



Music Director Joseph Young

Artistic Director René Mandel

Executive Director Jim Tibbs

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**BERKELEY SYMPHONY TO EXPAND ACCESSIBILITY
OFFERINGS, PROVIDING AUDIO DESCRIPTIONS FOR
SYMPHONIC II: REIMAGINE
FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2022 AT 7:30 P.M.**

BERKELEY, CA (March 9, 2022) – Now in its 50th anniversary season, **Berkeley Symphony** announced that it will expand its accessibility offerings, providing live audio descriptions—in partnership with **Gravity Access**—for the visual program featured in ***Symphonic II: Reimagine*** on **Friday, March 25 at 7:30 p.m.** at **First Congregational Church of Berkeley**. *Reimagine* will feature Indian-American composer **Reena Esmail's *Meri Sakhi Ki Awaazi*** (My Sister's Voice); a uniquely Berkeley retelling of Sergei Prokofiev's ***Peter and the Wolf***, narrated by illustrator and graphic journalist **Wendy MacNaughton**; and Maurice Ravel's ***Mother Goose Suite***. Audio descriptions will be provided for ***Peter and the Wolf***, as three local illustrators bring the music and story to life through live drawings during the performance.

Tickets that include audio descriptions are \$30 and are available now at berkeleysymphony.org or by calling the box office at 510.841.2800. Please mention **ACCESSWOLF30** when booking.

Reena Esmail works between the worlds of Indian and Western classical music, bringing communities together through the creation of equitable musical spaces. ***Meri Sakhi Ki Awaazi*** is a cross-cultural journey that explores family and community across the globe. The piece will feature Hindustani singer **Saili Oak** and soprano **Maya Kherani**.

Narrating the reimagined telling of *Peter and the Wolf*, **Wendy MacNaughton** has a long history of combining the practice of deep looking, listening and drawing to create stories of often overlooked people, places and things. As the creator and host of “DrawTogether,” participatory drawing show for kids, she helps others use art to bolster social-emotional skills, self-confidence and connection.

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Berkeley Symphony requires proof of vaccination and masks to be worn at all in-person events. Per CDC guidance, Berkeley Symphony guests are highly encouraged to use procedural masks (either alone or with a cloth mask on top) or higher grade N95 or KN95 masks for the utmost protection. For more information, visit berkeleysymphony.org/healthsafety.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

Symphonic II: Reimagine

Friday, March 25 at 7:30 p.m.

First Congregational Church of Berkeley

Tickets: \$35–90

Reena Esmail, *Meri Sakhi Ki Avaaz* (My Sister’s Voice) featuring Hindustani singer Saili Oak and soprano Maya Kherani

Maurice Ravel, *Mother Goose Suite*

Sergei Prokofiev, *Peter and the Wolf*, featuring Wendy MacNaughton as narrator

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 performing, premiering, and commissioning new music that reflects the culturally diverse people and the heady creative climate of its 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 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.

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