



# SAN DIEGO SYMPHONY Summer Pops 2009

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Presented by



Friday, August 21, 2009 7:30 pm

Saturday, August 22, 2009 7:30 pm

All performances at Embarcadero Marina Park South

## JOSÉ FELICIANO

### Program

GEORGE GERSHWIN	Cuban Overture
ARY BARROSO ARR. GOLD	Brazil
VINCENT YOUMANS ARR. DRAGON	Carioca
ZEQUINHA ABREU ARR. DRAGON	Tico-Tico no Fubá

### Intermission

Selections to be announced from the stage by José Feliciano.

Matthew Garbutt, conductor  
(See page 12 for Matthew Garbutt's bio)

Jimmie Haskell, conductor  
José Feliciano, guitar and vocals  
Gregory Smith, keyboard/musical director  
Federico Pol, bass  
Wendell MacNeal, drums  
Scott Breadman, percussion

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MEDIA PARTNERS:



## ABOUT THE ARTIST



JOSÉ FELICIANO

An international presence that has influenced popular music for more than two generations, José Feliciano

has been acclaimed by critics throughout the world. *Guitar Player Magazine* awarded him "Best Pop Guitarist," placing him in their "Gallery of the Greats." He's been awarded over forty-five Gold and Platinum records, and has won sixteen Grammy nominations, earning him 6 Grammy Awards.

José Feliciano was born blind, to humble beginnings in Lares, Puerto Rico. One of eleven boys, his love affair with music began at the age of three when he first accompanied his uncle on a tin cracker can. When he was five, his family emigrated to New York City. Young José learned to play the concertina at age six, using a handful of records as his teacher. Soon thereafter he taught himself to play the guitar (again, just from records), practicing for as many as 14 hours a day. Exposed

to the rock'n'roll of the 50's, José was then inspired to sing.

At 17, José Feliciano quit school to help his family. He played in coffee-houses in Greenwich Village for tips. A music critic at the time referred to him as a "10-fingered wizard." Feliciano's first major break happened in 1966 when, after a performance at the Mar del Plata Festival in Argentina, RCA executives in Buenos Aires encouraged him to stay there and record an album of Spanish music. Feliciano recalls: "I suggested that we record a number of old boleros—songs I had heard from the time I was a kid." Feliciano's interpretation of the classic bolero of the time was revolutionary. The first single, "Poquita Fe", was a smash hit, and "Usted" was even bigger.

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JOSÉ FELICIANO

AUGUST 21 & 22, 2009

## JOSÉ FELICIANO AUGUST 21 & 22, 2009

Feliciano re-worked and re-fashioned long-time standards with his own style of acoustic guitar and with the vocal inflections of his jazz and American influences that he had acquired during his adolescence. Two more albums followed in similar fashion, and then producer Rick Jarrard recommended that José record a Doors' song that he'd heard him sing recently in concert—a tune called "Light My Fire". The rest is history.

Three songs that have been milestones for Feliciano are: 1) "Light My Fire," which was number one on the charts in 1968 is now a "standard" thanks to José's interpretation. 2) "Che Sera," a mega-success in Europe, Asia and South America and of course, 3) "Feliz Navidad," the Christmas song that has now become a tradition worldwide during the holiday season. In fact, it has become a top iTunes download, and ASCAP has placed it among their "25 Greatest Holiday Songs of the Century."

Feliciano's contributions to the music industry have been far

reaching—spanning generations and continents while emphasizing cultural diversity and mutual acceptance, enhanced significantly by his unsurpassed musical integrity. It should be noted that at the 1968 World Series, Feliciano was the first artist ever to stylize the National Anthem and perform it publicly. Today, thanks to Feliciano, this is more the rule than the exception.

In 1996, José Feliciano was selected to receive *Billboard* magazine's Lifetime Achievement Award, and in 2001, he received a Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut, for his musical, as well as humanitarian, contributions to the world. In 2006, The Hispanic Heritage Foundation honored José Feliciano with their prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

Feliciano enjoys playing with many of the top symphonic orchestras including the London Symphony, the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the

Vienna Symphony Orchestra. Feliciano has oftentimes ventured into other artistic genres, such as acting (1995's *Fargo* and several television roles) and composing for the stage (1989's *The Wonderful Ice Cream Suit*, adapted from a Ray Bradbury story.) Feliciano and his wife Susan have been together since 1971, living in a 275+ year-old former tavern-turned-homestead on a river in Fairfield County, Connecticut with their three children. ■

### Encore!

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