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For Immediate Release

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Joana Carneiro and Berkeley Symphony
Present Works by Paul Dresher, Esa-Pekka Salonen, and Beethoven
Soprano Jessica Rivera Begins Two-Concert Residency

BERKELEY, CA – January 15, 2010... On **Thursday, February 11, 8 PM** at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall, **Joana Carneiro** continues her inaugural season as Berkeley Symphony Music Director with a program that embraces the artistry of two longtime friends—composer and conductor **Esa-Pekka Salonen** and soprano **Jessica Rivera**—and begins a new artistic relationship with Berkeley composer **Paul Dresher**. Salonen's *Five Images After Sappho* will be performed by Rivera in her first of two appearances this season as resident artist. **Dresher's** *Cornucopia* and **Ludwig van Beethoven's** Symphony No. 3, "Eroica," complete the program.

Esa-Pekka Salonen was Carneiro's mentor during her time as Assistant Conductor at the Los Angeles Philharmonic, where he stepped down as Music Director last season to be succeeded by Gustavo Dudamel. His *Five Images After Sappho* is a set of five songs for soprano and chamber orchestra set to fragments of text by the ancient Greek poet Sappho (translated to English). The songs describe a woman's life from childhood to old age and death. However, they focus mainly on the first part of life, given that Salonen's son was born while composing this work.

Sappho's reputation as a great figure in lyric poetry has endured, even though all but fragments of her work have been lost. In his notes on the piece, Salonen writes, "It is the fragmentary nature of the material, and therefore an almost open form, that makes Sappho so fascinating to set to music...Between these small islands of words one can hear music."

Performing as soprano soloist will be **Jessica Rivera**. Hailed by the *New York Times* as a "vocally luminous young soprano," Rivera gave the world premiere of John Adams's opera, *A Flowering Tree*, singing the role of Kumudha in a production directed by Peter Sellars as part of the New Crowned Hope Festival in Vienna, Austria. She gave additional performances with the Berliner Philharmoniker under Sir Simon Rattle, and under the composer's baton with the San Francisco Symphony and the London Symphony Orchestra. As resident artist this season, Rivera will return to perform with Berkeley Symphony on Thursday, April 1, 8 PM at Zellerbach Hall, singing Samuel Barber's *Knoxville, Summer of 1915*.

Opening this Berkeley Symphony performance is *Cornucopia* by Berkeley resident **Paul Dresher**, who will join Carneiro to discuss his work in a pre-concert talk at 7:10 PM. A former recipient of the Guggenheim Fellowship in Composition, he is known for innovative and theatrical performances as part of the Paul Dresher Ensemble Electro-Acoustic Band. Structurally, the concluding portion of *Cornucopia* asks the question, "how many different contrapuntal layers can we keep distinct in our hearing and at what point do the individual layers of counterpoint merge into a single fused texture?"

Regarding the title, Drescher writes that it was “derived from the confluence of the traditional definition, signifying an overflowing abundance, and the fact that I was composing the work while residing in an isolated cabin in Mendocino County, surrounded by a redwood forest which happened to be experiencing an extraordinarily abundant fruiting of the delicious black chanterelle mushroom (*Craterellus cornucopioides*), also known to mycologists as ‘the Horn of Plenty.’ Many a meal composed with this delectable fungus rewarded a long day of composition on this work.”

The program concludes with **Ludwig van Beethoven’s** Symphony No. 3, “Eroica.” This symphony, which had its first public performance in Vienna in 1805, was unprecedented in scope and form. Considerably longer than any of his previous symphonies, it abounds with radical strokes and architectural originalities. From the arresting E-flat opening chords that launch the epic first movement, to the famous Funeral March and the imaginative Scherzo and Finale, Beethoven's third symphony is a revolutionary masterpiece that influenced the course of music history.

Please note that earlier the same week, Berkeley Symphony presents an *Under Construction* new music concert on **Sunday, February 7, 7 PM** at St. John's Presbyterian Church in Berkeley. The concert is a public reading/performance of new works by this season’s four Emerging Composers in Residence: **Bruce Christian Bennett, Don Myers, Patricio da Silva, and Andy Tan**. The four composers have each written a work on the theme “The Greek Muse,” reflecting a link to Salonen’s work and the mentorship connections made between the *Under Construction* composer participants and the established composers on this season’s subscription programs.

ABOUT BERKELEY SYMPHONY

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, February 11, 2010, 8 PM

Joana Carneiro, Conductor

Welcoming Old Friends & New

Paul Dresher *Cornucopia*
Esa-Pekka Salonen *Five Images After Sappho* with Jessica Rivera, soprano
Ludwig van Beethoven *Symphony No. 3, "Eroica"*

Concert Venue: UC Berkeley Zellerbach Hall

Tickets: \$20, \$40, and \$60. Introductory 3-concert subscriptions are \$40, \$80, and \$120.

Call 510-841-2800 or visit www.berkeleysymphony.org

Pre-Concert Talk, 7:10 PM: With Joana Carneiro and Paul Dresher

Radio Broadcast: This concert will be broadcast on KALW 91.7 FM with host Alan Farley on Sunday, May 16, 2010 from 4-6 PM.

UPCOMING "UNDER CONSTRUCTION" CONCERT

Sunday, February 7, 2010, 7 PM

Joana Carneiro, Conductor

New Works on "The Greek Muse" by Four Emerging Composers in Residence

Bruce Christian Bennett *Of Memory: II. Terpsichore*
Don Myers *The Greek Muse: Shut-up, Socrates*
Patrício da Silva *No Cruising for the Muse*
Andy Tan *The Veil of Polyhymnia*

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

Tickets: \$10 general admission, \$20 priority admission

Call 510-841-2800 or visit www.berkeleysymphony.org

FOR PSAs

On Thursday, February 11 at 8 p.m. at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall, Joana Carneiro continues her inaugural season as Berkeley Symphony Music Director by conducting music by Esa-Pekka Salonen, Berkeley composer Paul Dresher, plus Beethoven's Symphony No. 3, the "Eroica." Soprano Jessica Rivera is featured soloist. For tickets, call 510-841-2800, or visit www.berkeleysymphony.org.