

JUNE 11-14, 2009
OJAI MUSIC FESTIVAL
THOMAS W. MORRIS, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

For Immediate Release

**OJAI MUSIC FESTIVAL LEGACY LUNCH FEATURES AUTHOR STEVE LOPEZ
("THE SOLOIST") AT THE RANCH HOUSE SATURDAY, JUNE 13**

(May 8, 2009) -- On Saturday, June 13, the Ojai Music Festival will host a Festival Legacy Lunch at the Ranch House, one of Ventura County's finest restaurants, featuring guest speaker *Los Angeles Times* columnist Steve Lopez, whose recent book "The Soloist" published by Berkley Books, was made into a film starring Jamie Foxx and Robert Downey, Jr. Mr. Lopez's appearance is courtesy of Penguin Group (USA), the book vendor at the Ojai Music Festival.

Moderated by *Los Angeles Times* Music Critic Mark Swed, the Festival Legacy Lunch begins at 1 p.m. Over lunch, Mr. Lopez will talk about his first encounter with Nathaniel Ayers, a former Juilliard student, who was playing his heart out on a two-string violin on Los Angeles's Skid Row, and how deeply affected by his music, Mr. Lopez set out to change Mr. Ayers's life, only to discover the profound changes their relationship brought about in his own life. Tickets for the Festival Lunch only are \$40.

A special Legacy Lunch package is also available. In addition to lunch at the Ranch House, the package will include a copy of "The Soloist" signed by Mr. Lopez plus a ticket to the 11 a.m. Ojai Music Festival recital by American pianist Jeremy Denk in the Libbey Bowl, where Mr. Denk will perform an unusual program, pairing Bach's *Goldberg Variations* with Charles Ives's Sonata No. 1. Tickets for the Festival Legacy Lunch package, including the 11 a.m. performance, the 1 p.m. Ranch House lunch and talk by Steve Lopez, and a signed copy of "The Soloist", are \$90.

Tickets for the lunch only or the special Legacy Lunch package are available by calling 805-646-2094 or by visiting the Ojai Music Festival Web site at ojaifestival.org.

Steve Lopez joined the staff of the *Los Angeles Times* in May 2001 after four years at *Time, Inc.* He has also written for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, the *San Jose Mercury News*, the *Oakland*

Tribune, and has won numerous awards for his columns and magazine reporting. A California native, Mr. Lopez is the author of three novels, and “The Soloist,” a book of non-fiction, based on the columns he wrote for the *Times* about his friendship with Nathaniel Ayers.

Pianist **Jeremy Denk** commands a broad and challenging solo and chamber music repertoire ranging from J. S. Bach, through Schubert, Schumann, Rachmaninoff, Messiaen, and Bartok, to Tobias Picker. Mr. Denk earned a Master’s degree from Juilliard and is a double-degree graduate of Oberlin College and Conservatory in chemistry and piano. Mr. Denk is an avid chamber music artist and is well known for his uniquely original programming. Jeremy Denk writes about “the glamorous life and thoughts of a concert pianist” at “Think Denk,” his popular blog.

The 63rd annual Ojai Music Festival, under 2009 Music Director eighth blackbird, takes place from June 11 to June 14. The Festival, which for six decades has become well known for its fearlessness in championing pioneering musical ideas and personalities, takes place in the unspoiled beauty of California’s Ojai Valley, and is known worldwide for providing artists with the freedom to present music they are passionate about. Ojai Music Festival single tickets range from \$35 to \$95 for reserved seating; lawn seats are \$15. For a full schedule of events, visit www.ojaifestival.org

Saturday, June 13

Festival Legacy Lunch

Moderator: Mark Swed, Los Angeles Times Music Critic

1 p.m. Talk by Steve Lopez over lunch at Ojai’s Ranch House, 500 South Lomita Ave

Tickets for the Festival Legacy Lunch are \$40.

Tickets for the special Festival Legacy Lunch package, including the 11 a.m. Jeremy Denk recital, the 1 p.m. Ranch House lunch, and a signed copy of “The Soloist,” are \$90. All tickets are available by calling 805-646-2094 or by visiting the Ojai Music Festival Web site at ojaifestival.org.

May 6, 2009