

For Immediate Release: January 8, 2025

[Cal Performances Press Room](#)



Photos of conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin, the Vienna Philharmonic, pianist Yefim Bronfman, and 2025 Gala Honorary Chairs and Presenting Sponsors Maria Manetti Shrem (right) and Elizabeth Segerstrom (left) are available for download from the Cal Performances [Press Room](#).

Information about all three of the Vienna Philharmonic's March 5–7 performances in Berkeley can be found at calperformances.org/vienna-philharmonic-2425.

CAL PERFORMANCES 2025 GALA
FEATURING
VIENNA PHILHARMONIC,
YANNICK NÉZET-SÉGUIN, CONDUCTOR,
YEFIM BRONFMAN, PIANO
FRIDAY, MARCH 7

Berkeley, CA, January 8, 2025—Cal Performances at UC Berkeley is pleased to announce the details of its 2025 Gala to be held on Friday, March 7 on the UC Berkeley campus. The gala features a cocktail reception at 5:30pm under a grand tent in Lower Sproul Plaza and a 9pm dinner on the stage of the nearby Zellerbach Playhouse. The evening is centered around a performance by the **Vienna Philharmonic**, conductor **Yannick Nézet-Séguin**, and pianist **Yefim Bronfman**. The artists come to Berkeley as part of the **Maria Manetti Shrem and Elizabeth Segerstrom California Orchestra Residency**. The program for the evening performance by the Vienna Philharmonic consists of Richard Strauss' epic *Ein Heldenleben* (*A Hero's Life*) preceded by Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3 with Bronfman as soloist.

The 2025 Gala is produced by Cal Performances under the direction of Gala co-chairs **Janice Brathwaite** and **Sara E. Wilson**. The honorary chairs and presenting sponsors of the 2025 Gala, **Maria Manetti Shrem** and **Elizabeth Segerstrom**, will both be honored with the **California Performing Arts Visionary Award** at this year's event. **Gordon P. Getty** is the 2025 Gala's Grand Benefactor.

The 2025 Gala dinner is designed by **Paul Canales**, former chef/owner of the revered East Bay restaurants Duende and Occitania, and former executive chef of Oliveto. Canales, who is a longtime music fan, leads kitchens with a philosophy inspired by his passion for free improvisation and the influence of his friend, composer and MacArthur Fellowship winner John Zorn. His approach to menu development departs from the typical chef's focus on "signature dishes," instead drawing inspiration from markets and whole-animal butchery. He is known for his dedication to collaboration, culinary traditions, and seasonal ingredients. International food author Marcella Hazan praised him, writing, "Paul Canales has found and taken unfailing command of what everyone who cooks struggles to discover: the straight road to pure, sincere, deeply satisfying flavor."

Wine for the 2025 Gala is provided by **Hess Persson Estates**. **McCalls Catering & Events**, **Got Light**, **Stuart Event Rentals**, and **Soirée Valet** have been engaged to design the event. Following the event **Drew Altizer Photography** will offer images of it.

Announced in January 2024, the Maria Manetti Shrem and Elizabeth Segerstrom California Orchestra Residency brings the Vienna Philharmonic and conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin to the state for an exclusive residency and tour during the spring of 2025. The residency begins in Northern California with [three performances hosted by Cal Performances, March 5–7](#), and concludes in Southern California with two performances at the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, March 9 and 11, hosted by the Philharmonic Society of Orange County. The five concerts are the Vienna Philharmonic's only 2025 appearances in the United States with Nézet-Séguin outside of a visit to Carnegie Hall. Grammy Award-winning pianist Yefim Bronfman joins the orchestra at both venues for performances of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3. The Philharmonic Society of Orange County holds their 2025 Gala on Sunday, March 9.

About Maria Manetti Shrem and Elizabeth Segerstrom, Honorary Co-Chairs

Maria Manetti Shrem has made a significant impact on the fashion industry, particularly in establishing Gucci as a globally renowned brand, and has focused on philanthropy since the 1990s. She aims to donate most of her wealth during her lifetime, with the hope of inspiring others to do the same. Maria and her late husband, Jan Shrem, have supported various organizations across the arts, education, science, and music, especially in the San Francisco Bay Area, New York, the UK, and Italy. Shrem has been a close friend of notable musicians like Renée Fleming, Nadine Sierra, and Luciano Pavarotti, and has supported Cal Performances with several gifts, being acknowledged on the Builders of UC Berkeley wall of fame. Past honors for her international cultural contributions include her being named the Grand Officer of the Order of the Star of Italy and receiving the Keys of the City of Florence, and the 2023 UC Davis Medal.

Elizabeth Segerstrom is co-managing director of C.J. Segerstrom & Sons and serves on the board of directors of the Segerstrom Center for the Arts. Born in Poland, the entrepreneur and author also holds a doctorate in psychology. After moving to Orange County in 2000, she and her late husband, Henry Segerstrom, enhanced Southern California's musical and cultural offerings, including the design of the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall. They brought major cultural events, such

as the Mariinsky Festival and the Elizabeth and Henry Segerstrom Select Series, to the region. Segerstrom supports numerous organizations, including American Ballet Theatre, Carnegie Hall, and LA Opera, and has been honored for her contributions with the Golden Baton Award.

Details about Cal Performances' 2025 Gala can be found at calperformances.org/gala. Information about all three of the Vienna Philharmonic's March 5–7 performances in Berkeley can be found at calperformances.org/vienna-philharmonic-2425.

CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS

[Cal Performances 2025 Gala](#)

Friday, March 7, 2025

5:30pm Cocktail Reception, Lower Sproul Plaza

7pm Performance, Zellerbach Hall

9pm Reception and Dinner, Zellerbach Playhouse

Maria Manetti Shrem and Elizabeth Segerstrom California Orchestra Residency

Vienna Philharmonic

Yannick Nézet-Séguin, *conductor*

Yefim Bronfman, *piano*

Beethoven/Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor, Op. 37

R. Strauss/*Ein Heldenleben*, Op. 40

Single Gala Tickets: \$1,000, \$2,500; Partial and full tables from \$15,000 – \$100,000; Cocktail reception only tickets \$500. Gala tickets include the concert. Available online at calperformances.org/gala or by contacting the Development team at 510.642.8653 or donate@calperformances.org.

Concert-only Tickets: \$50–\$225 (prices subject to change). Available at calperformances.org, by phone at (510) 642-9988, or in person at the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, Tuesday–Friday, 12–5:30pm and Saturday–Sunday, 1–5pm. There is a \$15 per order service charge on ticket purchases made by phone or online that are not part of a subscription package. There is no fee for tickets purchased in person at the Zellerbach Hall Ticket Office.

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