

VALENTINE'S DAY WITH KENNY G

2018-19 PACIFIC SYMPHONY POPS

Albert-George Schram, conductor
Kenny G, saxophone

Gottschalk	"FESTA CRIOLLA" FROM A NIGHT IN THE TROPICS (Bamboula Love!)
Puccini/ Wendel	VIVA PUCCINI! (Musica dell'Amore!)
Jacques Offenbach	"FINALE" ("CAN-CAN") FROM ORPHEUS IN THE UNDERWORLD (Ou-La-Love!)
Rodgers Arr. Ralph Hermann	"MY FUNNY VALENTINE" (Romantic Love)
Bruce Healey	AMERICAN FANTASY: A TRIBUTE TO THE PATRIOTISM OF GEORGE M. COHAN (Patriotic Love)
Intermission	
	THE MUSIC OF KENNY G

Friday, February 15, 2019 @ 8 p.m.
Saturday, February 16, 2019 @ 8 p.m.
Segerstrom Center for the Arts
Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall

This concert is generously sponsored by **Dan Smith.**

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KENNY G

In a recording career that spans almost three decades and 23 albums, Grammy Award-winning saxophonist Kenny G has grafted elements of R&B, pop and Latin to a jazz foundation, solidifying his reputation as the premiere artist in contemporary jazz. Since the early 80s, his combination of unparalleled instrumental chops and indelible melodies has resulted in sales of more than 75 million records worldwide (45 million in the U.S. alone) and more than a dozen climbs to the top of Billboard's contemporary jazz chart.

Given these and other commercial and critical achievements, one might think Kenny is an artist with nothing to prove, but he once again reaffirms his enduring place in popular music with the June 29, 2010, release of *Heart and Soul* on Concord Records. Following up on the success of *Rhythm and Romance* in 2008, his first Latin jazz album and Concord debut, *Heart and Soul* captures the spirit and the vibe of the classic R&B that Kenny grew up listening to in his native Seattle.

Kenny's longtime songwriting partner and producer, Walter Afanasieff, once again serves as a creative foil in the making of this record. In addition, guest vocalists Robin Thicke and Kenny "Babyface" Edmonds each take a turn at the mic.

In many respects, this album takes him back to the beginning – the R&B of the early and mid-1970s that Kenny soaked up during his teen years at an inner-city Seattle high school where he mixed with a culturally diverse student body at a young age. Inspired by the likes of Earth, Wind & Fire and Grover Washington, Jr., he was only 17 when he landed a gig with Barry White and his Love Unlimited Orchestra at the Paramount Northwest Theater (now the Paramount Theater) in 1973.



ALBERT-GEORGE SCHRAM

Equally adept at conducting classical and pops programs, Albert-George Schram has led a wide variety of repertoire for many orchestras in the U.S. and abroad. Schram is currently resident staff conductor of the Columbus (Ohio) Symphony and Charlotte Symphony orchestras. He has conducted classical, pops, holiday and educational concerts for both. He has also served as music director of the Lubbock Symphony and the Lynn Philharmonia (Florida). Most recently, Schram concluded his tenure as resident conductor of the Nashville Symphony Orchestra. Previously he has held titled positions with the Louisville Philharmonic and Florida Philharmonic orchestras.

Schram's guest-conducting roster has included the symphonies of Dallas, Charlotte, Tucson, New Orleans, Oklahoma City, Louisville, Spokane, San Antonio and Orlando, among others. His conducting engagements abroad have been with the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, the KBS (Seoul) and Teagu Symphonies in Korea, the Orquesta Sinfonica Nacional of Bolivia, the Orquesta Sinfonica Universidad Nacional de Cuyo (Mendoza) in Argentina, the National

Symphony Orchestra of Uzbekistan and the Orchester der Allgemeinen Musikgesellschaft (Luzern) in Switzerland.

Educated at The Hague Conservatory in his native Netherlands, Schram has also studied at the Universities of Calgary and Victoria in Canada, and the University of Washington. His teachers have included Rafael Kubelik, Franco Ferrara, Abraham Kaplan and Neeme Järvi.

On the classical side, Schram has worked with many distinguished artists, including pianists Lang Lang and Olga Kern and violinist Elmar Oliveira, among many others. His vast performance repertoire has included most of the standard symphonic masterpieces, especially the great symphonies of Gustav Mahler, the subject of his dissertation. He has had a lifelong affinity for performing the great choral-orchestral works, in particular the Requiems of Verdi, Mozart, Berlioz and others. This, in addition to music by such acclaimed contemporary composers as John Corigliano and Jennifer Higdon. As a pops conductor, Schram has worked with James Taylor, Art Garfunkel, Chris Botti, Boyz II Men, LeAnn Rimes, Kenny G, Olivia Newton-John, Smokey Robinson, Chicago, Aretha Franklin and

numerous others. He has created a large variety of themed programs, celebrating everything from "Home for the Holidays" (Christmas), and "That's Amore" (Valentine's), to swinging jazz big band, country and soul music.

Schram currently resides in Florida with his wife, Debbie. Their three children are all grown up. In his spare time, he is an avid racquetball player and a certified group fitness instructor.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:

Dan Smith is a longtime Pacific Symphony supporter and valued patron. His many years of friendship to the Symphony is further deepened by his membership in the Pacific Symphony Legacy Society. We are deeply grateful to Dan for his strong commitment to our Pops Series and for his continued support of Pacific Symphony. Thank you!