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For Immediate Release

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Joana Carneiro Conducts Berkeley Symphony In Inaugural Concert as Music Director

Program Features Berkeley Composers John Adams and Gabriela Lena Frank

BERKELEY, CA – September 22, 2009... On **Thursday, October 15, 7 PM** at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall, **Joana Carneiro** conducts Berkeley Symphony in her debut performance as Music Director. Carneiro will conduct works by two well-known Berkeley composers with whom she enjoys close working and personal relationships: **John Adams** with *The Chairman Dances*, and **Gabriela Lena Frank** with the West Coast premiere of her *Peregrinos (Pilgrims)*, a work inspired by stories gathered from Latino immigrants and the subject of a recently completed documentary to air on PBS. Both Adams and Frank will participate in the pre-concert talk with Carneiro at 6:10 PM. Closing the performance will be **Béla Bartók's** Concerto for Orchestra, followed by an Inaugural Welcome Dinner for patrons on the mezzanine level in Zellerbach Hall.

In addition, three public events in the week preceding the performance serve to welcome Carneiro to the community. On **Saturday, October 10** at 10 AM, Carneiro will be interviewed by Sedge Thomson on the nationally syndicated radio program *West Coast Live*, broadcast locally on KALW 91.7 FM from the new 440-seat performance space of Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse in downtown Berkeley. The same day at 3 PM, Carneiro will be interviewed by pianist and radio host Sarah Cahill at the **Berkeley Public Library** in a free event sponsored by the Friends of the Berkeley Public Library.

The third community event takes place **Tuesday, October 13** at 8 PM, as **La Peña Cultural Center** hosts a free public screening of "Peregrinos: Pilgrims, A Musical Journey." This PBS documentary follows **Gabriela Lena Frank**, Berkeley Symphony's newly named Creative Advisor and a Guggenheim Fellow for 2009, during her two-year residency with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra which resulted in the premiere of *Peregrinos* with the orchestra in February 2009. In addition to Frank and Carneiro, special guests at the screening will include the La Peña Community Chorus, the young Ecuadoran violinist Angie Logroño Godoy, and members of the Indianapolis-based Latino Youth Collective who inspired Frank's composition and will also show some of their own documentary work.

Regarding the thriving Latino community she was privileged to come to know over the course of the residency, Frank stated: "Many had only recently arrived to the States, and many were undocumented. All impressed me deeply as to their humor, their perseverance, and their humanity in the face of daunting odds including the U.S.'s inconsistent policies regarding immigration. As the daughter of an immigrant from Perú myself, this experience resonated with me deeply."

The five movements of Frank's *Peregrinos* are cast as *testimonios*, based upon personal stories shared with her. For example, the second movement, "Hero Brothers," is an allusion to two prominent figures in Mayan myth, but also to two real brothers Frank got to know, one documented and one

undocumented, and the enormous guilt the former felt because of his easier situation. One woman's passage across the border similarly inspired the third movement, "Fireflies." She spent hours in the trunk of a car, being let out at night only to become disoriented by insects flashing in her face—a vision that would haunt her in ongoing dreams of anxiety.

Frank's *Peregrinos* is preceded in this performance by *The Chairman Dances* by **John Adams**. Adams describes the piece as a "warm-up" prior to embarking on work on his opera, *Nixon in China*. It is conceived as a foxtrot between Chairman Mao and his bride, Chiang Ch'ing, whom Adams describes as "the fabled 'Madame Mao,' firebrand, revolutionary executioner, architect of China's calamitous Cultural Revolution, and (a fact not universally realized) a former Shanghai movie actress."

Adams further describes the music as taking "full cognizance of her past as a movie actress. Themes, sometimes slinky and sentimental, at other times bravura and bounding, ride above in bustling fabric of energized motives. Some of these themes make a dreamy reappearance in Act III of the actual opera, en revenant, as both the Nixons and Maos reminisce over their distant pasts."

Carneiro's inaugural concert with Berkeley Symphony concludes with **Béla Bartók's** Concerto for Orchestra, regarded as one of the pillars of twentieth-century orchestral literature. The title of this symphony-like orchestral work can be explained by how it shows off not only individual instruments but an entire realm of combinations, as well as the power of the whole. Its tunefulness and combined force made it readily accessible to audiences, and its masterful construction has been the subject of much scholarly analysis. The work's finale is an orchestral tour de force.

ABOUT JOANA CARNEIRO

In January 2009, 32-year-old Lisbon native Joana 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. From 2005 through 2008, Carneiro was an American Symphony Orchestra League Conducting Fellow at the Los Angeles Philharmonic, where she worked closely with Esa-Pekka Salonen. She currently serves as official guest conductor of the Gulbenkian Orchestra.

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. 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." 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.

ABOUT BERKELEY SYMPHONY: CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

Founded in 1969 as the Berkeley Promenade Orchestra, **Berkeley Symphony** has established a reputation for presenting major new works for orchestra alongside fresh interpretations of the classic European repertoire. Berkeley Symphony has been recognized in seven of the past nine seasons with an ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programmin. In addition to its subscription concerts and *Under Construction* new music series, Berkeley Symphony regularly partners with Cal Performances to provide music for visiting artists. Berkeley Symphony's award-winning, year-long Music in the Schools Program reaches every public elementary school student in Berkeley. San Francisco public radio station KALW 91.7 FM is Berkeley Symphony's broadcast partner, airing all Berkeley Symphony subscription concerts.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

BERKELEY SYMPHONY CONCERT

Thursday, October 15, 2009, 7 PM – *Please note early start time!*

Joana Carneiro, Conductor

Welcome Joana: A Berkeley Opener

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

Concert Venue: UC Berkeley Zellerbach Hall

Tickets: \$10, \$20, \$40, and \$60. Introductory 4-concert subscriptions are \$40, \$80, and \$120. Call 510-841-2800 or visit www.berkeleysymphony.org

Pre-Concert Talk, 6:10 PM: With Joana Carneiro, John Adams, and Gabriela Lena Frank

Post-Concert Inaugural Welcome Dinner: Tickets are currently wait-listed for this event.

Note: a previously announced Under Construction new music event on October 18 will not take place.

BERKELEY SYMPHONY “WELCOME JOANA” COMMUNITY EVENTS

Saturday, October 10, 2009, 10 AM

Conductor Joana Carneiro will be a guest on *West Coast Live*, interviewed by Sedge Thomson

Event Venue: Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 2020 Addison St., Berkeley, and on KALW 91.7 FM

Tickets: \$15, \$13 (seniors), and \$5 (students). Call 415-664-9500 or visit www.wcl.org

Saturday, October 10, 2009, 3 PM

Conductor Joana Carneiro will be interviewed by Sarah Cahill in a free public event sponsored by Friends of the Berkeley Library

Event Venue: Berkeley Public Library, 2090 Kittredge (at Shattuck), Berkeley

FREE Admission

Tuesday, October 13, 2009, 8 PM

Screening of “Peregrinos: Pilgrims, A Musical Journey” PBS documentary with composer Gabriela Lena Frank, conductor Joana Carneiro, La Peña Community Chorus, violinist Angie Logroño Godoy, and members of the Indianapolis-based Latino Youth Collective.

Event Venue: La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley

FREE Admission

FOR PSAs

On Thursday, October 15 at 7 p.m. at UC Berkeley’s Zellerbach Hall, conductor Joana Carneiro leads Berkeley Symphony in her inaugural performance as Music Director. On the program are works by Berkeley composers John Adams and Gabriela Lena Frank, plus Bartók’s Concerto for Orchestra. For tickets, call 510-841-2800, or visit www.berkeleysymphony.org.