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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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BERKELEY SYMPHONY OPENS 2023-24 SYMPHONIC SERIES WITH *AMERICAN KALEIDOSCOPE*

Sunday, October 15, 2023 at Zellerbach Hall

BERKELEY, CA (October 2, 2023) – **Berkeley Symphony**, led by **Music Director Joseph Young**, will open the 2023-24 Symphonic Series with ***American Kaleidoscope*** on **Sunday, October 15 at 4 p.m.** at **Zellerbach Hall**. The first of four Symphonic Series performances, ***American Kaleidoscope*** will showcase the **Marcus Roberts Trio's** virtuosic style in a jazz-infused performance of James P. Johnson's *Yamekraw: A Negro Rhapsody*, and George Gershwin's *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*.

"We open this season with a celebration of the American sound, showcasing the intersection of different musical styles and the richness of our country's culture," says **Joseph Young, Music Director of Berkeley Symphony**. "Samuel Barber's powerful second essay is unapologetic and a tour-de-force piece that highlights the neoclassical American style, while Berkeley's own Peter S. Shin brings a new contemporary work to our stage. I'm excited to welcome the Marcus Roberts Trio as we pair the music of two important American composers: George Gershwin, whose work is widely recognized, and James P. Johnson, a composer hardly heard in orchestral music. This program is an exciting way for Berkeley Symphony to begin its season, inviting audiences to gain a deeper understanding of American orchestral jazz."

The Marcus Roberts Trio is a long-term musical partnership between pianist Marcus Roberts, the phenomenal drummer Jason Marsalis, and gifted bassist Rodney Jordan. While most jazz trios feature piano, the Marcus Roberts Trio has an entirely new approach to jazz with all members equally shaping the direction of the music.

Berkeley Symphony's upcoming Chamber performance ***California Connections*** takes a closer look at the American sound, by zooming in on the Golden State. Taking place at Piedmont Center for the Arts on **Sunday, November 19, 2023 at 4 p.m.**, *California Connections* 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 selections from John Adams' *Book of Alleged Dances*. The performance will highlight California and the Bay Area's talented composers as well as the relationships built through mentoring and learning from each other, with Gabriela Lena Frank and John Adams as major influences, each of who have personal connections to Berkeley.

Subscriptions to Berkeley Symphony's Symphonic Series and the Chamber Series are available now. Patrons can choose 3 or 4 concerts in Berkeley Symphony's Symphonic [Chamber] Series, and create a custom Pick 3 or Pick 4 Package, saving up to 25% off regular ticket prices. Single tickets are available now at [berkeleysymphony.org](https://www.berkeleysymphony.org) or by calling the box office at 510.841.2800.

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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