

**BERKELEY SYMPHONY
MUSIC DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT**

Frequently Asked Questions

How do you pronounce Joana Carneiro's name?

Joana's first name starts with a soft "zh" sound and is pronounced more as two syllables, not three. Her surname includes a long "i" sound, as in the word "eye:" ZHWAH-nah Car-NIGH-row However, you can rest assured that Joana's English is flawless, having studied conducting at the University of Michigan and at Northwestern University.

Will Joana move to Berkeley?

No, Joana will continue to make her home in Lisbon with her husband but will be in residence in Berkeley 6-8 weeks per year. She is no stranger to California, having served as Assistant Conductor at the Los Angeles Philharmonic for three years, in addition to positions with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and LA Debut Orchestra. She also has guest conducted the Santa Rosa Symphony twice.

What are Joana's other commitments beside Berkeley?

Joana's only other post is as official guest conductor of the Gulbenkian Orchestra in Lisbon. In addition, she has an active international guest conducting schedule which in early 2009 includes the Prague Philharmonia, the Ensemble Orchestral de Paris, the South Jutlands Symphony Orchestra (Denmark), the Manhattan School of Music, the Louisville Orchestra, and the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra.

Who made the decision to hire Joana as Berkeley Symphony's next Music Director?

A 10-member search committee made up of board members, orchestra musicians, staff, and community representatives was charged with the task of recommending a successor to Kent Nagano for approval by the full Board of Directors. Input was gathered both formally and informally from all constituents, including through audience surveys, musician surveys, dinners, receptions, and interviews.

What put Joana over the top in the selection process?

The musicians, audience, search committee, and board were all impressed with Joana's music-making and how she communicated that to all of us. She has a deep commitment to contemporary music, and an appreciation for the unique position of Berkeley Symphony in this community and the legacy of Kent Nagano's thirty years at the helm. In her strong musicianship, vision for the future, and easy rapport with musicians, board and audience alike, she does indeed represent the "total package."

Where can I find out more about Joana?

Biographical information on Joana as well as links to press clippings are posted online at <http://www.berkeleysymphony.org/musicdirector.htm>

BERKELEY SYMPHONY
MUSIC DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT FEEDBACK

“[Joana Carneiro] clearly has the skill, musicianship, and a warm connection with the orchestra. It appeared to us that the orchestra played their hearts out for her; their playing was controlled, subtle and passionate. Her programming was perfect as well; great pieces which were very difficult in different ways and the orchestra rose to the occasion in each one.”

“She was very exciting in almost every respect: conducting style, enthusiasm, rapport with the orchestra, results achieved. We thought she was terrific and would be a marvelous conductor for the Berkeley Symphony and a real draw to boot.”

“She seems most attuned to the spirit and uniqueness of Berkeley Symphony, and she gets amazing performances from the orchestra. A worthy successor to Kent.”

“This was my 5-year-old daughter's first attendance at the symphony. Her eyes were glued to the conductor. She thought it was pretty neat that a woman directed the performance.”

— *Audience comments following December 18, 2008 concert*

“Many people have been worried about how Berkeley Symphony would fare following the announcement of Kent Nagano's departure. Happily, everyone can now cast their concerns aside...The brilliant young Portuguese conductor Joana Carneiro has just been hired as the orchestra's new MD, and I can't think of a better person to pick up and run with Maestro Nagano's baton.”

— *Chloe Veltman, Artsjournal.com*

“Carneiro's intelligence in interpreting the works of four local composers...coupled with her ready accommodation of their suggestions, contributed to a dynamism which clearly enthused the players, and was a welcome difference from other *Under Construction* conductors.”

— *Piedmont Post review of December 14, 2008 Under Construction concert*

“It has been a long time since I have been so inspired by a conductor! Ms. Carneiro was an absolute joy to work with. Her enthusiasm and passion for the music is infectious and makes us want to play our very best. She treated the musicians with the utmost of respect. Her ability to run rehearsals in such a well-organized manner was refreshing - she was able to get in there, fix what needed fixing and move on.”

“She was really encouraging us in our rehearsals and performance to achieve a high level of musicianship in our work. It was motivating to have her work us in this way.”

“Joana seems to have a depth of experience beyond her years. She also has a lot of passion and seems to know what the composers of the music we played were trying to convey. She may accomplish great things, like Kent has done.”

— *Musician comments following December 18, 2008 concert*