

BERKELEY SYMPHONY



Joana Carneiro, MUSIC DIRECTOR | James A. Kleinmann, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Kent Nagano, CONDUCTOR LAUREATE

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For Immediate Release

BERKELEY SYMPHONY ANNOUNCES 2011-12 SEASON

Highlights of the 42nd season include a world premiere commission by Gabriela Lena Frank, featuring soprano Jessica Rivera and the San Francisco Girls Chorus; the West Coast premiere of work by Lei Liang; and collaborations with cellist Johannes Moser, pianist Sarah Cahill, and guest conductor Jayce Ogren

BERKELEY, CA – June 7, 2011 – Music Director Joana Carneiro today unveils programming plans for Berkeley Symphony’s 2011-12 Season, her third with the Orchestra since assuming the music directorship in 2009. The upcoming season, highlighted by one world premiere commission, one West Coast premiere, and works by today’s leading composers and their forebears, in exciting collaborations with visionary artists both local and abroad, exemplifies the orchestra’s adventurous spirit and steadfast commitment to presenting original, thought-provoking programs, as well as its role as a champion of artists and composers of our generation.

“We look forward to a season of artistic exchange and collaboration,” says Joana Carneiro. “Part of Berkeley Symphony’s legacy as the leading edge in symphonic music is this special musical relationship and trust we have developed with artists, musicians, and the community. Artists are encouraged to pursue their creative instincts at Berkeley Symphony, and we are proud to be a part of an adventurous community that not only gives us the freedom to dream of, but also to realize, daring and unusual programming.”

Berkeley Symphony will continue to host its *Under Construction* New Music Reading Series in the 2011-12 Season, fostering an appreciation of modern symphonic music among a new generation of listeners. The Series’ professional development component, the *Under Construction* Composers Program, now in its second season, led by the orchestra’s Creative Advisor Gabriela Lena Frank, serves as an artistic incubator for emerging Bay Area composers to experiment with symphonic music writing and to cultivate skills essential to all working composers today.

Additionally, as a community leader in music education, Berkeley Symphony will expand its Music in the Schools (MITS) program to focus on strengthening both the music scholarship and teaching experience for the eleven participating elementary schools in the Berkeley Unified School District.

ZELLERBACH HALL CONCERT SERIES

Joana Carneiro and **Berkeley Symphony** open the 2011-12 Season on **Thursday, October 27, 2011**, with an introspective look at music as an expression of life. Brahms' Symphony No. 3 was the dark horse of all his symphonies and most intimate in its nature. Rising star cellist **Johannes Moser** will make his Berkeley Symphony debut with one of the most influential concertos of the 20th century: Cello Concerto No. 1 by Shostakovich. Preceding these works will be Enrico Chapela's *Li Po* for orchestra and electronic soundtrack, a piece that was inspired by Mexican poet José Juan Tablada's poem about the 8th century Chinese poet, Li Po. Enrico Chapela was introduced to Berkeley Symphony in the 2010-11 Season as the first commissioned composer under Carneiro's tenure. His new concerto for electric cello is scheduled to be premiered by Johannes Moser and the Los Angeles Philharmonic this fall.

A former assistant conductor of The Cleveland Orchestra, **Jayce Ogren** leads Berkeley Symphony on a night filled with the music of commemoration on **Thursday, December 8, 2011**. The orchestra will kick off the evening with the West Coast premiere of *Verge* by Chinese composer and winner of the prestigious 2011 Rome Prize, Lei Liang. Bay Area-based pianist **Sarah Cahill** will pay tribute to late American composer Lou Harrison, playing his Piano Concerto which she describes as "gorgeous and dramatic." The orchestra concludes the program with Sibelius's celebratory Symphony No. 5.

Sarah Cahill, recently called "fiercely gifted" by the New York Times and "as tenacious and committed an advocate as any composer could dream of" by the San Francisco Chronicle, has commissioned, premiered, and recorded, numerous compositions for solo piano. Her most recent project, *A Sweeter Music*, premiered in the Cal Performances series in Berkeley in January 2009. She is also the host of *Then and Now* on KALW 91.7 FM.

Joana Carneiro returns to conduct Berkeley Symphony on **Thursday, January 27, 2012**. Together, they will perform one of the most luscious and enchanting instrumental fantasies of the late 19th century: Debussy's *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune*. In contrast, the works of Henri Dutilleux and Dmitri Shostakovich echo the darkest times in human history. *The Shadows of Time*, written by Dutilleux for orchestra and children's voices, is a somber reflection on the atrocities of World War II. Shostakovich's iconic Symphony No. 5 was composed at the height of Stalin's Great Terror and is often interpreted as an expression of the composer's concealed rebellion.

Joana Carneiro and Berkeley Symphony conclude the season with a look towards the future. In the final Zellerbach Hall concert on **Thursday, April 26, 2012**, the orchestra will unveil the first installment of a newly commissioned work by award-winning composer, **Gabriela Lena Frank**. Partly funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, the East Bay Fund for Artists, and the Weininger Family in honor of Harry Weininger, this multi-movement project, inspired by women of the past and present, will feature text by celebrated Portuguese poet José Tolentino de Mendonça, to be enlivened by the luminous soprano **Jessica Rivera** and the **San Francisco Girls Chorus**. Bartók's *Music for Strings, Percussion and Celesta* and Kodály's *Dance of Galánta* will complete the program.

***UNDER CONSTRUCTION* NEW MUSIC READING SERIES/COMPOSERS PROGRAM**

Berkeley Symphony will present two *Under Construction* concerts on **Sundays, January 22 and April 29, 2012**. The series reflects the orchestra's decades-long commitment to cultivate the next generation of composers and audiences of new music, by presenting the works of emerging Bay Area composers in an **open rehearsal style concert**. Selected composers will participate in the year-long mentorship program, and each will write a substantial symphonic work and receive artistic and career guidance from Berkeley Symphony Creative Advisor Gabriela Lena Frank, Music Director Joana Carneiro, as well as orchestra musicians and guest composers. The 2011-12 *Under Construction* Composers will be announced in early September.

BERKELEY SYMPHONY EXPANDS MUSIC IN THE SCHOOLS

Since 1992, Berkeley Symphony's Music in the Schools program (MITS), in partnership with the Berkeley Unified School District, has provided comprehensive, hands-on and age-appropriate music curriculum to elementary school students in Berkeley. This season, the orchestra will expand the scope of MITS to partner with college students at UC Berkeley to offer after-school music lessons for children. In addition, building on the success of past Family Concerts, Berkeley Symphony will continue to host its annual "Meet the Symphony" and "I'm a Performer" Family Concerts on Saturdays, **November 19, 2011** and **May 5, 2012**, respectively. The latter concert will be a community collaboration in which both adults and children are invited to perform with the orchestra.

ABOUT JOANA CARNEIRO

Noted for her vibrant performances in a wide diversity of musical styles, **Joana Carneiro** is considered one of the most exciting and outstanding young conductors today. She was appointed Music Director of Berkeley Symphony in January 2009, succeeding Kent Nagano as only the third Music Director in the 40-year history of the orchestra.

As Music Director, Joana Carneiro has captivated the public with her commanding stage presence and adventurous programming that has highlighted the works of several prominent contemporary composers, including John Adams, Esa-Pekka Salonen, and Gabriela Lena Frank, whom she appointed as Creative Advisor to spearhead the orchestra's *Under Construction* Composers Program. Her commitment to expanding the community base of Berkeley Symphony and upholding the orchestra's artistic excellence was recognized by The League of American Orchestras, which honored her with the Helen M. Thompson Award in 2010.

Increasingly in demand as an opera conductor, Carneiro will make her Cincinnati Opera debut in June 2011, conducting John Adams' *A Flowering Tree*, which she also recently debuted with Chicago Opera Theater and La Cité de la Musique in Paris. In January 2010, Carneiro led performances of Peter Sellars's stagings of Stravinsky's *Oedipus Rex* and *Symphony of Psalms* at the Sydney Festival. Previously, she served as assistant conductor to Esa-Pekka Salonen at the Paris Opera's premiere of *Adriana Mater* by Kaija Saariaho, and led critically-acclaimed performances of Philippe Boesmans's *Julie* in Bolzano, Italy.

Prior to her Berkeley Symphony appointment, Joana served as Assistant Conductor with the Los Angeles Philharmonic from 2005-2008. She is currently the official guest conductor of Gulbenkian Orchestra in her native Lisbon.

ABOUT BERKELEY SYMPHONY

Founded in 1969 as the Berkeley Promenade Orchestra, **Berkeley Symphony** has established a reputation for presenting major new works for orchestra alongside fresh interpretations of the classic European repertoire. Berkeley Symphony has been recognized in seven of the past nine seasons with an Award for Adventurous Programming from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP). In addition to its subscription concerts and *Under Construction* new music series, Berkeley Symphony regularly partners with Cal Performances to provide music for visiting artists. Berkeley Symphony's award-winning, year-long Music in the Schools program reaches every public elementary school student in Berkeley. San Francisco public radio station KALW 91.7 FM is Berkeley Symphony's broadcast partner, airing all Berkeley Symphony subscription concerts.

TICKET INFORMATION

Zellerbach Hall Concert Series

- Berkeley Symphony offers half-priced **Introductory Subscriptions** to the Zellerbach Hall Concert Series for first-time buyers and full-time students at \$40, \$80, and \$120
- Single ticket prices range from \$20 to \$60 for adults and \$10 to \$30 for full-time students
- Concerts are held on selected Thursday evenings at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. *Music Talks*, the pre-concert lectures, will start fifty minutes prior to the performance at 7:10 pm, with the exception of the Season Opening Concert

Under Construction New Music Reading Series

- Single ticket prices are \$20 for priority admission and \$10 for regular admission; season subscribers receive 50% discount on priority admission
- Concerts are held on selected Sunday evenings at St. John's Presbyterian Church in Berkeley

Family Concerts

- Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 18.
- "Meet the Symphony" and "I'm a Performer" Family Concerts are held on selected Saturday mornings at the Malcolm X Elementary School auditorium

For additional information about Berkeley Symphony's 2011-12 Season or to order tickets and subscriptions, please visit www.berkeleysymphony.org or call the Berkeley Symphony administrative office at (510) 841-2800.

BERKELEY SYMPHONY 2011-12 SEASON
Zellerbach Hall Concert Series

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2011 | 7 PM

Season Opening Concert

PERFORMERS Joana Carneiro, conductor
Johannes Moser, cello

PROGRAM Enrico Chapela, *Li Po*
Brahms, Symphony No. 3 in F major, Op. 90
Shostakovich, Cello Concerto No. 1 in E-flat major, Op. 107

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2011 | 8 PM

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2012 | 8 PM

Concert III: The Shadows of Time

PERFORMERS Joana Carneiro, conductor

PROGRAM Debussy, *Prélude à l'après midi d'un faune*
Dutilleux, *The Shadows of Time*
Shostakovich, Symphony No. 5 in D minor, Op. 47

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2012 | 8 PM

Concert IV: A Hungarian Excursion

PERFORMERS Joana Carneiro, conductor
Jessica Rivera, soprano
San Francisco Girls Chorus

PROGRAM Bartók, *Music for Strings, Percussion and Celesta*
Gabriela Lena Frank, New Work (World Premiere Commission)
Kodály, *Dances of Galánta*

MUSIC TALKS Pre-concert lectures begin at 7:10 pm on December 8, January 26, and April 26.

LOCATION UC BERKELEY'S ZELLERBACH HALL

TICKETS \$20~\$60; available by phone at (510) 841-2800 or online at www.berkeleysymphony.org

***Under Construction* New Music Reading Series**

New works by emerging Bay Area composers

DATES Sunday, January 22, 2012
 Sunday, April 29, 2012

LOCATION St. John's Presbyterian Church
 2727 College Avenue, Berkeley

TICKETS \$20 Priority Admission / \$10 Regular Admission
 Available by phone at (510) 841-2800 or online at www.berkeleysymphony.org

Family Concerts

DATES "Meet the Symphony" Saturday, November 19, 2011
 "I'm a Performer" Saturday, May 5, 2012

LOCATION Malcolm X Elementary School Auditorium
 1731 Prince Street, Berkeley

TICKETS \$10 Adult / \$5 Child
 Available by phone at (510) 841-2800 or online at www.berkeleysymphony.org

All programs subject to change