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Kent Nagano and Berkeley Symphony Announce 2008-09 Season

30th Anniversary Celebration for Nagano's Final Season as Music Director William Eddins, Paul Haas, and Joana Carneiro Conclude Search for Successor

BERKELEY, CA – February 19, 2008... Kent Nagano today announced plans for Berkeley Symphony's 2008-09 season, his last as Music Director. Nagano opens his 30th anniversary season leading Berkeley Symphony in his final concert as Music Director. He is followed by the final three of six guest conductors in Berkeley Symphony's search for its next Music Director: William Eddins, Paul Haas, and Joana Carneiro. Nagano then closes the season with two performances by Berkeley Akademie Ensemble. Season subscriptions (4-concert introductory packages start at \$80; 6 concerts for \$120) are available by calling 510-841-2800 or online at www.berkeleysymphony.org.

Kent Nagano opens on Thursday, September 18, 2008 at Zellerbach Hall with a program marking his 30th anniversary with the orchestra. He will lead the orchestra in Mozart's Symphony No. 41—the composer's last, known as the "Jupiter" symphony—and Bruckner's Symphony No. 7. An additional musical element on the program will honor Nagano's long tenure with the orchestra.

William Eddins, currently Music Director of Canada's Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, is an American conductor from Buffalo, NY. His program on Thursday, October 23, 2008 opens with a trio of short selections from early 1900's France. Eddins performs on piano for the U.S. premiere of Allan Gilliland's *Rhapsody*, then returns to the podium for Bohuslav Martinů's Symphony No. 1.

Paul Haas, Artistic Director of the New York-based Sympho concert production company, conducts on Thursday, November 20, 2008. He presents Joshua Penman's *Songs the Plants Taught Us*, Samuel Barber's Violin Concerto, and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4. Violin soloist will be **Danielle Belen Nesmith** in her first engagement since winning the 2008 Sphinx Competition, recognizing achievement by African-Americans and Latinos in classical music.

Joana Carneiro, who serves as Assistant Conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic and holds positions with two orchestras in her native Portugal, will be the sixth and final conductor in Berkeley Symphony's Music Director search. On Thursday, December 18, 2008, she leads Magnus Lindberg's *Chorale*, Berkeley resident John Adams's *Shaker Loops*, and Beethoven's Symphony No. 5.

In conjunction with the season's guest conductor residencies, Berkeley Symphony will again offer three evenings of its signature *Under Construction* series of new music readings. Emerging Composers in Residence will be selected to have works developed over the course of the season's three events.

Nagano concludes his anniversary season in his new role as Co-Artistic Director of **Berkeley Akademie Ensemble**, a program of Berkeley Symphony founded in 2007. Together with concertmaster **Stuart Canin**, he will lead Berkeley Symphony musicians and guest artists from Junge Deutsche Philharmonie in explorations of small orchestra repertoire with two performances in May 2009. Also on May 15, 2009, a gala dinner in Nagano's honor will be held at the Claremont Resort.

Guest Conductor Biographies

William Eddins

William Eddins, an African-American conductor from Buffalo, NY, is Music Director of Canada's Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. He has served as Associate Conductor of the Minnesota Orchestra, Resident Conductor of the Chicago Symphony, Principal Guest Conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, and assistant to Daniel Barenboim at the Berlin State Opera. Eddins is a recipient of the Seaver Conducting Award, a triennial grant funded by the Seaver Institute and the National Endowment for the Arts awarded to exceptionally gifted young American conductors.

Eddins is an avid music advocate, producing a series of podcasts called *Classical Connections* dedicated to exploring the history of classical music. Eddins was also a founding member of the New World Symphony in Miami, Florida, and has conducted recordings of cello concertos by Virgil Thomson, William Schuman and William Perry for Naxos Records.

Paul Haas

Paul Haas is the Founder and Artistic Director of Sympho, a New York-based concert production company whose multimedia programs include REWIND, in which he conducted at San Francisco's Yerba Buena Gardens in January 2008 with the New Century Chamber Orchestra. A San Francisco native, he is a graduate of Yale University and the Juilliard School.

Haas commissioned dozens of new works during his tenure as Music Director of the New York Youth Symphony, including one for every concert he conducted in the orchestra's ASCAP Award-winning "First Music" program. Haas's other conducting engagements have included performances with the San Antonio Symphony, the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, and most recently, the National Symphony Orchestra with Itzhak Perlman as soloist. Haas was selected out of hundreds to perform in the League of American Orchestra's prestigious National Conductor Preview this past season.

Joana Carneiro

Joana Carneiro currently serves as Assistant Conductor with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. A native of Portugal, she also serves as Principal Guest Conductor of the Metropolitan Orchestra of Lisbon and Guest Conductor of the Gulbenkian Orchestra.

Carneiro was a finalist in the prestigious 2002 Maazel-Vilar Conductor's Competition at Carnegie Hall. She served as assistant conductor to Esa-Pekka Salonen at the Paris Opera's premiere of *Adriana Mater* by Kaija Saariaho. She has also conducted the Frankfurt Radio Symphony, Toledo Symphony Orchestra, the Macau Chamber Orchestra and Beijing Orchestra at the International Music Festival of Macau, the Portuguese National Symphony Orchestra, and the Beiras Philharmonic Orchestra.

All programs subject to change.

BERKELEY SYMPHONY

NAGANO'S 30th ANNIVERSARY CONCERT!

Thursday, September 18, 2008, 8 PM – Kent Nagano, conductor *UC Berkeley Zellerbach Hall*

Wolfgang A. Mozart *Symphony No. 41, "Jupiter"*
 Anton Bruckner *Symphony No. 7*
Plus, a 30th anniversary musical surprise

Thursday, October 23, 2008, 8 PM – William Eddins, conductor *UC Berkeley Zellerbach Hall*

Paris before the War:

 Germaine Tailleferre *Valse des Dépêches (Waltz of the Dispatches)*
 Claude Debussy *La Fille aux Cheveux de Lin (Girl with the Flaxen Hair)*
 Lili Boulanger *D'un Matin du Printemps (Of a Spring Morning)*

Allan Gilliland *Rhapsody (U.S. premiere); Williams Eddins, piano*
 Bohuslav Martinů *Symphony No. 1*

Thursday, November 20, 2008, 8 PM – Paul Haas, conductor *UC Berkeley Zellerbach Hall*

Joshua Penman *Songs the Plants Taught Us (California premiere)*
 Samuel Barber *Violin Concerto; Danielle Belen Nesmith, violin (2008 Sphinx competition winner)*
 Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky *Symphony No. 4*

Thursday, December 18, 2008, 8 PM – Joana Carneiro, conductor *UC Berkeley Zellerbach Hall*

Magnus Lindberg *Chorale (Bay Area premiere)*
 John Adams *Shaker Loops*
 Ludwig van Beethoven *Symphony No. 5*

BERKELEY AKADEMIE ENSEMBLE

Sunday, May 17, 2009, 7 PM – Kent Nagano, conductor *First Congregational Church of Berkeley*

Tobias M. Schneid *TBA (World premiere)*
 Wolfgang A. Mozart *Divertimento, K. 136*
 Alexander Muno *TBA (World premiere)*
 Johannes Brahms *Serenade No. 1 in D Major*

Sunday, May 31, 2009, 7 PM – Kent Nagano, conductor *First Congregational Church of Berkeley*

J.S. Bach *Italian Concerto, BWV 971*
 Charles Ives *Symphony No. 3*
 Ludwig van Beethoven *Septet in E-flat Major, Op. 20*

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Sunday, October 26, 2008, 7 PM – William Eddins, conductor *Venue TBA*

Sunday, November 16, 2008, 7 PM – Paul Haas, conductor *Venue TBA*

Sunday, December 14, 2008, 7 PM – Joana Carneiro, conductor *Venue TBA*

TICKETS: Season subscriptions, including 4-concert introductory subscriptions for \$80, may be purchased by phone at 510-841-2800 or online at www.berkeleysymphony.org. Single tickets for all of Berkeley Symphony's 2008-09 concerts go on sale June 16, 2008.

RADIO BROADCASTS: All Berkeley Symphony and Berkeley Akademie Ensemble 2008-09 season concerts will be broadcast and streamed live on KALW 91.7 FM, hosted by Alan Farley.

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