Berkeley Symphony opens season on October 15

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-influenced performance of James P. Johnson’s ‘Yamekraw: A Negro Rhapsody’, in addition to 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. Shim’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,” said Music Director Joseph Young. “Samuel Barber’s powerful second essay is unparalleled and a true-de-cloverse piece that highlights the neoclassical American style, while Berkeley’s own Peter S. Shim 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 season of chamber music concerts at Piedmont Center for the Arts takes a closer look at the American sound, by putting in the Golden State. Taking place on Sunday, November 19 at 4 p.m., California Connections will feature Gabriela Lena Frank’s *Kanto Kechua #2*, Ben Shirley’s *High Sierra Sonata*, Anais Azul’s *Cascades and Canyons*, Gabrielle Smith’s *Carnot Evolution*, and selections from John Adams’ *Book of Alleged Dances*.

The performance will highlight California and the Bay Area’s talented composers featuring Gabriela Lena Frank and John Adams as major influences.

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 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 or by calling the box office at 510.841.2800.

---

Where art walks, artists talk

A first of its kind exhibit, reception provides celebration of artists

By Matt Simons

(See additional photos on pages 16 & 17)

The Piedmont Center for the Arts was abuzz with friendly voices during the Art Walk’s Artist Reception. On Friday, September 29, artists with work on display at the Art Walk were invited to spend an evening socializing with other artists and art fans while enjoying hors d’oeuvres and refreshments.

“I think it is very friendly,” smiled Raffi Zaroian. “People are very supportive here. Piedmont is a community where people really look out for each other. It’s an art gathering without the high-price thing, but the quality is still there.”

Zaroian was also smiling because his painting, *Cadillar Fishing Village, Spain*, sold for $395 – two days before the actual Art Walk.

Despite the feelings of familiarity and camaraderie, this was the first time the Art Walk has hosted an exhibit at the Center for the Arts. Lorraine Seiden, a founder of the Piedmont Art Walk, says that when they started, a reception like this just wasn’t possible.

“I started the Art Walk in June 2000 and it had to be very dispersed due to COVID,” said Seiden. “We worked with the Piedmont Police Department to make sure it was okay under the regulations at the time, but I think we always envisioned having an artist reception because the artists never got to meet each other.”

She added, “It’s something that we always felt was lacking in the event.”

In a final thought, Zaroian added that he thinks it is important to socialize with other artists.

“Otherwise we will be pigeonholed in our own world. We all have our own ideas, but it’s great to see other mediums, other thoughts, and other ways of doing things. It’s inspirational.”

A Tribute to Jimmy Van Heusen

Favored Composer to the Stars of Jazz!

Presented by the In the Tradition Piano Trio

Sunday, October 8, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

Tickets: $25 at the door or $23 at https://bpt.me/5691334
A Benefit Concert for Piedmont Center for the Arts

801 Magnolia Avenue, Piedmont, CA

- Limit of 70 concert attendees -

---

Regina O’Connor (left) speaks to artist Lorraine Seiden at the artist reception at the Center for the Arts.