

**BERKELEY
SYMPHONY**



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BERKELEY SYMPHONY MUSIC DIRECTOR JOANA CARNEIRO WINS HELEN M. THOMPSON AWARD

Atlanta, GA – June 18, 2010... **Berkeley Symphony Music Director Joana Carneiro** was honored with the **Helen M. Thompson Award** on Friday, June 18, 2010, by the **League of American Orchestras** at its 65th National Conference in Atlanta. The award recognizes Carneiro's commitment to expanding the community base of Berkeley Symphony and furthering the orchestra's tradition of presenting the works of composers of our time. In only one season, Carneiro has infused a wide range of innovative programming to the orchestra's repertoire and inspired the musicians of Berkeley Symphony with her exceptional talent. Her appointment of composer Gabriela Lena Frank as Creative Advisor has resulted in new relationships with community organizations and deeper connections with audiences. Audience response to Carneiro's leadership can be gauged by the orchestra's record-breaking subscription rate in her first season.

"I am profoundly moved and grateful, and I share this award with the wonderful Berkeley Symphony musicians, board and staff, and Creative Advisor Gabriela Lena Frank, for their incredible commitment to the organization and support of my dreams," said Carneiro. "And it is wonderful to feel that the League of American Orchestras shares our vision and believes that not only it is right, but that we must always dream big dreams."

The **Helen M. Thompson Award** was created in 1981 to celebrate the life and work of Helen M. Thompson, who dramatically advanced and promoted the cause of the symphony orchestra in the United States. Beginning in 1943, her 27 years of inspired leadership and service to the League encouraged smaller budget orchestras to develop high standards and to serve their communities well. The award is given particularly to recognize her support and encouragement of managers and music directors early in their careers. Eligible nominees must hold the top managerial or music director position at a League of American Orchestras member orchestra with no more than 5 years combined experience in a top position.

Noted for her vibrant performances in a wide diversity of musical styles, **Joana Carneiro** has established herself as one of the most exciting and outstanding young conductors today. As the new Music Director of Berkeley Symphony, Carneiro's vision is forging and nurturing long-lasting relationships with living composers who, according to her, serve as the sources of inspiration for the orchestra and the community. In 2009-10, she led a successful inaugural season featuring works by several prominent contemporary Bay Area composers, including John Adams, Gabriela Lena Frank, and Paul Dresher.

Prior to her Berkeley Symphony appointment, she served as Assistant Conductor and a League of American Orchestra Conducting Fellow with the Los Angeles Philharmonic from 2005-2008, working closely with Esa-Pekka Salonen. A native of Lisbon, Portugal, Carneiro is currently official guest conductor of the Gulbenkian Orchestra. Previously, she was Assistant Conductor with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and Principal Guest Conductor of the Metropolitan Orchestra of Lisbon. She also served as Music Director of the Los Angeles Debut Orchestra following her selection in 2002 through the Young Musician's Foundation- National Conductor Search, past winners of which include André Previn and Michael Tilson Thomas.

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 Award for Adventurous Programming from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP). 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.

#Berkeley Symphony#