

# In Pasadena

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## 'Harry Who?' musical set at Ambassador

### From the Ambassador Foundation

The Ambassador Foundation and Theaters of Vision Productions are proud to present "Harry Who?" — featuring the toe-tapping, nostalgic rhythms of famed composer Harry Warren.

Music will be performed by the Theaters of Vision All-Star Community Orchestra and a large, talented cast.

This live stage musical production will take place at the historic Ambassador Auditorium on April 24.

There will be two performances, at 2 and 8 p.m. The Ambassador Auditorium is located at 131 S. St. John Ave., Pasadena.

Ticket prices range from \$15 to \$40. Discounts are available for children, seniors and groups.

With more than 800 published songs and several Academy Awards, Harry Warren's music has been heard throughout the world and many of the great songs we all love today are his creations.

Warren's hits are legendary — "At Last," "Serenade in Blue," "I Found a Million Dollar Baby," "Don't Give Up the Ship," "Stanley Steamer," "42nd Street," "Shuffle Off to Buffalo," "You Must Have Been a Beautiful Baby," "We're in the



Money," "Jeepers Creepers," "Chattanooga Choo Choo," "For a Buck and a Quarter a Day," "I Only Have Eyes for You," and many more. And all were written for classic films produced by Paramount, MGM, Fox and Warner Bros. during the 1930s & 40s.

In the elegant, Art Deco ambiance clad with white gloves, top hats and tails and against a backdrop of major historic events in Pasadena during that era, the Theaters of Vision orchestra and cast will perform many of Warren's award-winning numbers to the arrangements of Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, to name a few.

They will take the audience on a journey that highlights classic films, the war years and famous Hollywood personalities.

This event is an outreach to the San Gabriel Valley community. The orchestra will be featured on stage in true Big Band style. The talented musicians are from high schools and colleges all over the San Gabriel Valley.

A portion of the production proceeds

will go to benefit the participating high school and college orchestra and music departments.

The Ambassador Foundation has been in Pasadena since 2004, providing a magnificent venue, the Ambassador Auditorium, for orchestras and the performing arts over the last five years.

The auditorium is known as "The Carnegie Hall of the West." The foundation's portion of the net proceeds will support and benefit its ongoing building fund for maintenance and repair so this wonderful venue will be available to Pasadena as a landmark performing arts theater for many years to come.

Supporting local talent with a professional performing experience, giving back to the orchestra/music departments of the participating schools and colleges, providing a beautiful venue in which to perform, and reaching out into the community with a spectacular show, is what the foundation is all about.

Please join us and many other organizations in the Pasadena area to provide opportunities for the advancement and enhancement of the performing arts.

Tickets are now available. For reservations, go to [www.harrywho.org](http://www.harrywho.org) or call (800) 595-4849.

## Warren was right at home in Pasadena

### From The Ambassador Foundation

PASADENA — A stage musical is spotlighting the toe-tapping tunes of Harry Warren, who just so happened to pen the classic love song, "At Last," made famous by Etta James.

That's the conclusion Lani Ridley Pedrini came to when she was assembling a show titled "Music Is Magic" about a year ago. That musical became "Harry Who?"

"A friend who was working with me found 'Home in Pasadena' by Harry Warren, and it's not every day that you find a composer who wrote about Pasadena," Pedrini recalled. "Then we started researching Pasadena history, and found some interesting events, some known and some were real surprises, that took place in the '30s and '40s, so we're including those as a backdrop for 'Harry Who?'"

In fact, "Home in Pasadena" will be the opening number of Pedrini's musical tribute to the composer, his time, and the city of Pasadena.

This is the second musical Pedrini has produced at the Ambassador Auditorium, following the success of last April's highly acclaimed "The Wizard of Oz."

"This is a community outreach to music departments, while at the same time giving back to our local schools, which is the new element of the Theaters of Vision All Star Community Orchestra Gift of Music Experience Program," Pedrini said. "A portion of the show's proceeds will be



PEDRINI

donated to schools where our musicians attend (including Pasadena High School, South Pasadena High School, Arcadia High School, John Muir High, Monrovia High School, Polytechnic, Marshall Fundamental, Temple City High School, Pasadena City College, Cal State Los Angeles, and others). And this is a great opportunity for the students to have a lot of fun while they learn about Harry Warren and Hollywood's golden era.

"This is a mentoring program that brings six musicians and a professional conductor together with 30 student musicians (and hopeful arrangers/composers) from 10 schools and colleges."

Pedrini's co-chair and the orchestra's conductor is David Miller, orchestra director and recipient of much acclaim for his work with the Pasadena High School music department. Harry Who? choreographer is Pam Kay, leader of the popular Tap Chicks, who will be kicking up their heels in the production.

Just as those Hollywood extravaganzas featured huge casts, so will Harry Who? with the talents of Towne Singers, Brighter Side Singers, Centre Stage Productions, Inc.; TOVP Dancers, Rose City Ballroom

(with choreographer Christian Perry of Dancing with the Stars), SambaLa Samba Dance Academy, Sisters of Swing, and more.

Another beneficiary of proceeds from Harry Who? will be the Ambassador Foundation.

"This is sort of the Ambassador Foundation's debut event," Pedrini said. "The Foundation supports Ambassador Auditorium so it may continue to be a premiere venue for performances in Southern California. We plan to present other productions at Ambassador because this is a really great fit for both Theaters of Vision Productions and the Ambassador Foundation."

For more information or to reserve tickets, visit [www.harrywho.org](http://www.harrywho.org)