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**CHRIS NOTH FROM *SEX AND THE CITY* AND *THE GOOD WIFE*  
NARRATES AARON COPLAND'S *LINCOLN PORTRAIT* JULY 24 AT GRAND FINALE  
FOR *SUMMER & THE SYMPHONY* SERIES**

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**WHAT:** Actor [Chris Noth](#) (*Sex and the City*, *The Good Wife*) will narrate Aaron Copland's *Lincoln Portrait* as part of the San Francisco Symphony's all-American *Summer & the Symphony* Grand Finale concert Saturday, July 24. Rising Mexican conductor [Alondra de la Parra](#) leads the Orchestra at 8 p.m. in Davies Symphony Hall. The program includes pianist [Sara Davis Buechner](#) performing the original jazz band version of Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*, and members of the UC Berkeley Marching Band in Meredith Willson's *Seventy-Six Trombones*. The Orchestra will also perform John Adams's *Short Ride in a Fast Machine*, Copland's Three Latin-American Sketches, Gershwin's *Strike Up the Band*, and Charles Ives's *The Unanswered Question* and *Variations on America*. [The Martini Brothers](#) will play their signature brand of 30s, 40s and 50s big band swing in the Davies Symphony Hall lobby for dancing before the concert and during intermission.

Conductor [Alondra de la Parra](#) holds the distinction of being the first woman from Mexico to conduct in New York City and has taken on the role of Cultural Ambassador for Mexican Tourism. De la Parra made her San Francisco Symphony conducting debut at the 2009 *Día de los Muertos* Family Concert. She also leads SF Symphony concerts on July 22 and 23 in Davies Symphony Hall and a free concert in Dolores Park July 25. At age 23, in 2004, she founded the [Philharmonic Orchestra of the Americas](#), drawing her inspiration from El Sistema, the Venezuelan national system of youth and training orchestras that gave rise to Los Angeles Philharmonic Music Director Gustavo Dudamel. In 2000 de la Parra moved to New York City, where she earned her Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance and her Master of Music degree in conducting from the Manhattan School of Music. For the past seven years she has studied conducting with her mentor, Kenneth Kiesler. De la Parra has also been coached by Marin Alsop and Charles Dutoit. In August, her debut CD with the Philharmonic Orchestra of the Americas, *Mi Alma Mexicana*, will be released on Sony.

Actor [Chris Noth](#) recently reprised his Golden Globe-nominated role as "Mr. Big" in the box office feature *Sex and the City 2*, based upon the award-winning HBO series. On the small screen, Noth is currently co-starring with Julianna Margulies in the hit CBS drama *The Good Wife* as the errant politician husband. He played the role of Detective Mike Logan on *Law & Order: Criminal Intent*, a character he originated on *Law & Order* and portrayed on that show for five seasons.

In addition to numerous film and television projects, Noth continues to work in the theater. He performed in Beau Willimon's play *Farragut North*, originating at New York's Atlantic Theater Company, and then again at the Geffen Theater in Los Angeles. He received the 2001 Theater World Award for his performance in the successful Broadway run of the revival of Gore Vidal's *The Best Man*, and appeared in Christopher Shinn's *What Didn't Happen* at New York's Playwright's Horizons. He also received rave reviews as Teach in *American Buffalo* at the Berkshire Theater Festival. Noth received his MFA from the Yale School of Drama.

Pianist [Sara Davis Buechner](#) has an active repertoire of nearly 100 piano concertos ranging from Bach to Wuorinen. In 1990 she performed Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 24 with the San Francisco Symphony and conductor Nicholas McGegan. Buechner has appeared as a soloist with several of the other most prominent orchestras in the United States, including the New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, and Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra. Buechner is Associate Professor of Piano and Piano Literature at the University of British Columbia.

The [UC Berkeley Marching Band](#) is one of the oldest college marching bands on the West Coast, with over 100 years of tradition. The current Cal Band, under the baton of Robert Calonico, boasts a membership of over 200 students, and is one of the few bands in the nation and in the Pac-10 Conference that still [marches in the traditional and demanding high-step form](#).

**WHO:** [Alondra de la Parra](#), conductor  
[Chris Noth](#), narrator  
[Sara Davis Buechner](#), piano  
Members of the [UC Berkeley Marching Band](#), special guests  
San Francisco Symphony

**PROGRAM:** John Adams / *Short Ride in a Fast Machine (Fanfare for Great Woods)*  
Copland / Three Latin-American Sketches  
Ives / *The Unanswered Question*  
Copland / *Lincoln Portrait*  
Ives / *Variations on America*  
Gershwin / *Rhapsody in Blue* (original jazz band version)  
Gershwin / *Strike Up the Band*  
Willson / *Seventy-Six Trombones*

**TICKETS:** \$15-\$90; 17 & under half-price. Tickets are available at [sfsymphony.org](http://sfsymphony.org), by phone at 415-864-6000, and at the Box Office at Davies Symphony Hall, on Grove Street between Van Ness Avenue and Franklin Street in San Francisco.

*These concerts are made possible by Chevron, Lead Sponsor of Summer & the Symphony.*

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