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## **BERKELEY SYMPHONY PRESENTS FRENCH REVERIE**

Sunday, February 25, 2024, at First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley

BERKELEY, CA (December 14, 2023) – **Berkeley Symphony**, led by **Music Director Joseph Young**, will present ***French Reverie*** on **Sunday, February 25 at 4 p.m.** at **First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley** (2407 Dana Street, Berkeley 94704). The concert invites audiences to experience the diversity and vibrancy of French music, traversing from the Impressionist era to contemporary times. ***French Reverie*** is the second of four Symphonic Series performances and will feature the acclaimed **Dr. Robert Young** on saxophone. General Admission tickets are \$40 and are available now at [berkeleysymphony.org](http://berkeleysymphony.org) or by calling the box office at 510.841.2800.

***French Reverie*** features the evocative beauty of Claude Debussy's *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun*, a symphonic poem that vividly translates words into sound. *A Kind of Trane* by Guillaume Connesson pays tribute to jazz legend John Coltrane, blending classical elements with jazz influences. In a testament to her pioneering creativity, Louise Farrenc's Symphony No. 3 in G minor adds a rich and colorful dimension to the musical landscape.

"Our second Symphonic Series concert pays homage to the vibrancy and color of French composers. It also celebrates the influences that brought these works to life, from poetry, jazz, and even other composers," says **Joseph Young, Music Director of Berkeley Symphony**. "I also have the joy of introducing Berkeley to someone I've known and loved for a very long time. My brother, saxophonist Dr. Robert Young, will make his Berkeley Symphony debut in Connesson's *A Kind of Trane*."

Ticketholders can arrive early for a free pre-concert chat. The informative and engaging pre-concert talk will provide fascinating insights into the music of *French Reverie*. The expert speakers will discuss the program's cultural and historical context, along with guided listening. Additionally, there will be live interviews with guest artists, composers, and orchestra musicians.

**ABOUT DR. ROBERT YOUNG**

Dr. Robert Young has been acclaimed for his “effortless expression and a facile technique” and the “true mastery of his instrument” (The Saxophonist Magazine). Dr. Young maintains an active schedule as a soloist and educator, including guest appearances at universities and colleges across the country.

His highlights include performances with the PRISM Quartet, The Crossing, Chris Potter, Ravi Coltrane, Uri Caine, Charlotte Symphony, Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings, Wichita Symphony Orchestra, Charleston (SC) Symphony Orchestra, and University of Michigan Symphony Orchestra. As a chamber musician Dr. Young, as part of a collaboration with The Crossing, performed with the PRISM Quartet on the GRAMMY Award-winning album “Gavin Bryars: The Fifth Century” (available on ECM Recordings). As an active soloist and chamber musician, Dr. Young has been invited as a featured concerto soloist at the XVIII World Saxophone Congress (Zagreb, Croatia) and the 2020 North American Saxophone Alliance conference (Tempe, Arizona). In 2023 Dr. Young appeared as a concerto soloist with the United States Navy Band performing *Quicksilver* by Stacy Garrop.

Dr. Young holds a teaching position at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts as the Associate Professor of Saxophone. Dr. Young’s students have received honors at several local, regional, and national competitions and have been featured at several clinics and conferences throughout the country. He previously served on the faculties of The Crane School of Music - SUNY Potsdam and Wichita State University.

Dr. Young earned his Doctor of Musical Arts (2010) and Master of Music (2008) degrees in saxophone performance from the University of Michigan, where he studied with Professor Donald Sinta. At the University of Michigan, he studied jazz saxophone with Dr. Andrew Bishop and was a recipient of the Lawrence Teal Fellowship. Young received a bachelor’s degree from the University of South Carolina (2006) in saxophone performance where he studied with Dr. Clifford Leaman.

### **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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