



**MUSIC DIRECTOR JOSEPH YOUNG LEADS BERKELEY SYMPHONY IN FIRST LIVE PERFORMANCE IN OVER A YEAR AT BRUNS AMPHITHEATER
AUGUST 4**

Additional Summer Activities Include Release of *REAL Berkeley* Film Series Episode 4, *Loving Food* on July 25 and a Free Community Appearance at Downtown Berkeley BART Plaza on August 5



Berkeley, CA – June 29, 2021 – Music Director Joseph Young returns to the Bay Area to lead Berkeley Symphony in its first live appearance in more than a year with a performance at Orinda’s Bruns Amphitheater on **Wednesday, August 4 at 7:30 p.m.** The program will feature standards from the classical repertoire alongside contemporary works, with music by Rossini, Bizet, Bach, Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, Gabriela Lena Frank, Brian Raphael Nabors, and Jessie Montgomery. Single

tickets are \$50 and can be purchased online at <http://www.berkeleysymphony.org> or by calling Patron Services at 510-841-2800 x1.

A busy schedule of summer activities also includes *Loving Food*, the final episode of Berkeley Symphony’s free concert film series, *REAL Berkeley*. Streaming on **Sunday, July 25 at 4:00 p.m. PDT** on the Berkeley Symphony YouTube channel, *Loving Food* is a musical tribute to the Berkeley Food Network and their efforts to combat food insecurity. On **Thursday, August 5 at 5:30 p.m.**, Maestro Young and a group of string players from the Orchestra will return to the Downtown Berkeley BART Plaza for a free community concert.

Berkeley Symphony reunites with Music Director Joseph Young this summer for the Orchestra’s first concert with a live audience since February 2020. Surrounded by spectacular views of the Siesta Valley at the popular outdoor Bruns Amphitheater, Berkeley Symphony will return to the stage for a program of works ranging from the Overture to Rossini’s *Barber of Seville* and Bizet’s Suite from *Carmen*, to contemporary works such as Gabriela Lena Frank’s *Elegía Andina* and *Starburst* by Jessie Montgomery. The program will also feature *Iubilo* by Brian Raphael Nabors ahead of the composer’s co-commissioned work as part of New Music USA’s Amplifying Voices program, scheduled for the 2022-2023 season. Berkeley Symphony will also welcome actors from the Bruns Amphitheater’s resident company, California Shakespeare Theater (Cal Shakes), to the stage for a collaboration combining a selection of iconic Shakespeare passages with Beethoven’s *Egmont*. Last month, Bay Area audiences saw Maestro Young lead the San Francisco Symphony in a highly successful debut as guest conductor. The *San*



Francisco Chronicle praised his leadership as “robust and fluid,” while commenting that the event “left one eager to hear what will be happening in Berkeley during the coming years.”

“I am thrilled to share the stage once again with Berkeley Symphony and to finally be together with our audiences after all this time apart,” said Music Director Joseph Young. “There is a tangible sense of hope and optimism as we collectively look ahead to a brighter future, and it is in the same spirit that we mark this turning point with our first live performance together in more than a year.”

Produced by Berkeley Symphony Artistic Director René Mandel in partnership with Music Director Joseph Young and Bay Area-based media company Reneff-Olson Productions, *REAL Berkeley* highlights unique aspects of the city that have a significant impact on both the orchestra and the community, interspersing engaging footage of chamber works performed by members of the orchestra with imagery and videography from locations throughout Berkeley. Episode 4, *Loving Food* pays tribute to the Berkeley Food Network and their efforts in combating food insecurity. A selection of chamber works will be performed by Berkeley Symphony musicians including the music of Saint-Säens, Bozza, Chaminade, Amy Beach, Paul Dresher and Brian Raphael Nabors. Each piece speaks to the human spirit of love, service, and celebration.



Furthering the Orchestra’s footprint in the local community, Berkeley Symphony will present its third “Berkeley Symphony Live! On the Plaza,” a free event at the Downtown Berkeley BART Plaza. Audiences will hear a selection of works from the classical repertoire alongside contemporary works arranged for chamber orchestra, from such composers as Mozart, Britten, Tchaikovsky, Vivian Fung, and Jessie Montgomery. The first “Berkeley Symphony Live! On the Plaza” event in October 2019 introduced Music Director Joseph Young to the community in a live performance of orchestral arrangements for chamber ensemble, with audience members of all ages invited to conduct the ensemble under the guidance of Maestro Young.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

Berkeley Symphony Presents

REAL Berkeley

Episode 4: Loving Food

Sunday, July 25, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. PDT on YouTube

Paul Dresher: Movement I: *Catch & Release* from *Family Matters* for cello and piano

Isaac Pastor-Chermak, cello

Britt Day, piano

Camille Saint-Säens: Movement 1: *Allegro moderato* from Sonata for Bassoon

Eugene Bozza: *Récit, Sicilienne et Rondo* for Bassoon and Piano

Carla Wilson, bassoon
Britt Day, piano

Cécile Chaminade: Movement III: *Presto* from Piano Trio No. 1 in G minor
Dan Flanagan, violin
Isaac Pastor-Chermak, cello
Britt Day, piano

Amy Beach: Romance for Violin and Piano
René Mandel, violin
Britt Day, piano

Brian Nabors: *Linstead Market*
Dan Flanagan, violin
Karsten Windt, violin
Stephanie Bibbo, viola
Isaac Pastor-Chermak, cello

All episodes will be streamed free of charge on the Berkeley Symphony YouTube channel and will remain available for viewing after the initial release date.

Berkeley Symphony
Wednesday, August 4, 2021, 7:30 p.m.
Bruns Amphitheater (Orinda, CA)

Joseph Young, Music Director
Cal Shakes

Brian Nabors: *Iubilo*
Rossini: Overture from *Barber of Seville*
Beethoven: selections from Egmont, Op. 84
Gabriela Lena Frank: *Elegía Andina*
Tchaikovsky: Waltz from Serenade for Strings
Jessie Montgomery: *Starburst*
Georges Bizet (arr. Kerenyi): Suite from *Carmen*
J.S. Bach (arr. Hyken): *Toccata y Fuga*

Single tickets are \$50 and on sale now. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (510) 841-2800 x1 or visit www.berkeleysymphony.org.

Berkeley Symphony Live! On the Plaza

Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

Downtown Berkeley Plaza, Berkeley, CA

Joseph Young, Music Director

A free, open-air community event featuring a selection of classical repertoire arrangements for chamber orchestra.

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 premiering and commissioning new music and champions women composers, sustained by the supportive musical environment of Berkeley, the East Bay, and the San Francisco Bay Area. From the outset, the people behind Berkeley Symphony's culture and programming were attuned to the culturally diverse people and the heady creative climate of their 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 nearly 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.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.berkeleysymphony.org>.

PHOTO CREDITS

Berkeley Symphony & Music Director Joseph Young / Dave Weiland

Brian Raphael Nabors / Brian Raphael Nabors

Joseph Young at Downtown Berkeley Plaza / Berkeley Symphony

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