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BERKELEY SYMPHONY ANNOUNCES 2022-23 SEASON

Led by Music Director Joseph Young,
Berkeley Symphony's 51st season, *Find Your Frequency*,
presents a dynamic season of reimagined classics and
contemporary talent.

BERKELEY, CA (July 13, 2022) – Today, **Berkeley Symphony** announced its 2022-23 Season, led by **Music Director Joseph Young**, who is now in his fourth season with the organization. The 51st season, entitled *Find Your Frequency*, builds on Berkeley Symphony's history of presenting orchestral music from a variety of genres featuring reimagined classics and vital new voices. With innovative programming, sweeping scores, and vital new voices, *Find Your Frequency* will feature three Symphonic Series performances at Zellerbach Hall and five Chamber Series performances. Subscription ticket packages are on sale now and may be purchased by visiting berkeleysymphony.org or by calling the box office at 510.841.2800. Individual concert tickets go on sale on September 6, 2022.

“Our milestone 50th year marked a return to joy — now, as we embark on our next season, we invite you to *Find Your Frequency* through a range of performances,” says Young. “Our upcoming season will feature performances that explore music as a form of self-expression, a means for creating connections, and a vehicle for sharing our stories with one another.”

Symphonic Series

The season opens with a powerful statement on musical identity at *Symphonic I: Identities* on **Sunday, October 16, 2022**, exploring individual triumphs and challenges through music. The

performance will open with *Upon Daybreak*, a world premiere commissioned by Berkeley Symphony's New Music USA composer in residence **Brian Raphael Nabors**. The voice of pioneering African American composer **Florence Price** comes to life in a performance of her *Violin Concerto No. 2*, featuring violinist Rachel Barton Pine. Rediscovered in 2009, Price's forgotten gem is a perfect pairing with Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's powerful *Fifth Symphony*. Behind the immensely rich symphony was a composer struggling with his personal identity, fighting against his perceived tragic fate. His emotional turmoil is poured into this gripping work.

On **Sunday, April 2, 2023**, *Symphonic II: Connections* explores friendships old and new, and pays tribute to places and people that inspire connections made through music. *Connections* will transport audiences to Jalisco, Mexico; the birthplace of Juan Pablo Contreras and the origin of mariachi music. *Mariachitlán* is an energetic homage that highlights traditional mariachi rhythms, accompanied by original melodies. A true champion of long-forgotten and diverse voices, pianist Lara Downes performs a pair of works for piano and orchestra by Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn, highlighting the lifelong musical partnership and deep friendship between the two. Ellington referred to Strayhorn as "My right arm, my left arm, and all the eyes in the back of my head." Rounding out the evening of celebrating relationships, Elgar's theme and fourteen variations are sketches of friends-full of admiration, deep seriousness, and humor. Each variation is a reflection of an individual, immortalizing their connection and friendship.

The third of the series, *Symphonic III: Enduring Stories*, is also the final performance of the season on **Sunday, June 4, 2023**. Berkeley Symphony will weave together three tales of its own, inspired by strong women. The concert will feature Rimsky-Korsakov's lush masterpiece *Scheherazade*, which draws from the Middle Eastern collection of tales *One Thousand One Nights*, whose lead character changed her life and the lives of those around her. The vivid, imaginative orchestration is paired with Carlos Simon's *Portrait of a Queen*, which weaves together spoken word and music to tell the history of Black America from the vantage point of a strong, female narrator. The final Symphonic performance will also include the world premiere of *Lotus Prayer* by Chinese-born composer Xi Wang. *Enduring Stories* brings together these powerful works, elevating the musical portraits of trailblazing women.

Chamber Series

Five Chamber Series performances will accompany the Symphonic Series, exploring similar themes to complement the programming. The Chamber Series will feature works by iconic composers such as Tchaikovsky and Florence Price, juxtaposed brilliantly with contemporary pieces by Brian Nabors, Carlos Simon, Amy Beach, Lili Boulanger and more. Featuring a wide range of styles, textures, and emotions, from the jazzy tango of Piazzolla's *Four Seasons* to the richness of the quartets of Borodin and Tchaikovsky, the Chamber concerts offer something for everyone. All Chamber Series concerts will take place at Piedmont Center for the Arts, unless otherwise noted.

The Chamber Series begins with **Fall Colors** on **Sunday, October 2, 2022**, featuring Brian Nabors' *7 Dances* for flute, clarinet, and cello; Florence Price's *Five Folksongs in Counterpoint* for string quartet; and *String Quartet No. 3* by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. The performance serves as a primer to the Symphonic Series season opener, *Identities*, on October 16, which will feature work from the same composers.

On **Sunday, December 4, 2022**, Berkeley Symphony will present **Holiday Blast**, a concert of festive holiday favorites performed by the Berkeley Symphony Brass Quintet, at Piedmont Community Hall.

The Chamber Series continues on **Sunday, February 5, 2023** with **Winter of Love**, featuring *Romance* for violin and piano by Amy Beach; selections from Elvis Costello's *The Juliet Letters*, for baritone and string quartet, and Johannes Brahms' *Piano Quartet in G Minor, Op. 25*.

Berkeley Symphony will welcome spring on **Sunday, March 19, 2023** with **Spring Fever**, which will include Lili Boulanger's *D'un matin de printemps (Of a Spring Morning)*; Astor Piazzolla's *The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*; and Maurice Ravel's Piano Trio in A Minor.

Rounding out the series is **Between Worlds** on **Sunday, May 21, 2023**, featuring *move it and Between Worlds* by Carlos Simon, accompanied by Amy Beach's Theme and Variation for flute and string quartet, Op. 80; and Alexander Borodin's String Quartet No.2.

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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TICKET INFORMATION

Subscriptions to the Symphonic Series are on sale now. Three concert subscriptions range from \$51 to \$228 and can be purchased by calling the box office at (510) 841-2800 or visiting berkeleysymphony.org.

Subscriptions to the Chamber Series are on sale now. Five concert subscriptions are available for \$160 and can be purchased by calling the box office at (510) 841-2800 or visiting berkeleysymphony.org.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

Symphonic I: Identities

Sunday, October 16, 2022 at 4 p.m. at Zellerbach Hall

Featuring Rachel Barton Pine, violin

Brian Raphael Nabors: *Upon Daybreak*. World Premiere made possible through New Music USA's Amplifying Voices program and the generous support of the Sphinx Ventures Fund, ASCAP and the Sorel Organization

Florence Price: *Violin Concerto No. 2*

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky: *Symphony No. 5*

Symphonic II: Connections

Sunday, April 2, 2023 at 4 p.m. at Zellerbach Hall

Featuring Lara Downes, piano

Juan Pablo Contreras: *Mariachitlán*

Duke Ellington: *New World A-Comin*

Billy Strayhorn / Chris Walden: *Strayhorn Concerto*

Edward Elgar: *Enigma Variations*

Symphonic III: Enduring Stories

Sunday, June 4, 2023 at 4 p.m. at Zellerbach Hall

Xi Wang: *Lotus Prayer*. World Premiere made possible through the League of American Orchestras' Women Composers Commissions generously supported by the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation

Carlos Simon: *Portrait of a Queen*

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov: *Scheherazade*

Chamber Series

Fall Colors

Sunday, October 2, 2022 at 4 p.m. at Piedmont Center For The Arts

Brian Raphael Nabors: *7 Dances* for Flute, Clarinet, Cello
Florence Price: *Five Folksongs in Counterpoint* for String Quartet
Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky: *String Quartet No. 3*

Holiday Blast

Sunday, December 4, 2022 at 4 p.m. at Piedmont Community Hall

Berkeley Symphony Brass Quintet: Featuring Festive Holiday Favorites

Winter of Love

Sunday, February 5, 2023 at 4 p.m. at Piedmont Center for the Arts

Amy Beach: *Romance* for Violin and Piano
Elvis Costello: Selections from *The Juliet Letters* for Baritone and String Quartet
Johannes Brahms: *Piano Quartet in G Minor, Op. 25*

Spring Fever

Sunday, March 19, 2023 at 4 p.m. at Piedmont Center for the Arts

Lili Boulanger: *D'un matin de printemps (Of a Spring Morning)*
Astor Piazzolla: *The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*
Maurice Ravel: Piano Trio in A Minor

Between Worlds

Sunday, May 21, 2023 at 4 p.m. at Piedmont Center for the Arts

Carlos Simon: *move it*
Amy Beach: Theme and Variation for flute and string quartet, Op. 80
Carlos Simon: *Between Worlds*
Alexander Borodin: String Quartet No.2