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## **10 FAMOUS JUDGES TO SEARCH FOR “CLASSICAL” IDOLS AT THIRD ANNUAL JOSÉ ITURBI MUSIC COMPETITION AT UCLA JUNE 15-20**

LOS ANGELES, APRIL 15, 2009 -- Matthew Epstein, Daniel Pollack, Carol Vaness, Eduardo Delgado, Bruce Sutherland, Vladimir Viardo, Oxana Yablonska, Marvelee Cariaga, Sharon Daniels and Robin Thompson and have been confirmed as the 10 “world class” judges for The 2009 José Iturbi International Music Competition to take place June 15 – 20 in Los Angeles at UCLA’s Schoenberg Hall. Sponsors of the 2009 José Iturbi International Music Competition include The Beverly Hilton, California Bank and Trust, The Hollywood Museum and Steinway & Sons.

The José Iturbi Foundation’s competition awards the largest cash prizes (more than \$250,000) of any classical piano and singing competition worldwide. The contest is open to pianists and singers of any nationality who are 17 to 32 years old on June 1, 2009. Last year, there were applicants from 37 countries. Admission to the preliminary round of the competition will be limited to a maximum of 24 applicants in each category. 12 pianists and 12 singers will advance to the semi-final round and six singers and six pianists will compete in the final round.

“We’re delighted that ten world-class performers and educators will serve as the judges for the 2009 José Iturbi International Music Competition,” said Donelle Dadigan, President of the José Iturbi Foundation. “In addition to receiving international awards and acclaim as concert talent, each has trained and coached numerous students who have won major music competitions around the world. The José Iturbi Foundation is very excited to see who our judges will pick to be the next new talents in the world of classical music.”

The piano judges are:

**Daniel Pollack** (Chairman) – a major concert and recording artist, Tchaikovsky competition winner, judge of competitions worldwide, and master teacher and piano professor at USC and of international prize-winning pianists.

**Eduardo Delgado** – Argentinian prize-winning pianist and recording artist, was the recipient of the 1999 UNESCO medal for his contribution to music in his home country; serves on the faculty at Cal-State Fullerton.

**Bruce Sutherland** – concert pianist, composer – whose original work “Allegro Fanfara” was conducted by José Iturbi for its world premiere, teacher of international prize-winning pianists, once a student of Amparo Iturbi.

**Vladimir Viardo** – Soviet Gold Medal winner of the 1973 Van Cliburn Competition, recording artist, currently on faculty of the University of North Texas where he has trained laureates of the world’s major piano competitions.

**Oxana Yablonska** – elite piano virtuoso of the Soviet Union, three-time international piano competition winner, much-recorded pianist who won the Grand Prix du Disque from the International Liszt Society in Budapest, professor since 1983 at The Juilliard School of Music in New York.

The vocal judges are:

**Matthew Epstein** (Chairman) –currently Director of Columbia Artists Vocal, LLC, continuing a long tradition with Columbia Artists Management, LLC, which began in 1972, Artistic Director of Lyric Opera of Chicago from 1999 to 2005.

**Marvelee Cariaga** – Acclaimed singing actress with a mezzo-soprano voice, legendary performance as Magda Sorel in Gian Carlo Menotti’s “The Consul” broadcast on PBS-TV for the Spoleto Festival, recital tours of over 1,600 engagements with husband Daniel Cariaga at the piano.

**Sharon Daniels** – currently Director of the Opera Institute at Boston University, her voice studio has produced principal artists performing in every kind of principal venue nationally and internationally, sang principal soprano roles at New York City Opera, San Francisco Opera, and many others.

**Robin Thompson** – Producing Artistic Director of the New York City Opera, serves as the only American on the jury of the Hans Gabor Belvedere Singing Competition in Vienna, Austria, is on the jury of the Competizione dell’Opera in Italy.

**Carol Vaness** – currently Professor of Music with the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, performed at Metropolitan Opera 1984-2007 following New York City Opera (1979-1983), she has sung 364 performances of “Don Giovanni” in the world’s major opera houses.

Photos and biographies of the judges and competitors can be viewed at [www.joseiturbifoundation.org](http://www.joseiturbifoundation.org). Tickets are available at the UCLA Central Ticket Office (telephone: 310.825.2101). To go directly to the Iturbi ticket page at UCLA Central Ticket Office:

[http://www.ticketmaster.com/promo/aogg42?camefrom=CFC\\_UCLA\\_SPECIAL](http://www.ticketmaster.com/promo/aogg42?camefrom=CFC_UCLA_SPECIAL)

#### About the José Iturbi Foundation

The José Iturbi Foundation is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to continuing the legacy of concert great José Iturbi, and to fulfill his desire of bringing to the public’s attention today’s greatest emerging classical pianists and vocalists. The foundation’s goal is to globally expand the passion for classical music through dynamic competition and compelling live performance. The competition distinguishes itself by giving the largest cash prizes (\$50,000 each) for first place winners for solo piano and voice in the world.

One of the greatest concert pianists of his time, José Iturbi was also a composer, conductor and performer of international acclaim who starred as himself in seven MGM musicals including “Anchors Away” (1945) starring Frank Sinatra and Gene Kelly. He was the first classical musician to receive a Gold Record representing record sales in excess of one million and to receive a star on the world-famous Hollywood Boulevard Walk of Fame. Iturbi wanted classical music to be a more recognizable part of everyone’s entertainment. It was his hope that through live concerts, motion pictures, recordings, international competitions, and public forums, a larger number of people would learn to love classical music and attend live concert performances.

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