

CONTACT: **Louisa Spier**
Cal Performances
(510) 643-6714
lspier@calperformances.org

Jeanette Peach
Cal Performances
(510) 642-9121
jpeach@calperformances.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 17, 2019
[Press Room](#)



Images of Esa-Pekka Salonen, Jimmy López, and Nilo Cruz are available from the Cal Performances [press room](#).

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS
ESA-PEKKA SALONEN AND THE
PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA, LONDON
PERFORMING THREE CONCERTS
FRIDAY–SUNDAY, MARCH 15–17, 2019**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 17 CONCERT FEATURES THE
WORLD PREMIERE OF *DREAMERS*
AN ORATORIO EXPLORING THE IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE
BY JIMMY LÓPEZ AND NILO CRUZ
COMMISSIONED BY CAL PERFORMANCES**

**Concert highlights include Salonen’s 2017 Cello Concerto featuring Truls Mørk;
the rarely performed complete score of Stravinsky’s *The Firebird*;
Bartók’s Concerto for Orchestra; and works by Sibelius, Bruckner, and Schoenberg**

**As part of Cal Performances’ 2018–19 Berkeley RADICAL *Citizenship* programming
spotlighting the human side of the current debate on immigration and nationalism,
Dreamers is complimented by additional public programs including an artist workshop
at the Oakland School for the Arts; two public forums; a composer colloquium;
and an open classroom at UC Berkeley**

Berkeley, January 17, 2019 — Cal Performances at UC Berkeley welcomes the return of the renowned **Philharmonia Orchestra, London** with principal conductor and artistic advisor **Esa-Pekka Salonen**, for a three-concert engagement featuring the world premiere of *Dreamers*, a new oratorio by **Jimmy López**, co-commissioned by Cal Performances. Salonen and the orchestra present three ambitious programs on at Cal Performances Friday–Sunday, March 15-17 in Zellerbach Hall. Programs include the conductor’s 2017 Cello Concerto, with soloist **Truls Mørk**; the rarely performed complete score for Stravinsky’s *The Firebird*; Bartók’s Concerto for Orchestra; and works by Sibelius, Bruckner, and Schoenberg.

Receiving its world premiere in the Sunday afternoon concert, López’s *Dreamers* was composed in collaboration with Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Nilo Cruz, and is informed by conversations with undocumented UC Berkeley students over the past year. The oratorio features the Grammy Award-winning soprano **Ana María Martínez** as soloist, and a nearly 80-voice choir composed of Bay Area contemporary vocal ensemble **Volti** and the **UC Berkeley Chamber Chorus**.

Dreamers will be live-streamed from Zellerbach Hall to Washington, DC, where the work’s co-commissioner, Washington Performing Arts (WPA), will present a free simulcast at Sidney Harman Hall in the nation’s capital. Details about the simulcast and associated programs can be found on the WPA website [here](#). In conjunction with the performance of *Dreamers*, both López and Cruz will participate in a series of free public forums, classes, and workshops providing multiple ways for audiences to engage with this new piece of music.

Cal Performances commissioned *Dreamers* before the move to end DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), the program that shields nearly 700,000 young immigrants, often called “Dreamers,” from deportation. The intervening months have left these residents and their families in limbo while the administration, Congress, and the courts decide their fate. In developing the work, López, an immigrant from Peru, and Cruz, a refugee from Cuba, met with undocumented students from UC Berkeley in a series of private and emotional interview sessions. In the oratorio, the composer and librettist set out to convey the anxiety, fear, and uncertainty that characterize the daily lives of undocumented individuals and their families, as well as the hopes and aspirations of this young generation of immigrants.

Says Cal Performances interim artistic director Rob Bailis of *Dreamers*, “This commission by Jimmy López and Nilo Cruz, as well as its layers of community engagement, reflect Cal Performances’ commitment to fostering serious discussion and reflection around some of the most pressing issues of our time, through the lens of the performing arts. It is a profound and ambitious new work, and we are proud to give it the international platform it deserves.”

As the performing arts presenter at UC Berkeley—a university known for its rich history of social activism and civic engagement—Cal Performances is well situated to explore these issues. Several hundred undocumented students are enrolled at UC Berkeley, and are served by the university’s Undocumented Students Program. Janet Napolitano, who served as Secretary of Homeland Security under President Obama and signed the policy memo that created DACA, is now the president of the University of California system and filed one of the lawsuits that seeks to preserve the program.

Jimmy López earned his doctorate from the UC Berkeley Department of Music in 2012 and is the current composer-in-residence at the Houston Symphony. He is known for combining European compositional techniques with South American musical influences in his acclaimed and dramatic works. He and Cruz previously collaborated on an opera adaptation of Ann Patchett’s novel *Bel Canto* for Lyric Opera of Chicago.

Nilo Cruz is a playwright whose work has been produced widely around the United States and Europe. In 2003 he won the Pulitzer Prize and the Steinberg Award for Drama for his play *Anna in the Tropics*, which was also nominated for a Tony Award.

The first performance during Philharmonia’s Berkeley engagement, on Friday, March 15 at 8pm, features Bartók’s virtuosic Concerto for Orchestra, his last completed work; Salonen’s dynamic 2017 Cello Concerto, featuring Norwegian cellist Truls Mørk; and Sibelius’ evocative *The Oceanides*. For the Saturday evening performance on March 16 at 8pm, Bruckner’s grand Seventh Symphony shares a program with Schoenberg’s moody tone poem for strings, *Verklärte Nacht*. On Sunday, March 17 at 3pm *Dreamers* shares the program with the rarely performed complete score for Stravinsky’s *The Firebird*.

Five related events, all free and open to the public, are planned in conjunction with the world premiere of *Dreamers*. Composer Jimmy López will discuss his new oratorio in a composer colloquium at the UC Berkeley Department of Music on Friday, March 1 at 3pm. At noon on Thursday, March 14, López will speak about the *Dreamers* project in an open session of the academic course *Creativity, Migration, Transformation* taught by UC Berkeley's Associate Professor of Performance Studies Peter Glazer and playwright and theater director Stan Lai. This event will be held at UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive's (BAMPFA) Osher Auditorium in downtown Berkeley. Librettist Nilo Cruz will lead a workshop exploring the process of creating the music, words, and format of *Dreamers* at the Oakland School for the Arts on Saturday, March 16 at 3pm. Cal Performances presents two public forums in Zellerbach Playhouse on Sunday, March 17, earlier in the day of the oratorio's world-premiere performance. At 11am is *Stories of Migration*, a panel discussion about themes explored in *Dreamers*, including concepts of home; the human impulse (and at times the need) to migrate; and the right to (and not to) relocate. The discussion will include live performance and the voices and experiences of young people, facilitated by Elsadig Elsheikh, director of the Global Justice Program at the Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society. At 1:30pm Nilo Cruz will lead a read-through of his *Dreamers* libretto, with commentary and Q & A moderated by Sabrina Klein, Cal Performances' director of artistic literacy. Details about all these events can be found on the [Cal Performances website](https://bit.ly/2QVYcqt) at <https://bit.ly/2QVYcqt>.

About Esa-Pekka Salonen

Conductor and composer Esa-Pekka Salonen's career has been characterized by an ever-present spirit of innovation, an attitude toward music-making that has established him as one of today's most important artists in classical music. The San Francisco Symphony's Music Director Designate (announced December 5), Salonen will succeed Michael Tilson Thomas and become the orchestra's 12th music director in September 2020. Salonen steps down from his position as Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor for the Philharmonia Orchestra at the end of the 2020–21 season. He is currently serving a three-year appointment as the Marie-Josée Kravis Composer-in-Residence at the New York Philharmonic. In 2016 he was appointed to a five-year term as Artist-in-Association with the Finnish National Opera and Ballet, where he will conduct his first full *Ring* cycle in future seasons and Debussy's *Pelléas et Mélisande* this season, and he is also the artistic director and co-founder of the annual Baltic Sea Festival, which invites artists to promote unity and ecological awareness among the countries surrounding the Baltic Sea. Salonen's work as a composer

combines intricacy and technical virtuosity with playful rhythmic and melodic innovations. He is the recipient of the 2012 Grawemeyer Award, and his works have been performed by major orchestras all over the world. Salonen is a former music director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic (1992–2009), where he is now Conductor Laureate. He is also Conductor Laureate for the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra.

About the Philharmonia Orchestra, London

Widely acknowledged as one of the UK's musical pioneers, the Philharmonia Orchestra, London, is recognized internationally for its quality of playing and for its innovative approach to audience development, residencies, music education, and the use of new technologies in reaching a global audience. The orchestra's award-winning RE-RITE and Universe of Sound installations have allowed people all over the world to step inside the orchestra through audio and video projections. Philharmonia celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2015; performs more than 160 concerts each year in the UK and abroad; and records music for films, video games, and commercial CD releases. The orchestra has enjoyed associations with some of the major artists of our time and the recent past, including Wilhelm Furtwängler, Richard Strauss, Arturo Toscanini, Herbert von Karajan, and Carlo Maria Giulini. Resident conductors have included Otto Klemperer, Lorin Maazel, Charles Mackerras, Riccardo Muti, Kurt Sanderling, and Giuseppe Sinopoli.

This marks Esa-Pekka Salonen and the Philharmonia Orchestra's third residency at Cal Performances, following engagements held in November 2012 and October 2016.

Berkeley RADICAL *Citizenship*

The Philharmonia Orchestra's performance of *Dreamers* is part of Cal Performances' 2018–19 Berkeley RADICAL *Citizenship* programming strand, which explores the human need for belonging, and connects the performing arts to our society's current sense of urgency around issues such as immigration and nationalism. The artists in this strand share their unique perspectives on the responsibilities of citizenship and the forces that threaten it. More information about *Citizenship* programming can be found at calperformances.org/berkeley-radical.

Major support for Esa-Pekka Salonen and the Philharmonia Orchestra's engagement is provided by The Bernard Osher Foundation. The residency is supported, in part, by an award from the National

Endowment for the Arts.

Dreamers was created with funding from a Hewlett 50 Arts Commission, and by Patron Sponsors Liz and Greg Lutz, and was commissioned by Cal Performances, with additional co-commissioning support from Washington Performing Arts.

Ticket Information

Tickets for the *Philharmonia Orchestra, London* on Friday–Saturday, March 15–16 at 8pm, and Sunday, March 17 at 3pm in Zellerbach Hall range from \$40–\$125 (prices subject to change). Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at calperformances.org, and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to calperformances.org/discounts.

#

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Friday, March 15, 8pm
Saturday, March 16, 8pm
Sunday, March 17, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall
Bancroft Way at Dana Street
UC Berkeley campus

Orchestra
Philharmonia Orchestra, London
Esa-Pekka Salonen, conductor

Programs:

Friday, March 15

Sibelius / *The Oceanides*, Op. 73
Esa-Pekka Salonen / Cello Concerto
Truls Mørk, *cello*
Bartók / Concerto for Orchestra, Sz. 116, BB 123

Saturday, March 16

Schoenberg / *Verklärte Nacht (Transfigured Night)*, Op. 4
Bruckner / Symphony No. 7 in E Major (WAB 107)

Sunday, March 17

Jimmy López / *Dreamers* (World Premiere, Cal Performances Co-commission)

Libretto by Nilo Cruz

Ana María Martínez, *soprano*

Volti; Robert Geary, *artistic director*

UC Berkeley Chamber Chorus; Wei Cheng, *director*

Stravinsky/*The Firebird* (1910, complete)

Berkeley RADICAL: This performance is part of the 2018–19 *Citizenship* thematic strand, which spotlights the human side of the current debate on immigration and nationalism. By sharing unique perspectives on the threats to—and responsibilities of—citizenship, the artists included here illustrate the universal need for belonging and home, and invoke the very real sense of urgency and peril that pervades the world today.

Tickets: \$40–\$125 (prices subject to change)

***Dreamers* Related Events:**

Composer Colloquium with Jimmy López, *Dreamers* Composer

125 Morrison Hall, Department of Music, UC Berkeley

Friday March 1, 3pm

Composer Jimmy López, who earned his doctorate at the UC Berkeley Department of Music, visits his alma mater to discuss his new oratorio, *Dreamers*. Free and open to the public.

Public Classroom with *Dreamers* Composer Jimmy López

Osher Auditorium, UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA)

2155 Center Street, Berkeley

Thursday, March 14, 12pm

Composer Jimmy López speaks about the *Dreamers* project in an open session of the academic course *Thinking Through Art and Design @ Berkeley: Creativity, Migration, Transformation* taught by Peter Glazer and Stan Lai. Free and open to the public.

Workshop with *Dreamers* Librettist Nilo Cruz

Marion E. Greene Black Box Theatre, Oakland School for the Arts

530 19th St, Oakland

Saturday, March 16, 3pm

Librettist Nilo Cruz presents a workshop exploring the process involved in creating the music, words, and format of *Dreamers*. Free and open to the public.

Public Forum: *Stories of Migration*

Zellerbach Playhouse, UC Berkeley Campus

Sunday, March 17, 11am

Stories of Migration: a panel discussion on themes explored in the *Dreamers* project, including concepts of home; the human impulse (and at times the need) to migrate; and the right to (and not to) relocate. The discussion will include live performance and the voices and experiences of young people, facilitated by Elsadig Elsheikh, director of the Global Justice Program at the Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society (HIFI). Presented in association with Oscar Dubon, Vice Chancellor for Equity & Inclusion; the UC Berkeley Undocumented Student Center; and HIFI. Free and open to the public.

Public Forum with *Dreamers* Librettist Nilo Cruz

Zellerbach Playhouse, UC Berkeley Campus

Sunday, March 17, 1:30pm

Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Nilo Cruz leads a read-through of his *Dreamers* libretto, with commentary and Q&A moderated by Sabrina Klein, Cal Performances' director of artistic literacy. Free and open to the public.

– Cal Performances –