



Ben Rector and Cody Fry

## PROGRAM

Two of the most talented and innovative singer-songwriters of our time take you on a journey through their eclectic blend of pop, rock, and soulful ballads—all showcasing their impressive musicianship and heartfelt lyrics.

Selections to be announced from the stage.

Pacific Symphony Pops underwritten by  
the Sharon and Tom Malloy Family

## BEN RECTOR & CODY FRY

**Friday, May 10, 2024 @ 8 p.m.**

**Saturday, May 11, 2024 @ 8 p.m.**

Enrico Lopez-Yañez, Conductor  
Ben Rector, singer-songwriter  
Cody Fry, singer-songwriter-composer  
Pacific Symphony



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*Performance at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts  
Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall & Lobby*

# ABOUT THE CONDUCTOR

**Enrico Lopez-Yañez is the recently appointed Principal Pops Conductor of Pacific Symphony. He holds the Hal and Jeanette Segerstrom Family Foundation Principal Pops Conductor Chair.** In addition, Lopez-Yañez is Conductor of Dallas Symphony Presents, Principal Pops Conductor Designate of the Detroit Symphony, and serves as Principal Pops Conductor of the Nashville Symphony. Lopez-Yañez is quickly establishing himself as one of the nation's leading conductors of popular music and becoming known for his unique style of audience engagement. Also an active composer/arranger, Lopez-Yañez has been commissioned to write for the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, Houston Symphony, San Diego Symphony, and Omaha Symphony, and has had his works performed by orchestras including the Baltimore Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Florida Orchestra, Ft. Worth Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony, National Symphony, Phoenix Symphony, Seattle Symphony, and Utah Symphony among others.



Lopez-Yañez has conducted concerts with a broad spectrum of artists including: Nas, Gladys Knight, Ledisi, Itzhak Perlman, Stewart Copeland, Kenny Loggins, Toby Keith, Mickey Guyton, Kelsea Ballerini, Leslie Odom Jr., Renée Elise Goldsberry, Hanson, The Beach Boys, Kenny G, and more. Lopez-Yañez also conducts the annual Let Freedom Sing! Music City July 4th fireworks show which was first televised on CMT in 2019, reaching millions of viewers across the nation.

This season, Lopez-Yañez will collaborate with artists including Ben Rector, Cody Fry, Patti LaBelle, Trisha Yearwood, Tituss Burgess, Vanesa Williams, Lyle Lovett, Jefferson Starship, Portugal. The Man, Guster, Ben Folds, Aida Cuevas, Lila Downs, and Arturo Sandoval. Lopez-Yañez will appear with the Colorado Symphony, Houston Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, and Milwaukee Symphony as well as make return appearances with the Detroit Symphony, National Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, San Diego Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, and more. Previously, Lopez-Yañez has appeared with orchestras throughout North America including the Baltimore Symphony,

Cincinnati Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, and the Seattle Symphony among others.

Lopez-Yañez is the recipient of the 2023 "Mexicanos Distiguados" Award by the Mexican government, an award granted to Mexican citizens living abroad for outstanding career accomplishments in their field. As an advocate for Latin music, he has arranged and produced shows for Latin Fire, Mariachi Los Camperos, The Three Mexican Tenors, and collaborated with artists including Aida Cuevas and Lila Downs.

As Artistic Director and Co-Founder of Symphonica Productions, LLC, Lopez-Yañez curates and leads programs designed to cultivate new audiences. Symphonica manages a wide breadth of Pops and Family/Education productions that "breathe new, exuberant life into classical programming for kids and families" (*Nashville Parent Magazine*). Symphonica's productions have been described as "incredibly special – and something that needs to become the new norm" (Lima Symphony). Symphonica Productions is also a sheet music publishing house representing a diverse offering of genres and composers. Their roster of composers includes GRAMMY® nominated composer Clarice Assad, Sverre Indris Joner, Andres Soto, Charles Cozens, Vinicio Meza, and more.

As a producer, composer, and arranger, Lopez-Yañez's work can be heard on numerous albums including the UNESCO benefit album *Action Moves People United* and children's music albums including *The Spaceship that Fell in My Backyard*, winner of the John Lennon Songwriting Contest, Hollywood Music and Media Awards, Family Choice Awards and Kokowanda Bay, winner of a Global Media Award as well as a Parents' Choice Award where Lopez-Yañez was lauded for his "catchy arrangements" (Parents' Choice Foundation).

# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Fifteen years after starting his career writing songs and touring in his Honda Accord on the weekends, Ben Rector found himself at home and at the piano in March 2020.**

The alchemy of life's big questions, more downtime than he'd had in a decade, and those now all-too-familiar "unprecedented times" resulted in his career album: *The Joy of Music*. The project includes a breathtaking short film (featuring seven songs brought to life with stunning cinematography), inviting listeners and viewers to visit a dream world that communicates Rector's creative process and his reckoning with his job as an artist. He is led through the film's chapters by his new friend Joy, a muppet monster he created with Jim Henson's Creature Shop. In this fantastic and dream-like landscape we see and hear Rector overcome a deep-seated fear of failure, dancing and singing his way through the journey of rediscovering the joy of music.

Rector has amassed over a billion streams across all platforms, has performed on numerous late night and morning TV shows including *Conan*, *The Today Show*, *Jimmy Kimmel*, *Live With Kelly And Ryan*, *The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade*, and as a celebrity mentor on *American Idol* alongside Ryan Tedder, Jewel, Brian McKnight, Jason Aldean, and more. His records have topped numerous Billboard charts, with his last two records landing at #1 on Billboard's US Folk and #2 on Billboard's US Rock and US Indie charts. Rector has built a dedicated touring base, regularly selling out theaters and amphitheaters across the country, including three consecutive nights at the legendary Ryman Auditorium in Nashville.



**After the life-changing viral TikTok success of his song "I Hear a Symphony," Cody Fry has embarked on a new creative journey with *Symphony Sessions*, a sweeping orchestral collection of new songs, new arrangements of old songs, and live videos featuring his signature widescreen approach to pop music.** His bombastic cover of *Eleanor Rigby* was recently nominated for a GRAMMY in the category of "Best Arrangement, Instruments & Vocals."



A list of Fry's career accomplishments might, at first, seem strange and wide-ranging. The Nashville-based singer/songwriter/composer/producer has written music for everything from national ad campaigns, to video games, apps, fashion events, Vimeo-Staff-Picked short films, A-list corporate scoring work for brands like Netflix and Google, and even a Super Bowl commercial for McDonald's.

So when Fry sits down to write music for himself, it's the sum of those experiences that make him an artist like no other you'll come across.

Growing up in a musical household, Fry was steeped in the world of music from a young age. His father, Gary Fry, is an orchestral composer who writes for symphonic organizations all over the world. Like father like son, Fry's love of orchestration permeates much of his work and lends his sound a unique and truly cinematic quality.

His genre-bending discography and musicianship gives him the opportunity to perform in a huge range of artistic contexts. Fry has performed all over the globe including with the world-famous Metropole Orkest, and even had a rave-reviewed stint on *American Idol*. He once was asked to perform for Oprah on a Mediterranean cruise ship. She was super nice.

You can keep up with Fry on Instagram via @codyfry, TikTok via @codyfrymusic, or on his website, codyfry.com.