



BERKELEY SYMPHONY PRESENTS *REAL BERKELEY* VIRTUAL FILM SERIES

Four Free Episodes Highlight Berkeley Community Alongside Selected Chamber Repertoire Beginning with *Rad Women* on March 28 and *Edgy Art* on May 16

Episodes 3 and 4 - *Audacious Performances* and *Loving Food* – Scheduled for June Release with Details To Be Announced



Berkeley, CA – Thursday March 4, 2021 – Berkeley Symphony announced today the launch of *REAL Berkeley*, a four-episode virtual film series that shines a light on the Berkeley community through special guest curators, local videography, and chamber music performed by musicians of the orchestra. The series opens on **Sunday, March 28 at 4:00 p.m. PDT** with *Rad Women*, featuring writer and guest curator Kate Schatz, author of the best-selling book *Rad American Women A-Z*, and three works by prominent women composers: Reena Esmail’s *Meri Sakhi Ki Avaaz (My Sister’s Voice)*, Gabriella Smith’s *Tessellations* and Clara Schumann’s Piano Trio. The second episode, entitled *Edgy Art*, will be released on **Sunday May 16 at 4:00 p.m.** with a showcase of exhibits and artwork from the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA) alongside chamber works by John Adams, Florence Price, Michael Daugherty, and Olivier Messiaen.

The series will conclude in June with *Audacious Performances* and *Loving Food*. More information about the remaining episodes will be announced at a later date. All four episodes will be streamed free of charge via the Berkeley Symphony YouTube channel and can be viewed at any time thereafter.

Produced by Berkeley Symphony Artistic Director René Mandel in partnership with Music Director Joseph Young and Bay Area-based media company Reneff-Olson Productions, *REAL Berkeley* will highlight unique aspects of the city that have a significant impact on both the orchestra and the community. Building on its award-winning programming of both contemporary works and music from the classic repertoire, Berkeley Symphony will pair engaging footage of chamber works performed by members of the orchestra with imagery

and videography from locations throughout Berkeley. Each episode will be guest curated by a different local arts luminary and will last approximately 40 minutes. All episodes will be streamed free of charge on the Berkeley Symphony YouTube channel and will remain available for viewing after the initial release date.

“The importance of a strong and resilient community has been displayed throughout the past year as residents, businesses, organizations, and many others have all come together to provide support for one another during these difficult times,” said Artistic Director René Mandel. “*REAL Berkeley* pays tribute to a community that we are proud to represent. We look forward to celebrating these wonderful aspects of our city through adventurous music and imagery that represent the diversity and ethos of Berkeley.”

On Sunday, March 28 at 4 p.m. PDT, *REAL Berkeley* will begin with *Rad Women*, which is inspired by the book *Rad American Women A-Z* by *The New York Times* best-selling author and Berkeley-native Kate Schatz. In addition to her work as a writer, public speaker and feminist activist, Ms. Schatz has served as former chair of the School of Literary Arts at Oakland School of the Arts and has taught writing and literature at UC Santa Cruz, San Jose State and Rhode Island College.



As *REAL Berkeley*'s first guest curator, Schatz will introduce works of three prominent women composers: *Tessellations* for flute, clarinet, trumpet and string trio by Bay Area-native Gabriella Smith, *Meri Sakhi Ki Avaaz* for piano quintet, Hindustani singer, and soprano by Reena Esmail and the Andante movement from Clara Schumann's Piano Trio. A live Q&A session with Kate and the musicians will follow the episode's premiere via Zoom.



The series continues on Sunday, May 16 at 4 p.m. with *Edgy Art*. In collaboration with the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA), this episode will combine a selection of artwork and exhibits currently on display with chamber works performed and filmed at the museum. Appearing as guest curator is the new Director of BAMPFA, Julie Rodrigues Widholm. Exhibits by Bay Area and California-based artists Rosie Lee Tomkins and Edie Fake will be paired with the second movement from Florence Price's String Quartet in G Major and Messiaen's *Appel Interstellaire* for solo horn, respectively. Additional works include part one of John Adams's *Shaker Loops* and Michael Daugherty's *Diamond in the Rough* for violin, viola, and percussion.

Episodes three and four, entitled *Audacious Performances* and *Loving Food*, will be released in June and full details will be announced at a later date. *Audacious Performances* will highlight some of the many Berkeley-

based arts organizations that contribute to the thriving local arts scene alongside Berkeley Symphony and *Loving Food* will focus on the pivotal role that the Berkeley Food Network has played throughout the pandemic.

For more information, please visit <http://www.berkeleysymphony.org>.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

Berkeley Symphony Presents

REAL Berkeley

Episode 1: Rad Women

Sunday, March 28 at 4 p.m. PDT on YouTube

Gabriella Smith: *Tessellations* for flute, clarinet, trumpet, and string trio

Clara Schumann: Andante from Piano Trio

Reena Esmail: *Meri Sakhi Ki Avaaz* for piano quintet, Hindustani singer, and soprano

Saili Oak, Hindustani singer

TBD, soprano

Stephanie Bibbo, violin

Sarah Wood, violin

Darcy Rindt, viola

Isaac Pastor-Chermak, cello

Stacey Pelinka, flute

Roman Fukshansky, clarinet

Scott Macomber, trumpet

Britton Day, piano

Berkeley Symphony Presents

REAL Berkeley

Episode 2: Edgy Art

Sunday, May 16 at 4 p.m. PDT on YouTube

Florence Price: Movement II from String quartet in G major

Olivier Messiaen: *Appel Interstellaire* for solo horn

John Adams: *Shaker Loops* for string septet

Michael Daugherty: *Diamond in the Rough* for Violin, Viola, Percussion

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 women 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. In the 2019-2020 season, Berkeley Symphony entered a new era under the leadership of Joseph Young, the Orchestra's fourth Music Director in its nearly 50-year history, following a highly successful February 2019 debut that was acclaimed by critics and audiences alike. In addition to building on the Orchestra's artistic innovation, creativity and adventurous programming, Maestro Young is committed to amplifying the voices of underrepresented composers and artists as well as continuing to tell diverse stories that reflect the local Berkeley community.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.berkeleysymphony.org>.

PHOTO CREDITS

Berkeley Symphony Chamber Series / Dr. Dave

Kate Schatz / Kate Schatz

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