



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 1, 2015

Green Music Center contact: Melissa A.E. Sanders

[melissa.sanders@sonoma.edu](mailto:melissa.sanders@sonoma.edu), 707.664.2836

Santa Rosa Symphony contact: Sara Mitchell

[sara@santarosasympphony.com](mailto:sara@santarosasympphony.com), 707.546.7097, ext. 218

### FREE CONCERT FOR THE COMMUNITY AT WEILL HALL + LAWN SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2015

#### SANTA ROSA SYMPHONY AND SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY'S GREEN MUSIC CENTER TO PRESENT "A SYMPHONIC NIGHT IN HAVANA" FEATURING TIEMPO LIBRE

#### FREE TICKETS AVAILABLE BEGINNING JUNE 1 AT 10:00 A.M.

(Sonoma County, CA) – The Santa Rosa Symphony (SRS) and Sonoma State University's Green Music Center (GMC) will present a free community concert on Sunday, September 6, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., at Weill Hall + Lawn. Gates open at 5:00 p.m. Admission is free, but tickets are required.

Under the direction of SRS Principal Pops Conductor Michael Berkowitz, the evening's concert, entitled "A Symphonic Night in Havana," will feature the three-time Grammy®-nominated Cuban music group **Tiempo Libre** performing with the **Santa Rosa Symphony** — the resident orchestra of the GMC. Gates open at 5:30 p.m. for picnicking prior to the 7:00 p.m. performance.

"After the overwhelmingly positive community outpouring to our free community concert last summer, the Santa Rosa Symphony is thrilled to return again, in partnership with the Green Music Center, to present a second free community concert," said Santa Rosa Symphony Executive Director Alan Silow. "Led by our Principal Pops Conductor Mike Berkowitz, and featuring the Cuban sensation Tiempo Libre, this performance will again have audiences swaying and singing with delight."

"We are delighted to be partnering with the Santa Rosa Symphony to bring great music, for free, to the people of this community," said Green Music Center Co-Executive Directors Zarin Mehta and Larry Schlereth. "We are grateful for the ongoing support from music lovers who live, work and visit our area and look forward to sharing this tremendous evening of music under the stars of Sonoma County."

#### About Tiempo Libre

As teenagers in Cuba, Tiempo Libre's members studied classical music by day at Havana's La ENA Conservatory. At night, they gathered together to play the traditional music of their island. During a time in Cuba when listening to American music was forbidden, the men crowded around a homemade radio and listened to the beats of Michael Jackson, Chaka Khan and Earth, Wind, and Fire. Upon emigrating to the United States, they formed Tiempo Libre, blending together the sounds of Cuban *timba*, classical melodies and Latin rhythms. The group has garnered three Grammy nominations, the most recent for their album *Bach in Havana*, which melds classical tunes by Johann Sebastian Bach with the soul-stirring rhythms of salsa, merengue, and cha-cha.

\* \* \*

The Green Music Center thanks **Redwood Credit Union** for its generous support of the 2015 Free Concert for the Community.

\* \* \*

Founded in 1928, the [Santa Rosa Symphony](#) ranks among the oldest symphony orchestras in the western United States. Conductor and Music Director Bruno Ferrandis has led the 80-plus member orchestra since 2006. In 2012, the Santa Rosa Symphony became Resident Orchestra of the Green Music Center's Weill Hall. The orchestra annually performs seven triple sets of classical concerts, in addition to their Symphony Pops and Family Series.

### **About the Green Music Center**

Nestled in the picturesque foothills of Northern California's esteemed wine country, the Green Music Center (GMC) is a focal point for arts in the region, with its spectacular 1400-seat Weill Hall and the recently opened 240-seat Schroeder Hall, a cathedral-like recital hall designed specifically to accentuate instruments, organ and voice in a small, intimate setting. A program of [Sonoma State University](#), the GMC presents year-round programming of top classical, contemporary, jazz and world music artists through the MasterCard Performance Series and is home to the Santa Rosa Symphony.

### **About Sonoma State University**

Sonoma State University is a public liberal arts college located in California's premier wine country, one hour north of San Francisco. Nestled at the base of the idyllic Sonoma Mountains, the campus is home to more than 9,000 undergraduate students and is among the most popular campuses in the California State University system. Named a "Most Wired" campus by The Princeton Review and a "Best Regional University" by U.S. News & World Report, SSU was first in the country to offer an undergraduate degree in Wine Business.

\* \* \*

## **TO RESERVE FREE TICKETS BEGINNING JUNE 1 AT 10:00 A.M.**

SANTA ROSA SYMPHONY BOX OFFICE: 707.546.8742 or [santarosasympphony.com](http://santarosasympphony.com)

GREEN MUSIC CENTER BOX OFFICE: 1.866.955.6040 or [gmc.sonoma.edu](http://gmc.sonoma.edu)

*Concertgoers are encouraged to arrive early and enjoy the beautiful outdoor setting with a picnic.  
Please note: no outside beverages are permitted.*

\* \* \*

### **TIEMPO LIBRE**

Weill Hall + Lawn | Green Music Center  
Free Community Concert

Sunday, September 6 at 7:00 p.m.  
*Gates open at 5:00 p.m.*

"A Symphonic Night in Havana"

Tiempo Libre  
Michael Berkowitz, conductor  
Santa Rosa Symphony

###