



Music Director Joseph Young

Artistic Director René Mandel

Executive Director Jim Tibbs

1942 University Avenue, Suite 104, Berkeley, CA 94704

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

PRESS CONTACT: Julie Richter | julie@julierichter.co | 480.818.8022

BERKELEY SYMPHONY PRESENTS ***SYMPHONIC III: REJOICE***

REJOICE will feature Beethoven's Ninth featuring new text from former U.S. Poet Laureate Tracy K. Smith and the World Premiere of "Rise" by Berkeley Composer Jimmy Lopéz Bellido

*****Sunday, June 12, 2022*****

BERKELEY, CA (April 26, 2022) – **Berkeley Symphony** concludes its historic 50th Anniversary season with ***Symphonic III: Rejoice*** on **Sunday, June 12 at 4 p.m. at Zellerbach Hall**. ***Rejoice*** will feature an epic performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, accented by a reimagined libretto set by former **U.S. Poet Laureate Tracy K. Smith** and Berkeley-based composer **Jimmy Lopéz Bellido** will present the World Premiere commission of *Rise*, a celebratory work written in honor of the Symphony's milestone anniversary season. Tickets (\$15–90) are available now online at berkeleysymphony.org or by calling the box office at 510.841.2800.

"As the final performance of our historic season, *Rejoice* is a reflection of how we work to create a sense of belonging through music, while honoring Berkeley Symphony's legacy of innovation and inclusion," says **Joseph Young, Music Director of Berkeley Symphony**. "By presenting the classical favorite of Beethoven's Ninth with a modern twist and by highlighting the exciting work of a celebrated composer of our generation,

we hope that *Rejoice* will set the stage for the next 50 years of sharing music that resonates with our communities.”

The recent celebration of the 250th anniversary of Beethoven’s birth brought new life to his Ninth Symphony, when Carnegie Hall commissioned former United States Poet Laureate Tracy K. Smith to reimagine Friedrich Schiller’s poem “Ode to Joy.” Smith’s text presents a radical call for equality and freedom. A favorite for many, Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony reflects Berkeley Symphony’s vision to resonate with the cultural demand of current times and place, and create a greater sense of belonging for all.

Composer Jimmy Lopéz Bellido will present *Rise*, an original work composed for the celebration of Berkeley Symphony’s 50th Anniversary season. Lopéz Bellido has been proclaimed an “undeniably exciting composer” (Opera News), with “a brilliant command of orchestral timbres and textures” (Dallas Morning News) and “a virtuoso mastery of the modern orchestra” (The New Yorker). López Bellido has created works performed by leading orchestras around the world and in prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall, Sydney Opera House, Gewandhaus Leipzig, Kennedy Center, Vienna’s Musikverein, and Konzerthaus Berlin.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

Symphonic III: Rejoice

Sunday, June 12 at 4 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall

Tickets: \$15–90

Ticketholders are invited to a free reception following the performance.

Jimmy Lopéz Bellido *Rise* (World premiere made possible through the generous support of Kathleen G. Henshel & John W. Dewes and New Music USA)

Beethoven *Symphony No. 9* featuring new text from Tracy K. Smith commissioned by Carnegie Hall.

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.

###