



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Road to 100
The Complete Beethoven Symphonies, Year 1
Symphony No. 1 and Symphony No. 3
Also featuring, a post-concert Beethoven BBQ
June 9, 2024, Weill Hall, Green Music Center

(Santa Rosa, Calif.) – Santa Rosa Symphony presents Road to 100, The Complete Beethoven Symphonies, Year 1 on June 9, 2024, at 3:00 pm, Weill Hall, Green Music Center. Be a part of history as the Santa Rosa Symphony begins the journey to its centennial celebration in the 2027-2028 season. All nine of Beethoven's magnificent symphonies will be performed in a series of special concerts over the next five seasons. The performances will feature the orchestra in unique configurations reflecting how the symphonies, in Beethoven's time, may have been played, while being enhanced with the incredible modern-day acoustics of Weill Hall, Green Music Center. This concert will feature Beethoven's Symphonies No. 1 and No. 3. Tickets are available at srsymphony.org or (707) 546-8742.

Beethoven's Symphony No. 1, reveals a young genius already proceeding on a new path, introducing himself through this work as an advancing symphonic composer. The symphony is written in a traditional classical style and form and was influenced by his great respect for Mozart and Haydn. His celebrated Symphony No. 3, *Eroica*, created a whole new world of symphonic possibilities; it was the longest symphony ever written at the time, and featured many new and different ideas. It was composed in the early 1800s, whilst Beethoven's hearing was deteriorating, and premiered in 1805. It is widely considered a landmark in the transition between the Classical and the Romantic era.

"I am so thrilled to launch the first Beethoven cycle in our orchestra's history, as we look towards our centennial season. Each of the Beethoven symphonies has a unique and innovative approach to the orchestra and the structure of a symphony. The first symphony for Beethoven is a tribute to those who popularized the symphony - Mozart and Haydn - while also showcasing the risk-taking, virtuosity, and relentless energy that would grow in the years ahead. We then jump to the third symphony, which is Beethoven's breaking of the past, and vision of the future. It is a symphony that sets new expectations and all these years later, still finds a way to puzzle and shock both its performers and audience."

Francesco Lecce-Chong, Music Director and Conductor

Beethoven BBQ – On Weill Lawn.

To top off the concert experience, immediately following the performance, there will be a lively no-host Beethoven BBQ on the lawn adjacent to the hall. Patrons can mingle with Maestro Lecce-Chong, orchestra musicians and fellow concertgoers. The BBQ is open to all ticket holders and will feature an eclectic assortment of food trucks, including Red Rose Catering specializing in authentic Southern food, Jam's Joy Bungalow serving California-influenced SE Asian cuisine, Dino's Greek Food Truck offering a modern take on traditional Greek food and Mariscos El Cora food truck showcasing a vast selection of Mexican dishes including the crowd pleasing, pozole. Patrons are also encouraged to bring a picnic. Food and beverages are not included in the ticket price. The Beethoven BBQ is not open to the public.

Road to 100, The Complete Beethoven Symphonies – An overview.
2023-2024 – Symphonies No. 1 and No. 3 *Eroica* (June 9, 2024)

2024-2025 – Symphonies No. 2 and No. 5 (June 1, 2025)
2025-2026 – Symphonies No. 4 and No. 6 (Date TBA 2026)
2026-2027 – Symphonies No. 7 and No. 8 (Date TBA 2027)
2027-2028 – Symphony No. 9 (December 2027 as part of the Classical subscription series)

BIOGRAPHY:

Francesco Lecce-Chong, Music Director and Conductor

Francesco Lecce-Chong is the Music Director and Conductor of the Santa Rosa Symphony and the Eugene Symphony in Oregon. The press has described him as a “fast-rising talent in the music world” with “the real gift,” and has recognized his dynamic performances, fresh programming, deep commitment to commissioning and performing new music, and community outreach.

Lecce-Chong has appeared with orchestras around the world including the San Francisco Symphony, New York Philharmonic, Seattle Symphony, National Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Toronto Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Colorado Symphony, and Hong Kong Philharmonic. He has also collaborated with world-renowned soloists Renée Fleming and Itzhak Perlman.

Lecce-Chong is the recipient of several distinctions, including the prestigious Solti Foundation Award. Trained also as a pianist and composer, he completed his studies at the Curtis Institute of Music with Otto-Werner Mueller after attending the Mannes College of Music and Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Italy. He has been mentored and supported by celebrated conductors including Bernard Haitink, David Zinman, Edo de Waart, Manfred Honeck, Donald Runnicles, and Michael Tilson Thomas.

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE:

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN – Symphony No. 1 in C major, Opus 21

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN – Symphony No. 3 in E-flat major, Opus 55, *Eroica*

High-res photos and interview opportunities available: Francesco Lecce-Chong

CONCERT ENHANCEMENTS:

Concert Program Booklet: Available at the door.

Pre-concert talk: With Conductor Francesco Lecce-Chong, at 2:00 pm in Weill Hall. Free to all ticket holders.

SPONSORS:

We gratefully acknowledge the generous contributions from the following:

Sponsored by **Sara & Dixon Browder**

Conductor Francesco Lecce-Chong, sponsored by **Jamei Haswell, in honor of Richard Grundy**

Supporting Sponsor **Nancy Richards, in memory of Willard Richards**

Ludwig Van Beethoven: Symphony No. 1 in C major, sponsored by **Nancy and Rob Novak**

Ludwig Van Beethoven: Symphony No. 3 in E-flat major, *Eroica*, sponsored by **Jonathan Riley**

AT A GLANCE / CALENDAR LISTING:

WHAT: Santa Rosa Symphony [“Road to 100”](#)

WHO: [Santa Rosa Symphony](#), Francesco Lecce-Chong, conductor

WHEN: Sunday, June 9, 2024 at 3:00 pm (Doors at 1:30 pm)

WHERE: Weill Hall, Green Music Center, Sonoma State University

TICKET PRICES:

*\$32-\$105, reserved seating.

Youths 7-17 years of age may receive one complimentary ticket with every paid adult. Request tickets through Patron Services at (707) 546-8742.

\$10 student rush tickets for college students with a valid student ID. Available at the door only.

* Food and beverages are not included in the ticket price.

TICKETS: srsymphony.org or (707) 546-8742

Patron Services Hours: Weekdays 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, opening at 10:30 am Wednesday, closed Saturday & Sunday.

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. J. Andrew Bradford joined SRS as President and CEO in 2023. The Symphony is committed to the core values of artistic excellence, innovative programming, comprehensive music education, and community service.

The Symphony's performance schedule includes 21 Classical Series concerts (seven sets), seven Discovery Dress 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 as having one of California's most comprehensive music education programs, serving nearly 20,000 youths annually. Collaborations with schools and organizations across Sonoma County have gained the Santa Rosa Symphony national attention and support.

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