Star Spangled Pops kicks off SD Symphony's Bayside Summer Nights

Preview by Diana Saenger

Longtime Conductor Matthew Garbutt leads the Orchestra, Broadway's Best Actress Nominee Melissa Errico is Patriotic Weekend Guest Vocalist.

As tradition would have it, the Star Spangled Pops once again kicks off San Diego Symphony's popular music series, Bayside Summer Nights, formerly known as the Summer Pops. The patriotic extravaganza takes place at picturesque Embarcadero Marina Park South located on the edge of San Diego Bay behind the Convention Center. Led by familiar and longtime conductor Matthew Garbutt, the Star Spangled Pops featuring the San Diego Symphony will be held Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, July 1, 2 and 3. Concerts start 7:30pm, gates open at 6pm. A colorful fireworks display to light up the night will happen at the conclusion of each patriotic weekend concert.

Melissa Errico is the Star Spangled Pops guest vocalist and is one of Broadway's celebrated leading ladies as well as a recording artist who was called "the voice of enchantment" by The New York Times. Errico will open the evening singing the national anthem followed later in the concert with God Bless America and a selection from The Music Man. Errico was nominated for the Best Leading Actress Tony-Award for her work in Michel Legrand's Amour, and she has been recognized with the Lucille Lortel Award, six Drama Desk nominations, two Helen Hayes Awards, four Outer Critics Award nominations and three Drama League Honors. Also lending their patriotic voices to the Star Spangled Pops will be the San Diego Master Chorale whose songs will include Battle Hymn of the Republic and America the Beautiful. San Diego Symphony and San Diego Master Chorale will also offer a stirring and beloved rendition of the Armed Forces Salute.

Concertgoers have a variety of options for food and refreshments at Bayside Summer Nights. For those seated in the champagne section, there is table wait service provided by internationally-recognized Behind The Scenes catering company that has catered many worldwide events including the several, recent Olympic Games. Behind The Scenes offers a variety of entrees and an extensive wine list. All concertgoers also have the opportunity to take advantage of an on-site food court with an array of food options. In addition, Bayside Summer Nights attendees may bring their own picnic basket to the concert if they would like. The Symphony simply requests concertgoers not to bring any glass containers or alcohol, which must be purchased on the premises.

On Monday, July 4 at 7:30 p.m. Bayside Summer Nights features the band Cash'd Out in A Tribute to Johnny Cash along with a front-row seat to the city's spectacular fireworks over San Diego Bay. (San Diego Symphony does not perform on July 4.) On July 14, Bayside Summer Nights launches the brand new: Thursday Night Jazz. Leading off the new series is The Mambo Kings: A Tito Puente Salute.

For tickets and more information, please call the San Diego Symphony box office at 619.235.0804 or visit www.sandiegosymphony.org.

Bayside Summer Nights - Star Spangled Pops
San Diego Symphony
Matthew Garbutt, conductor
Melissa Errico, vocalist
San Diego Master Chorale
Friday, Saturday and Sunday, July 1, 2 and 3
Concert starts at 7:30pm; gates open at 6pm
Embarcadero Marina Park South
206 Marina Park Way
San Diego, CA 92101
Tickets: $21-$86
Box Office: 619.235.0804
Website: www.sandiegosymphony.org
There will be fireworks at the conclusion of each concert.