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Photo: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/512lgwfv7fgfg49/Gigi%20Sierra.jpg?dl=0>

Long Beach student to join Michael Feinstein in concert at Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall

Los Angeles, CA – Gwendolyn Sierra, of Long Beach, CA, will join multi-platinum selling, five-time Grammy-nominated entertainer Michael Feinstein for a Frank Sinatra centennial celebration at the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall in Costa Mesa. The event takes place Saturday, November 6, as a season kick-off event. The young singer was a national finalist in the 2015 Songbook Academy™, sponsored by the Great American Songbook Foundation.

Michael Feinstein founded the Great American Songbook Foundation in 2007 in order to preserve, promote, and perpetuate the music of the Great American Songbook to future generations. The work of the Songbook Foundation includes educational programming, a reference library, archive and gallery, the Great American Songbook Hall of Fame, and the annual high school Songbook Academy™.

"I created the Songbook Academy™ to foster young artists who have an interest in the American Songbook, which includes the music of classic Broadway, Jazz standards, and popular music. Through this program, we are reaching a new generation to teach the music of the American Songbook and the history that inspired and influenced its composers," said Michael Feinstein, founder of the program and the organization called the Great American Songbook Foundation.

Gwendolyn Sierra is a junior at Millikan High School in Long Beach, CA, where she is a member of the concert choir, a cappella group, play production class, and improv comedy team.

Michael Feinstein joins the Pacific Symphony to open their 2015-16 Pops season with a 'Sinatra Centennial' Celebration. The performances are scheduled for Friday, November 6, 2015 at 8:00 pm and Saturday, November 7, 2015 at 8:00 pm. Tickets may be purchased at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts at 615 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626, online at www.PacificSymphony.org, or by phone (714) 755-5788.

About Michael Feinstein

Michael Feinstein, the multi-platinum-selling, two-time Emmy and five-time Grammy Award-nominated entertainer dubbed “The Ambassador of the Great American Songbook,” is considered one of the premier interpreters of American standards. His 200-plus shows a year have included performances at Carnegie Hall, Sydney Opera House and the Hollywood Bowl as well as the White House and Buckingham Palace. Feinstein’s work has received national recognition for his commitment to celebrating America’s popular song and preserving its legacy for the next generation. He founded the Great American Songbook Foundation in 2007. Feinstein also serves as Artistic Director of the Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel, Indiana, which opened in January 2011.

The Songbook Academy™

Now in its seventh year, the Songbook Academy™ provides high school singers in grades 9-12 with the life-changing opportunity to work with music industry professionals and educators from top college arts programs to experience firsthand the uniquely American and culturally significant music known as the Great American Songbook.

The Songbook Academy™ is a celebration of the Golden Age of American Popular music. This program is the only high school music intensive in the U.S. dedicated solely to the music from Broadway, Hollywood musicals and the Tin Pan Alley era of the early to mid-twentieth century.

The Songbook Academy is designed to be a collaborative, rewarding, and fun experience for all participants. Students will have the opportunity to participate in workshops, one-on-one coaching sessions, and master classes with celebrity performers, music industry professionals, and educators from top college arts programs from across the country. The week’s events will culminate in a live show on July 23, 2016, at the Palladium in Carmel, IN, where award winners will be selected. For more information, visit www.TheSongbook.org.

The Great American Songbook Foundation

Michael Feinstein founded the Great American Songbook Foundation in 2007 in order to preserve, promote, and perpetuate the music of the Great American Songbook. The mission of the Foundation is to inspire and educate by celebrating the Great American Songbook. The Foundation is housed on the campus of the Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel, Indiana. The work of the Foundation includes:

- High School Songbook Academy™
- Educational programming
- Library, Archives, and Gallery Exhibits
- Great American Songbook Hall of Fame

To learn more, visit: www.TheSongbook.org

About Pacific Symphony

Pacific Symphony, currently in its 37th season, is led by [Music Director Carl St.Clair](#), who celebrates his 26th season with the orchestra in 2015-16. The largest orchestra formed in the U.S. in the last 50 years, the Symphony is recognized as an outstanding ensemble making strides on both the national and international scene, as well as in its own community of Orange County. Presenting more than 100 concerts and events a year and a rich array of education and community programs, the Symphony reaches more than 275,000 residents—from school children to senior citizens.

*The mission of the Great American Songbook Foundation is to inspire and educate
by celebrating the Great American Songbook.*

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