

BERKELEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



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Joana Carneiro • *Music Director*
Kent Nagano • *Conductor Laureate*

James A. Kleinmann • *Executive Director*

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BERKELEY AKADEMIE CONCERT ADDED TO BERKELEY SYMPHONY 2009-2010 SEASON Former Music Director Kent Nagano Conducts

BERKELEY, CA – August 19, 2009... On **Thursday, May 20, 2010** at 8 p.m. at First Congregational Church of Berkeley, long-time Music Director **Kent Nagano** leads **Berkeley Akademie Ensemble** in a program examining works by Beethoven, Mozart, and the young German composer Jörg Widmann. Berkeley Akademie is a program of Berkeley Symphony, founded in 2007 to explore repertoire for small orchestra in an intimate setting. This performance marks a realization of Nagano's intention to continue his association with the organization, following the conclusion of his tenure as Music Director at the close of his 30th anniversary season in May 2009.

The program on May 20 will include the Quintet in E-flat for Piano and Winds, Op. 16 by **Ludwig van Beethoven**, the Clarinet Concerto in A, K. 622 by **Wolfgang A. Mozart**, and a chamber setting of **Jörg Widmann's** String Quartet No. 5 with soprano, subtitled *Versuch über die Fuge*. Born in Munich, Widmann's work has been widely performed by major orchestras and at festivals in Germany and Austria. He also has an active career as a chamber musician and guest soloist.

"Naturally, it is exciting to carry on with the Akademie, as the idea covers an important intellectual and cultural void in the performing arts vista of the Bay Area," Nagano stated. "Placing the bar for performance at the highest level is always very stimulating and is synonymous with Berkeley tradition and history."

In addition, Nagano envisions a continued role for Berkeley Akademie as a forum for cross-cultural exchange. In its inaugural season, Berkeley Akademie included guest performers from the Junge Deutsche Philharmonie performing alongside their Berkeley Symphony counterparts, and last season's programs included a world premiere by German composer Alexander Munro.

"There are renowned international performers who are so intrigued with the Akademie, they have expressed their interest and intent to come to Berkeley as we move forward," Nagano stated, regarding possible future directions for the ensemble.

Kent Nagano served as Music Director of Berkeley Symphony from 1978-2009. Nagano is currently General Music Director of the Bavarian State Opera in Munich, where his contract has been renewed through 2013, and Music Director of the Montreal Symphony. Previously, he held leadership positions with the Hallé Orchestra in Manchester, Opéra National de Lyon, Los Angeles Opera, and Deutsches Symphonie Orchester in Berlin. Nagano is the recipient of three GRAMMY awards for classical music recordings. He continues his association with Berkeley Symphony both as Conductor Laureate and as Artistic Director of Berkeley Akademie.

Joana Carneiro succeeds Nagano as only the third Music Director in Berkeley Symphony's 40-year history. Carneiro's debut program on October 15, 2009 at 7 p.m. at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall includes works by Berkeley composers John Adams and Gabriela Lena Frank, who was recently named as Creative Advisor with Berkeley Symphony. More information on the upcoming season is available at www.berkeleysymphony.org.

CALENDAR and PSA EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

BERKELEY AKADEMIE CONCERT:

Thursday, May 20, 2010 at 8 p.m.
Kent Nagano, Artistic Director

First Congregational Church
of Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way

Ludwig van Beethoven, Quintet in E-flat for Piano and Winds, Op. 16
Jörg Widmann, *Versuch über die Fuge*
Wolfgang A. Mozart, Clarinet Concerto in A, K. 622

Soloists to be announced; program subject to change

Tickets: \$60/\$40/\$20. Subscribers receive a 10% discount.

To Order: Call 510-841-2800 or visit www.berkeleysymphony.org.

Details on Berkeley Symphony's 2009-2010 season programs may be found online at:

<http://berkeleysymphony.org/programs/season.htm>

The inaugural seasons of Berkeley Akademie Ensemble
are supported in part by commitments from an anonymous donor.

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