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**WALLIS ANNENBERG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
PRESENTS**

SANTA CECILIA ORCHESTRA

**in a Program of Music from the Americas
Conducted by Sonia Marie De León de Vega**

**Concert, Part of Orchestra's 30th Anniversary Season,
Features Dvořák's *New World Symphony* and
Works by Copland, Piazzolla, and Arturo Márquez**

**Saturday, February 25, 2023, 7:30 pm
The Wallis' Bram Goldsmith Theater**

(Beverly Hills, CA, January 24, 2023) – Santa Cecilia Orchestra, hailed for its sizzling performances, presents a range of masterworks from the Americas at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, on Saturday, February 25, 2023, 7:30 pm, at the Bram Goldsmith Theater. Led by founder Sonia Marie De León de Vega, who “conducts with sweep and energy” (*Los Angeles Times*), the 60-member orchestra, currently celebrating its 30th Season, opens the program with variations on a “Shaker Melody” from *Appalachian Spring*, and selections from his distinctive American “cowboy” ballet *Rodeo*. Also featured are Ginastera’s lyrical “Danza del Trigo” from *Estancia*; Piazzolla’s *Libertango*, a hard-driving tour de force in the Argentine composer’s unique *nuevo tango* style, and Arturo Márquez’s Danzon No. 2, considered among the most popular and important pieces of contemporary Mexican orchestral music. The concert concludes with Dvořák’s beloved American touchstone, *Symphony No. 9 in E minor*, popularly known as the *New World Symphony*, composed during the Czech composer’s travels in the U.S. and inspired by American spirituals and Native American melodies.

Los Angeles-based Santa Cecilia Orchestra, named after the patron saint of music, is noted, in particular, for sharing the beauty and inspiration of classical music with Southern California audiences, giving special focus to Latino communities that are underserved and underrepresented by the arts. The Orchestra made its debut three decades ago on a summer concert series at Greystone Mansion in Beverly Hills.

Tickets for Santa Cecilia Orchestra (\$29 - \$79) are on sale now. The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills. To purchase single

tickets, subscriptions and for more information, please call 310-746-4000 (Monday – Friday, 10 am to 6 pm) or visit TheWallis.org/SCO.

The Wallis is closely monitoring the ever-changing local health and safety environment carefully and addressing known health factors at the moment. Should plans change and any performance be required to be postponed or cancelled or if venue capacity limitations are instituted, ticket holders will be notified immediately with options for their purchased tickets per The Wallis' ticketing policies.

The health and safety of patrons, staff, and artists inside and outside the venue are a top priority for The Wallis. Facial masks are no longer required but are strongly encouraged and recommended. The Wallis' health and safety protocols are also subject to change at the venue's sole discretion or in accordance with LA County and City of Beverly Hills regulations. Current Health & Safety Protocols and updates may also be accessed at TheWallis.org/Safety. Policies are subject to change.

About Santa Cecilia Orchestra

Through live performances and stimulating music education programs, the mission of Santa Cecilia Orchestra is to share the beauty and inspiration of classical music with Southern California audiences, giving special focus to Latino communities that are underserved and underrepresented by the arts. Over the last three decades, Santa Cecilia Orchestra has grown to become a cultural force in Los Angeles. This year, the orchestra is celebrating its 30th anniversary. Its great accomplishment is not only to make magnificent music but to also make that music accessible to nontraditional audiences. The orchestra's educational program, Discovering Music, has reached more than 300,000 students in over 80 schools in Los Angeles communities. Santa Cecilia Orchestra's commitment to a mission that combines music and access has created a leadership role in the cultural life of Los Angeles. Conductor Sonia Marie De León de Vega founded the orchestra in 1992, naming it after the patron saint of music, Saint Cecilia. Learn more at scorchestra.org

Sonia Marie De León de Vega was born in San Antonio, Texas to actress/producer Sonia De León and singer/guitarist Reynaldo Sanchez. At the age of four De León de Vega moved to Los Angeles, California, where she was raised and began her musical training, becoming an accomplished pianist and organist. While always distinguishing herself academically, her graduate studies led her to love and specialize in conducting, studying with Dr. David Buck. She also trained at the Herbert Blomstedt International Institute for Instrumental Conductors and at various American Symphony Orchestra League workshops with Otto Werner Mueller, Maurice Abravanel, Pierre Boulez, Andre Previn, Zubin Mehta, and Riccardo Muti. Her musical talents have inspired a large following in Southern California through live orchestral presentations, as well as an international audience through televised performances in the United States, Latin America, and Europe. She was the first woman in history to receive a Vatican invitation to conduct a symphony orchestra at a Papal Mass. *Hispanic Business Magazine* voted her one of the 100 most influential Hispanics in the United States in 2001 and 2005, and also named her to its 2005 "80 Elite Women" list. Univision, Mervyns of California and Target named her Outstanding Latina of the Year in 2000, and in 2005 she was named "Business Woman of the Year in Arts and Entertainment" by Senator Jack Scott and Assemblywoman Carol Liu. In 2006, she received KCET's "Local Hero" award.

About Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts:

Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is a dynamic cultural hub and community resource where local, national and international artists share their artistry with ever-expanding audiences. The campus, located in the heart of Beverly Hills, CA, is committed to robust and distinctive presentations and education programs curated with both creativity and social impact in mind. Distinguished by its eclectic programming that mirrors the diverse landscape of Los Angeles and its location in the entertainment capital of the world, The Wallis has produced and presented more than 350 theater, dance, music, film, cabaret, conversation, and family entertainment programs since its doors opened in October 2013. Hailed as "au courant" (*LaLa Magazine*), The Wallis was lauded by *Culture Vulture*, which proclaims, "If you love expecting the unexpected in the performing arts, you have to love The Wallis." Its programming has been nominated for

79 Ovation Awards and nine L.A. Drama Critic's Circle Awards. The campus itself, a breathtaking 70,000-square-foot facility, celebrating the classic and the modern, has garnered six architectural awards. Designed by acclaimed architect Zoltan E. Pali (SPF:architects), the restored building features the original 1933 Beverly Hills Post Office (on the National Register of Historic Places), which serves as the theater's dramatic yet welcoming lobby, and includes the contemporary 500-seat, state-of-the-art Bram Goldsmith Theater; the 150-seat Lovelace Studio Theater; an inviting open-air plaza for family, community and other performances; and GRoW @ The Wallis: A Space for Arts Education, where learning opportunities for all ages and backgrounds abound. Together, these elements embrace the city's history and its future, creating a performing arts destination for L.A.-area visitors and residents alike. Michael Nemeroff is Chairman of The Wallis' Board of Directors.

For more information about The Wallis, please visit: TheWallis.org.

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EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

WHAT:

Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
Presents

SANTA CECILIA ORCHESTRA

PROGRAM:

COPLAND "Buckaroo's Holiday" and "Hoedown," from *Rodeo*

GINASTERA "Danza del Trigo" from *Estancia*

PIAZZOLLA *Libertango*

ARTURO MARQUEZ Danzon No. 2

DVOŘÁK Symphony No. 9 in E minor, *New World Symphony*

WHEN:

Saturday, February 25, 2023, 7:30 PM

WHERE:

Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
Bram Goldsmith Theater
9390 N. Santa Monica Boulevard
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

RUN TIME:

Approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes, including a 15-minute intermission

TICKET PRICES AND INFORMATION:

\$29 - \$79

TheWallis.org/SCO

310-746-4000 (Monday – Friday, 10 am to 6 pm)

PLEASE NOTE:

Due to current health and safety variables, performances are subject to change, postponement, or cancellation.

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