

BERKELEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



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For Immediate Release

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MING LUKE NAMED BERKELEY SYMPHONY EDUCATION DIRECTOR, CONDUCTOR

BERKELEY, CA – May 8, 2007... **Ming Luke** has been named to the dual positions of Education Director and Conductor of Berkeley Symphony's award-winning Music Education Program, effective May 14. In this role, he will oversee both the continued artistic and administrative expansion of Berkeley Symphony's partnership with the Berkeley Unified School District.

Mr. Luke was selected to conduct this spring's recent "I'm a Performer" in-school concerts, the culmination of the year-long program's sequence of activities. With the addition of Education Director duties, Mr. Luke will assume overall leadership for the design and implementation of Berkeley Symphony's education programs in the Berkeley public schools. He replaces outgoing Education Director Sarah Bullock who is relocating to Baltimore to pursue a Masters in Education at Johns Hopkins University.

"We're extremely grateful for Sarah's leadership these past two years and look forward to working with Ming to build upon the strong foundation already in place to reach even more of Berkeley's student population," commented Berkeley Symphony Executive Director Jim Kleinmann.

Mr. Luke currently serves as General Director/Conductor for the Napa Valley Youth Symphony and as Assistant Conductor with the Sacramento Philharmonic. Previously he served as Assistant Conductor of Napa Valley Symphony and as Music Director/Conductor of the Carnegie Mellon Chamber Orchestra. He has extensive experience as a performer on piano and keyboards. He has also served as a pre-concert lecturer and program annotator for various organizations. Mr. Luke received his MFA in Conducting from Carnegie Mellon University and his BM in Music Education and Piano Pedagogy from Westminster Choir College.

Berkeley Symphony's **Music Education Program** serves over 1,500 Berkeley elementary school students each year. The program runs from fall to spring and includes classroom visits, introductory "Meet the Symphony" concerts, and final "I'm a Performer" concerts, for which each and every class learns a song to perform alongside Berkeley Symphony. In addition, participating 4th and 5th grade students also have the opportunity to attend Berkeley Symphony season concerts free of charge through the **Students @ the Symphony** program.

The program currently serves every public elementary school in Berkeley on a rotating basis. Berkeley Symphony and Berkeley Unified School District have agreed on a goal to secure funding so that the program may reach every school, every year. In 2003, Berkeley Symphony's Music Education Program was recognized with one of three inaugural Bank of America "Awards for Excellence in Music Education," sponsored by the American Symphony Orchestra League.

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