



Music Director Joseph Young
Artistic Director René Mandel
Executive Director Kate Kammeyer
1919 Addison Street Suite 201, Berkeley, CA 94704

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PRESS CONTACT: Julie Richter | julie@julierichter.co

BERKELEY SYMPHONY ADDS THREE NEW VIOLISTS TO ITS CORE ORCHESTRA FOR THE 2022-23 SEASON

New musicians include Assistant Principal Viola
Jacob Joseph, Alexandra Simpson, and Dimitrios Floor

BERKELEY, CA (May 5, 2023) – **Berkeley Symphony** announced three new violists who will join the core orchestra as it completes its 2022-23 season. The new musicians are Assistant Principal Viola **Jacob Joseph**, as well as section violists **Alexandra Simpson** and **Dimitrios Floor**.

“Jacob, Alexandra, and Dimitrios were all extremely impressive throughout the intensive audition process,” said **Joseph Young**, Music Director at Berkeley Symphony. “They each have strong experience in the Bay Area and beyond. I am thrilled to welcome them to the Berkeley Symphony family and look forward to seeing their talents on the stage as we continue to create inspiring performances together.”

Oakland resident Jacob Joseph comes to Berkeley Symphony from Sacramento Philharmonic, where he is Assistant Principal Viola. The new section violists Alexandra Simpson and Dimitrios (Mitso) Floor, both are alumni of San Francisco Conservatory of Music and each play with symphony orchestras throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

Jacob Joseph, Assistant Principal Viola

Violist Jacob Joseph has a varied career as a freelance musician in his native Bay Area. Aside from appearing with many of the regional symphony orchestras and with touring Broadway productions, he is a founding member of the Oakland-based Town Quartet who perform in weekly and monthly residencies in Berkeley and throughout the greater Bay Area. He has been a member of the Schleswig-Holstein, Glimmerglass, and Spoleto festival orchestras as well as the orchestra of the New York City Ballet, and has performed in chamber music recitals with

members of the Juilliard String Quartet, The Claremont Trio, as well as with pianist Alon Goldstein and violist Toby Appel. He has also shared the stage with the likes of Johnny Mathis, The Eagles, The Moody Blues, and Nick Cave among others. When he's not practicing the viola, he can be found smoking meat on the BBQ, making pickles, or at the Oakland Coliseum for an A's game.

Alexandra Simpson, viola

After earning degrees from New England Conservatory, Yale School of Music, and most recently San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Alexandra Simpson has established a multi-faceted career in the San Francisco Bay Area, performing as a soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral player. She serves as the Assistant Principal Violist of the California Symphony and regularly appears as guest Principal with orchestras around the country, such as San Antonio Opera and Ballet. Alexandra has collaborated as a soloist with Camellia Symphony Orchestra, the Marin Symphony, New Music Ensemble, and the Classical Music Institute Chamber Orchestra. As a chamber musician, Alexandra travels around the world to perform, learn, and teach. Alexandra has participated in the Prussia Cove International Musicians' Seminar, Kneisel Hall, Tanglewood, as well as many others. She has performed with world renowned musicians Bonnie Hampton, Norman Fisher, and Ian Swensen, as well as up-and-coming talents Tessa Lark, Jennifer Pike and Geneva Lewis. Most recently, she is a founding member of the new Wave Chamber Collective, which presents multi-disciplinary performances once a month around the Bay Area.

Dimitrios (Misto) Floor, viola

Mitso Floor is an avid chamber and orchestral musician from Seattle, WA. Outside of Berkeley Symphony, he is the violist of Friction Quartet, an ensemble dedicated to modernizing the chamber music experience and expanding its repertoire. He also holds Assistant Principal positions in Santa Rosa and Vallejo symphonies, and is a member of the California Symphony viola section. An active freelancer, he substitutes with other orchestras around the Bay Area, including the San Francisco Symphony. Mitso holds a bachelor's degree from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and a master's degree from the University of Miami, and his past teachers include Matthew Young, Jodi Levitz, and Dimitri Murrath.

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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