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JOSEPH YOUNG NAMED BERKELEY SYMPHONY MUSIC DIRECTOR



(Joseph Young, by Jeff Roffman)

BERKELEY, CA (April 17, 2019) – Berkeley Symphony is pleased to announce that **Joseph Young** has been named Music Director of Berkeley Symphony beginning with the 2019-20 Season through 2021-22.

In recent years, [Joseph Young](#) has made appearances with the Saint Louis Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic, Colorado Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Phoenix Symphony, Bamberger Symphoniker, New World Symphony Orchestra, Spoleto Festival Orchestra, Orquestra Sinfónica do Porto Casa da Música, and the Orquesta Sinfonica y Coro de RTVE (Madrid); among others in the U.S. and Europe. From 2014 - 2017, Joseph served as the Assistant Conductor of the Atlanta Symphony where he conducted more than 50 concerts per season. Mr. Young also served as the Music Director of the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra, where he

was the driving force behind the ensemble's artistic growth. Other previous appointments have included Resident Conductor of the Phoenix Symphony, and the League of American Orchestras Conducting Fellow with Buffalo Philharmonic and Baltimore Symphony. Currently, Joseph is the Ruth Blaustein Rosenberg Artistic Director of Ensembles at the Peabody Conservatory. Joseph became the Resident Conductor of the National Youth Orchestra (USA) in 2018.

Maestro Young first appeared with Berkeley Symphony to conduct Britten & Bernstein, the second symphonic concert of the 2018-19 Season, on January 31, 2019 in Zellerbach Hall. When the guest conductor for this concert canceled due to an illness, Young had just two days to prepare for the first rehearsal which included a world premiere composed by Hannah Kendall, Bernstein's Symphony No. 2 for Piano and Orchestra, and Britten's Four Sea Interludes from *Peter Grimes*. Young's performance was well received by the musicians and audience alike. "Young's ability to tackle at short notice not only Kendall's world premiere but also significant works by Britten and Bernstein was an impressive display. Certainly he seemed to have the delicacy and urgency of Kendall's writing well in hand." - [Joshua Kosman, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, February 1, 2019](#)

"Joseph's rapport with the orchestra is so clear and so heart-felt. We are very fortunate that he could join us this season on such short notice, and it has been delightful getting to know him. He will be a strong presence in the community, and we look forward to working with him in the years to come" stated Board of Directors Vice President for Governance and Music Director Search Committee Chair Kathleen Henschel.

"We are delighted to welcome Maestro Joseph Young to usher Berkeley Symphony into a next era as our new Music Director just prior to our 50th anniversary," stated Board President S. Shariq Yosufzai. "Maestro Young's musical brilliance and amazing virtuosity was evident in his interactions with our audience, the wonderful musicians of the orchestra, and the search committee. We are so excited to have him following in the footsteps of his three pace-setting and illustrious predecessors as our fourth music director."

"I'm thrilled to be named the next Music Director of the Berkeley Symphony," said Joseph Young. "From our first rehearsal, I felt a fantastic connection and chemistry with the musicians. I became immediately struck by the organization's and community's extraordinary history of innovation and energy. I am proud to become the leader of an orchestra with a celebrated past and high ambitions for the future. As we open a new musical chapter together, I look forward to strengthening the connections between the orchestra, Berkeley and the greater Bay Area."

Executive and Artistic Director René Mandel added, "As a person and as an artist, Joseph embodies a rare humility that was evident as soon as he stepped on the podium for the first time. There was an instant attraction that permeated throughout our entire family, both on and off the stage. Joseph is keenly aware of his role in our community and he will be an exemplary

ambassador for the City of Berkeley and beyond. We are deeply honored to have Joseph leading Berkeley Symphony into our next era.”

ABOUT BERKELEY SYMPHONY

[Berkeley Symphony](#) is unique among Bay Area and American orchestras for its commitment to innovation, community, and excellence. Founded in 1971 in the intellectual and artistic nexus of Berkeley, California, the Orchestra is committed to premiering and commissioning new music and champions female composers, sustained by the supportive musical environment of Berkeley, the East Bay, and the San Francisco Bay Area. From the outset, the people behind Berkeley Symphony’s culture and programming were attuned to the culturally diverse people and the heady creative climate of their home city.

Thomas Rarick, a protégé of the great English maestro Sir Adrian Boult, founded the orchestra in 1971 as the Berkeley Promenade Orchestra. Reflecting the spirit of the times, musicians performed in street dress and at unusual locations such as the University Art Museum. When Kent Nagano became the music director of the orchestra in 1978, he charted a new course by offering innovative programming that included rarely performed 20th-century works and numerous premieres. The renamed Berkeley Symphony Orchestra gained an international reputation for its adventurous programming, and became known for premiering the music of international composers and showcasing young local talents. Berkeley Symphony entered a new era in January 2009 when Joana Carneiro became the Orchestra’s third Music Director in its 40-year history. In 2016, Berkeley Symphony and composer Anna Clyne were awarded a Music Alive grant for a three-year composer residency, designed to immerse Clyne and the Symphony in the creation of new work, collaboration with other Berkeley arts institutions, music education, community outreach and multidisciplinary activities. Joseph Young succeeds Music Director Emerita Joana Carneiro after she announced her intent to step down as Berkeley Symphony’s Music Director at the end of the 2017-18 season and after nine seasons at its artistic helm.

Berkeley Symphony has introduced Bay Area audiences to works by upcoming young composers, many of whom have since achieved international prominence. Celebrated British composer George Benjamin, who subsequently became Composer-in-Residence at the San Francisco Symphony, was first introduced to the Bay Area in 1987 when Berkeley Symphony performed his compositions *Jubilation* and *Ringed by the Flat Horizon*; as was Thomas Adès, whose opera *Powder Her Face* was debuted by the Orchestra in a concert version in 1997 before it was fully staged in New York City, London and Chicago.

2019-20 Season concerts details will be announced mid-May of this year.

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