La Dolce Vita: The Music of Italian Cinema
with the New York Philharmonic
Featuring Joshua Bell, Renée Fleming and Josh Groban
on THIRTEEN’s Great Performances
Friday, February 27 at 9 p.m. on PBS

Conducted by Music Director Alan Gilbert, selections include
music by Nino Rota, Ennio Morricone, Luis Bacalov, and Others

Dawning in the dark aftermath of World War II, the fertile mid-century decades of Italian cinema delighted international movie audiences with an eclectic mix of movie classics from groundbreaking directors including Fredericko Fellini, Luchino Visconti, Sergio Leone and many more. A major component of Italian cinema’s enduring popularity continues to be a lush selection of sweeping film scores by composers like Nino Rota and Ennio Morricone.
Featuring Josh Groban, Renée Fleming and Joshua Bell, Great Performances partners with the New York Philharmonic and music director Alan Gilbert for a concert of memorable movie themes with music from Amarcord, Cinema Paradiso, Il Postino, and more.

La Dolce Vita: The Music of Italian Cinema will air on THIRTEEN’S Great Performances Friday, February 27, 2015 at 9 p.m. (Check local listings.)

“There’s so much great music written for film, and to hear it played live by the New York Philharmonic is an amazing experience,” Music Director Alan Gilbert said. “The best film music is expressive and dramatic, which are the qualities that you look for all the time in music. The chance to make it come alive and paint pictures for the audiences is something I relish and love.”

Presented in collaboration with Sugarmusic, the concert – taped in September -- includes video projection combining animated graphics and film clips designed by visual artist Giuseppe Ragazzini, under the direction of Giampiero Solari, and historical footage from Istituto Luce Cinecittà.

The program features suites and famous songs, many newly arranged and orchestrated by music consultant William Ross, from Academy Award–winning films including Federico Fellini’s 8½ and La Dolce Vita; Sergio Leone’s Once Upon a Time in the West; and Giuseppe Tornatore’s Cinema Paradiso. For the program’s creation, Sugarmusic made available its catalog of more than 2,000 Italian film sound tracks.

Together, Joshua Bell and Josh Groban previously performed and recorded the title song from Cinema Paradiso as well as Mi Mancherai from Luis Bacalov’s Academy Award–winning score to Michael Radford’s Il Postino. Ms. Fleming is featured in the Sony album We All Love Ennio Morricone, and has appeared on numerous sound tracks, including Steven Spielberg’s adaptation of Hergé’s The Adventures of Tintin as a comical Italian opera diva, Immortal Beloved, The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King, Closer, and Rise of the Guardians.

The musical program follows below:

ROTA/Arr. and Orch. W. Ross
Theme from Amarcord

Stelvio CIPRIANI/Arr. and Orch. W. Ross
Suite from The Anonymous Venetian

ROTA/Arr. and Orch. W. Ross
Suite from La Dolce Vita

Ennio MORRICONE/Arr. and Orch. W. Ross
“Your Love” from Once Upon a Time in the West
ROTA/Orch. F. Gurian
Valzer del Commiato from The Leopard

Ennio MORRICONE/Arr. and Orch. W. Ross
"Non Penso a Te" from Incontro

Luis BACALOV/Arr. and Orch. W. Ross
Suite from City of Women

TROVAJOLI/Arr. and Orch. W. Ross
Suite from Profumo di Donna

ORTOLANI & OLIVIERO/Arr. and Orch. W. Ross
Theme from Mondo cane

ROTA/Arr. and Orch. W. Ross
Suite from Juliet of the Spirits

Andrea and Ennio MORRICONE/
“Se” from Cinema Paradiso
Arr. and Orch. W. Ross

ROTA/Arr. and Orch. W. Ross
Suite from 8½

Luis BACALOV/Arr. and Orch. W. Ross
“Mi Mancherai” from Il Postino

A production of THIRTEEN Productions LLC for WNET, La Dolce Vita: The Music of Italian Cinema is directed for television by David Horn and produced by Mitch Owgang and Richard R. Schilling. For Great Performances, Bill O’Donnell is series producer and David Horn is executive producer.

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Visit Great Performances Online at www.pbs.org/gperf for additional information about this and other programs.

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