

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ROSES & ROMANCE ACCOMPANY THE CAL PHIL ON FEBRUARY 16

*The California Philharmonic will present “Classic Romance”, featuring some of the most beloved works in the classical music repertoire...works of great music inspired by great love*

*Joining the orchestra for Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 1 is 9-year-old Marc Yu, hailed by his mentor, virtuoso pianist Lang Lang, as “an absolute genius”*

SAN MARINO, Calif. Usually it’s guest artists who receive flowers after a performance...But on Saturday evening, February 16, the audience itself will leave the Ambassador Auditorium with a rose in hand after attending the California Philharmonic’s “Classic Romance” concert featuring works by Prokofiev, Beethoven, Haydn and Wagner. Thanks to the generosity of Bristol Farms, Cal Phil volunteers will be waiting at the doors of the renowned concert hall in Pasadena – frequently described as the “Carnegie Hall of the West” – to distribute long stemmed roses to every female member of the audience as soon as the applause dies away.

But Victor Vener, Music Director and founder of Cal Phil, promises that the romance of the evening will begin promptly at 8 p.m., from the moment he lifts his baton and the first note of Prokofiev’s *Classical Symphony* resounds throughout the auditorium.

“Prokofiev wrote his *Classical Symphony* to demonstrate his love for the music of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven,” explains Vener, a passionate musicologist who has included Haydn’s *“Miracle Symphony”* and Beethoven’s *Piano Concerto No. 1* in the “Classic Romance” program to help music lovers gain an even deeper understanding of the relationship between Prokofiev and his classical era predecessors.

“Wagner wrote the *Seigfried Idyll* as a gift for the woman he loved,” Vener continues. “Music lovers have kept these pieces close to their hearts for years.”

Joining the orchestra at this performance is 9-year-old wunderkind Marc Yu, who recently performed at the Classical Music Grammy Award’s tribute to his mentor, Chinese pianist and superstar Lang Lang. “Marc is

an absolute genius,” Lang Lang told the audience at Disney Hall after Yu’s performance.

Yu will join Lang Lang in a concert at London's Royal Albert Hall in August 2008 and, in 2009, at New York City's Carnegie Hall. The young pianist will appear as well with his mentor at Vienna's Musikverein.

“But just remember this,” says Vener with a smile. “The Cal Phil got him first!”

Tickets for “Classic Romance”, which range from \$30 to \$95/person, are available by calling 626.300.8200 or online, at [www.calphil.org](http://www.calphil.org). The box office is located at 1120 Huntington Drive in San Marino and is open Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Ambassador Auditorium is located at 131 South St. John Avenue in Pasadena.

*In 1995, Music Director and Conductor Victor Vener and a small group of enthusiastic, dedicated music lovers based in Pasadena, California founded the The CalPhil Foundation. The Foundation, a nonprofit community benefit organization, supports the California Philharmonic in its quest to expand awareness of classical music, thus increasing the interest and support for great timeless music with wide audience appeal, from the classical and operatic repertoire to diverse genres of jazz, pops, Hollywood and Broadway. Also, with a strong commitment to new music and to expanding the symphonic repertoire, the California Philharmonic has presented numerous world premieres of both orchestral and chamber works.*

*The California Philharmonic began with a five-concert inaugural summer season of Cal Phil Festival on the Green on the grounds of the Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden in Arcadia. Now, the Orchestra presents thirty concerts per year in five different, but equally impressive, venues throughout Los Angeles County. These series include Cal Phil at Walt Disney Concert Hall (downtown Los Angeles), Cal Phil at the Ambassador (Pasadena), Cal Phil Music, Martinis and the Maestro (Castle Green Hotel in Pasadena) and Cal Phil at The Mill (The Old Mill in San Marino). For more information, visit [www.calphil.org](http://www.calphil.org) or call 626.300.8200.*

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