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OAKLAND SYMPHONY CLOSSES SEASON WITH CONCERT VERSION OF *GUYS AND DOLLS*

FRIDAY, MAY 19, AT THE PARAMOUNT THEATRE

Oakland, CA, March 13, 2017 – Continuing its long-standing and popular American Masterworks series exploring important works of musical theater, the **Oakland Symphony** will close its 2016-2017 season with a concert version of the 1950 Tony-Award winning *Guys and Dolls* with music by **Frank Loesser** and book by **Jo Swerling** and **Abe Burrows** Friday, May 19, at 8 pm at the Paramount Theatre in Oakland. Conducted by Music Director **Michael Morgan**, the performance will feature the Oakland Symphony, members of the **Oakland Symphony Chorus**, **Lynne Morrow**, Director; and singers **Ben Jones**, **Annie Sherman**, **Tami Dahbura**, **J. Raymond Meyers**, **Adam Flowers** and **Blake Cline**. The evening will also feature **Brian Nies** conducting Richard Rodgers' Overture to *Oklahoma* and Waltz from *Carousel* and Jule Styne's Overture to *Gypsy*. A pre-performance talk will be given by **John Kendall Bailey** at 7 pm and is free to ticket holders. The performance is sponsored in part by Bell Investment Advisors. Tickets are priced \$25-\$80 and may be purchased at www.oaklandsymphony.org.

"This has always been one of my favorite musicals and considered by many a great one," says Music Director Michael Morgan. "It was only after I started talking about including it as an American Masterwork that I learned how very many fans the piece has amongst the public. I am happy to be able to share my admiration of the piece with the symphony audience. It's also just plain fun."

From Charlie Samson's program notes: *Guys and Dolls* was the brainchild of producers Cy Feuer and Ernest Martin, who thought Damon Runyon's short stories could be adapted as a musical. They hired Frank Loesser as composer and lyricist, and George S. Kaufman as director. The first version of the show's book was deemed unusable, so radio comedy writer Abe Burrows was asked to write a new version. By then Loesser had already written much of the score to the first version. As Burrows later recalled: "Loesser's fourteen songs were all great, and the [new book] had to be written so that the story would lead into each of them. Later on, the critics spoke of the show as 'integrated'. The word integration usually means that the composer has written songs that follow the storyline gracefully. Well, we accomplished that but we did it in reverse."

The musical premiered at the 46th Street Theatre in New York on November 24, 1950. It starred Robert Alda as Sky Masterson, Sam Levene as Nathan Detroit, Isabel Bigley as Sarah Brown, and Vivian Blaine as Miss Adelaide. The reviews were enthusiastic and the show ran for 1200 performances and won the Tony Award for Best Musical. It would have won the 1951 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, but Abe Burrows's troubles with the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC), prompted the Trustees of Columbia University to veto the selection, and no Pulitzer for Drama was awarded that year. The 1955 film adaptation starred Marlon Brando, Jean Simmons, Frank Sinatra and Vivian Blaine.

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WHO: Oakland Symphony conducted by Michael Morgan; Oakland Symphony Chorus, Ben Jones, Annie Sherman, Tami Dahbura, J. Raymond Meyers, Adam Flowers and Blake Cline.

WHAT: Concert version of *Guys and Dolls* with music by Frank Loesser and book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows

WHEN: Friday, May 19, at 8 pm

WHERE: Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland.

PROGRAM: Concert version of *Guys and Dolls* plus Brian Nies conducting Richard Rodgers' Overture to *Oklahoma* and Waltz from *Carousel* and Jule Styne's Overture to *Gypsy*.

TICKETS/INFO: \$25-\$80 www.oaklandsymphony.org.