



San Diego Symphony

RAFAEL PAYARE | MUSIC & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



ARTIST IMAGE ASSETS

ANNOUNCING THE 2026 CONRAD PREBYS SUMMER SEASON AT THE RADY SHELL AT JACOBS PARK

**Guest artists performing with the San Diego Symphony Orchestra include
The Beach Boys, St. Vincent, and Jeff Goldblum & The Mildred Snitzer Orchestra**

Films in concert feature *Star Wars: A New Hope*, *How To Train Your Dragon 2*, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone™*, *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*

Featured touring artists include Yungblud, Louis Tomlinson, Black Coffee, The Avett Brothers, Tedeschi Trucks Band, Sarah McLachlan, James Taylor, Paul Simon, Kool & the Gang and The Sugarhill Gang, Buddy Guy, and Bonnie Raitt, among many others

Three-concert “Classical Summer” series includes annual favorites: Opening Night, Beethoven by the Bay and Tchaikovsky Spectacular

Announcement on March 1st at San Diego Symphony’s 5th annual Picnic at the Park Presented by Southwest Airlines

All subscription packages are on sale Sunday, March 1 at 10 AM PST.

*To view or purchase subscription packages,
visit www.TheShell.org or call the Ticket Office at 619.235.0804*

San Diego, CA (March 2, 2026) – The San Diego Symphony announces its 2026 Conrad Prebys Summer Season, the sixth season at The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park. The iconic waterfront venue is home to the Symphony’s summer season and will feature performances by the San Diego Symphony Orchestra, genre-spanning touring and guest artists, blockbuster films in concert and more. The summer season officially kicks off on June 26 with a performance led by SDSO Music and Artistic Director Rafael Payare.

“Summer 2026 at The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park is a true celebration of music without boundaries. From iconic rock legends and chart-topping artists to cinematic spectaculars and unforgettable performances by the San Diego Symphony Orchestra, this season reflects the extraordinary range of what our stage can offer,” says **Lea Slusher, executive director of The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park**. “Set against the breathtaking backdrop of San Diego Bay and paired with exceptional local dining and an atmosphere that welcomes everyone, The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park continues to be the place where summer memories are made.”

Summer Season Classics

The 2026 Conrad Prebys Summer Season opens Friday, June 26 with **Music and Artistic Director Rafael Payare leading the San Diego Symphony Orchestra** in a program of sweeping intensity and virtuosic brilliance, featuring **violinist Stefan Jackiw**.

Signature summer traditions return to the waterfront with **Beethoven by the Bay** (July 12), conducted by Yaniv Dinur and showcasing pianist **Parker Van Ostrand** in Beethoven’s monumental “Emperor” Concerto. The popular **Tchaikovsky Spectacular** also returns (August 30), with **Joyce Yang** bringing fiery lyricism to Tchaikovsky’s Piano Concerto No. 1—culminating, as always, in a thrilling pyrotechnic finale under the night sky.

Independence Day takes on special significance with **4th of July: America The Beautiful 250**, led by **Byron Stripling** in a program honoring 250 years of American spirit and song. Later in the season, the orchestra turns its spotlight to the cinematic genius of **John Williams** (July 31), conducted by David Newman. From galactic adventure and swashbuckling heroics to tender flights of imagination, Williams’ scores have shaped the sound of modern myth—music that doesn’t merely underscore the story but defines it.

Guest Artist Debuts

For the 2026 season, a number of artists make their Rady Shell debuts including **Mike Patton** (appearing with The Avett Brothers, May 10), **Yungblud** (May 20), **Paul Simon** (June 9), **Louis Tomlinson** (June 10), **The Sugarhill Gang** (appearing with Kool & the Gang, June 28), **Wynonna Judd** (with Melissa Etheridge, July 11), **St. Vincent** (August 1) in a new collaborative project with the San Diego Symphony Orchestra, **Tedeschi Trucks Band** (August 16), and **Jeff Goldblum with the Mildred Snitzer Orchestra** (August 23) in a special collaboration with the Symphony.

The full listing of artists appearing at The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park this spring and summer can be found below.

Celebrations of Artists' Music

The season will showcase celebrations of music powerhouses across the decades. The artists of **Classic Albums Live** will perform two albums in full—note for note, cut for cut—including **Eagles: Their Greatest Hits** and **The Beatles (The White Album)**.

The San Diego Symphony Orchestra will be on stage with award-winning artists to perform the music of legendary composers and bands across generations: from Hollywood's Golden Age and the irresistible songs of **George and Ira Gershwin** with vocalist and pianist **Michael Feinstein**, to **Broadway's biggest blockbusters** performed by some of New York's top vocalists; from the revolutionary **music of the summer of 1969** — spanning Woodstock and the Harlem Cultural Festival — to Finnish vocal sensation **Rajaton** reimagining the disco hits of **The Bee Gees**. Each program approaches the past not as nostalgia, but as living repertoire — music that continues to resonate, evolve, and surprise when heard anew on the symphonic stage.

Film and Video in Concert

Among the season's varied offerings are the family-friendly film concerts. With numerous options that span the summer, the fun starts early in the pre-season with the **San Diego Symphony Orchestra** and **conductor Scott Terrell** in two presentations of **Star Wars: A New Hope in Concert** (May 1 & 3). In the heart of the summer, the San Diego Symphony is delighted to bring back the *Harry Potter™ Film Concert Series* with **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone in Concert** (August 21 & 22). Two Walt Disney Studios features this season with **Disney's '80s-'90s Celebration in Concert** (August 7) and **Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl in Concert** (August 28).

One week prior to San Diego Comic-Con 2026 is **Distant Worlds: music from Final Fantasy** (July 17), a multimedia concert experience with music and scenes from the video game series Final Fantasy, celebrating the 25th anniversary of FINAL FANTASY X. Featuring original vocalist RIKKI and conductor Arnie Roth, the San Diego Symphony Orchestra and the San Diego Master Chorale will perform the series' iconic music by Nobuo Uematsu live to HD video created by SQUARE ENIX.

Martha Gilmer, president and chief executive officer of the San Diego Symphony, says, “The Conrad Prebys Summer Season represents the very heart of who we are—adventurous, collaborative, and deeply connected to our community. Whether performing masterworks with Music and Artistic Director Rafael Payare, partnering with artists like St. Vincent, Foreigner, and The Beach Boys, or bringing beloved films to life with the San Diego Symphony Orchestra, we are creating experiences that invite audiences of all ages to discover something extraordinary. The Rady Shell has become one of the most dynamic musical destinations in the country, and we are proud to share this remarkable season with San Diego.”

Food & Beverage

The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park's culinary program, The Shell Provisions, features local culinary partners including URBAN KITCHEN Group, Biga Pizza, Puesto, Cali Cream Homemade Ice Cream, and Wicked Popcorn, along with vegan and gluten-free options. Table service is available in the

Marina section for most concerts, with beverage service and specially curated pre-order dinners by Celebrity Chef Richard Blais.

Accessible Spaces and Free Community Events at The Rady Shell

The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park is a public park at which the San Diego Symphony programs a wide range of free community activities including all-ages activities like Picnic at the Park, wellness events that include monthly yoga classes and the annual Pride Yoga and Dance Party in partnership with FIT Athletic, and rehearsals that are free and open to the public— including enhanced programming for schools in the Linda & Shearn Platt Open Rehearsal program. In addition to free public park programming, the San Diego Symphony provides free tickets through its Music Connects program to 501c3 nonprofits and government organizations serving its local community. For more information visit www.TheShell.org.

The 2026 Conrad Prebys Summer Season at The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park

***The San Diego Symphony Orchestra is featured on these programs**

+ Indicates rental events

Pre-Summer events at The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park

Saturday, Mar. 14, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

FIT Athletic Yoga at The Rady Shell

Friday, Mar. 20, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

Foreigner & the San Diego Symphony Orchestra*

Stuart Chafetz, conductor

San Diego Symphony Orchestra

Friday, Apr. 10, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.

Black Coffee+

Saturday, Apr. 11, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

Reik 2026 Tour+

Tuesday, Apr. 14, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Ethel Cain: The Willoughby Tucker Forever 2026 Tour+

Saturday, Apr. 18, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

FIT Athletic Yoga at The Rady Shell

Tuesday, Apr. 28, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

An Evening with James Taylor & His All-Star Band+

Friday, May 1 and Sunday, May 3, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

Star Wars: A New Hope in Concert*

Scott Terrell, conductor

San Diego Symphony Orchestra

Saturday, May 2, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.
Bob Moses & Cannons: Afterglow Tour+

Sunday, May 10, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.
The Avett Brothers & Mike Patton+

Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
Alex G+

Wednesday, May 20, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
Yungblud: Idols World Tour+

Saturday, May 23, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.
FIT Athletic Yoga at The Rady Shell

Tuesday, Jun. 9, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
Paul Simon: A Quiet Celebration+

Wednesday, Jun. 10, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
Louis Tomlinson: How Did We Get Here? World Tour+

Friday, Jun. 12, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.
Classic Albums Live performs Eagles: *Their Greatest Hits*

2026 Conrad Prebys Summer Season at The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park

Friday, Jun. 26, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.
Summer 2026 Opening Night with the San Diego Symphony Orchestra*
Rafael Payare, conductor
Stefan Jackiw, violin
San Diego Symphony Orchestra
DMITRI SHOSTAKOVICH *Festive Overture*
SERGEI PROKOFIEV Violin Concerto No. 2
PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 5

Saturday, Jun. 27, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.
The Beach Boys with the San Diego Symphony Orchestra*
Sean O'Loughlin, conductor
San Diego Symphony Orchestra

Sunday, Jun. 28, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.
Kool & the Gang with The Sugarhill Gang

Friday, Jul. 3, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.
Blockbuster Broadway!*
Evan Roider, conductor
Jessica Hendy, vocals
Alex Getlin, vocals
Scott Coulter, vocals
John Boswell, vocals & piano

San Diego Symphony Orchestra

Saturday, Jul. 4, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

America The Beautiful: 250*

Byron Stripling, conductor

Mamie Parris, vocals

Leo Manzari, vocals and dancer

Bobby Floyd, keyboards

Rick Shaw, bass

Jim Rupp, drums

San Diego Symphony Orchestra

Friday, Jul. 10, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

Let The Sunshine In: The Music of '69*

Ted Sperling, conductor

Morgan James, vocals

Bryonha Marie, vocals

Noah J. Ricketts, vocals

San Diego Symphony Orchestra

Saturday, Jul. 11, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Wynonna Judd & Melissa Etheridge: Raised on Radio Tour

Sunday, Jul. 12, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

Beethoven by the Bay*

Yaniv Dinur, conductor

Parker Van Ostrand, piano

San Diego Symphony Orchestra

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN:

Overture to Egmont

Piano Concerto No. 5, "Emperor"

Symphony No. 4

Friday, Jul. 17, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

Distant Worlds: music from FINAL FANTASY*

Celebrating 25 Years of FINAL FANTASY X!

Arnie Roth, conductor

RIKKI, vocals

San Diego Symphony Orchestra

San Diego Master Chorale

Saturday, Jul. 18, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

How To Train Your Dragon 2 in Concert*

Jason Seber, conductor

San Diego Symphony Orchestra

Friday, Jul. 31, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

The Music of John Williams*

David Newman, conductor

San Diego Symphony Orchestra

Saturday, Aug. 1, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

St. Vincent with the San Diego Symphony Orchestra*

Jules Buckley, conductor

San Diego Symphony Orchestra

Sunday, Aug. 2, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

Sarah McLachlan: Better Broken Tour+

With special guest Allison Russell

Friday, Aug. 7, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

Disney's '80s-'90s Celebration in Concert*

Jason Seber, conductor

Lissa deGuzman, vocals

Bradley Gibson, vocals

Krysta Rodriguez, vocals

Josh Strickland, vocals

Nasia Thomas, vocals

San Diego Symphony Orchestra

Saturday, Aug. 8, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

Stayin' Alive: The Bee Gees & Beyond with Rajaton & the San Diego Symphony Orchestra*

Rajaton, vocals

Steven Reineke, conductor

San Diego Symphony Orchestra

Sunday, Aug. 9, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

Gipsy Kings feat. Nicolas Reyes

with Reyes Heritage

Friday, Aug. 14, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

The Gershwins in Hollywood*

Michael Feinstein, piano and vocals

Scarlett Strallen, vocals

Rob Fisher, conductor

San Diego Symphony Orchestra

Sunday, Aug. 16, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Tedeschi Trucks Band: Future Soul 2026 Tour+

Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Mt. Joy: Celebrating 10 Years+

Friday, Aug. 21 and Saturday, Aug. 22, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone™ in Concert*

Justin Freer, conductor

San Diego Symphony Orchestra

Sunday, Aug. 23, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

Jeff Goldblum & The Mildred Snitzer Orchestra with the San Diego Symphony Orchestra*

Stuart Chafetz, conductor

The Mildred Snitzer Orchestra

San Diego Symphony Orchestra

Friday, Aug. 28, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl* in Concert

Larry Loh, conductor

San Diego Symphony Orchestra

Saturday, Aug. 29, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

Classic Albums Live performs *The Beatles (The White Album)*

Sunday, Aug. 30, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

Tchaikovsky Spectacular*

Enluis Montes Olivar, conductor

Joyce Yang, piano

San Diego Symphony Orchestra

PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY:

Capriccio italien

Piano Concerto No. 1

Francesca da Rimini

1812 Overture

San Diego Symphony Orchestra

Note: With pyrotechnics

Saturday, Sep. 5, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

**Manteca! A Dizzy Gillespie & Chano Pozo Celebration
with Gilbert Castellanos & the KSDS Jazz Orchestra**

Gilbert Castellanos

KSDS Jazz Orchestra

Friday, Sep. 11, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

Buddy Guy 90

Friday, Sep. 16, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

“Weird Al” Yankovic: Bigger & Weirder 2026 Tour

Saturday, Sep. 18, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

The Sixties Show

Craig O’Keefe, bass, vocals, guitar

Tom Licameli, guitar, vocals, bass

Jim Boggia, guitar, vocals, ukulele

Kevin Bents, keyboards, vocals, guitar, bass

Scott Devours, drums

Peter Chiusano, keyboards

Saturday, Sep. 26, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Mariachi USA+

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Bonnie Raitt: Live 2026