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**Joana Carneiro announces her intent to step down as Music Director of Berkeley Symphony after nine seasons.**



*(Joana Carneiro, by Rodrigo Souza)*

Joana Carneiro, whose adventurous artistic vision and leadership has garnered both critical acclaim and audience praise, has announced that she will step down as Berkeley Symphony's music director as of the end of the 2017-2018 season and after nine seasons at its artistic helm. Carneiro will stay on as Music Director Emerita.

A committee has been formed to seek the next Music Director and to determine the best approach for the future of Berkeley Symphony.

Guest conductors Ming Luke, Jonathon Heyward, Christopher Rountree, and Christian Reif have been scheduled to conduct the four symphonic concerts planned for the 2018-2019 season. Full 2018-2019 season details will be forthcoming.



*(Ming Luke, by Jonathon Heyward, by Jeremy Ayres Fischer; Christopher Rountree, by Rus Anson; Christian Reif, by Liz Hafalia)*

Under Carneiro's baton, Berkeley Symphony has commissioned a total of 13 new works and co-commissioned three since 2009. As part of the subscription series, Carneiro has led 14 world premieres with the Symphony, as well as one United States premiere, and 10 West Coast premieres. Through the Symphony's Under Construction—a new music workshopping program—she has led 41 additional world premieres, solidifying hers and the Symphony's commitment to supporting the work of living composers and broadening the symphonic repertoire.

During her tenure, Berkeley Symphony's programmatic offerings grew to include not just mainstage performances and Under Construction—now Berkeley Sounds Composer Fellows—but the launch and growth of the Berkeley Symphony and Friends Chamber Series, and the creation of partnerships with Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA) and San Francisco Conservatory of Music (SFCM). In addition, Music in the Schools expanded both in scope and engagement under her oversight, with increases in the number of programs, number of participating schools, and number of students engaged annually.

"We are grateful to Joana for her ability to connect and establish both trust and curiosity from our musicians and our community," said Symphony Board Chair S. Shariq Yosufzai. "As the Symphony looks ahead to its 50th anniversary season in 2020-2021, we know that our future is bright because Joana has made an indelible mark."

Joana Carneiro said: "I love this orchestra and the Berkeley community. I am so proud of what I have been able to accomplish together with this extraordinary organization over the past nine years and look forward to returning to Berkeley soon."

"Joana has been an inspirational presence on the podium and off," said Berkeley Symphony Executive Director René Mandel. "Speaking for myself and the entire Berkeley Symphony community, we will miss her dearly, but she will be back, and we so look forward to her return to Berkeley."

### **ABOUT BERKELEY SYMPHONY**

Well-established as a presenter of major contemporary orchestral works, Berkeley Symphony continues its steadfast commitment to presenting original and unique programs with new music commissioned by living composers, many of whom have developed an ongoing creative and collaborative relationship with the Symphony. Since its 1979-80 season, Berkeley Symphony has performed 66 world premieres, 29 U.S. premieres, and 24 West Coast premieres. In recognition of its leadership in commissioning and creating new music, the Orchestra has received the prestigious ASCAP Adventurous Programming Award in 10 of the past 13 seasons. In December, Berkeley Symphony and composer Anna Clyne were awarded a three-year Music Alive grant for a composer residency, beginning in 2017, one of only five U.S. orchestra-composer pairings selected by New Music USA and the League of American Orchestras for the honor. The residency is designed to involve Clyne in a far-reaching, immersive collaboration with Berkeley Symphony, involving the creation of new work, collaboration with other Berkeley arts institutions, music education, community outreach and multidisciplinary activities.

### **ABOUT JOANA CARNEIRO**

Music Director [Joana Carneiro](#) has captivated the public with her commanding stage presence and adventurous programming, which has highlighted the works of several prominent contemporary composers, including John Adams, Kaija Saariaho, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Brett Dean, and Gabriela Lena Frank. Carneiro is regarded as one of the most exciting and outstanding young conductors working today. Carneiro's 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. She was appointed Music Director of Berkeley Symphony in 2009, succeeding Kent Nagano as only the third Music Director in the 40-year history of the Orchestra. Named Principal Conductor of the Portuguese National Symphony at the Teatro de Sao Carlos in January 2014, Carneiro remains the Official Guest Conductor of the Gulbenkian Orchestra in her native Lisbon. She is also increasingly in demand throughout the world for guest conducting engagements, both for orchestras and opera companies. Prior to her Berkeley Symphony appointment, she served as Assistant Conductor with the Los Angeles Philharmonic from 2005 to 2008, where she worked closely with Esa-Pekka Salonen and led performances at Walt Disney Concert Hall and the Hollywood Bowl.

### **ABOUT MING LUKE**

[Ming Luke](#), Associate Conductor and Director of Education for the Berkeley Symphony since 2006, has conducted ensembles across the United States and Europe and has been praised for his "pure musicality" and "charisma." Allan Ulrich at the San Francisco Chronicle stated that "Luke delivered the best live theater performance I've ever heard of Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*." Luke is also the Principal Guest Conductor for the San Francisco Ballet, Music Director of the Merced Symphony as well as the Berkeley Community Chorus and Orchestra. In addition to work with these companies, 2018-2019 season highlights include working with Opera San Jose, San Francisco Opera as a teaching artist, San Bernardino Symphony, Billings Symphony, in addition to tours to the Kennedy Center and London with the San Francisco Ballet, and a tour of the Baltics with the Berkeley Community Chorus and Orchestra.

### **ABOUT JONATHON HEYWARD**

First prize winner in 2015 of the 54th International Competition for Young Conductors of Besançon aged only 23, [Jonathon Heyward](#) was appointed in September 2016 as Assistant Conductor at the Hallé Orchestra, which has extended his contract for a third year. A 2017/2018 Dudamel Conducting Fellow, Jonathon made his conducting debut with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra in December 2017, stepping in last minute for three concerts at the Walt Disney Concert Hall with soloist Hilary Hahn, to great acclaim. In March 2018, he will premiere *Wake*: a new opera, which composer Giorgio Battistelli wrote for the Birmingham Opera Company (staging director: Graham Vick), and has been invited to conduct *Porgy and Bess* at the Spoleto Festival, USA, in 2020. Jonathon has been invited to conduct the St. Petersburg Symphony Orchestra, Basel Symphony Orchestra, Prague Symphony Orchestra, the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre National des Pays de Loire, Orchestre de l'Opéra de Rouen, Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne, Chineke! Orchestra, Orchestre National de Bordeaux-Aquitaine, the Philharmonie Zuidnederlandand, and the Symfonieorkest Vlaanderen. Jonathon was a recipient of the 2016/2017 Julius Rudel/Kurt Weill Conducting Fellowship and worked on a production of Kurt Weill's *Lost in the Stars* with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, funded by the Kurt Weill Foundation. Jonathon Heyward studied cello before he took up conducting at the Boston Conservatory under the guidance of Andrew Altenbach. He followed this with postgraduate studies at the Royal Academy of Music, London, from where he graduated in June 2016.

### **ABOUT CHRISTOPHER ROUNTREE**

[Rountree](#), 35, is the founder, conductor, and creative director of the path-breaking L.A. chamber orchestra wild Up. The group has been called "Searing. Penetrating. And Thrilling" by NPR's Performance Today and named "Best Classical Music of 2012" by the Los Angeles Times. wild Up started in 2010 with no funding and no musicians, driven only by Rountree's vision of a world-class ensemble that creates visceral, provocative experiences that are unmoored from classical traditions. Recent conducting highlights include debuts with the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center and with Washington National Opera conducting Missy Mazzoli's *Proving Up*, his debut with Los Angeles Opera conducting the world premiere of David Lang's *Anatomy Theater*, and returns to the Los Angeles Philharmonic and San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

**ABOUT CHRISTIAN REIF**

German conductor [Christian Reif](#) joined the San Francisco Symphony (SFS) as their Resident Conductor and Wattis Foundation Music Director of the internationally acclaimed San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra (SFSYO) in the 2016-17 season. He came to San Francisco from Miami, where he was the Conducting Fellow with the New World Symphony for the previous two seasons. Christian Reif is currently a member of Germany's prestigious Conductor's Forum (Dirigentenforum) and was accepted to their list of "Maestros of Tomorrow". His enthusiasm for contemporary music has led to many world premieres and innovative approaches to the concert experience, such as concertos for DJ and orchestra in a nightclub setting and two successful Soundbox shows, SFS' edgy late night series. Joshua Kosman of the San Francisco Chronicle said that "Reif's mastery extended to matters both large and small. He showed no diffidence about managing weighty blocks of orchestral sound, and he fine-tuned passages of detailed instrumental filigree with the deftness of an artisanal craftsman" in response to Reif's recent San Francisco Symphony subscription concert debut.

**PROGRAM AND TICKET INFORMATION**

Full 2018-2019 season details will be forthcoming. Season Subscriptions and Renewals will be available at a future date. Individual tickets (\$15-\$96) will be available online or by phone at (510) 841-2800.

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