

**BERKELEY
SYMPHONY**



**JOANA CARNEIRO
MUSIC DIRECTOR**

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

Berkeley Symphony 2016-17 season opens October 13 at Zellerbach Hall, with highlights including world premiere of Paul Dresher commission; West Coast premiere of James MacMillan's new Symphony No. 4; Bay Area premiere of Mason Bates' Cello Concerto with Joshua Roman

Orchestra to perform Shostakovich's Symphony No. 13, "Babi Yar", with bass Denis Sedov and alumni and members of UC Berkeley and Bay Area choruses; Shai Wosner performs Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4; and Philippe Quint is soloist in Korngold's Violin Concerto

Subscription ticket packages for 2016-17 season are on sale Thursday, April 14

BERKELEY, CA (April 14, 2016) – Music Director [Joana Carneiro](#) and [Berkeley Symphony](#) today announced the concerts and programs for the 2016-17 season, including the world premiere of a new Berkeley Symphony commission by Paul Dresher; the West Coast premiere of James MacMillan's new Symphony No. 4, a co-commission; and the Bay Area premiere of Mason Bates' Cello Concerto, with Joshua Roman as soloist. The Orchestra will also perform Shostakovich's epic Symphony No. 13, "Babi Yar", with bass Denis Sedov and alumni of choruses including the UC Berkeley Chamber Chorus, the Pacific Boychoir Academy, and members of the St. John of San Francisco Russian Orthodox Chorale, led by Marika Kuzma. Shai Wosner is soloist in Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4, and Philippe Quint performs Erich Korngold's Violin Concerto with the Orchestra. The Orchestra performs Stravinsky's *Petrushka* and Beethoven's Symphony No. 4.

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 Berkeley Symphony has developed an ongoing creative and collaborative relationship. Berkeley Symphony's 2016-17 season includes a new commissioned world premiere, a new co-commissioned West Coast premiere, and a new Bay Area premiere, alongside classic masterworks. Since its 1979-80 season, Berkeley Symphony has performed 64 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 developing programming for Berkeley Symphony's 2016-17 season, Music Director Joana Carneiro said: "We start with new music – relationships that we want to renew or that we want to start. It starts from the music of our time. Paul Dresher is certainly the first one who comes to mind – he is from Berkeley, and he is an iconic figure in our time. Mason Bates is another composer with local ties, and needs no introduction. I've looked forward to collaborating with him for a long time. And working with James MacMillan is something I've worked toward for a long time. Commissioning him has been a dream of mine, and I'm so pleased to be working on this co-commissioning project with two top institutions: the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and the Pittsburgh Symphony."

Berkeley Symphony opens the 2016-2017 season at Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley on Thursday, October 13 at 7 pm, with Joana Carneiro leading the Orchestra in the world premiere of a new commissioned work by Paul Dresher. Dresher, a musical omnivore who incorporates global musical influences into his compositions, has been widely commissioned and has written experimental opera and music theater, chamber and orchestral compositions, and scores for theater, dance, and film. His 2012 Concerto for Quadrachord and Orchestra was premiered by the Orchestra under Carneiro; he invented the quadrachord, among other instruments. He has had a long and fruitful relationship with Berkeley Symphony, including commissioned performances of his new works, and has mentored young composers in its Under Construction program. Philippe Quint makes his debut with the Orchestra as soloist in Erich Korngold's Violin Concerto, his recording of which was nominated for a Grammy Award. Quint, who was born in St. Petersburg, Russia, has a special interest in reimagining traditional works, commissioning new music and rediscovering overlooked repertoire. The program also includes Stravinsky's *Petrushka*.

On Thursday, December 8 at 8 pm, Carneiro and Berkeley Symphony perform James MacMillan's new Symphony No. 4, a Berkeley Symphony co-commission with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and the Pittsburgh Symphony. MacMillan, the preeminent Scottish composer of his generation, whom Carneiro calls "the foremost sacred music composer of our time," has dedicated his newest work to Donald Runnicles, in honor of his 60th birthday. Runnicles led the world premiere performance of Symphony No. 4 with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra at the BBC Proms in August 2015. The new MacMillan work, which "combines ritual drama with memories of Renaissance music," is the first to bear the title of "symphony" in more than 10 years. Pianist Shai Wosner returns to Berkeley Symphony to perform Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 on this program. Wosner, a native of Israeli who now lives in New York, is a recipient of the Avery Fisher Career Grant and was a student of Emanuel Ax's at The Juilliard School. He has since performed with many of the world's most distinguished orchestras, recorded three albums, commissioned new work from contemporary composers, and performed Schubert's solo piano repertoire in recital. Recently, Wosner has been performing with violinist Jennifer Koh in a "Bridge to Beethoven" series, pairing Beethoven's masterworks alongside contemporary pieces to illustrate the composer's pervasive influence and lasting genius.

The Orchestra performs Beethoven's Symphony No. 4 on Thursday, January 26 at 8 pm. Cellist Joshua Roman makes his debut with the Orchestra as the soloist in Mason Bates' Cello Concerto, which was written for Roman and premiered in 2014. Joshua Roman has earned an international reputation for his wide-ranging repertoire, a commitment to communicating the essence of music in visionary ways, artistic leadership and versatility. He is an accomplished composer, curator, and programmer in addition to a performer. In April 2016, he begins a residency with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, and is Artistic Director of TownMusic at Town Hall Seattle and Artistic Advisor of Seattle's Second Inversion. He was the principal cellist for the Seattle Symphony, a position he won at age 22. Recently, he performed with the Pittsburgh Symphony, did a solo performance at TED2015, and premiered *Dreamsongs*, a cello concerto written for him by Aaron Jay Kernis.

Joana Carneiro and Berkeley Symphony conclude the 2016-2017 season on Thursday, May 4 at 8 pm at Zellerbach Hall with the evening-long, epic "Babi Yar", Shostakovich's Symphony No. 13. Carneiro leads

the Orchestra, bass soloist Denis Sedov, and a men's chorus including alumni from University of California at Berkeley's Chamber Chorus and Pacific Boychoir Academy, and members of the St. John of San Francisco Russian Orthodox Chorale, led by chorusmaster Marika Kuzma. Kuzma was a member of the UC Berkeley music faculty for nearly 25 years, and led the university's symphonic University Chorus and Chamber Chorus. Sedov, a native of St. Petersburg, Russia, who holds a degree from the Jerusalem Academy, has performed with the San Francisco Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, and Los Angeles Philharmonic, among others. "Babi Yar" (a reference to the site of the massacre of Russian Jews by German soldiers during World War II) is Shostakovich's magnificent stand against anti-Semitism, including settings of poems by Yevgeny Yevtushenko. He is reported to have told one interviewer: "It would be good if Jews could live peacefully and happily in Russia, where they were born. But we must never forget about the dangers of anti-Semitism and keep reminding others of it, because the infection is still alive and who knows if it will ever disappear. That's why I was overjoyed when I read Yevtushenko's "Babi Yar"; the poem astounded me. It astounded thousands of people. Many had heard about Babi Yar, but it took Yevtushenko's poem to make them aware of it. They tried to destroy the memory of Babi Yar, first the Germans and then the Ukrainian government. But after Yevtushenko's poem, it became clear that it would never be forgotten. That is the power of art. People knew about Babi Yar before Yevtushenko's poem, but they were silent. And when they read the poem, the silence was broken. Art destroys silence."

CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES PROGRAMMING AND ARTISTS

Berkeley Symphony & Friends, a chamber music series introduced in 2013 and curated by Executive Director and violinist René Mandel, presents four intimate concerts on Sunday afternoons at the Piedmont Center for the Arts. These concerts are designed to showcase the exceptional artistry of Berkeley Symphony musicians alongside local guest artists in a variety of works for small ensemble. The first concert on Sunday, September 25, 2016 at 5 pm features musicians performing an all-Brahms program. The concert on Sunday, November 13, 2016 at 5 pm offers works by Sarasate, de Falla, Turina, and Fauré. On Sunday, February 19, 2017 at 5 pm, musicians perform works by Stanford, Rota, Poulenc, and Hindemith. On Sunday, April 23, 2017 at 5 pm, the musicians perform Mozart's *Dissonant* Quartet, K465 and Dvořák's Piano Quintet in A Major, Op. 81. The series is co-presented by Berkeley Symphony and the Piedmont Center for the Arts.

TICKET INFORMATION

2016-17 season subscription packages for the four Berkeley Symphony concerts at Zellerbach Hall concerts are on sale Thursday, April 14 by phone at (510) 841-2800, ext. 1; by fax to (510) 841-5422; or in person or by mail at 1942 University Avenue, Suite 207, Berkeley, CA 94704. Season subscription packages will be available through www.berkeleysymphony.org on June 1, 2016. Prices for the four-concert series range from \$39 to \$266. Subscribers enjoy a 10% discount on additional single ticket purchases throughout the season.

Tickets to the four-concert chamber music series Berkeley Symphony & Friends at the Piedmont Center for the Arts are \$100 for four concerts, and are on sale Thursday, April 14 by phone at (510) 841-2800, ext. 1; by fax to (510) 841-5422; or in person or by mail at 1942 University Avenue, Suite 207, Berkeley, CA 94704. The series of chamber music concert tickets can be purchased in advance at www.berkeleysymphony.org beginning June 1, 2016.

Single tickets for the Zellerbach Hall concerts and the Berkeley Symphony & Friends chamber music concerts go on sale July 1, 2016. For more information or to request a brochure, call Berkeley Symphony at (510) 841-2800, ext. 1, email tickets@berkeleysymphony.org or visit www.berkeleysymphony.org after June 1, 2016.

MUSIC IN THE SCHOOLS

Berkeley Symphony continues its vigorous Music in the Schools program, serving all 11 public elementary schools in Berkeley and students in Berkeley's three middle schools. The nationally-recognized program consists of musician classroom visits, instrument lessons and performance opportunities for students from kindergarten through middle school. The students grow with the program year after year, building on their knowledge while learning and performing alongside musicians from the Orchestra. Music in the Schools is under the leadership of Education Director Ming Luke.

Since 1992, Berkeley Symphony's Music in the Schools program, in partnership with the Berkeley Unified School District, has provided a comprehensive, hands-on and age-appropriate music curriculum to public school students in Berkeley. More than 4,600 children benefit each year from the program. Over 200 in-class sessions led by Berkeley Symphony musicians are provided free of charge. Included are hands-on music instruction and age-appropriate curriculum booklets addressing state standards for music education. In addition to instruction and performances in the schools, on two Saturday mornings during the season, the Orchestra performs free Family Concerts that the entire family can enjoy. "Meet the Symphony" introduces children of all ages to the various families of instruments in an orchestra. Presented in an entertaining and interactive manner, these concerts engage even the youngest audience members. "Meet the Symphony" concerts take place November 5, 2016 at 10 am and 11:30 am at Malcolm X Elementary School in Berkeley. "I'm a Performer" invites audience members young and old to bring their own instruments and join the Orchestra on stage. Seated beside and among the Berkeley Symphony musicians, children have the opportunity to be a part of an orchestra. Free public "I'm a Performer" concerts are at 10 am and 11:30 am on April 15, 2017 at Malcolm X Elementary School in Berkeley. Ming Luke leads the Orchestra. All Family Concerts are offered free of charge (suggested donation: \$10 per adult).

ABOUT JOANA CARNEIRO

As 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, Paul Dresher, and Gabriela Lena Frank. Carneiro is regarded as one of the most exciting and outstanding young conductors working today. During the 2015-16 season, her seventh leading Berkeley Symphony, she led the Orchestra in two West Coast premieres, Kaija Saariaho's *Laterna Magica* and Mark Grey's *Frankenstein Symphony*, as well the U.S. premiere of Sofia Gubaidulina's *Fachwerk*. Next season, she will conduct the world premiere of Dresher's newest work, and the West Coast premiere of James MacMillan's new Symphony No. 4, as well as the Bay Area premiere of Mason Bates' Cello Concerto. 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 and contemporary programs, both for orchestras and opera companies. Carneiro will return to London in spring 2016 to conduct Van der Aa's *Book of Disquiet* with the London Sinfonietta, and a production of *La Passion de Simone* at the Ojai Festival. She makes her debut conducting the San Francisco Symphony in the 2016-17 season. 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 BERKELEY SYMPHONY

Recognized nationally for its spirited programming, Berkeley Symphony has established a reputation for presenting major new works for orchestra alongside fresh interpretations of classic European and American repertoire. Berkeley Symphony continues its steadfast commitment to presenting original and unique programs, with a 2015-16 season that combines important contemporary works, U.S. and West Coast premieres, and commissioned work alongside classic masterworks. In addition to the October West Coast premiere of Kaija Saariaho's *Laterna Magica* and the West Coast premiere in May 2016 of Mark Grey's *Frankenstein Symphony*, a co-commission with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestra performed Lutosławski's Concerto for Orchestra and Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5 ("Emperor") in February, with Conrad Tao as soloist, and performs Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto in D major, featuring Simone Porter, in May.

Since the 1979-80 season, Berkeley Symphony has performed 64 world premieres, 28 U.S. premieres, and 21 West Coast premieres. Berkeley Symphony has been recognized in 10 of the past 13 seasons with an Award for Adventurous Programming from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. Berkeley Symphony's award-winning Music in the Schools program benefits over 4,600 elementary and middle school students in Berkeley each year. San Francisco public radio station KALW 91.7 FM is Berkeley Symphony's broadcast partner, airing all Berkeley Symphony subscription concerts.

FUNDING

Funding for Berkeley Symphony comes from a broad base of individuals, foundations, corporations, and government sources. Funders provide support for the Symphony's collaborations with world-class artists, the commissioning of local and international composers, and its award-winning Music in the Schools education program. Major institutional funding sources include The William & Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Clarence E. Heller Charitable Foundation, The Grubb Co., Meyer Sound Laboratories, the Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation, Berkeley Public Schools Fund, the Bernard E. and Alba Witkin Charitable Foundation, The Bernard Osher Foundation, Chevron, the East Bay Community Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the California Arts Council, and the City of Berkeley.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

BERKELEY SYMPHONY 2016-2017 SEASON

Sunday, September 25, 2016 at 5 pm

Piedmont Center for the Arts, 801 Magnolia Avenue, Piedmont

Berkeley Symphony & Friends Chamber Music Series

Stuart Canin, *violin*

Eric Gaenslen, *cello*

Helene Wickett, *piano*

All-Brahms program

TICKETS: Tickets to the four-concert chamber music series Berkeley Symphony & Friends at the Piedmont Center for the Arts are \$100 for four concerts, and are on sale Thursday, April 14 by phone at (510) 841-2800, ext. 1; by fax to (510) 841-5422; or in person or by mail at 1942 University Avenue, Suite 207, Berkeley, CA 94704. A series package of chamber music concert tickets can be purchased in advance at www.berkeleysymphony.org beginning June 1, 2016. Tickets for individual chamber music concerts are \$25 and go on sale July 1.

Thursday, October 13, 2015 at 7 pm – OPENING NIGHT

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley campus, Bancroft Way at Dana Street, Berkeley

Joana Carneiro, *conductor*
Philippe Quint, *violin*
Berkeley Symphony

Paul Dresher: New work (Berkeley Symphony commission, World Premiere)
Erich Korngold: Violin Concerto
Stravinsky: *Petrushka*

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Saturday, November 5, 2016, 10 am & 11:30 am

Malcolm X Elementary School, 1731 Prince Street, Berkeley

“Meet the Symphony” Family Concerts

Ming Luke, *conductor*
Dawn Harms, *violin*
Berkeley Symphony

TICKETS: All Family Concerts are offered free of charge (Suggested donation: \$10 per adult). For more information or to request a brochure, call Berkeley Symphony at (510) 841-2800, ext. 1, email tickets@berkeleysymphony.org or visit www.berkeleysymphony.org.

Sunday, November 13, 2016 at 5 pm

Piedmont Center for the Arts, 801 Magnolia Avenue, Piedmont

Berkeley Symphony & Friends Chamber Music Series

Sarah Wood, *violin*
Emanuela Nikiforova, *violin*
Ilana Matfis, *viola*
Eric Gaenslen, *cello*
Miles Graber, *piano*

Works by Sarasate, de Falla, Turina, Fauré

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advance at www.berkeleysymphony.org beginning June 1, 2016. Tickets for individual chamber music concerts are \$25 and go on sale July 1.

Thursday, December 8, 2016 at 8 pm

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley campus, Bancroft Way at Dana Street, Berkeley

Joana Carneiro, *conductor*
Shai Vosner, *piano*
Berkeley Symphony

James MacMillan: Symphony No. 4 (Berkeley Symphony co-commission with the BBC Scottish National Orchestra and Pittsburgh Symphony; West Coast premiere)
Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 4

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Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 8 pm

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley campus, Bancroft Way at Dana Street, Berkeley

Joana Carneiro, *conductor*
Joshua Roman, *cello*
Berkeley Symphony

Mason Bates: Cello Concerto (Bay Area premiere)
Beethoven: Symphony No. 4

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Sunday, February 19, 2017 at 5 pm

Piedmont Center for the Arts, 801 Magnolia Avenue, Piedmont

Berkeley Symphony & Friends Chamber Music Series

Karsten Windt, *violin*
Angela Lee, *cello*
Roman Fukshansky, *clarinet*
Markus Pawlik, *piano*

Works by Stanford, Rota, Poulenc, Hindemith

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Saturday, April 15, 2017, 10 am & 11 am

Malcolm X Elementary School, 1731 Prince Street, Berkeley

“I’m a Performer” Family Concerts

Ming Luke, *conductor*
Berkeley Symphony

Tickets: Free (Suggested donation: \$10 per adult)

Sunday, April 23, 2017 at 5 pm

Piedmont Center for the Arts, 801 Magnolia Avenue, Piedmont

Berkeley Symphony & Friends Chamber Music Series

René Mandel, *violin*
Amy Hiraga, *violin*
Joy Fellows, *viola*
Peter Wyrick, *cello*
Britt Day, *piano*

Mozart: “Dissonant” Quartet K465
Dvořák: Piano Quintet in A Major, Op. 81

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Thursday, May 4, 2017 at 8 pm

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley campus, Bancroft Way at Dana Street, Berkeley

Joana Carneiro, *conductor*
Denis Sedov, *bass*
Alumni of the Chamber Chorus of the University of California
Alumni of the Pacific Boychoir Academy
Members of St. John of San Francisco Russian Orthodox Chorale

Marika Kuzma, *chorusmaster*
Berkeley Symphony

Shostakovich: Symphony No. 13 in B-flat minor, "Babi Yar"

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