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BERKELEY SYMPHONY PRESENTS ***PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION***

Sunday, June 2, 2024 at 4 p.m.
UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall

BERKELEY, CA (April 18, 2024) – **Berkeley Symphony**, led by Music Director **Joseph Young**, will present ***Pictures at an Exhibition*** on **Sunday, June 2** at 4 p.m. at **Zellerbach Hall** (101 Zellerbach Hall, Berkeley, 94720). Color and light will converge in a program of mesmerizing symphonic works by **Jimmy López Bellido**, **Duke Ellington**, and **Modest Mussorgsky**, which will comprise the final Symphonic Series concert of the 2023–24 season.

"Throughout our 52nd season, we've explored musical colors and styles, welcomed a diversity of artists, and created orchestral experiences that are powerful, joyful, and inclusive," Maestro Joseph Young says. "I dedicate this final program to all who went on this musical journey with us, especially the musicians of the Berkeley Symphony and the audiences who turn out to support us all season long."

Spanish-born **violinist Leticia Moreno**, celebrated for her "natural charisma, virtuosity, and deep interpretative force," will be featured in the **West Coast premiere** of **Jimmy López Bellido's** luminous ***Aurora Violin Concerto***, following a successful world premiere performance and GRAMMY-nominated recording with the Houston Symphony. López, whose "buoyant" work *Rise* Berkeley Symphony commissioned and, in 2022, premiered, was inspired to write *Aurora* after witnessing the Northern Lights, which he described as "one of Nature's most spectacular displays." Concert attendees will be dazzled by the accompanying light show, giving each person an immersive experience with their ears and eyes.

Also on the program is **Duke Ellington's** wistful foxtrot ***Solitude***. Recorded by Ellington himself numerous times and covered by jazz legends including **Louis Armstrong** and **Billie Holiday**, the 1934 standard comes to Zellerbach Hall as a string orchestra arrangement by **Morton Gould**. Famously written by Ellington in just 20 minutes, this brief yet poignant work has had a lasting legacy.

The final piece on the program, Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, began as a Romantic suite for solo piano and was transformed in scope by the magnificent orchestration of Impressionist composer **Maurice Ravel**, to vividly depict scenes by Mussorgsky's contemporary, **Viktor Hartmann**, Russian architect and painter. The audience will be taken on a sonic journey through the bustling marketplace at Limoges, the foreboding Paris catacombs, the enchanted forest of Baba Yaga the Witch, and much more.

Audiences are invited to the 3 p.m. pre-concert chat, moderated by Berkeley-side journalist Andrew Gilbert. Berkeley Symphony musicians and guest artists will explore the musical and historical contexts of the afternoon's program. This event is offered free to all ticket holders.

Tickets for *Pictures at an Exhibition* start at \$25 and may be purchased online at berkeleysymphony.org or by phone at (510) 841-2800.

ABOUT LETICIA MORENO

Recognized as an exciting and versatile violinist, Leticia Moreno has appeared with renowned conductors such as Zubin Mehta, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Paavo Järvi, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Christoph Eschenbach, Yuri Temirkanov, Krzysztof Penderecki, Andrés Orozco-Estrada, Josep Pons, Juanjo Mena, Gustavo Gimeno, Peter Eötvös, and Andrey Boreyko, among others.

Moreno has performed with leading orchestras such as Wiener Symphoniker, St. Petersburg Philharmonic, Philharmonia, Mahler Chamber Orchestra, Washington's National Symphony, The Mariinsky Orchestra, Orchestra del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte Carlo, Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg, Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, Orquesta Sinfónica Simón Bolívar; and is a regular guest with many of the major Spanish orchestras.

A keen recitalist and chamber musician, Moreno has collaborated with Sol Gabetta, Bertrand Chamayou, Kirill Gerstein, Alexander Ghindin, Lauma Skride, Mario Brunello, Leonard Elschenbroich, Ksenija Sidorova and Maxim Rysanov.

Moreno released her latest album, *Piazzolla*, on Deutsche Grammophon, recorded at Abbey Road Studios, London, and Emil Berliner Studio, Berlin with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Andrés Orozco-Estrada. She has also recently recorded two CDs for Universal/Deutsche Grammophon: *Spanish Landscapes*, a study of Spanish music, and *Shostakovich*, with the Saint Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Yuri Temirkanov.

Moreno studied with Zakhar Bron, Maxim Vengerov and Mstislav Rostropovich at Escuela Superior de Música Reina Sofía in Madrid, the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz in Cologne, and Guildhall School in London; and was the youngest member of the prestigious Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung. She has won international violin competitions such as the Szeryng, Concertino Praga, Novosibirsk, Sarasate, and Kreisler and has been awarded the Echo Rising Star.

Born in Spain of Peruvian descent, Leticia Moreno has developed strong ties with Latin America, especially with her country of origin, where she returns every season to perform and which has as a corollary her recent World Premiere of Jimmy López Bellido's new violin concerto "Aurora" in Houston and Lima. Moreno plays a 1762 Nicola Gagliano.

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 cultural diversity and heady creative climate of its home city.

Berkeley Symphony entered a new era in the 2019–2020 season under the leadership of Joseph Young, whose February 2019 debut was acclaimed by critics and audiences alike. In addition to building on the Orchestra's artistic innovation, creativity, and adventurous programming, Maestro Young, Berkeley Symphony's fourth Music Director in its 50-year history, is committed to amplifying the voices of underrepresented artists as well as telling diverse stories that reflect the local community.