY FAMILY SAN DIEGO JEWISH ARTS FESTIVAL**

#### **San Diego Ballet presents *Song of Songs***

Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup> @ 2:30 p.m. | On the Lyceum Stage

\$22-\$40 Reserved Seating

King Solomon's timeless mystical love song is brought to life with 22 dancers and rousing jazz and klezmer music in a stunning world premiere! San Diego Ballet is famous for their elegant sensuality and theatricality. This new piece features original music by jazz legend Charles McPherson and klezmer music by Yale Strom. *Song of Songs* celebrates a poem beloved by people from all walks of life and beliefs. *Song of Songs* illuminates the voices of two lovers praising each other, yearning for each other, and inviting each other to truly enjoy and experience. Get swept away in the lush ecstasy of timelessness!

#### **IN THE ROOM WHERE IT HAPPENS**

Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 p.m. | In the Lyceum Space

\$12 advance; \$15 at the door includes a pre-show dessert reception

San Diego Jewish Teen Performance Showcase. Talented Teen's from San Diego schools and beyond perform music, dance, theatre and spoken word. Featuring talented performers from J Company, San Diego Jewish Academy, Torah High School, Temple Solel's Shreshim & Kavannah, the Ken's Lehatjil and much much more.

A donation in recognition of the evening's top performance will be made to the high school arts program at San Diego's sister city, Sha'ar HaNegev.

*Co-sponsored by San Diego Jewish Academy and the United Jewish Federation of San Diego*

### **KNOCKIN' ON DYLAN'S DOOR**

Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 p.m. | On the Lyceum Stage  
\$30 Orchestra Reserved; \$20 Balcony

Bob Dylan's most transcendent songs with a Jewish twist of faith. From *Blowin' in the Wind* and *Like a Rolling Stone* through *Forever Young* and *Simple Twist of Fate*, Dylan's legendary poetry has captured and created the spirit of our times. The songs of the 2016 Nobel Laureate for literature are performed through a Jewish lens as Noah Solomon and Grammy winner C Lanzbom of Jewish jam band Soulfarm cover Dylan's classics with special guests including Yehuda Solomon of Moshav Band and singer Sam Glaser.

### **IN EVERY GENERATION**

Written & Directed by Ali Viterbi  
Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 p.m. | In the Lyceum Space  
\$18 Reserved

One family. One holiday. Four millennia. The Levi-Katz family celebrates Passover again and again and again while times, locations and languages change. Over matzah ball soup and (vegan) brisket, the family contends with questions of race, religion and inter-generational trauma. The present echoes both the past and future as the family reenacts the famous exodus traditions asking, "Why is *this* night different?" and "Will we ever be free?" *In Every Generation* was named one of the top Jewish plays in 2019.

### **A COMMUNITY UNITY CONCERT WITH KOL ESPERANZA**

Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 p.m. | On the Lyceum Stage  
\$100 VIP, \$35 Orchestra, \$25 Balcony

From Israel, in this community unity concert, these three young operatic pop-trio performs a mix of Broadway hits, classical arias and inspirational Hebrew favorites. Featuring Israeli Opera soloist, Nimrod Grinboim; Jerusalem Academy of Music graduate, Nadav Inbar; Soloist in the Israeli Air Force band, Omer Shaish; under the music direction of Tomer Adaddi, a multiple award-winning composer and producer. An exciting pop-trio that bridges generations the world over. "Am Yisrael Chai!"

*Co-sponsored by Chabad Downtown and Chabad of Coronado*

### **THE 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WOMEN OF VALOR**

Directed by Ali Viterbi  
Written by Sarah Price Keating, Rebecca Myers, Leah Salovey, Todd Salovey and Ali Viterbi  
Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 p.m. | In the Lyceum Space  
\$18 Donation

This year's honorees include: Theresa Dupuis, Barbara Fischbein, Superintendent Cindy Marten, Allison Price, Cheryl Rattner Price, Jacqui Silver and Manya Wallenfels

10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration honors seven women who have made incredible contributions to our San Diego community. With song, images and a dramatic reading, the Festival asks from the illustrious proverb, "A woman of valor, who shall find?"

*Benefiting Torah High School, Project Sarah, Chabad of Poway, and The Butterfly Project*

## **PERLA BATALLA SINGS THE SONGS OF LEONARD COHEN**

Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 p.m. | On the Lyceum Stage  
\$40 Orchestra Reserved, \$30 Balcony

Following last spring's sold-out standing ovation triumph, Perla Batalla returns with a new selection of the greatest songs of Leonard Cohen. For years Perla toured the world with Leonard Cohen, sharing in his music, poetry and wisdom. From *Suzanne* through *Hallelujah*, this event thrills with the presence of two unparalleled artists.

*"Onstage, offstage, digital or analog, I love Perla Batalla."* – Leonard Cohen

*"In this show, there are times when I ask my audience to sing with me. I feel that the coming together of voices has the power to touch Leonard's spirit and his lifelong devotion to art and the mysteries of the human heart."* – Perla Batalla

## **KLEZMER SUMMIT: BLUEISH: JEWS AND THE BLUES**

Monday, June 24 @ 7:30 p.m. | On the Lyceum Stage  
Featuring Yale Strom & Hot Pstromi with special guests Tomcat Courtney (guitar), Sue Palmer (piano) and Robin Henkel (dobro guitar)  
\$28 Orchestra, \$20 Balcony

*An all-star concert celebration of the intersection of Jews and Blues.*

Benny Goodman and Artie Shaw played alongside great black musicians like Teddy Wilson and Lionel Hampton. America's roots music born on the plantations came to Chicago after WW II where Jewish immigrants founded Chess Records, the go-to Blues label. Chicago's Corky Siegel (harmonica), Harvey Mandel (guitar) and Michael Bloomfield (guitar) developed relationships with Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, Junior Wells, etc. and helped spread the Blues worldwide. "Blueish: Jews and the Blues" looks at why Jews fell in love with African American Blues.

## **In North County**

### **GOUREVITCH & GUITARIST KOLPAKOV**

Sunday, May 26 @ 2:00 p.m. | Encinitas Library  
Free of Charge

Russian klezmer virtuoso Alexander Gourevitch thrills again with his wailing clarinet. He is joined by Latin, Flamenco and Romany guitarist Sasha Kolpakov to perform the most moving, beautiful and joyous klezmer gems. Gourevitch and Kolpakov are both from third generation virtuoso musical families, one klezmer and one gypsy. This free of charge Festival kick-off will revive your musical heart and soul.

This all-star international band includes Alexander Gourevitch on clarinet, Natalya Vostriakova on violin, Pavlo Getman on piano, Carlos Maria on drums and Sasha Kolpakov on guitar.

### **SUNSET CONCERT WITH SOULFARM AT THE HIVE**

Wednesday, June 5 @ 7:00 p.m. | The HIVE @ Leichtag Commons  
\$12 General Admission, Under 18 free of charge

Celebrate the upcoming Festival of First Fruits with a picnic dinner and sunset concert on the stunning Leichtag Commons overlooking the Pacific Ocean at sunset. At 6:00 p.m. doors open for guests to bring wine and a picnic dinner. At 7:00 p.m. Soulfarm featuring C Lanzbom and Noah Solomon perform world-beat original and popular Jewish songs.

Soulfarm was founded in Israel by Grammy Award-winner, lead guitarist C Lanzbom, and guitarist/lead singer extraordinaire, Noah Solomon. Their sound has been dubbed as New American music. Their live shows are full of Mediterranean flavor with captivating guitar leads, dance rhythms and strong percussion breaks. *The New York Post* quotes Soulfarm as “versatile, utilizing improvisation and world music.”

**ASIMOV'S LAST CHAPTER– by Herbert Siguenza**

Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 p.m. | New Village Arts  
\$18 Reserved Seating

Join acclaimed playwright/performer Herbert Siguenza of Culture Clash for a special sneak preview staged reading of his latest play. It is 1992, Asimov is ill and must archive his voluminous writings before it's too late. He gets an unexpected visit from a beautiful, brilliant and well-wired student on assignment to preserve his legacy and perhaps save humanity as well! This science fiction docu-comedy grooves with 1980's funk!

**THE 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WOMEN OF VALOR**

Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 2:00 p.m. | Encinitas Library

Directed by Ali Viterbi

Written by Sarah Price Keating, Rebecca Myers, Leah Salovey, Todd Salovey and Ali Viterbi

Free of Charge

This year's honorees include: Theresa Dupuis, Barbara Fischbein, Superintendent Cindy Marten, Allison Price, Cheryl Rattner Price, Jacqui Silver and Manya Wallenfels

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*Benefiting Torah High School, Project Sarah, Chabad of Poway, and The Butterfly Project*

**THE KLEZMER ACCORDION WITH YALE STROM & HOT PSTROMI**

Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 p.m. | Museum of Making Music, Carlsbad

\$30 Premium; \$25 General

Featuring an all-star band including Fred Benedetti on guitar, Gunnar Biggs on bass, vocalist Elizabeth Schwartz and special guest accordionist Peter Stan, Strom explores the accordion in the music of Jews and Roma. The concert's offerings will range from classical to folk to unique improvisations by accordion maestro Peter Stan. Stan's Roma and Balkan heritage, and Strom's extensive travels have uncovered rare musical gems and stories of two wandering peoples. With a sonorous fire and scholarly intent, this event will feature Strom's world premiere accordion composition.

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