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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Kent Nagano and Berkeley Symphony Announce 2007-08 Season**

### **Hugh Wolff, Guillermo Figueroa, Laura Jackson Guest Conduct Nagano Launches Berkeley Academy Ensemble**

BERKELEY, CA – April 19, 2007... Music Director Kent Nagano today announced plans for Berkeley Symphony's 2007-08 season. Three guest conductors – Hugh Wolff, Guillermo Figueroa, and Laura Jackson – represent the beginning of a 2-year search to identify a successor when Nagano transitions from Music Director to Conductor Laureate at the end of his 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary season in 2009. This season also includes the debut of Berkeley Academy Ensemble under the direction of Maestro Nagano and concertmaster Stuart Canin, as well as the expansion of the *Under Construction* new music series. Season subscriptions (4-concert introductory packages start at \$80) are available by calling 510-841-2800 or online at [www.berkeleysymphony.org](http://www.berkeleysymphony.org). Single tickets for all concerts go on sale Sept. 1, 2007.

Maestro Nagano opens the Berkeley Symphony season on **Thursday, January 31** at Zellerbach Hall. Featured soloist is pianist Momo Kodama, premiering a concerto written for her by Toshio Hosokawa. Hugh Wolff, formerly Music Director of the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, leads the orchestra on **Thursday, February 21**. The program opens with the West Coast premiere of *Overture in Feet and Meters* by Aaron Jay Kernis, followed by Osvaldo Golijov's *Night of the Flying Horses* with soprano Heidi Melton.

Guillermo Figueroa, Music Director of both the New Mexico and Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestras, conducts a program on **Thursday, March 13**, which includes Roberto Sierra's *Borikén*, commissioned for the Casals Music Festival in Puerto Rico in 2006. Laura Jackson, American Symphony Orchestra League Conducting Fellow with the Atlanta Symphony, leads the final performance of the Zellerbach Hall series on **Wednesday, April 2**. The program includes the West Coast premiere of Susan Botti's *Translucence*, commissioned while Botti was in residence with The Cleveland Orchestra.

Berkeley Symphony's newest artistic initiative, **Berkeley Academy Ensemble**, will explore literature for smaller groups performed in intimate venues. The two debut performances on **Sunday, December 16** and **Thursday, May 1** will bookend the main Berkeley Symphony season and feature works by Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, and Strauss. Stuart Canin will lead the first half of each program from the concertmaster chair, with Nagano leading the final selections. Nagano will continue to serve as Music Director of Berkeley Academy Ensemble upon the completion of his tenure with Berkeley Symphony.

In conjunction with the season's three guest conductor residencies, Berkeley Symphony will expand its signature *Under Construction* series of new music readings. Six composers will be selected to have works developed over the course of the season's three events. Berkeley Symphony will also expand its community presence performing in four **Cal Performances** dance programs: Mark Morris Dance Group, Sept. 20-23 and Dec. 14-23, 2007; American Ballet Theatre Nov. 7-11, 2007; and the Georgian State Ballet, Feb. 14-17, 2008. Berkeley Symphony's **Music Education Program** concerts in the Berkeley public schools will be conducted by Ming Luke, Conductor/General Director of the Napa Valley Youth Symphony and Assistant Conductor of the Sacramento Philharmonic.

## Conductor Biographies

### Hugh Wolff

The American conductor Hugh Wolff began his professional career as Associate Conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra of Washington under Mstislav Rostropovich in 1979. He then served as Music Director of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra from 1985-1992. His association with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra began with his appointment as its Principal Conductor in 1988; he held the position of Music Director from 1992-2000. Of this partnership, *The New York Times* wrote: "The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Hugh Wolff, has developed an effortlessly polished sound...Mr Wolff shapes his interpretations with impeccable taste." He has toured with the orchestra in the United States, Europe and Japan.

Hugh Wolff served as Principal Conductor of the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra from 1997-2006. He has made several recordings with the orchestra and has appeared in France, Italy, Estonia, Japan, and at the Salzburg Festival. He appears regularly with major orchestras in North America, Australia, and Japan, and has an extensive discography on the Teldec, Decca and Sony Classical labels.

### Guillermo Figueroa

Guillermo Figueroa is now in his sixth season as Music Director of both the New Mexico Symphony and the Puerto Rico Symphony. Critical acclaim followed the debuts of the Puerto Rico Symphony, under Figueroa's baton, at Carnegie Hall in 2003, the Kennedy Center in 2004 and Spain in 2005. As a Guest Conductor he has appeared with the symphony orchestras of New Jersey, Memphis, Phoenix, Iceland, Colorado, El Salvador, Xalapa (Mexico), Tucson, Santa Fe, the Juilliard Orchestra, as well as many performances conducting the New York City Ballet at Lincoln Center.

Also a renowned violinist, Figueroa is a Founding Member of the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. With this group he has been Concertmaster and soloist in performances throughout the US, Europe and Asia and made over fifty recordings for Deutsche Grammophon. For ten years he was Concertmaster of the New York City Ballet, and he has appeared in over a hundred performances of violin concerti by Barber, Prokofiev, Stravinsky, Berg, Adams, Glass, Bach and Brahms.

### Laura Jackson

Laura Jackson is the Assistant Conductor and American Conducting Fellow of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. She conducts the Young People's Concerts, the Symphony 360° Series, Summer Classical Concerts, and also performs with the ASO around the state of Georgia. Last season she debuted on the ASO Classical Series with an all-Mozart concert and returns this season with music by Prokofiev and Brahms.

Following a successful summer of performances at the Tanglewood Music Center in 2002, Jackson was invited to return as the Seiji Ozawa Conducting Fellow in 2003, collaborating with composers Augusta Read Thomas, Kaija Saariaho, and Julia Wolfe. This season Jackson will guest conduct the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Toledo Symphony and the San Antonio Symphony. Last season included concerts with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, and the Colorado Symphony Orchestra. In 2005, she completed a doctorate in orchestral conducting at the University of Michigan.

*All programs subject to change.*

## Berkeley Symphony

**Thursday, January 31, 2008, 8 PM – Kent Nagano, conductor** *UC Berkeley Zellerbach Hall*

Wolfgang A. Mozart, Symphony No. 26 in E-flat Major  
Toshio Hosokawa, Piano Concerto; Momo Kodama, piano (U.S. Premiere)  
Franz Schubert, Symphony No. 9 in C Major, “The Great”

**Thursday, February 21, 2008, 8 PM – Hugh Wolff, conductor** *UC Berkeley Zellerbach Hall*

Aaron Jay Kernis, *Overture in Feet and Meters* (West Coast Premiere)  
Osvaldo Golijov, *Night of the Flying Horses*; Heidi Melton, soprano  
Dmitri Shostakovich, *From Jewish Poetry*  
Heidi Melton, soprano; Katharine Tier, mezzo-soprano; Thomas Glenn, tenor  
Ludwig van Beethoven, Symphony No. 7 in A Major, Op. 92

**Thursday, March 13, 2008, 8 PM – Guillermo Figueroa, conductor** *UC Berkeley Zellerbach Hall*

Roberto Sierra, *Boriken* (U.S. Premiere)  
Hector Berlioz, *Les Nuits d'été*; Gabriela Garcia, mezzo-soprano  
Antonín Dvořák, Symphony No. 7 in D minor, Op. 70

**Wednesday, April 2, 2008, 8 PM – Laura Jackson, conductor** *UC Berkeley Zellerbach Hall*

Susan Botti, *Translucence* (West Coast Premiere)  
Darius Milhaud, *La Création du Monde*  
Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, *Scheherazade*

## Berkeley Academy Ensemble

**Sunday, December 16, 2007 – Kent Nagano, conductor** *Venue TBA*

J.S. Bach, Brandenburg Concerto No. 3  
Ludwig van Beethoven, "Grosse Fugue," Op. 133  
Richard Strauss, *Metamorphosen*  
J.S. Bach, Brandenburg Concerto No. 2

**Thursday, May 1, 2008, 8 PM – Kent Nagano, conductor** *First Congregational Church*

C.P.E. Bach, Symphony in C Major, H. 659  
Igor Stravinsky, *Apollon Musagète*  
Wolfgang A. Mozart, “Posthorn” Serenade, K. 320; Stuart Canin, violin  
*of Berkeley*

## *Under Construction*

**Sunday, February 24, 2008 – Hugh Wolff, conductor** *Venue TBA*

**Sunday, March 16, 2008 – Guillermo Figueroa, conductor** *Venue TBA*

**Sunday, March 30, 2008 – Laura Jackson, conductor** *Venue TBA*

**TICKETS:** For season subscriptions (4-concert introductory packages start at \$80) the public may call 510-841-2800 or visit the Berkeley Symphony website at [www.berkeleysymphony.org](http://www.berkeleysymphony.org). Single tickets for all of Berkeley Symphony's 2007-08 concerts go on sale September 1, 2007.

**RADIO BROADCASTS:** All Berkeley Symphony and Berkeley Academy Ensemble 2007-08 season concerts will be broadcast on KALW 91.7 FM, hosted by Alan Farley.

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