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Bear Valley Tunes Up for 38th Music Season

BEAR VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, May 8, 2006– Symphonies at 7000 feet? Absolutely! As well as rock, opera, show tunes, jazz, pop and country/western music.

The Bear Valley Music Festival, held annually over a two-week period, opens with “The Temptations” Review on Saturday, July 29. Its setting is in this idyllic mountain hamlet located east of Murphys and Arnold on the Hwy. 4 approach to Ebbetts Pass. Now in its 38th year, the festival has become a signature activity of summer in eastern California. Indeed, it’s been voted the best summer attraction in the central Sierra.

High-Altitude Symphonies

Noted maestro Carter Nice conducts the 65-piece symphony orchestrathe highlight of the event. Most performances are in the evening, and instill priceless memories of crisp, pine-scented mountain air, a canopy of stars, and the melodies of such recent performers as The Supremes, Ramsey Lewis, The 5th Dimension, and violinist Stephanie Chase.

A spacious performance tent with seating for up to 1250 also houses a covered courtyard with an art exhibit, concessions and wine bar. A unique bond is forged between the musicians and the audience, since the performers live in the homes of local residents while they rehearse and perform throughout the two-week event.

“Each year our event attracts more Central California and Bay Area attendees”, says festival president, Randy Hanvelt. “Many of them make the festival the centerpiece of their Sierra vacation. They hike, fish, and tour wineries during the day, then enjoy music festival events in the evenings.” Overnight guests can choose from a variety of lodging choices within a few miles of Bear Valley. Many arrive early for evening performances to enjoy tailgate dinners in the mountain sunsets.

Headliners on the 2006 Program

This year’s event kicks off with “**The Temptations**” Review with Dennis Edwards on Saturday evening, July 29. In addition to several symphony

evenings, other performances include “**Broadway Pops**” show tunes (Aug. 3), **Julia Dollison** (Aug. 4), pianist **Joyce Yang** (Aug. 5) and “**Madame Butterfly**” opera (Aug. 12). Again this season, two performances, including the opera on Aug. 10, also will be held in the Sonora Opera Hall.

Former lead singer for **The Temptations**, Dennis Edwards, heads up the opening performance. Hits like “I Can’t Get Next To You”, and “Papa Was A Rolling Stone” led to his being awarded 14 Gold Albums, Five Grammy's and Seven Grammy nominations. He was also inducted into the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame in 1989.

In selecting its performers, the festival prides itself in featuring top-level musical talent. Attendees come to enjoy the music, the wine, the food, and the camaraderie -- to hear their favorite songs and discover new music, masterfully performed.

“I think it’s our lovely mountain venue that sets us apart from other music festivals,” says festival president, Hanvelt. “People come to really enjoy the combination of the area’s pristine natural beauty and wonderful melodies resounding through the hills”.

The festival’s full performance schedule and ticket information can be found at www.bearvalleymusic.org. Or by calling (209)753-2574, or toll free at (800)458-1618.

Festival Performance Summary:

- July 29 – “The Temptations” Review
- July 30 – “Southern Gospel Jubilee”
- August 2 – “Broadway Pops” show tunes
- August 3 – Gordy Ohliger, banjo-ologist
- August 4 – Julia Dollison, jazz singer
- August 5 – Symphony orchestra/Joyce Yang
- August 6 – Symphony orchestra/Joyce Yang
- August 8 – Art and chamber music
- August 9 – County Line Trio
- August 10 – John Corbett Band
- August 11 – Symphony orchestra/ brass and strings
- August 12 – Madame Butterfly opera
- August 13 – Symphony orchestra, Kristina Cooper

Photo Caption: For classical performances at the festival, Carter Nice conducts the 65-piece Bear Valley symphony orchestra.
