



Music Director Joseph Young
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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BERKELEY SYMPHONY ANNOUNCES 2023-24 SEASON

Music Director Joseph Young takes Berkeley Symphony into its 52nd season with a dynamic range of orchestra music in four symphonic and five chamber performances

BERKELEY, CA (July 11, 2023) – Today, **Berkeley Symphony** announced its 2023-24 Season, led by **Music Director Joseph Young**, who is now in his fifth season with the historic organization. With four Symphonic Series performances and five Chamber Series performances, Berkeley Symphony will present a range of impactful programming that spans the expansive catalog of orchestral music. The 52nd Season will highlight musings on poetry, literature, light, and art, while converging classic and contemporary scores. Subscription packages are available now and may be purchased online at berkeleysymphony.org or by calling the box office at 510.841.2800. Individual concert tickets will go on sale in the fall.

“Our 52nd season embodies the vibrant, bold, and original essence of our community,” says Young. “Berkeley Symphony goes beyond the conventional, to spotlight the intersections and interplay between symphonic music, jazz, and contemporary classical. Together with world-class guest artists and our exceptional musicians, Berkeley Symphony will play with a palette of orchestral color.”

“Joseph has curated an exciting, innovative, and inclusive season that responds to our ever-changing world and deepens our connection to audiences across the San Francisco Bay Area,” says **Kate Kammeyer, Executive Director of Berkeley Symphony**. “Through the immense talent of our musicians, as well as creative and accessible programming, Berkeley Symphony continues to flourish, adapting to serve the well-being of our diverse and unique community.”

SYMPHONIC SERIES

The Symphonic Series will open with ***American Kaleidoscope*** on **Sunday, October 15 at 4 p.m.** at **Zellerbach Hall**. The **Marcus Roberts Trio** will join forces with the orchestra to present the jazz-infused brilliance of Rodney Johnson's *Yamekraw: A Negro Rhapsody*, as well as George Gershwin's iconic *Rhapsody in Blue*. Audiences will also experience the rare harmonies of Samuel Barber's *Essay for Orchestra No. 2* and Peter S. Shin's introspective score *Relapse*.

The series continues with ***French Reverie*** on **Sunday, February 25, 2024 at 4 p.m.** at **First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley**. The performance will immerse audiences in a celebration of musical contributions of trailblazing French composers, drawing from the impressionist era to modern day. Vivid colors come to life in Claude Debussy's signature symphonic poem, *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun*, while Guillaume Connesson's *A Kind of Trane* honors the legendary jazz icon John Coltrane, featuring **Robert Young**, saxophone. The pioneering creativity of Louise Farrenc's *Symphony No. 3 in G minor* will round out the evening, painting a rich and colorful musical tapestry.

On **Saturday, March 23, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.** ***Literary Soundscapes*** will bring literature to life, exploring the enchantment of musical storytelling at **First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley**. The West Coast Premiere of Joel Puckett's *There Was a Child Who Went Forth*—featuring the tenor **Nicholas Phan**—draws inspiration from Walt Whitman's poetic childhood account, while Felix Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, captures the essence of one of Shakespeare's most revered comedies. These works are bookended by an extraordinary fusion of Langston Hughes' epic poem and Laura Karpman's interdisciplinary creation, *Ask Your Mama: 12 Moods for Jazz, Part 1* and *Part 3*, conveying a rich tapestry of American voices.

For the final symphonic performance of the season, Berkeley Symphony returns to **Zellerbach Hall** for ***Pictures at an Exhibition*** on **Sunday, June 2, 2024 at 4 p.m.**, where color, light, and soulful melodies intertwine. Duke Ellington's *Solitude*, arranged by Morton Gould, evokes the voices of jazz legends Billie Holiday and Louis Armstrong. The celestial phenomenon of the Northern Lights come to life through Jimmy López Bellido's enchanting *Aurora Violin Concerto*, featuring the virtuosity of **Leticia Moreno**. Modest Mussorgsky's grand *Pictures at an Exhibition*, orchestrated by Maurice Ravel, offers a vivid look into Viktor Hartmann's paintings and life. Through the transcendent fusion of sight and sound, the performance will paint an unforgettable landscape that captivates audiences.

CHAMBER SERIES

Five Chamber Series performances will accompany the Symphonic Series, paired to accompany the programming and feature a spectrum of musical styles, textures, and sensations. All Chamber Series concerts will take place in an intimate setting at Piedmont Center for the Arts.

The Chamber Series begins with ***American Intersections*** on **Sunday, September 24, 2023 at 4 p.m.**, featuring Vijay Iyer's *Dig the Say*, Margaret Bonds' *Credo* for solo piano, Molly Joyce's *Anatomy is Destiny*, Jessie Montgomery's *Source Code*, and Antonin Dvorak's String Quintet no. 3 in E flat major, Op. 97, B.180. ***American Intersections*** expands the listeners expectations of what the "American" sound can be in classical music. Paired with the Symphonic 1 program, we explore jazz, blues, funk, folk music and diverse voices from all walks of life expressing the representation of cultural heritage, gender, abilities and influences, all which make up this vibrant country.

The second performance of the series zooms in on the Golden State with ***California Connections*** on **Sunday, November 19, 2023 at 4 p.m.** will feature Gabriela Lena Frank's *Kanto Kechua #2*, Ben Shirley's *High Sierra Sonata*, Anaís Azul's *Cascades and Canyons*, Gabriella Smith's *Carrot Revolution*, and John Adams' *Book of Alleged Dances*. ***California Connections*** not only highlights California and the Bay Area's talented composers but also the relationships built through mentoring and learning from each other with Gabriela Lena Frank and John Adams as major influences in addition to their personal connections to Berkeley!

On **Sunday, December 3, 2023**, Berkeley Symphony will present ***Holiday Winds***, a concert of festive holiday favorites performed by the Berkeley Symphony Woodwind Quintet. Join us for music, treats and a fun way to celebrate all of the winter holidays!

The Chamber Series continues on **Sunday, February 4, 2024** with ***Spirited Impressions***, celebrating the Lunar New Year and the upcoming 2024 Year of the Dragon. The program will include Cecil Chaminade's Piano Trio no. 1 G minor, Op. 11, Zhou Long's *Spirit of the Chimes*, Chen Yi's *At the Kansas City Chinese New Year Concert*, and Debussy's Piano Trio in G major. We continue our intersections and influences in ***Spirited Impressions*** as we highlight the works of married couple Zhou Long and Chen Yi to celebrate the 2024 Lunar New Year and the many influences Chinese harmonies, scales and modes have had on the great French composers. This program pairs with our Symphonic 2 program in highlighting a wide range of French music and female composers like Chaminade and Farrenc who are only now being appreciated for their musical genius.

Rounding out the series is ***Play on Words*** on **Sunday, April 14, 2024**, featuring guest artists, **Lisa Delan**, soprano, and **Rene Mandel**, violin, ***Play on Words*** includes Juhi Bansal's *An Imaginary Thing*, Gordon Getty's *Four Dickinson Songs*, Erich Wolfgang Korngold's *Much Ado About Nothing*, Jake Heggie's *Shed No Tear*, Felix Mendelssohn's *From Song Without Words*, and Valerie Coleman's *Portraits of Langston*. ***Play on Words*** continues our celebration of poetry and literature from our Symphonic 3 program featuring the works of Emily Dickinson, Langston Hughes, John Keats, William Shakespeare and Walt Whitman. Join us for this colorful program and celebrate Poetry month in April!

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 and the Chamber Series are on sale now. For the Symphonic Series, three concert subscriptions range from \$91 to \$168. The Chamber Series subscriptions are \$140. Subscriptions can be purchased by calling the box office at (510) 841-2800 or visiting berkeleysymphony.org.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

SYMPHONIC SERIES

American Kaleidoscope

Sunday, October 15, 2023 at 4 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall

JOSEPH YOUNG *conductor*

MARCUS ROBERTS TRIO

Marcus Roberts *piano*

Rodney Jordan *bass*

Jason Marsalis *drums*

BARBER *Essay for Orchestra No. 2*

JOHNSON *Yamekraw: A Negro Rhapsody*

Featuring Marcus Roberts Trio

PETER S. SHIN
GERSHWIN

Relapse
Rhapsody in Blue
Featuring Marcus Roberts Trio

French Reverie

Sunday, February 25, 2024 at 4 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley

JOSEPH YOUNG
ROBERT YOUNG

conductor
saxophone

DEBUSSY
GUILLAUME CONNESSON

Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun
A Kind of Trane
Featuring Robert Young, saxophone

FARRENC

Symphony No. 3 in G minor

Literary Soundscapes

Saturday, March 23, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley

JOSEPH YOUNG
NICHOLAS PHAN

conductor
tenor

JOEL PUCKETT

There Was a Child Who Went Forth (West Coast Premiere)
Nicholas Phan, tenor

LAURA KARPMAN
MENDELSSOHN
LAURA KARPMAN

Ask Your Mama: 12 Moods for Jazz, Part 1
Selections from A Midsummer Night's Dream
Ask Your Mama: 12 Moods for Jazz, Part 3

Pictures at an Exhibition

Sunday, June 2, 2024 at 4 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall

JOSEPH YOUNG
LETICIA MORENO

conductor
violin

ELLINGTON
JIMMY LÓPEZ BELLIDO

Solitude (arr. Morton Gould)
Aurora Violin Concerto
Featuring Leticia Moreno, violin

MUSSORGSKY

Pictures at an Exhibition (arr. Maurice Ravel)

CHAMBER SERIES

American Intersections

Sunday, September 24, 2023 at 4 p.m.

Piedmont Center for the Arts

VIJAY IYER

Dig the Say

BONDS

Credo for solo piano

MOLLY JOYCE

Anatomy is Destiny

JESSIE MONTGOMERY

Source Code

DVORAK

String Quintet no. 3 in E-flat major, Op. 97, B.180

California Connections

Sunday, November 19, 2023 at 4 p.m.

Piedmont Center for the Arts

GABRIELA LENA FRANK

Kanto Kechua #2

BEN SHIRLEY

High Sierra Sonata

ANAÍS AZUL

Cascades and Canyons

GABRIELLA SMITH

Carrot Revolution

JOHN ADAMS

Selections from *Book of Alleged Dances*

Holiday Winds

Sunday, December 3, 2023 at 4 p.m.

Piedmont Center for the Arts

Woodwind Quintet

Spirited Impressions

Sunday, February 4, 2024 at 4 p.m.

Piedmont Center for the Arts

CHAMINADE

Piano Trio no. 1 G minor, Op. 11

ZHOU LONG

Spirit of the Chimes

CHEN YI

At the Kansas City Chinese New Year Concert

DEBUSSY

Piano Trio in G major

Play on Words

Sunday, April 14, 2024 at 4 p.m.

Piedmont Center for the Arts

LISA DELAN

soprano

RENE MANDEL

violin

JUHI BANSAL

An Imaginary Thing

GORDON GETTY

Four Dickinson Songs

KORNGOLD

Much Ado About Nothing

JAKE HEGGIE

Shed No Tear

MENDELSSOHN

From Song Without words

VALERIE COLEMAN

Portraits of Langston