

BERKELEY SYMPHONY



JOANA CARNEIRO
MUSIC DIRECTOR

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For Immediate Release

JOANA CARNEIRO AND BERKELEY SYMPHONY OPEN 2011-12 SEASON WITH SUPERSTAR CELLIST JOHANNES MOSER, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27

The Opening Night Gala Dinner honors Robert Commanday, founder of the San Francisco Classical Voice and former chief music critic of the San Francisco Chronicle

Berkeley, CA – October 3, 2011 – Music Director Joana Carneiro and Berkeley Symphony kick off their 2011-12 season with an impassioned program of music by Enrico Chapela, Brahms, and Shostakovich, featuring one of classical music's newest sensations, cellist Johannes Moser, on Thursday, October 27, at 7 pm, in Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley. A winner of the 12th International Tchaikovsky Competition, Moser has been hailed by the *Gramophone Magazine* as "one of the finest among the astonishing gallery of young virtuoso cellists." 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 special piano tribute to the late Berkeley civic leader, Harry Weininger, written and performed by Gabriela Lena Frank. Music Director Joana Carneiro then leads the orchestra in Enrico Chapela's *Li Po* for orchestra and electronic soundtrack. Chapela was introduced to Berkeley Symphony in the 2010-11 season as the first commissioned composer under Carneiro's tenure. His genre-bending piece, inspired by Mexican poet José Juan Tablada's poem about the 8th century Chinese poet Li Po, is followed by Brahms' most intimate and poetic symphony – Symphony No. 3. The concert concludes with the orchestra and Johannes Moser performing Shostakovich's gripping First Cello Concerto.

"This concert program marks a truly exciting start of an incredible season," said Carneiro. "Enrico Chapela's work for orchestra and electronic soundtrack is both colorful and riveting. The piece is a wonderful contrast to Brahms' lyrical Symphony No. 3, and promises to offer a different yet refreshing aural experience to its listeners. The orchestra and I are also thrilled to perform Shostakovich's First Cello Concerto with Johannes Moser, who is one of the most sought-after classical music rising stars today."

The opening night festivity continues following the concert performance with a dinner party celebrating the new season and honoring journalist Robert Commanday, long-time Chief Music Critic of the San Francisco Chronicle and founder of the San Francisco Classical Voice. The Opening Night Gala Dinner will take place on the Zellerbach Hall Mezzanine at 9 pm. The tickets are \$150-\$600. For more information and to purchase tickets to the Gala Dinner, contact Maya Lawrence at (510) 841-2800 x301 or mlawrence@berkeleysymphony.org. Concert tickets are sold separately.

Since winning the top prize at the 2002 Tchaikovsky Competition, Johannes Moser has since appeared with many of the world's leading orchestras and conductors, performing in London, Florence, and Berlin, with Riccardo Muti, Zubin Mehta, Lorin Maazel, and Valery Gergiev. Most recently, he made his debuts with the

Berlin Philharmonic and the Pittsburgh Symphony. He also toured the U.S. with the Salzburg Mozarteum Orchestra and is a frequent collaborator with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. He is also quickly gaining a reputation for his exquisite performances of lesser-known repertoire. His passion for new music has brought him much attention from leading conductors such as Pierre Boulez, who invited him to make his U.S. debut with the Chicago Symphony in 2005, premiering Bernard Rand's Cello Concerto. Moser's interest in the electric cello also inspired a number of composers to write for this instrument, including Enrico Chapela, whose electric cello concerto was commissioned and recently premiered by the LA Philharmonic, with Moser as soloist.

Robert Commanday, better known as Bob, was the San Francisco Chronicle's Music and Dance Critic for nearly 30 years until 1993. He served as president of the Music Critic Association of North America and received numerous awards including the Deems Taylor Award for Music Criticism and the John Swett Award for service to education. Following his retirement from the Chronicle, Mr. Commanday founded San Francisco Classical Voice (SFCV), the Bay Area's pioneering website journal of classical music criticism, in 1993. The website is now the go-to place for classical music news in the Bay Area. Early in his career, Mr. Commanday was a member and conductor of the UC Glee Club and Treble Clef Society from 1950 to 1963.

*The 2011-12 season opening concert is made possible by the generous support of Concert Sponsors
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Additional support provided by The Zellerbach Family Foundation

Season Sponsors Kathleen G. Henschel and Meyer Sound Laboratories, Inc.

Upcoming Concerts

Season Opening Concert—Thursday, October 27, 2011 | 7 pm

PERFORMERS Joana Carneiro, conductor
Johannes Moser, cello

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

LOCATION UC Berkeley Zellerbach Hall, Berkeley

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

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

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

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

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