

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 27, 2020

[Press Room](#)



Images of Lahav Shani and the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra are available for download from the

Cal Performances [press room](#).

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS THE  
ROTTERDAM PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA  
CONDUCTED BY LAHAV SHANI IN HIS BAY AREA DEBUT  
IN A PROGRAM OF BEETHOVEN AND BARTÓK  
SUNDAY, MARCH 22**

**Berkeley, February 27, 2020** — Cal Performances at UC Berkeley presents the Netherlands' grand **Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra** led by chief conductor **Lahav Shani** in his Bay Area debut on Sunday, March 22 at 3pm in Zellerbach Hall. Shani conducts the orchestra in Bartók's kaleidoscopic orchestral showpiece, the Concerto for Orchestra, and performs as soloist for Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4, leading from the keyboard. Pianist Nelson Freire, originally scheduled to appear in this concert, has withdrawn due to a shoulder injury.

Israeli conductor Shani, a 31-year-old protégé of Daniel Barenboim, has assumed prestigious appointments with major international orchestras during the past several years. He took over for Yannick Nézet-Séguin in Rotterdam when that conductor departed to lead New York's Metropolitan Opera orchestra, becoming the youngest chief conductor ever in that ensemble's history. He also serves as principal guest conductor of the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, and next season, succeeds Zubin Mehta at the helm of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. As a pianist, Shani has recently performed with the Rotterdam Philharmonic under Valery Gergiev's direction, and with Daniel Barenboim and the Staatskapelle Berlin. He has also performed/conducted piano concerti

with many orchestras, including the Vienna Philharmonic, Philharmonia Orchestra, Staatskapelle Berlin, and Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra.

“We are thrilled to have this opportunity to introduce Lahav Shani to Bay Area audiences,” said Cal Performances Executive and Artistic Director Jeremy Geffen. “At only 31, Shani has already established himself as one of the most fascinating, galvanizing and inquisitive musicians of our time, with his best years still to come. To have the opportunity to experience him as both pianist and conductor will not only reveal the full spectrum of his talent but the sincerity and special relationship he has built with the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra.”

The Rotterdam Orchestra performs two masterworks by Beethoven and Bartók for its Berkeley program. Shani joins the orchestra as soloist for Beethoven’s Fourth Piano Concerto, composed in 1806 during a prolific time in the composer’s life. The remarkable and innovative work, memorable for its startlingly subtle opening and its lush and tuneful slow movement, explores novel and surprising relationships between soloist and orchestra. The orchestra’s principals are featured prominently in Bartók’s 1943 Concerto for Orchestra, his last completed work, and a well-loved centerpiece of 20th-century concert music.

### **Ticket Information**

Tickets for the *Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra* on Sunday March 22 at 3pm in Zellerbach Hall range from \$38–\$110 (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](http://calperformances.org), and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to [calperformances.org/discounts](http://calperformances.org/discounts).

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### **CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

#### **CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Sunday, March 22, 3pm**

*Orchestra*

**Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra**

**Zellerbach Hall**  
Bancroft Way at Dana Street,  
UC Berkeley campus

**Lahav Shani**, *conductor and pianist*

**Program:**

Beethoven/Piano Concerto No. 4 in G major, op. 58

Bartók/Concerto for Orchestra

**Tickets:** \$38–\$110 (prices subject to change)

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– Cal Performances –