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Photos of Vienna Philharmonic and Yannick Nézet-Séguin (top row), and from left to right (bottom row): Christiane Karg, Elīna Garanča, and Yuja Wang are available for download from [Cal Performances' Press Room](#).

**Cal Performances at UC Berkeley and Philharmonic Society of Orange County Announce the 2027 Maria Manetti Shrem and Elizabeth Segerstrom California Orchestra Residency**

**VIENNA PHILHARMONIC,**

**YANNICK NÉZET-SÉGUIN, *CONDUCTOR*,  
CHRISTIANE KARG, *SOPRANO*,  
ELĪNA GARANČA, *MEZZO-SOPRANO*,  
YUJA WANG, *PIANO***

**MARCH 2–4, 2027, AT ZELLERBACH HALL, UC BERKELEY;  
MARCH 5 AND 7, 2027, AT THE RENÉE AND HENRY  
SEGERSTROM CONCERT HALL, COSTA MESA**

**Berkeley, CA, January 23, 2026**—Cal Performances at UC Berkeley and the Philharmonic Society of Orange County announce today that the 2027 **Maria Manetti Shrem and Elizabeth Segerstrom California Orchestra Residency** will bring the **Vienna Philharmonic** and conductor **Yannick Nézet-Séguin** to California for an exclusive residency and tour during the spring of 2027.

Reprising a successful 2025 collaboration between the two California organizations in presenting the Vienna Philharmonic, the residency begins in Berkeley with three performances at Zellerbach Hall hosted by Cal Performances, March 2–4, and concludes in Orange County with two performances at the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, March 5 and 7, hosted by Philharmonic Society. The performances in both venues will also feature three renowned guest artists: soprano **Christiane Karg**, mezzo-soprano **Elīna Garanča**, and pianist **Yuja Wang**. The five concerts are the Vienna Philharmonic's only appearances on the West Coast in 2027.

The Vienna Philharmonic's programs in both venues will showcase symphonies by Gustav Mahler, a composer of special significance to the orchestra who composed many of his signature works during the time he served as director of the Vienna Court Opera and as a guest conductor of the Philharmonic. Affirming his tie to/bond with the orchestra, Mahler once stated to be joined together with the orchestra through “the bonds of musical art.” One program performed in both venues (March 3 in Berkeley, March 5 in Costa Mesa) will pair Mahler's lyrical Symphony No. 4, featuring soprano Christiane Karg, with Sergei Prokofiev's technically challenging and stylistically wide-ranging Concerto No. 3, featuring soloist Wang. A second program common to both California venues is a performance of Mahler's monumental Symphony No. 2, *Resurrection*, featuring Karg and Garanča as soloists; the Cal Performances presentation on March 4 will also feature the Grammy-winning **San Francisco Symphony Chorus** led by director **Jenny Wong**, while the Philharmonic Society presentation on March 7 will include Orange County's own Grammy-winning

**Pacific Chorale** under the artistic direction of **Robert Istad**. Cal Performances' 2027 Gala takes place on March 4 in conjunction with the Vienna Philharmonic's performance of Mahler's *Resurrection Symphony*.

For Cal Performances only, the Vienna Philharmonic will perform an additional program (on March 2) devoted to Mahler's Symphony No. 9, the composer's final completed symphony and a profound meditation on mortality.

The 2027 Vienna Philharmonic residency in California is the vision of Cal Performances Executive and Artistic Director Jeremy Geffen and Philharmonic Society President and Artistic Director Tommy Phillips. It is made possible by major funding from longtime leading California arts philanthropists Maria Manetti Shrem of the San Francisco Bay Area and Elizabeth Segerstrom of Orange County. The exceptional level of generosity and support from Manetti Shrem and Segerstrom has been instrumental for both Cal Performances' and the Philharmonic Society's artistic endeavors and their missions to bring world-renowned artists to California residents. Manetti Shrem and Segerstrom will serve as lead sponsors and honorary co-chairs of Cal Performances' Gala, taking place on March 4 in conjunction with the Vienna Philharmonic's performance of Mahler's *Resurrection Symphony*. Cal Performances is delighted to present both philanthropists with the Cal Performances Award of Distinction in the Performing Arts during the evening's festivities in recognition of their substantial longtime commitment to supporting the world's leading artists, and fostering arts patronage among current and future generations.

## **Orchestra**

There is perhaps no musical ensemble more consistently and closely associated with the history and tradition of European classical music than the Vienna Philharmonic, among the most respected and admired musical ensembles in the world today. Richard Wagner described the orchestra as being one of the most outstanding in the world; Johannes Brahms counted himself as a "friend and admirer"; and Richard Strauss summarized these sentiments by saying: "All praise of the Vienna Philharmonic reveals itself as understatement."

Cal Performances is proud to bring the commanding orchestra back to the Bay Area, carrying on a strong tradition of presentations in Berkeley since its Cal Performances debut in 2011 with conductor Semyon Bychkov—its first performance in the region since 1987. Over the past decade, the storied orchestra has performed more often in Berkeley than anywhere else in Northern

California. During that time, Bay Area audiences have experienced the true range of the Vienna Philharmonic's artistic powers under a number of legendary conductors: in 2025, led by Nézet-Séguin; in 2023, by Christian Thielemann; and in 2014, by Lorin Maazel and Andris Nelsons. With the Philharmonic Society of Orange County, the orchestra has an even longer history, dating back to performances in 1997 with conductor Daniel Barenboim. Since its debut in Costa Mesa, the Vienna Philharmonic has returned on four further noteworthy occasions: in 2002 with Bernard Haitink, in 2011 with Semyon Bychkov, in 2014 with Lorin Maazel, and most recently, in 2025 with Nézet-Séguin during the previous Maria Manetti Shrem and Elizabeth Segerstrom California Orchestra Residency.

## Artists

One of the most highly regarded and dynamic conductors of our time, **Yannick Nézet-Séguin** has enjoyed a long relationship with the Vienna Philharmonic, from his first performances with the orchestra in 2010 through his recent first-time conducting of the storied Vienna Philharmonic New Year's Concert on January 1, 2026. As well as guest conducting this hallowed orchestra, Nézet-Séguin concurrently holds the prestigious positions of Music Director of the Metropolitan Opera; Music and Artistic Director of the Philadelphia Orchestra; and Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Orchestre Métropolitain of Montreal in his home province of Quebec, Canada. Nézet-Séguin made his Bay Area debut in 2015 conducting the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, for which he is Honorary Conductor and previously served as Music Director from 2008–2018. His honors include five Grammy Awards, Musical America's Artist of the Year (2016), ECHO Klassik's Conductor of the Year (2014), and a Royal Philharmonic Society Award. Nézet-Séguin made his debut with Cal Performances during the 2025 Maria Manetti Shrem and Elizabeth Segerstrom California Orchestra Residency performances with the Vienna Philharmonic. He debuted at the Philharmonic Society in 2015 conducting the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra.

Soprano **Christiane Karg** has performed celebrated roles for many of the world's great opera companies and houses, including the Wiener Staatsoper, Metropolitan Opera, Royal Opera House Covent Garden, Opéra national de Paris, and La Scala. In concert, she has performed with the likes of the Vienna Philharmonic, Berlin Philharmonic, the Orchestre de Paris, and the Philadelphia Orchestra. In 2016, she appeared on a recording of Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* with Yannick Nézet-Séguin and the Chamber Orchestra of Europe that won ECHO Klassik's Opera Recording of the Year. The March 3 performance will be her Cal Performances debut.

For more than 20 years, mezzo-soprano **Elīna Garanča**, also making her Cal Performances debut in this engagement, has been a fixture of the world's preeminent opera companies, festivals, and venues, including the Wiener Staatsoper, Metropolitan Opera, Carnegie Hall, Salzburg Festival, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Royal Opera House Covent Garden, and Wigmore Hall. In a recent highlight, she joined Riccardo Chailly and the Lucerne Festival Orchestra to open the 2025 Lucerne Festival with a critically acclaimed performance of Mahler's *Rückert-Lieder*.

Known for her dazzling virtuosity and electrifying stage presence, pianist **Yuja Wang** has graced the stages and delighted the audiences of both Cal Performances and the Philharmonic Society multiple times. She has performed with the world's most venerated conductors, musicians, and ensembles, and is renowned not only for her virtuosity, but also for her spontaneous and lively performances, famously telling the *New York Times*: "I firmly believe every program should have its own life, and be a representation of how I feel at the moment." She has been recognized with multiple Grammy nominations, a Grammy award (2024); honored as Musical America's Artist of the Year (2017); and earned an Opus Klassik Award for her world-premiere recording of John Adams' piano concerto *Must the Devil Have All the Good Tunes?* (2021). She most recently appeared at Cal Performances in recital with violinist Leonidas Kavakos in 2021.

Performing in Mahler's *Resurrection* Symphony in Berkeley only, director **Jenny Wong** leads the **San Francisco Symphony Chorus**. The Chorus has appeared with its namesake orchestra on a total of eight Grammy-winning recordings; three of these awards were for Best Choral Recording, including their release of Mahler's Symphony No. 8. The chorus for the Orange County performance of *Resurrection* will be the **Pacific Chorale**, under the artistic direction of **Robert Istad**, the resident choir at Segerstrom Center for the Arts and another Grammy-winner for a recording of Mahler's Symphony No. 8.

Of the residency, Jeremy Geffen, Cal Performances' Executive and Artistic Director, shared, "There is perhaps no stronger indicator of the spectacular success of the 2025 Maria Manetti Shrem and Elizabeth Segerstrom California Orchestra Residency of the Vienna Philharmonic than the fact that all parties were enthusiastic to repeat the program only two seasons later. I'm elated that the 2027 residency will mark the return of the Vienna Philharmonic under the baton of Yannick Nézet-Séguin, an artistic pairing that we know to be incomparable, along with additional luminary performers Yuja Wang, Christiane Karg, Elīna Garanča, the Bay Area's own San Francisco

Symphony Chorus, and the Pacific Chorale. The opportunity to experience this extraordinary orchestra in a residency built around symphonies by Gustav Mahler, onetime Director of the Vienna Court Opera—the predecessor of the Vienna State Opera, from which the Vienna Philharmonic still draws its membership—will create incomparable and memorable experiences that combine the exalted musical tradition of this orchestra with some of the most thoughtful and charismatic guest artists of our time. I am exceptionally proud that, through the visionary support of two of the world's most influential arts philanthropists based here in California, we can continue to bring the world's leading artists and both unite Northern and Southern California to celebrate the unique cultural legacy of our state.”

“Bringing the Vienna Philharmonic to California is a rare and extraordinary opportunity...and bringing them back so soon for repeat engagements is even rarer,” said Tommy Phillips, President and Artistic Director of the Philharmonic Society of Orange County. “We are proud that we can again bring these exceptional musical experiences to audiences across the state with our partners at Cal Performances. With Yannick Nézet-Séguin leading the orchestra in this exclusive residency and tour, music lovers in Orange County will witness one of the world's greatest orchestras at the height of its artistry. We are especially grateful to Maria Manetti Shrem and Elizabeth Segerstrom, whose generous support makes this collaboration possible and allows us to share the power and joy of classical music with our community.”

## Lead Sponsors

Born in Florence, Italy, [\*\*Maria Manetti Shrem\*\*](#) relocated to San Francisco, California, in 1972, where she played a pivotal role in the internationalization of iconic fashion brands such as Gucci and Fendi. Together with her late husband, Jan Shrem, and since his passing in 2024, Maria has supported more than 60 charitable programs across the US, Italy, France, Mexico, Africa, and the UK, contributing to more than 45 foundations. Their philanthropy spans education, music, art, and medicine, creating meaningful social impact worldwide. In the US, in addition to Cal Performances, the Manetti Shrems have supported institutions such as the Metropolitan Opera, UC Davis, the San Francisco Opera, Festival Napa Valley, KQED, Francisco Park, the San Francisco Symphony, SF Film, SF MoMA, ArtSmart, KDFC, and hospitals like UCSF and Sutter Health—CPMC. In Europe, Maria has been a principal benefactor for organizations including the King's Foundation, the Royal Drawing School, Palazzo Strozzi Foundation, Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Friends of the Louvre, Friends of Versailles, the Venetian Heritage, the Italian National Trust, Museo 900, and the

Andrea Bocelli Foundation, with which she helped construct four new schools, including one at the Meyer Children's Hospital. Additionally, the Manetti Shrems were founders of the Cabo Jewish Center, and co-founders of the Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art at UC Davis, which opened in 2016. Maria also funded a scholarship in Africa through the Global Sojourns Giving Circle, empowering the next generation of women leaders. In 2019, Italian President Sergio Mattarella awarded Maria the Grand Officer of the Order of the Star of Italy. In 2022, the Mayor of Florence presented her with the Keys of the City for her exemplary patronage, and in 2024, Maria received the 2024 Premio StellaRe from Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo in Torino, Italy. Maria has also received numerous awards specific to her work in Northern California. In 2002, the City and County of San Francisco proclaimed June 22 "Manetti Shrem Day for Philanthropy." Maria's accolades also include the inaugural Angels of the Arts Award from Festival Napa Valley, The Spirit of the Opera Award from San Francisco Opera, the 2023 UC Davis Medal, and the 2025 Ellis Island Medal. In 2024, UC Berkeley recognized Maria and Jan as "Builders of Berkeley." SF Opera Guild celebrated her as the person of the year 2025 with An Evening on the Stage, honoring her with The Crescendo Award. Maria Manetti Shrem continues to lead with vision and generosity, shaping the cultural landscape and enriching lives across the globe.

[Elizabeth Segerstrom](#) is Co-Managing Director of C.J. Segerstrom & Sons and serves on the Board of Directors of Segerstrom Center for the Arts. Born in Olsztyn, Poland, she holds a doctoral degree in psychology and is an accomplished entrepreneur and published author. After moving to Orange County in 2000, she and her late husband Henry Segerstrom partnered with the Philharmonic Society of Orange County on a number of initiatives that resulted in greatly enhanced musical and cultural offerings in Southern California. In 2003, she was involved in the final design of the over 2,000-seat Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall in Costa Mesa, which opened in 2006 and is home to the Pacific Symphony, Pacific Chorale, and Philharmonic Society of Orange County. She chaired the six-week opening celebration of the new concert hall as well as the opening of the more intimate Samueli Theater. Not only did she and her husband help create the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, but they also brought incredible artists to its stage. The year it opened, the two were instrumental in bringing a three-week Mariinsky Festival that featured the first Southern California presentation of Wagner's *Ring* Cycle. The following year, they launched the new Elizabeth and Henry Segerstrom Select Series with the Philharmonic Society of Orange County, which continues to bring the highest quality of internationally acclaimed performances to the Segerstrom

Center for the Arts. In 2007, Elizabeth Segerstrom was honored for her contributions to the region by the Guilds of the Center, a support group for the Orange County Performing Arts Center, and in 2011, she received the Golden Baton Award from the Philharmonic Society for her extraordinary dedication to the arts in Southern California. In addition to supporting Segerstrom Center for the Arts and the Philharmonic Society of Orange County, she is an active supporter of many other organizations, including American Ballet Theatre, Carnegie Hall, LA Opera, Turnaround Arts: California, and American Friends of the Louvre, among others. In 2022, Elizabeth Segerstrom underwrote and co-presented Reunited in Dance, followed by the United Ukrainian Ballet in 2023. Elizabeth Segerstrom joined forces with Maria Manetti Shrem to underwrite the Vienna Philharmonic's California Residency in 2025, which brought the acclaimed orchestra, under the baton of Yannick Nézet-Séguin, to Southern California audiences for the first time in more than a decade.

In recognition of their outstanding and impactful philanthropic work, including their support of this California Orchestra Residency, Maria Manetti Shrem and Elizabeth Segerstrom will be honored with the 2027 Cal Performances Award of Distinction in the Performing Arts. The highest honor bestowed by Cal Performances, the award is given to an individual or ensemble for exceptional contributions and impact in the performing arts. Past honorees include luminaries such as Cecilia Bartoli, Yo-Yo Ma, Gordon P. Getty, Renée Fleming, William Kentridge, Mark Morris, and Angélique Kidjo. In March of 2025, Shrem and Segerstrom each received the Cal Performances' California Performing Arts Visionary Award, presented on the occasion of the inaugural 2025 edition of their namesake California Orchestra Residency.

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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Maria Manetti Shrem and Elizabeth Segerstrom California Orchestra Residency**

**Vienna Philharmonic**

**Yannick Nézet-Séguin, conductor**

**Christiane Karg, soprano**

**Elīna Garanča, mezzo-soprano**

**Yuja Wang, piano**

**San Francisco Symphony Chorus; Jenny Wong, director**

**Zellerbach Hall**

Bancroft Way at Dana Street

UC Berkeley campus

**Program:**

Tuesday, March 2, 2027, 7:30pm

Mahler/Symphony No. 9 in D major

Wednesday, March 3, 2027, 7:30pm

Prokofiev/Piano Concerto No. 3 in C major, Op. 26

Yuja Wang, *piano*

Mahler/Symphony No. 4 in G major

Christiane Karg, *soprano*

Thursday, March 4, 7:30pm\*

Mahler/Symphony No. 2 in C minor, *Resurrection*

Christiane Karg, *soprano*

Elīna Garanča, *mezzo-soprano*

San Francisco Symphony Chorus; Jenny Wong, *director*

\*Gala performance

**Tickets:** Tickets for these performances will go on sale with the rest of Cal Performances' 2026–27 season, with details to be announced in late April 2026 at [calperformances.org](http://calperformances.org).

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**PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY PRESENTS**  
**Maria Manetti Shrem and Elizabeth Segerstrom California Orchestra Residency**

**Vienna Philharmonic**

**Yannick Nézet-Séguin, conductor**

**Christiane Karg, soprano**

**Elīna Garanča, mezzo-soprano**

**Yuja Wang, piano**

**Pacific Chorale; Robert Istad, artistic director**

**Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall**

615 Town Center Drive

Costa Mesa, CA

**Program:**

Friday, March 5, 2027, 8pm

Prokofiev/Piano Concerto No. 3 in C major, Op. 26

Yuja Wang, *piano*

Mahler/Symphony No. 4 in G major

Christiane Karg, *soprano*

Sunday, March 7, 3pm

Mahler/Symphony No. 2 in C Minor, *Resurrection*

Christiane Karg, *soprano*

Elīna Garanča, *mezzo-soprano*

Pacific Chorale;

Robert Istad, *artistic director*

**Tickets:** Currently offered as part of Philharmonic Society's 2026–27 season ticket packages. Individual concert tickets will be made available for purchase in late August. More information at [philharmonicsociety.org](http://philharmonicsociety.org).

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