

BERKELEY SYMPHONY



JOANA CARNEIRO
MUSIC DIRECTOR

Press Contact:

Jenny Lee, Director of Communications
(510) 841-2800 x304 • jlee@berkeleysymphony.org

For Immediate Release

BERKELEY SYMPHONY AND PIANIST SARAH CAHILL EXPLORE LOU HARRISON'S HIDDEN MUSICAL GEM, THE PIANO CONCERTO, IN CONCERT LED BY GUEST CONDUCTOR JAYCE OGREN—DEC. 8



Berkeley, CA – November 14, 2011 – A leading edge in presenting fresh and unusual works for orchestra, Berkeley Symphony, joined by celebrated Bay Area pianist Sarah Cahill, will perform Lou Harrison's exuberant Piano Concerto on Thursday, **December 8, at 8 pm, in Zellerbach Hall**. The program, also featuring Sibelius's *Symphony No. 5* and Chinese composer Lei Liang's *Verge*, written for eighteen strings, will be led by guest conductor Jayce Ogren. Tickets for the concert are \$20-\$60; for more information or to purchase tickets, call (510) 841-2800 or visit www.berkeleysymphony.org.

The concert begins with a West Coast premiere of *Verge* by Lei Liang, the winner of the 2011 Rome Prize. The work, commissioned by the New York Philharmonic in 2009, is imbued with a distinctive Mongolian sound. The orchestra continues the evening performance with a rare presentation of Lou Harrison's Piano Concerto with Sarah Cahill as soloist. The work showcases the inventive musical spirit of this quintessential California composer, who was known for his melding of Eastern and Western musical elements, and for his experimental work with alternative tunings. Finally, Sibelius's triumphant *Symphony No. 5* concludes the program.

Praised by the New York Times as a "fiercely gifted" pianist, guest artist Sarah Cahill is known for her performances of works by the 20th-century American modernists such as Lou Harrison and Henry Cowell. She has collaborated with composers such as John Adams, Terry Riley, and Julia

Wolfe; appeared at Merkin Hall, Miller Theatre and Le Poisson Rouge in New York, as well as the Pacific Crossings Festival in Tokyo; and performed with the New Century Chamber Orchestra and the Left Coast Chamber Ensemble. Most recently, she premiered a project in the Cal Performances series at UC Berkeley. She is also a faculty member of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

Jayce Ogren joins Berkeley Symphony as guest conductor after recently finishing his term as the assistant conductor of the Cleveland Orchestra. He has made debuts with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Canadian Opera Company, and the New York City Opera. A Native of Hoquiam, Washington, he holds degrees from St. Olaf College, New England Conservatory, and the Royal College of Music in Stockholm, Sweden.

The December 8 is made possible by the generous support of Concert Sponsors James and Rhonda Donato, and Ed Osborn

Upcoming Concerts

Saturday, November 19, 2011 | 10 & 11:30 am
“Meet the Symphony” Family Concerts

Location: Malcolm X Elementary School Auditorium (1731 Prince Street, Berkeley)
Ticket: \$10 Adult / \$5 Child
Available by phone at (510) 841-2800 or online at www.berkeleysymphony.org

Thursday, December 8, 2011 | 8 pm
Zellerbach Hall Concert II: In Celebration

Performers: Jayce Ogren, guest conductor
Sarah Cahill, piano

Program: Lei Liang, *Verge*
Harrison, Piano Concerto
Sibelius, Symphony No. 5 in E-flat major, Op. 82

Location: UC Berkeley Zellerbach Hall, Berkeley
Tickets: \$20~\$60; available by phone at (510) 841-2800 or online at www.berkeleysymphony.org

#Berkeley Symphony#