



Music Director Joseph Young  
Executive Director Marion Atherton  
1919 Addison Street Suite 201, Berkeley, CA 94704

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

PRESS CONTACT: Julie Richter | [julie@julierichter.co](mailto:julie@julierichter.co) | 480.818.8022

## **BERKELEY SYMPHONY OPENS 2024–25 SYMPHONIC SERIES WITH *STORIES FROM HOME***

Sunday, November 10 at Zellerbach Hall

BERKELEY, CA (October 7, 2024) – **Berkeley Symphony**, led by **Music Director Joseph Young**, will open the 2024–25 **Symphonic Series** with ***Stories From Home*** on **Sunday, November 10 at 4 p.m.** at **Zellerbach Hall**. The first of four Symphonic Series performances this season, *Stories From Home* will showcase soprano **Lisa Delan** in **Samuel Barber’s** wistful *Knoxville: Summer of 1915*, and Grammy-winning violinist **Charles Yang** in the **Bay Area premiere** of *For A Younger Self* by **Kris Bowers** (*The Color Purple*, *Bridgerton*). **Leonard Bernstein’s** lively *Symphonic Dances from West Side Story* and **Silvestre Revueeltas’s** stirring *Redes Suite* round out this exploration of North America’s multifaceted cultural heritage.

“What does a story sound like? The opening program of Berkeley Symphony’s 53rd season answers that question,” says Music Director Joseph Young. “It sounds like Leonard Bernstein’s jazzy, syncopated *Symphonic Dances from West Side Story*: you can hear the streets of New York and feel the longing of star-crossed lovers. It sounds like the whispering breeze of Samuel Barber’s *Knoxville: Summer of 1915*, or like the crashing of waves in Silvestre Revueeltas’s *Redes Suite*, or the violin soaring over the orchestra, as it does in Kris Bowers’ concerto *For A Younger Self*.”

Soprano Lisa Delan is recognized for her versatility and breadth of accomplishment as an interpreter of a vast range of repertoire. She has enriched and enlivened the field of contemporary American art song, premiering close to eighty new works. She has performed, commissioned, and recorded music by Philip Glass, Jake Heggie, John Corigliano, and Gordon Getty, among others.

Violinist Charles Yang has performed as a soloist throughout the United States, Europe, Brazil, Russia, China, and Taiwan. In 2016 he became the violinist and lead singer of the multi-genre string band Time for Three, which won the 2023 Grammy Award for Best Classical Instrumental Solo. On June 9, 2005, the mayor of Austin presented Mr. Yang with his own “Charles Yang Day.”

“This is music that takes you somewhere, that grabs hold, and puts you in a specific time and place,” said Young of the evening’s program.

Berkeley Symphony’s **Chamber Series** launched with *Advocates and Influencers* on Sunday, September 29 at the Piedmont Center for the Arts. Curated by violist **Darcy Rindt**, the program featured Joaquín Turina’s Spanish-shaded Piano Quartet in A minor, Concerto for Harpsichord (Piano) and Strings by Pulitzer Prize winner Caroline Shaw, and Clara Schumann’s Piano Trio, hailed by many music historians as her finest work. The encore performance of *Advocates and Influencers* took place at Berkeley’s Freight and Salvage on Monday, September 30.

Subscriptions to Berkeley Symphony are available now. Patrons may also choose 3 or 4 concerts across the Symphonic Series and/or Chamber Series to create a custom Pick 3 or Pick 4 Package, saving up to 25% off regular ticket prices. Single tickets are also available and may be purchased online at [berkeleysymphony.org](https://berkeleysymphony.org) or by phone 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 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 53-year history, is committed to amplifying the voices of underrepresented artists as well as telling diverse stories that reflect the local community.

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