

BERKELEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



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Kent Nagano • Music Director

James A. Kleinmann • Executive Director

For Immediate Release

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**BERKELEY SYMPHONY WELCOMES
JAMES A. KLEINMANN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

BERKELEY, CA – September 22, 2006... The Berkeley Symphony has named **James A. Kleinmann** as Executive Director. A Berkeley resident, Kleinmann brings to the post a varied background as administrator for several prominent Bay Area arts organizations. He assumed leadership of the organization effective September 18, succeeding June Wiley who had occupied the position on an interim basis.

Kleinmann had most recently served as Managing Director of San Francisco's **Smuin Ballet**, where he initiated successful subscription-based seasons in San Francisco, Mountain View, Walnut Creek, and Carmel, building the subscriber base from zero to over 4,000 in four years. Previously, he was Managing Director of the **Marin Theatre Company** and of **A Traveling Jewish Theatre**, where he oversaw a successful capital campaign to build a permanent home for the company. Kleinmann is also founder and artistic director of **PlayGround**, a playwright development program supporting Bay Area emerging writers. A graduate of Brown University and the Yale School of Drama, he began his arts management career in the development office of the **New York Philharmonic**.

"I feel I've come full circle, returning to my first love of symphonic music," Kleinmann explained. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to partner with a music director of Maestro Nagano's caliber and look forward to working with the board, staff, musicians and community to expand upon the legacy of the Berkeley Symphony."

Kathleen G. Henschel, Board President, welcomed Kleinmann, saying "the whole board is excited about Jim's appointment. He brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience in the Bay Area arts scene."

Music Director Kent Nagano, who had the opportunity to meet with each of the final candidates, stated "I am delighted that Jim is coming on board and feel that a very real opportunity for evolution and development lies ahead for the Berkeley Symphony."

The Berkeley Symphony's 2006-07 season under the direction of Music Director Kent Nagano opens Thursday, December 14, at 8 P.M. at UC Berkeley Zellerbach Hall. The program features three miniatures by the Estonian composer Arvo Pärt, followed by the Symphony No. 7 (*Leningrad*) by Dmitri Shostakovich. For more information, visit www.berkeleysymphony.org or call 510-841-2800.

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