

**BERKELEY
SYMPHONY**



**JOANA CARNEIRO
MUSIC DIRECTOR**

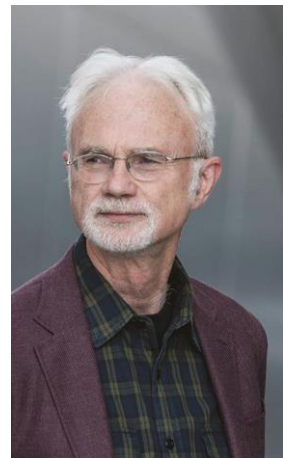
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Contact: Maggie Perkes

mperkes@berkeleysymphony.org, 510.841.2800

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

Berkeley Symphony opens its 2017-18 season on October 5-6 with Music Director Joana Carneiro conducting Beethoven's *Symphony No. 1*, *Jazz Suite No. 1* by Shostakovich, the world premiere of William Gardiner's cello concerto featuring Berkeley native Tessa Seymour, and John Adams' *Fearful Symmetries*.



(l to r: Joana Carneiro, by Rodrigo Souza; William Gardiner, by Jiyeon Kim; Tessa Seymour, per artist; John Adams, by Vern Evans)

Berkeley Symphony opens its 2017-18 season at **Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley on Thursday, October 5 at 7p**, followed by a repeat performance on **Friday, October 6 at 8p in Hume Hall at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music**. These performances mark the return to the podium of Music Director Joana Carneiro following a maternity leave of absence. Maestra Carneiro leads the Orchestra in Beethoven's *Symphony No. 1*, the world premiere of a cello

concerto by William Gardiner, *Jazz Suite No. 1* by Dmitri Shostakovich, and John Adams' *Fearful Symmetries*. Cellist Tessa Seymour, a Berkeley native, makes her debut with the Orchestra as the soloist in Gardiner's cello concerto, which was commissioned by the Pacific Harmony Foundation. Berkeley Symphony presents Adams' 1988 *Fearful Symmetries* in celebration of the composer's 70th birthday year.

[Tessa Seymour](#) made her televised Carnegie Hall debut in 2006 and has since been performing in Europe, Asia and the U.S., both as soloist and a chamber musician. Committed to a repertoire that cuts across genres and brings to life contemporary and established works alike, she has collaborated with and premiered the works of Matthias Pintscher, Krzysztof Penderecki, John Adams, David Ludwig, and Richard Danielpour. Recent appearances include concerts at the Kennedy Center and the U.S. premiere of Penderecki's *Suite for Solo Cello* at Carnegie Hall. Tessa is the recipient of, among other honors, the Verbier Festival's Jean-Nicolas Firmenich prize for cello.

[William Gardiner](#), born in 1987, is an emerging Australian-born composer of music for acoustic and electronic instruments. He has written works for symphony orchestra, chamber music, and early music ensembles, frequently using electronic media and amplified instruments. Educated at the Yale School of Music, where David Lang and Aaron Jay Kernis were his mentors, he brings an ear honed in recording studios to his work, which has been performed at venues including the Melbourne Recital Centre, the Sydney Opera House, Yale University's Morse Recital Hall, and REDCAT Los Angeles. In 2015 the LA-based ensemble wild Up premiered *Chiaroscuro*, commissioned as part of the American Composers Forum National Composition Contest, in which Gardiner was selected as one of three winners. He is also a recipient of the Presser Foundation Graduate Award (2013) and was a 2014 fellow in composition at the Bang on a Can Summer Festival at Massachusetts MoCA.

Composer and conductor [John Adams](#)' music is among the most performed of all contemporary classical music. The Berkeley-based composer marks his 70th birthday in 2017 with festivals of his music in Europe and the U.S, including special retrospectives at London's Barbican, at Cité de la Musique in Paris, and in Amsterdam, New York, Geneva, Stockholm, Los Angeles and San Francisco. Among his most significant compositions are *Harmonielehre*, *Shaker Loops*, *El Niño*, the *Chamber Symphony* and *The Dharma at Big Sur*. His stage works, all in collaboration with director Peter Sellars, have transformed the genre of contemporary music theater. His new opera, *Girls of the Golden West*, an opera about the California Gold Rush, will premiere in November 2017 at San Francisco Opera. As conductor, Adams leads the world's major orchestras in repertoire from Beethoven and Mozart to Stravinsky, Ives, Carter, Zappa, Glass and Ellington. Conducting engagements in recent and coming seasons include the Concertgebouw Orchestra, Berlin Philharmonic, London Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, Wiener Symphoniker and BBC Symphony, as well as the orchestras in Houston, Cincinnati, Atlanta, Seattle, Baltimore and Madrid. Nonesuch Records has recorded all of Adams' music over the past three decades. His latest release is *Scheherazade.2*, a dramatic symphony for violin and orchestra written for Leila Josefowicz.

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.

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.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

Thursday, October 5, 2017, 7p
Zellerbach Hall, 2425 Bancroft Avenue, Berkeley

Friday, October 6, 2017, 8p
Hume Hall / San Francisco Conservatory, 50 Oak Street, San Francisco

Berkeley Symphony
Joana Carneiro, *conductor*
Tessa Seymour, *cello*

Beethoven: *Symphony No. 1*
William Gardiner: *Cello Concerto (World Premiere)*
Shostakovich: *Jazz Suite No. 1*
John Adams: *Fearful Symmetries*

Tickets start at \$15. Visit berkeleysymphony.org or call 510.841.2800.