



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / March 13, 2018

Contact: Maggie Perkes

mperkes@berkeleysymphony.org, 510.841.2800 x304

http://www.berkeleysymphony.org/about/press/

Berkeley Symphony presents 14th Annual Benefit Gala with special solo performance from Joshua Bell, violin, May 4, 2018, at Craneway Pavilion in Richmond.



(Joshua Bell, by Lisa Marie Mazzucco)

**BERKELEY, CA (March 13, 2018)** – Violinist Joshua Bell will give an intimate solo performance at Berkeley Symphony's 14<sup>th</sup> annual Benefit Gala on Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at the Craneway Pavilion in Richmond.

Berkeley Symphony's largest annual fundraiser also features a cocktail reception, dinner and desserts, as well as live and silent auctions. Since 2004, the annual benefit gala has raised critical funding in support of Berkeley Symphony and its education programs. All proceeds support Berkeley Symphony's concert and educational programs, including the commissioning of new work and the Symphony's award-winning Music in the Schools program.

Tickets for the entire event, which begins at 7:00 pm, including the reception, dinner, silent and live auctions, and the performance by Joshua Bell, begin at \$375. Dinner will be served at 8 pm, followed by Joshua Bell's solo performance and a live auction. Tickets are available at <a href="https://www.berkeleysymphony.org/gala">www.berkeleysymphony.org/gala</a> or by phone at (510) 841-2800.

## **ABOUT JOSHUA BELL**

With a career spanning over 30 years as a soloist, chamber musician, recording artist, conductor, and arts advocate, <u>Joshua Bell</u> is one of today's most celebrated violinists. A Sony Classical artist, Bell has recorded more than 40 CDs garnering Grammy, Mercury, Gramophone, and Echo Klassik awards. Bell became the Music Director of the Academy of St Martin in the Fields in 2011, the only person to hold this post since Sir Neville Marriner formed the orchestra in 1958. *Joshua Bell –The Classical Collection*, a 14-CD set and *For the Love of Brahms*, with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, Steven Isserlis, and Jeremy Denk are his most recent releases. Scheduled for release later this year is Bell's recording with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields of Bruch's Scottish Fantasy and the G minor concerto.

Bell performs on the 1713 Huberman Stradivarius violin and is a staunch advocate for music education.

## **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 65 world premieres, 28 U.S. premieres, and 21 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.

## CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 7:00 pm – <u>Berkeley Symphony Benefit Gala with Joshua Bell</u> Craneway Pavilion, 1414 Harbour Way S, Richmond, CA

Berkeley Symphony's 14<sup>th</sup> annual Benefit Gala featuring an intimate solo performance with violinist Joshua Bell includes cocktail reception with live music, formal dinner catered by Grace Street Catering, live and silent auctions, and desserts.

**TICKETS:** Tickets for the Berkeley Symphony Benefit Gala begin at \$375 and are available at <a href="https://www.berkeleysymphony.org/gala">www.berkeleysymphony.org/gala</a> or by phone at (510) 841-2800.

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