

**BERKELEY
SYMPHONY**



**JOANA CARNEIRO
MUSIC DIRECTOR**

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

Berkeley Symphony and Guest Conductor Elim Chan perform the US premiere of James MacMillan's Symphony No. 4, co-commissioned by Berkeley Symphony, and Shai Wosner is soloist in Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 December 8 at Zellerbach Hall



(l to r: Elim Chan, by Lau Kwok Kei; Shai Wosner, by Marco Borggreve; James MacMillan, by Philip Gatward).

BERKELEY, CA (November 10, 2016) – Guest conductor Elim Chan makes her Bay Area debut leading [Berkeley Symphony](http://www.berkeleysymphony.org) in the U.S. premiere of James MacMillan's Symphony No. 4, a Berkeley Symphony co-commission, and Shai Wosner is soloist in Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 on Thursday, December 8 at 8 pm at Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley. Berkeley Symphony Music Director Joana Carneiro has announced that she is withdrawing from the concert. The MacMillan work is a co-commission by Berkeley Symphony, the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, and Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.

Tickets for the Berkeley Symphony concert December 8 are priced at \$15 to \$74 and are available at www.berkeleysymphony.org or by phone at (510) 841-2800, ext. 1.

Born in Hong Kong in 1986, [Elim Chan](#) became the first female winner of the Donatella Flick LSO Conducting Competition in December 2014. As a result, she held the position of Assistant Conductor

of the London Symphony Orchestra for the 2015-16 season. She has been appointed to the Dudamel Fellowship Program at the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and becomes the Chief Conductor of NorrlandsOperan in 2017-18.

Chan's career highlights include her debut with the Mariinsky Orchestra in spring 2016 as a result of a personal invitation from Valery Gergiev (both in St. Petersburg and on tour in Mexico with Behzod Abduraimov as soloist), her debut at the Lucerne Festival with the Lucerne Festival Academy Orchestra in 2016 in a program of Bartók, John Adams and Kaija Saariaho and, coming in spring 2017, her North American debuts with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in its Music NOW series, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra in its neighborhood concert series, and a return visit to Hong Kong Philharmonic. Other upcoming engagements include debuts leading the Lucerne Symphony, Orchestre Philharmonique de Luxembourg, Orchestre National de Belgique, Australian Youth Orchestra, Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne, Norrköping Symphony, Orquesta Filarmonica de Gran Canaria, and re-invitations to Orchestre National de Lille and Orchestra Haydn di Bolzano e Trento.

Chan led the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa and the Orchestre de la Francophonie as part of the NAC Summer Music Institute in 2012, where she worked with Pinchas Zuckerman. She also participated in the Musical Olympus Festival in St. Petersburg and in workshops with the Cabrillo Festival and Baltimore Symphony orchestras with Marin Alsop, Gerard Schwarz and Gustav Meier. Chan holds degrees from Smith College and the University of Michigan. She received the Bruno Walter Conducting Scholarship in 2013.

[James MacMillan](#) is the pre-eminent Scottish composer of his generation. He first attracted attention with the acclaimed BBC Proms premiere of *The Confession of Isobel Gowdie* in 1990. His percussion concerto *Veni, Veni Emmanuel* has received close to 500 performances worldwide by orchestras including London Symphony Orchestra, the New York and Los Angeles Philharmonics and The Cleveland Orchestra. Other major works include the cantata *Seven Last Words from the Cross*, which Berkeley Symphony performed in 2011, *Quickening* for soloists, children's choir, mixed choir and orchestra, and the operas *Inès de Castro*, *The Sacrifice*, and *St. John Passion*.

James MacMillan was the featured composer at Edinburgh Festival (1993), Southbank Centre (1997), BBC's Barbican Composer Weekend (2005) and Grafenegg Festival (2012). His interpreters include soloists Evelyn Glennie, Colin Currie, Jean-Yves Thibaudet and Vadim Repin, conductors Leonard Slatkin, Sir Andrew Davis, Marin Alsop and Donald Runnicles, and choreographer Christopher Wheeldon. Recent highlights include premieres of MacMillan's *St. Luke Passion*, *A European Requiem* and *Stabat Mater*. Future plans include a trombone concerto for premiere by Jörgen van Rijen with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra.

Pianist [Shai Wosner](#) has attracted international recognition for his exceptional artistry, musical integrity, and creative insight. His performances of a broad range of repertoire—from Beethoven and Schubert to Ligeti and the music of today—reflect a degree of virtuosity and intellectual curiosity that has made him a favorite among audiences and critics, who note his “keen musical mind and deep musical soul” (NPR's *All Things Considered*).

In the 2016-17 season, Wosner launches a new solo recital series, Schubert: The Great Sonatas, which continues his critically acclaimed engagement with the composer's music. Described as a “Schubertian of unfaltering authority and character” by *Gramophone*, Wosner performs Schubert's last six piano sonatas over two concert programs, comparing the pieces to “six thick novels, rich with insight about the human condition.” He performs the series this season in Israel, with performances in the U.S. and Japan scheduled for the 2017-18 season.

Well-established as a presenter of major contemporary orchestral works, [Berkeley Symphony](#) and Music Director Joana Carneiro continue their steadfast commitment to presenting original and unique

programs with new music commissioned by living composers, many of whom Berkeley Symphony has developed an ongoing creative and collaborative relationship. In addition to the performance of Sir James MacMillan's Symphony No. 4, a co-commission with BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Berkeley Symphony will also present the Bay Area premiere of Mason Bates' Cello Concerto, with Joshua Roman as soloist. The Orchestra also performs Shostakovich's epic Symphony No. 13, "Babi Yar", with bass Denis Sedov and alumni of choruses including the UC Berkeley Chamber Chorus, the Pacific Boychoir Academy, and members of the St. John of San Francisco Russian Orthodox Chorale, led by Marika Kuzma. 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.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

Thursday, December 8, 2016 at 8 pm – [REVERENCE](#)

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley campus, Bancroft Way at Dana Street, Berkeley

Elim Chan, *conductor*
Shai Wosner, *piano*
Berkeley Symphony

James MacMillan: Symphony No. 4 (*U.S. Premiere, Co-Commission with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra*)
Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 4 in G Major

TICKETS: Tickets for the Berkeley Symphony concert December 8 are priced at \$15 to \$74 and are available at www.berkeleysymphony.org or by phone at (510) 841-2800, ext. 1. A pre-concert talk, free to ticketholders, begins at 7 pm.