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Kent Nagano • *Conductor Laureate*

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## **Berkeley Composer Gabriela Lena Frank Named Creative Advisor for Berkeley Symphony**

### **Joana Carneiro Conducts West Coast Premiere of Frank's *Peregrinos* in Season Opener Concert**

BERKELEY, CA – August 17, 2009... Berkeley Symphony and incoming Music Director Joana Carneiro have named Berkeley composer Gabriela Lena Frank to the new position of Creative Advisor. In this capacity, Frank will have an ongoing relationship with the orchestra, helping to shape programming, guide outreach projects in the community, and mentor the Emerging Composers in Residence in Berkeley Symphony's *Under Construction* new music series. In addition, Frank will play a key role in Carneiro's debut concert as Music Director on October 15, 2009, 7 pm at UC Berkeley Zellerbach Hall, when Carneiro conducts the West Coast premiere of Frank's *Peregrinos (Pilgrims)*, a work inspired by stories of Latino immigrants and the subject of a PBS documentary which recently finished production.

Both Carneiro and Frank pursued graduate studies at the University of Michigan, but it was not until Carneiro led the world premiere of Frank's *New Andean Songs* as part of the Los Angeles Philharmonic's *Green Umbrella* series in March 2008 that a close friendship began to blossom.

"My relationship with Gabriela was born from music and from a deep admiration for her voice as one of the most talented composers I have had the privilege to work with," Carneiro stated. "From the first conversations Gabriela and I had, there was profound artistic chemistry and understanding."

Carneiro explains that following her appointment as Music Director of Berkeley Symphony in January 2009, Frank has proven to be indispensable as a partner and guide into the cultural and musical landscape of Berkeley and the Bay Area.

"When I was appointed Music Director and discovered that Gabriela was born, raised and lives in Berkeley, the musical relationship between Berkeley Symphony and Gabriela became a personal artistic priority. Not being from Berkeley myself, I have learned immensely from Gabriela. Her knowledge of the city—socially and artistically—is overwhelming, and her instincts in connecting music with this community are, for lack of a better expression, truly inspiring."

While many aspects of this new role will continue to evolve, Carneiro explains that the title of Creative Advisor is a natural corollary of their conversations and of Frank's willingness to serve Berkeley Symphony and its community.

"I am more than grateful to Gabriela for accepting this appointment. I have an absolute admiration for her sense of the fundamental role of music, and specifically of the role of Berkeley Symphony in

connecting with our community. I am utterly proud that she is generous enough to share with us not only her music but all of her talents.”

Regarding the personal significance of this appointment to her, Frank stated: “As a freelance composer, I am incredibly blessed that I have never wanted for work. I still marvel that I create music for some of the best musicians out there today. Most of my work, however, takes me far from my beloved hometown of Berkeley. For this reason, my new role as Creative Advisor to the brilliant Joana Carneiro and the energetic Berkeley Symphony staff and musicians is a dream. I look forward to deepening Berkeley Symphony’s relationship to the Bay Area by identifying new connections to a community dear to me and by programming seriously exciting, top-notch music.”

### **ABOUT GABRIELA LENA FRANK**

A member of G. Schirmer’s prestigious roster of artists as well as a Guggenheim Fellow for 2009, Gabriela Lena Frank has been hailed as representing “the next generation of American composers.” Her work has been elected to Chamber Music America’s list of “Top One Hundred and One Great American Ensemble Works” and incorporates Latino/Latin American mythology, archeology, art, poetry, and folk music into western classical forms, reflecting her Peruvian-American heritage. Such compositions exhibit “honesty and genius” (*Springfield Union-News*), “unself-conscious craft and mastery” (*Washington Post*), and “brilliantly effective writing” and “an immediate appeal” (*New York Times*); and have furthermore been described as an “exciting and necessary voice” and “luminous... burst[ing] with fresh originality” (*Los Angeles Times*), “of unearthly beauty” (*Miami Sun-Sentinel*), and “brilliant” (*Chicago Tribune*).

Select premieres in the near future include: *Posadas* for Grammy-winning guitarist Sharon Isbin; and additional new works for Ballet Hispánico, the King’s Singers, Yo Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble, and the Chiara String Quartet. Frank is currently collaborating with Cuban playwright Nilo Cruz (Pulitzer Prize, 2003) on a major opera regarding famed Mexican painters, Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera. Recent premieres for Frank include *Peregrinos* (2009) for the Indianapolis Symphony; *Two Mountain Songs* for the San Francisco Girls’ Chorus and the Young People’s Chorus of New York; *Quijotadas* (2007) for the Brentano String Quartet; *Jalapeño Blues* (2007) for Chanticleer; *Compadrazgo* (2007), a cello/piano double concerto for Emerson Quartet cellist David Finckel and pianist Wu Han with the ProMusica Orchestra; *La Llorona: Tone Poem* for Viola and Orchestra (2007) for the Houston Symphony; *Dos Canciones de Cifar* (2007) for baritone and piano commissioned by the Marilyn Horne Foundation with Carnegie Hall; *Manchay Tiempo* (2005) for the Seattle Symphony; *Inkarri* (2005) for the Kronos Quartet; and *Three Latin American Dances* (2004) for the Utah Symphony Orchestra. Since the millennium, Frank has been performed by over a hundred orchestras including the San Francisco Symphony, the Chicago Symphony, the Atlanta Symphony, and the Baltimore Symphony.

A highly decorated artist, Frank was inducted into the internationally-acclaimed Hispanic Scholarship Fund’s Hall of Fame in 2008, the first creative artist in the organization’s history. She will be one of nine artists featured in a scholarly volume of women composers published by Oxford University Press in 2010, and will be the feature of the concluding chapter in the textbook *The Musics of Latin America: A Heritage of Diversity* published by W.W. Norton in September of 2011.

Born in Berkeley, CA in 1972, Gabriela Lena Frank holds degrees from Rice University and a doctorate (2001) from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Her teachers for composition have included William Albright, Leslie Bassett, William Bolcom, and Michael Daugherty. She currently makes her home in her hometown of Berkeley, CA and travels often in Latin America. She is managed and published exclusively by G. Schirmer, Inc.

**ABOUT JOANA CARNEIRO**

Noted for her vibrant performances in a wide diversity of musical styles, Joana Carneiro has attracted considerable attention as one of the most outstanding young conductors working today. In January 2009, Carneiro was named Music Director of Berkeley Symphony, succeeding Kent Nagano as only the third Music Director in the 40-year history of the orchestra. She currently serves as official guest conductor of the Gulbenkian Orchestra, working with the orchestra at least four weeks every year.

Carneiro's 2009-2010 highlights include debuts with the Toronto Symphony and Seattle Symphony, a performance in Quito, Ecuador with Renée Fleming as soloist, and the opening of the Venice Biennale in the Gran Teatro de la Fenice in September. She recently made much-lauded debuts with the Sao Paulo State Symphony, Ensemble Orchestral de Paris, and Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, where the *Pioneer Press* called her performance "an unqualified triumph." Past North American engagements include the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, New World Symphony, Grant Park Music Festival and Manhattan School of Music. In Europe, she has conducted the Norkopping Symphony, Prague Philharmonia and Orchestre de Bretagne, among others. Her Asian appearances have included the Macau Chamber Orchestra and Beijing Orchestra at the International Musica Festival of Macau.

Increasingly in demand as an opera conductor, Carneiro will conduct John Adams's *A Flowering Tree*, a production in which she made her debut with the Chicago Opera Theater, at La Cité de la Musique in Paris in Spring 2010 and in her Cincinnati Opera debut in Summer 2011. In January 2010, Carneiro will lead performances of Peter Sellars's stagings of Stravinsky's *Oedipus Rex* and *Symphony of Psalms* at the Sydney Festival. Previously she served as assistant conductor to Esa-Pekka Salonen at the Paris Opera's premiere of *Adriana Mater* by Kaija Saariaho and led critically-acclaimed performances of Philippe Boesmans's *Julie* in Bolzano, Italy.

As a finalist of the prestigious 2002 Maazel-Vilar Conductor's Competition at Carnegie Hall, Carneiro was recognized by the jury for demonstrating a level of potential that holds great promise for her future career. Since then, her profile has grown quickly both in the United States and Europe. From 2005 through 2008, Carneiro was an American Symphony Orchestra League Conducting Fellow at the Los Angeles Philharmonic. At the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Carneiro worked closely with Esa-Pekka Salonen, hosted education concerts, and conducted subscription concerts and special projects at Walt Disney Concert Hall and at the Hollywood Bowl. In 2003-2004, Carneiro worked with Maestros Kurt Masur and Christoph von Dohnanyi and conducted the London Philharmonic Orchestra, as one of three conductors chosen for London's Allianz Cultural Foundation International Conductors Academy.

Having won the Young Musicians Foundation's 2002 National Conductor Search, Carneiro served as Music Director of the Los Angeles Debut Orchestra until June 2005. Previously, Carneiro served as Assistant Conductor of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and as Music Director of the Campus Philharmonia Orchestra (Michigan).

A native of Lisbon, Carneiro began her musical studies as a violist before receiving her conducting degree from the Academia Nacional Superior de Orquestra in Lisbon, where she studied with Jean-Marc Burfin. Carneiro received her Masters degree in orchestral conducting from Northwestern University as a student of Victor Yampolsky and Mallory Thompson, and pursued doctoral studies at the University of Michigan, where she studied with Kenneth Kiesler.

**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:****BERKELEY SYMPHONY****Thursday, October 15, 2009, 7 PM – Joana Carneiro, Conductor; *Please note early start time!***

John Adams	<i>The Chairman Dances</i>
Gabriela Lena Frank	<i>Peregrinos</i> (West Coast premiere)
Béla Bartók	Concerto for Orchestra

**Thursday, December 3, 2009, 8 PM – Joana Carneiro, Conductor**

Steven Stucky	<i>Radical Light</i>
Jean Sibelius	Symphony No. 7
Steven Stucky	“Elegy” from the oratorio <i>August 4, 1964</i> (West Coast premiere)
Igor Stravinsky	The <i>Firebird</i> Suite (1919 version)

**Thursday, February 11, 2010, 8 PM – Joana Carneiro, Conductor**

Paul Dresher	<i>Cornucopia</i>
Esa-Pekka Salonen	<i>Five Images After Sappho</i> ; Jessica Rivera, soprano
Ludwig van Beethoven	Symphony No. 3, “Eroica”

**Thursday, April 1, 2010, 8 PM – Joana Carneiro, Conductor**

Jörg Widmann	<i>Con brio</i> (Concert Overture for Orchestra; West Coast premiere)
Samuel Barber	<i>Knoxville, Summer of 1915</i> ; Jessica Rivera, soprano
Johannes Brahms	Symphony No. 1

**Concert Venue:** UC Berkeley Zellerbach Hall**Tickets:** \$20, \$40, and \$60. Introductory 4-concert subscriptions are \$40, \$80, and \$120.  
Call 510-841-2800 or visit [www.berkeleysymphony.org](http://www.berkeleysymphony.org).**BERKELEY SYMPHONY’S UNDER CONSTRUCTION****Sunday, December 6, 2009, 7 PM – Joana Carneiro, Conductor**

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, Conductor**

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).