



NEWS

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**Rialto Cinemas and Santa Rosa Symphony present
MAESTROS AT THE MOVIES
A Special Advance Screening of MAESTRO (R)
Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 7 pm PST**

(Santa Rosa, Calif.) — On December 7, 2023, Rialto Cinemas and Santa Rosa Symphony present “MAESTROS AT THE MOVIES,” a special advance screening of MAESTRO (R) at the Rialto Cinemas in Sebastopol, CA. The evening begins at 6:45 pm with a welcome from Santa Rosa Symphony Music Director, Maestro Francesco Lecce-Chong, treating the audience to a pre-show sneak peek of the Symphony. The film begins promptly at 7:00 pm. Post-screening, Maestro Lecce-Chong will lead a Q&A and a conversation about the film, his work and his passion for the music of Leonard Bernstein.

MAESTRO, stars Bradley Cooper and Carey Mulligan. It is written and directed by Bradley Cooper. The movie carries an R rating. MAESTRO is a towering and fearless love story chronicling the lifelong relationship between Leonard Bernstein and Felicia Montealegre Cohn Bernstein. A love letter to life and art, MAESTRO at its core is an emotionally epic portrayal of family and love.

As a Thank You to all ticket buyers to “MAESTROS AT THE MOVIES,” Santa Rosa Symphony is offering a food and beverage voucher towards Rialto Cinemas Café purchases. Voucher will be issued at Rialto box office with movie ticket purchase (including online purchases) for use during this event only.

Tickets are available online now at rialtocinemas.com or in person at Rialto Cinemas box office in Sebastopol. (<https://rialtocinemas.com/coming-soon/maestros-at-the-movies-seb>)

Francesco Lecce-Chong, Music Director and Conductor

Francesco Lecce-Chong is a fast-rising conductor with an international presence. He was appointed Music Director of two U.S. orchestras, the Eugene, and the Santa Rosa Symphony (SRS) before he reached the age of 30. He has successfully launched several groundbreaking projects, commissioned dozens of orchestral pieces, and fostered community engagement. Lecce-Chong has appeared with orchestras worldwide, including the San Francisco Symphony, New York Philharmonic, Seattle Symphony, National Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Toronto Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Hong Kong Philharmonic, and collaborated with top soloists such as Renée Fleming and Itzhak Perlman.

The San Francisco Chronicle described Lecce-Chong's subscription debut with the San Francisco Symphony as “first-rate” and pointed out the “vitality and brilliance of the music-making he drew from members of the San Francisco Symphony.” Other recent subscription debuts include the Seattle Symphony, Utah Symphony, North Carolina Symphony, Louisville Orchestra, Kansas City Symphony, and Detroit Symphony, as well as a return to the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, where he conducted the US premiere of Brett Dean’s Piano Concerto.

In September 2023, Lecce-Chong debuted in Europe at the prestigious George Enescu Festival, with the Romanian Radio Orchestra leading a program of Hindemith and Bernstein. During his 2023/2024 season with the Santa Rosa Symphony, he continues a cycle of the significant orchestral works of Rachmaninoff paired with film composers entitled “Rachmaninoff & the Hollywood Sound.” He leads the world premieres of new orchestral works by Conrad Tao, Clarice Assad, and Michael Djupstrom.

During Lecce-Chong’s tenure, both Eugene and SRS have achieved significant milestones. One of his first large-scale endeavors was the “First Symphony Project,” which consisted of full-length commissions from four of America’s emerging composers over the course of four seasons, complete with residencies in the communities.

Only last season, Lecce-Chong led the world premieres of five major orchestral works and led the Santa Rosa Symphony in Mozart’s *Magic Flute*, for which he wrote his own original dialogue and created the staging and sets. He continues to build partnerships with local art institutions, schools, and businesses to create original, multi-disciplinary experiences for audiences.

WHAT:

MAESTROS AT THE MOVIES

WHO:

Rialto Cinemas & Santa Rosa Symphony

Interview Opportunities: Francesco Lecce-Chong

WHEN:

Thursday, December 7, 2023, pre-show sneak peek at 6:45 pm, film at 7:00 pm, Q&A with Francesco Lecce-Chong immediately following the film.

WHERE:

Rialto Cinemas, 6868 McKinley Street Sebastopol, CA 95472

TICKET PRICES:

\$12.95/Adult; \$11.00/Senior (62 and over). Tickets on sale now.

HOW TO PURCHASE TICKETS: rialtocinemas.com or in person, Rialto Cinemas Sebastopol box office (<https://rialtocinemas.com/coming-soon/maestros-at-the-movies-seb>)

ABOUT RIALTO CINEMAS SEBASTOPOL

For 22+ years, Rialto Cinemas has been an important part of the cultural landscape of Sonoma County. Our spirit line says it all: “Bringing the Best Films in the World to Sonoma County.” Rialto Cinemas opened on January 14, 2000, and rapidly changed the movie-going landscape of the County. Though everyone told director/founder Ky Boyd an “arthouse” would never fly in Santa Rosa, he persisted, developed an audience, and the theatre became an institution! Rialto Cinemas changed the question from what movie is playing to what’s playing at the Rialto?

When Rialto Cinemas landed again in Sebastopol, the former Sebastopol Cinemas was transformed into Sonoma County’s premiere movie venue featuring “Dine-In Cinema.” Voted by readers of both the Bohemian and the Press Democrat as Sonoma County’s Best Movie Theater, Rialto Cinemas continues to be loved and bring the best films and filmed events in the world to Sonoma County.

ABOUT SANTA ROSA SYMPHONY

Santa Rosa Symphony, the Resident Orchestra of the Green Music Center, is the third-oldest professional orchestra in California and the largest regional symphony north of Los Angeles. Francesco Lecce-Chong, the Symphony's fifth music director in its 96 years, began his tenure in 2018. The Symphony is committed to the core values of artistic excellence, innovative programming, comprehensive music education, and community service.

The Symphony’s performance schedule for 2023-2024 includes 21 Classical Series concerts (seven sets), six Discovery Rehearsal concerts, a three-concert Family Series, a four-concert Pops Series, and special concerts.

Awards include an American Symphony Orchestra League MetLife Award for Community Engagement and a first-place award for adventurous programming in the 2012-2013 season from the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP).

The Symphony is recognized for having one of California's most comprehensive music education programs, serving nearly 20,000 youth annually. Collaborations with schools and organizations across Sonoma County have gained the Santa Rosa Symphony national attention and support.

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