

# A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO GEORGE AND IRA GERSHWIN

Presented by Micheltorena Concert Series and Carezma Entertainment

Welcome to Ganna Sorbat's

## "I GOT RHYTHM"

The rhythm of life modernity, which denotes a bridge between the 20th and 21st century.

**Holy Virgin Mary Russian Orthodox Cathedral, Los Angeles**  
**September 24, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.**



Special thanks to Holy Virgin Mary Russian Orthodox Cathedral for all of their support to the world of music and giving back to the community of fine arts. The Church has been extremely instrumental in being a major contributor to hosting this wonderful event today

Holy Virgin Mary Russian Orthodox Cathedral is a parish of the Diocese of San Francisco and the West Orthodox Church in America (OCA), which received its autocephaly from the Russian Orthodox Church in 1971. The Cathedral is dedicated to the icon of the Holy Virgin Mary "Rescue of the Perishing" with its yearly Parish Feast celebrated on February 5th or the closest Sunday. The parish was founded by the tsarist Russia's emigres in 1923, making it the first Russian parish in Southern California. In 1928 Metropolitan Platon and Bishop Alexei consecrated this temple to continuously attend to the spiritual needs of Russian immigrants, and starting in the 1960s, to the American population seeking salvation within the Orthodox



# TRIBUTE

## BACKGROUND OF GEORGE AND IRA GERSHWIN

George Jacob Gershwin was an American composer and pianist. Gershwin's compositions spanned both popular and classical genres, and his most popular melodies are widely known. Among his best-known works are the orchestral compositions *Rhapsody in Blue* (1924) and *An American in Paris* (1928) as well as the opera *Porgy and Bess* (1935).

Gershwin studied piano under Charles Hambitzer and composition with Rubin Goldmark, Henry Cowell and Joseph Brody. He began his career as a song plugger, but soon started composing Broadway theatre works with his brother Ira Gershwin and Buddy DeSylva. He moved to Paris intending to study with Nadia Boulanger, who refused him, where he began to compose *An American in Paris*. After returning to New York City, he wrote *Porgy and Bess* with Ira and the author DuBose Heyward. Initially a commercial failure, *Porgy and Bess* is now considered one of the most important American operas of the twentieth century.

Gershwin's compositions have been adapted for use in many films and for television, and several became jazz standards recorded in many variations. Many celebrated singers and musicians have performed his songs



Both George and Ira Gershwin will always be remembered as the songwriting team whose voice was synonymous with the sounds and style of the Jazz Age. By the time of their 1924 Broadway hit, *LADY, BE GOOD!*, George had worked with lyricist Buddy DeSylva on a series of revues, *GEORGE WHITE'S SCANDALS*, while Ira enjoyed success with composer Vincent Youmans on *TWO LITTLE GIRLS IN BLUE*. But from 1924 until George's death in 1937, the brothers wrote almost exclusively with each other, composing over two dozen scores for Broadway and Hollywood. Though they had many individual song hits, their greatest achievement may have been the elevation of musical comedy to an American art form. With their trilogy of political satires — *STRIKE UP THE BAND*, the Pulitzer Prize-winning *OF THEE I SING*, and its sequel, *LET 'EM EAT CAKE* (all three written with playwrights George S. Kaufman and Morrie Ryskind) – they helped raise popular musical theatre to a new level of sophistication. Their now-classic folk opera, *PORGY AND BESS* (co-written with DuBose Heyward), is constantly revived in opera houses and theatres throughout the world. Concurrently with the Gershwin's' musical theatre and film work, George attained great success in the concert arena as a piano virtuoso, conductor, and composer of such celebrated works as *RHAPSODY IN BLUE*, *AN AMERICAN IN PARIS*, and the *CONCERTO IN F*.

# PROGRAM

## Introduction

### Part I

#### INSTRUMENTAL INTRO

Improvisations and jazz standards by Sergey Chipenko and  
THE GANNA SORBAT TRIO

#### PRESENTATION OF ARTIST GANNA SORBAT SONGS BY GEORGE & IRA GERSHWIN

Embraceable You  
Fascinatin' Rhythm  
'S Wonderful  
I've Got a Crush on You  
Revelation by Ganna Sorbat  
Summertime



## INTERMISSION



### Part II

But Not For Me  
Somebody Loves Me  
A Foggy Day  
The Man I Love  
Nice Work If You Can Get It  
I Got Rhythm  
Someone To Watch Over Me  
They Can't Take That Away From Me  
Now Your Heart Is Free by Ganna Sorbat



# HOSTESS/PRODUCER





# GANNA SORBAT:

## **Background**

Ganna Sorbat is a classically trained dramatic soprano singer, an accomplished pianist, songwriter, and music producer. She is from Ukraine, where education is highly valued and encouraged. Ms. Sorbat is well versed in her knowledge of music theory and music history. Her talents and skills also include arranging music, teaching music, and orchestrating music productions and events. Needless to say, Ganna is a recognized and much sought after award winning composer.

## **Early Life**

Encouraged and inspired by her parents, musically inclined as well, Ganna Sorbat showed a great interest in music as a young child. Her love of fine arts, serious attitude for the love of music, consistency, and great ability to work hard were cultivated by her parents and teachers which essentially helped Ganna to make progress in musical development and choose her musical course in life. She listened to, and was influenced by her mother, Svetlana, who played Beethoven, Mozart, and Chopin's Valses, Ukrainian and Russian folk songs and famous movie songs. Fascinated by the movie songs and TV show songs, one day young Ganna sat down to the piano and played by ear the melody to a beautiful Italian song from the TV show "Edera." That moment revealed her talents, changed her world, and began her musical ascent.

Her parents enrolled her at music school where she studied piano playing, writing music, and solfeggio frequencies. Her teacher, recognizing Ganna's extraordinary skills, recommended a more advanced school, and her parents then enrolled her in Lyceum of Arts №133, Kharkov, Ukraine, a special school for talented kids. Continuing her earlier studies, she also sang in choirs, learned history of all arts, including music, and competed with other students in composer's contests which garnered her many diplomas. She speaks Ukrainian, Russian, and English which she utilizes in her music.

## **Education**

As a student at Musical College and University of Arts, Ganna performed in concerts, international contests, and festivals, including IV International Competition for Young Composers "Maestro", Simferopol, 2004, the Ukrainian Literary-Musical Contest "The Eighth Note", Kiev, 2008 and National Festival "Music of the Young", Kiev, 2011 amongst others. For her Solo Recital, the program included works of A. Arenskyi, F. Amirov, V. Zolotukhin, and featured Ganna's own original works. The concert was conducted in the small hall of the Kharkov National University of Arts in March 2009. Her diploma work was a Symphony Poem for Orchestra. She earned her Bachelor degree as Composer and Teacher of Music.

Ganna credits her teachers, who, during her studies at B.N. Liatoshynskyi Kharkov Musical College (2002-2006) and at I.P. Kotlyarevskyi Kharkov State University of Arts (2006-2010) played a significant role in Ganna's not only becoming a musician, but also a personality. Under their excellent tutelage, the future composer mastered the arts of performance, improvisation, composition, harmony, polyphony, solfeggio and instrumentation. Ganna Sorbat was one of many young and talented graduates in the class of composition and instrumentation of Professor Vladimir Zolotukhin, People's Artist of Ukraine, Master of Music, a great artist and a person with rare gifts at I.P. Kotlyarevskyi Kharkov State University of Arts, and the greatest composer of Ukraine.



## **Performances**

Ganna Sorbat has performed as a professional musician (singer, pianist) on world stages with music groups and orchestras throughout Europe and the Middle East. These include concerts with the Rolling Stones, George Fenton, Morgan State University Choir, Tommy Tallarico, Denis Matsuev, Sergey Davydov, James Griffiths, and UAE National Symphony Orchestra.

Ganna's recognized and multi awarded talent as a composer is well known in Abu Dhabi. There, working at an established studio, she has composed and arranged music for famous Artists like Mansour Zayed, Maria Nedelkova and scored music for Film and TV. In 2013 Ganna co-created a new arrangement of the UAE National Anthem which was well received and widely broadcast throughout the gulf countries.

She is making her presence known here in the United States as she continues to share her incredible talents and skills with performances at various venues, events, festivals, and special tributes. Ganna acknowledges, and is grateful to each of her extensive and prestigious list of teachers, coaches, and professionals who imparted their knowledge and invested in her. But, now she is focused on creating a unique musical and art world by Ganna Sorbat. And, having already recorded three CD's of diverse, original music, she is well on her way to her dream. She is quoted as saying "Now your heart is free, just open it for love." She invites us to listen for those lyrics in her song with the same name "Now Your Heart is Free."

## **SPECIAL GUEST - MAESTRO SERGEY CHIPENKO**

Sergey Chipenko was born in Russia in 1961. He graduated from the Moscow State Academy of Music named Gnessin, as a pianist, composer, and conductor. Sergey collaborated with internationally renowned legends Rudolf Nureyev, Dmitry Shostakovich, Shchedrin, Evgeny Svetlanov, Mstislav Rostropovich, Dmitry Kabalevsky, and Dora Schwartzberg.

Sergey Chipenko is an Honored Artist of Russia, Professor Emeritus. Sergey Chipenko was a leader and conductor of the chamber and symphony orchestra.

Twenty years ago, Sergey created a very successful and famous band «Trans-Atlantic». With «Trans-Atlantic» Sergey toured many countries of the world. Under Sergey's leadership, «Trans-Atlantic» became one the best Smooth Jazz bands in the world. Sergey composed music for the best Russian theaters. Also, Sergey wrote music to more than forty movies.

Diverse range of Sergey's talent is unique: symphonic, jazz, piano music...

Pianist, composer, and arranger Sergey Chipenko moved to the United States in 2012. Legendary jazz critic Don Heckman wrote about Sergey in The International Review of Music : "Pianist Sergei Chipenko, whose resume includes gigs with everyone from Jeff Lorber and David Sanborn to Dave Koz and Will Kennedy, displayed keen mastery of far-ranging jazz styles, moving easily from bebop to swing to stride and beyond"

Sergey Chipenko performs and collaborates with jazz legends such as - David Sanborn, David Mann, Nicky Richards, Phil Perry, Dave Koz, Brian Simpson, Richard Elliot, Mindi Abair, Eric Marienthal, Chuck Loeb, Jeff Lorber, Jimmy Haslip, Will Kennedy, Carlincia Peck, Brandon Fields, Bob McChasney, Joe DiBlasi, Ellis Hall, John Daversa, Michael Lington, William "Mickey" Stevenson, Raymond Brooks, Jacob Nakhman, and many others.



# THE GANNA SORBAT TRIO

## **GANNA SORBAT – Vocals and Piano**

### **PAUL ECKMAN – Bass**

Paul Eckman, originally from Pittsburgh, has been a professional musician and composer in Los Angeles for over 30 years. He has toured and recorded with artists including Jessie Baylin, Peter Case, Rick Vito, Trini Lopez, Connie Stevens, Jake LaBotz, Jeff Turmes, and many others.

Eckman is also the bandleader of Orchestra Superstring, a contemporary Latin jazz ensemble which has released two albums "Orchestra Superstring" and "Easy."

### **WILLIE McNEIL - Drums**

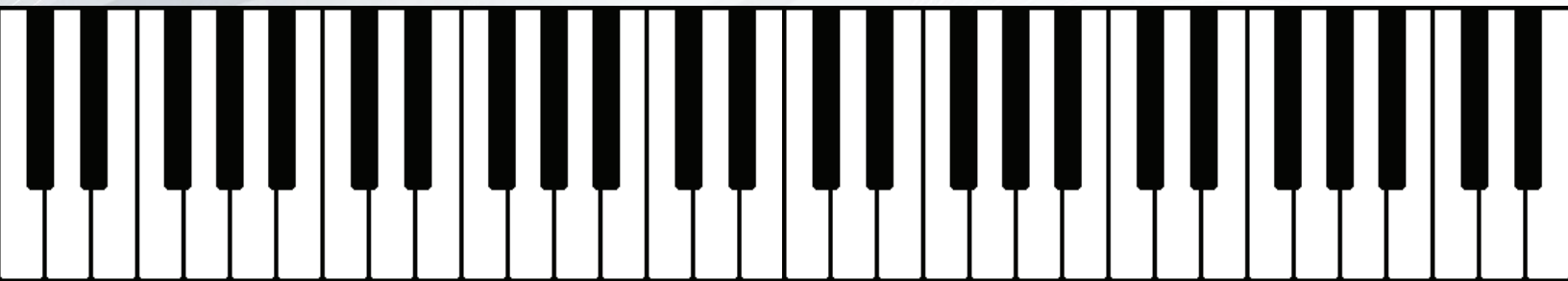
Willie McNeil is one of LA's most diversified percussionists. Having played professionally now for 36 years in Los Angeles, Willie has racked up quite a few credits. He's probably best known for his band The Solsonics and their critically acclaimed CD 'Jazz in the Present Tense', his long time partnership with Joey Altruda and their group Jump With Joey or his tenure as the musical director at the famous Los Angeles burlesque club Forty Deuce. But in whatever line up you know him from you'll always remember his style.

Willie has had two major record deals and one major publishing deal and has played over 100 shows a year for the past 25 years. He finds himself busy doing session work, usually for film, as well as public and private dates and international tours. He writes, sings, produces and even does some acting.

He has performed with acts as diverse as the rapper Guru, John Mayall (at age 21), Joe Strummer and Ernest Ranglin, to name a few. Willie has had a love affair with Latin music for some time and is now also known for his Cuban salsa group Sono-Lux and vintage mambo band Mambo Loco. However, he's probably best known for his facial expressions and his antics while drumming for the Forty Deuce Trio or his own burlesque group Big Willie's Burlesque.

Willie has been fortunate to have had many club residencies during his career. His group Big Willie's Burlesque has performed every other Thursday at the downtown L.A. club Edison for nine years. He has also created three burlesque shows for Houston Hospitality clubs, La Descarga, Harvard & Stone & No Vacancy. He currently works at La Descarga for seven years now and No Vacancy for four years. Willie is also a known fixture at the Fuji Rock Festival in Naeba, Japan and has performed there the last 12 years.

Willie's compounded experience in the music business over the past 36 years is irreplaceable, and makes him a valuable asset in any musical venture.





## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### CLOSING

## GANNA SORBAT'S ALBUMS

### THE RENAISSANCE

Original songs, music and lyrics produced by Ganna Sorbat

### REVELATION

Original songs, music and lyrics produced by Ganna Sorbat,  
including Frank Sinatra's song "I'm a fool to want you"

### THE WHEEL OF LIFE

Original songs, music and lyrics produced by Ganna Sorbat

CD'S AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AND PERSONALLY AUTOGRAPHED  
AT THE CONCLUSION OF CONCERT

**PACKAGE \$25 (3 CDS)  
SINGLE CDS \$10 EACH.**

On behalf of Ganna Sorbat, Carezma Entertainment Management would like to thank  
Holy Virgin Mary Russian Orthodox Cathedral and all of you for coming out this evening.  
We hope you enjoyed the show.

For more information on Ganna Sorbat, please call Robin Parker, CEO Carezma  
Entertainment 310- 895-5729 or visit the websites  
[www.carezma.com](http://www.carezma.com) or  
[gannasorbat.com](http://gannasorbat.com) or  
<https://www.facebook.com/gannacarezma/>



Special Thanks to Photography by Lilith Gerro and Family & Friends for their Support