



October 17

Friday

8PM

Randy Newman, solo

Davies Symphony Hall

"One of the great American songwriters"
—*Boston Globe*

Offering an incisive and sometimes caustic take on contemporary American life, Randy Newman brings a menagerie of characters to life in his celebrated songs. His knack for storytelling has made him Hollywood's favorite tunesmith, an Oscar-winning composer whose music has played an essential role in more than a dozen hit films including *The Natural*, *Monsters, Inc.*, and *Toy Story*. Everyone from Ray Charles and Etta James to Peggy Lee and Dusty Springfield has recorded his music, but Newman is his own best interpreter. In this rare solo concert, he will perform selections from his acclaimed repertoire, which includes songs like "Sail Away," "Political Science," and the recent "A Few Words in Defense of Our Country," as well as works from his new Nonesuch release, *Harps and Angels*.

With a career spanning more than four decades, Newman has produced a catalog of songs marked by biting wit and broad satire. The fact that his music is so well suited for movies should come as no surprise. Three of his uncles, nine-time Oscar winner Alfred Newman, Lionel Newman and Emil Newman, were esteemed Hollywood composers, and today his nephew Joey Newman and cousins Thomas Montgomery Newman and David Newman are successful film and television composers. Raised as a child in New Orleans, he absorbed the city's rhythms and cadences. It's no coincidence that his song "Louisiana, 1927," from his landmark 1974 album *Good Old Boys*, became an anthem for New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

RANDY NEWMAN

Randy Newman piano

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WESTON PRESIDIO



October 18

Saturday

8PM

Max Raabe and Palast Orchester

Paramount Theatre

"A wisened-up adult choirboy
with a slightly seductive glint in his eye"
—*The New York Times*

Walking a narrow line between sublime musicality and madcap kitsch, German vocalist Max Raabe is a conservatory-trained baritone besotted with his native country's Weimar-era cabaret sound exemplified by the Comedian Harmonists. While he interprets hits from the 1920s and early '30s, Raabe also writes original songs and reinvents modern tunes in a retro style, such as Britney Spears' "Oops!...I Did It Again" and Tom Jones' "Sex Bomb." The results are dizzying, delightful and devilishly catchy.

Backed by his polished 12-piece orchestra, Raabe possesses a supremely flexible voice, full and resonant in lower registers and pure and clear in his falsetto range. Looking like he stepped out of an Art Deco poster, complete with tuxedo and slicked back hair, Raabe is a consummate artist who transforms artifacts from Weimar-era Berlin's brief jazz-infused cultural flowering into strangely resonant contemporary vehicles. His ironic sensibility is true both to the material, whose creators were soon to be scattered and hunted by the Nazis, and our present era.

Ultimately, Raabe is a master entertainer who has performed with his orchestra at concert halls around the world. His latest show is "Tonight or Never," featuring songs by signature Weimar-era composers such as Mischa Spoliansky, Fritz Kreisler and Kurt Weill. In introducing this oft-forgotten repertoire to new generations, Raabe perpetuates a stylish victory over the forces that sought to banish and destroy the "decadent" music's skewed humor and mocking irony.

MAX RAABE & PALAST ORCHESTER

Max Raabe vocals

Cecilia Crisafulli violin

Thomas Huderv trumpet, vocals

Michael Enders trumpet, vocals

Jörn Ranke trombone, viola, vocals

Bernd Frank tenor saxophone, clarinet

Johannes Ernst alto saxophone, clarinet

Sven Bährens alto saxophone, clarinet

Rainer Fox baritone saxophone, bass saxophone, clarinet, vocals

Vincent Riewe drums, percussion

Bernd Hugo Dieterich bass, sousaphone

Ulrich Hoffmeier guitar, banjo, violin

Ian Wekwerth piano

Bernd Frank musical director

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