

# BERKELEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



1942 University Avenue, Suite 207, Berkeley, California, 94704, USA  
Phone: 510.841.2800 • Facsimile: 510.841.5422 • [www.berkeleysymphony.org](http://www.berkeleysymphony.org)

Joana Carneiro • *Music Director*  
Kent Nagano • *Conductor Laureate*

James A. Kleinmann • *Executive Director*

**For Immediate Release**

Contact: **Kevin Shuck**, [kshuck@berkeleysymphony.org](mailto:kshuck@berkeleysymphony.org)

## BERKELEY SYMPHONY NAMES EMERGING COMPOSERS-IN-RESIDENCE FOR UNDER CONSTRUCTION NEW MUSIC SERIES

BERKELEY, CA – August 3, 2009... **Bruce Christian Bennett, Patrício da Silva, Don Myers** and **Andy Tan** have been named Emerging Composers in Residence for Berkeley Symphony's 2009-10 *Under Construction* series of new music readings. Each composer will develop short works to be read and performed by Berkeley Symphony Sundays at 7 P.M. on **December 6** and **February 7** at St. John's Presbyterian Church in Berkeley. These performances will be led by Berkeley Symphony's new Music Director, Joana Carneiro.

Berkeley Symphony's *Under Construction* new music series was initiated in 1993, and the upcoming season marks the third year of the program's expansion to include a group of composers selected to be presented over the course of multiple evenings. Each composer is a resident of the greater San Francisco Bay Area and has not previously had a symphonic work performed by a local professional orchestra other than a reading. A new feature of this season's residencies are special activities with composers featured on Berkeley Symphony's main subscription concert series, including **John Adams, Gabriela Lena Frank, and Steven Stucky**. In addition, Music Director Joana Carneiro will consider works performed in this year's *Under Construction* series for further development for premiere on a future Berkeley Symphony subscription program.

San Francisco resident **Bruce Christian Bennett** is a composer, technical writer for a music technology company, and a lecturer in music at San Francisco State University. He received his Ph.D. in music composition from the University of California, Berkeley. His works have been played throughout the United States and abroad by such groups as the Arditti String Quartet, Earplay, the Ensemble InterContemporain, Sirius, and members of the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players. A composer of electroacoustic music, his works have been presented at curated events such as ICMC, the Electric Rainbow Coalition Festival at Dartmouth, the Pulse Field exhibition in Atlanta, Sonic Circuits II, Cultural Labyrinth in San Francisco, EX-STATIC and Sonic Residues in Melbourne, Australia, SEAMUS and SCI conferences. His winning entry is entitled *Prelude to the "Apocalypse."*

Danville resident **Patrício da Silva** studied piano and composition at the Escola Superior de Musica de Lisboa in his native Portugal. He completed his Master's of Fine Arts at the California Institute of the Arts and his Ph.D. at UC Santa Barbara and UC Santa Cruz, and he has conducted post-doctoral research in the United Kingdom and at IRCAM in Paris. Since 2004 he has been a composition fellow with the Tanglewood Music Center, Fundacao Ciencia e Tecnologia, Atlantic Center for the Arts, and later this year at the Aspen Music Festival and the MacDowell Colony. His music has been performed at many international venues including the Ojai Music Festival, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Cistermusica, LASO, and is scheduled to be performed at the Aspen, Portugal's Orquestra do Algarve, and on several European festivals with pianist Tzimon Barto. This is the second time that he has been selected to participate in the *Under Construction* series.

Aptos resident **Don Myers** studied music theory and orchestration at San Jose State University. In private lessons with Lou Harrison he also studied composition and gamelan, becoming Mr. Harrison's final principal teaching assistant. While artist-in-residence at the Western Stage in Salinas, CA he created compositions for theater. Among several other awards he won the ERMEDIA's Masterworks Prize for his chamber work for tenor, alto flute, and string quartet, *Meditation in Three Reflections*. This piece was recorded for

release on the ERMEDIA label, to be distributed through Naxos in July of 2009. ERMEDIA also commissioned Mr. Myers to compose a suite for the classic Georges Méliès film, *Voyage dans la Lune* (Voyage to the Moon), to be included in a DVD boxed set to be released through Naxos this summer.

Composer and violinist **Andy Tan** (An Tan) is currently an MA candidate in composition at the University of California, Davis. He has studied with Ross Bauer and Kurt Rohde, and he is currently studying with Mika Pelo. Mr. Tan's music has been performed by the Ariana String Quartet, New York New Music Ensemble, Empyrean Ensemble, Mercedes Gomez and the UCDSO. His work "Sonata Breve for Cello and Piano" was published by J.B. Elkus and Son. Other recent works include an original score for the documentary "A World of Grazing." His winning entry is entitled *Perpetual Motion. Fission of an Atom.*

Berkeley resident and jazz musician **Clark Suprynovicz** will serve as alternate for the 2009-10 series, following his participation in the 2008-09 program. The *Under Construction* Selection Committee included Berkeley Symphony Music Director **Joana Carneiro**, UC Berkeley Assistant Professor of Music **Ken Ueno**, UC Davis Associate Professor of Composition **Laurie San Martin**, and Berkeley Symphony Education Director & Conductor **Ming Luke**.

Guidelines for composer applications for the 2010-11 *Under Construction* series are scheduled to be posted at [www.berkeleysymphony.org](http://www.berkeleysymphony.org) by April 1, 2010.

Funding for Berkeley Symphony's *Under Construction* series is provided by the Aaron Copland Foundation.

#### CALENDAR and PSA EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

#### **BERKELEY SYMPHONY'S UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

##### **Sunday, December 6, 2009, 7 PM – Joana Carneiro**

Works on the theme of "1969" by Bruce Christian Bennett, Patrício da Silva, Don Myers and Andy Tan

##### **Sunday, February 7, 2010, 7 PM – Joana Carneiro**

Works on "The Greek Muse" by Bruce Christian Bennett, Patrício da Silva, Don Myers and Andy Tan

*Please note: a previously announced event on Sunday, October 18 will not take place.*

**Concert Venue:** St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley

**Tickets:** \$20 priority seating, \$10 general admission. Call 510-841-2800 or visit [www.berkeleysymphony.org](http://www.berkeleysymphony.org).

#### **15-SEC PSA**

**Berkeley Symphony's Under Construction** new music series features Emerging Composers in Residence **Bruce Christian Bennett, Patrício da Silva, Don Myers, and Andy Tan**. New works will be read and performed on Sundays **December 6** and **February 7** at 7 PM at St. John's Presbyterian Church in Berkeley. For more information, visit [www.berkeleysymphony.org](http://www.berkeleysymphony.org)

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