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# THE SAINT PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA CELEBRATES THE MUSIC OF LOCAL COMPOSER JOHN ADAMS IN CAL PERFORMANCES' ANNUAL ORCHESTRA RESIDENCY

Residency activities are planned on campus and in the community with John Adams and the orchestra

**BERKELEY, February 18, 2015**—The esteemed <u>Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra</u> is joined by clarinet virtuoso **Martin Fröst,** soprano **Ying Fang**, and rising star conductor **Benjamin Shwartz** for three concerts celebrating the music of Pulitzer Prize-winning composer John Adams, as part of Cal Performances' annual orchestra residency on Friday and Saturday, March 20 and 21 at 8:00 p.m., and Sunday, March 22 at 3:00 p.m. in Hertz Hall. A work by Adams—*Shaker Loops* (1978), *Chamber Symphony* (1992), and *Son of Chamber Symphony* (2007)—is featured prominently in each program, celebrating the orchestra's long association with the composer and showcasing the diversity of Adams's writing for chamber orchestra over a span of almost three decades. Fröst, recently named one of the orchestra's prestigious Artistic Partners, is featured in two works at the historic and stylistic extremes of the clarinet repertoire: Mozart's late masterpiece, the Clarinet Concerto in A, and Anders Hillborg's theatrical *Peacock Tales* (1998).

Residency activities with John Adams and members of the orchestra are planned on campus and in the community, including an artist talk with Adams and Cal Performances Executive and Artistic Director, Matías Tarnopolsky, on Saturday, March 21 at 6:00 p.m. in Hertz Hall. This talk is free and open to the public.

Program A, on Friday, March 20 at 8:00 p.m., begins with *Danses Concertantes*, Stravinsky's first large-scale work written during his years in Los Angeles and later choreographed by George Balanchine. Adams' breakthrough composition, *Shaker Loops* for string orchestra, has also inspired choreographers with its waves of sound and energy created by looping patterns inspired by the minimalist movement. The program concludes with Fröst as the featured soloist for Mozart's Clarinet Concerto.

In Program B, on Saturday, March 21 at 8:00 p.m., American conductor Benjamin Shwartz leads the ensemble's performance of Adams' rhythmically inventive *Son of Chamber Symphony* and Swedish composer Anders Hillborg's clarinet concerto, *Peacock Tales*. Shwartz, recently appointed Music Director of the Wrocław Philharmonic Orchestra, is familiar to Bay Area audiences as the former Resident Conductor of the San Francisco Symphony and former Music Director of its Youth Orchestra. The evening's selections are wonderfully diverse and complex; Hillborg's work showcases Fröst's talents as a dancer and mime, and Beethoven's epic *Eroica* Symphony ends the performance with a dramatic finale.

The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra residency concludes with Program C on Sunday, March 22 at 3:00 p.m., as Shwartz returns to conduct Adams' fiercely virtuosic *Chamber Symphony*, inspired by Schoenberg and American cartoon music from the 1950s. An arrangement of Mahler's Fourth Symphony concludes the program, ending with soprano Ying Fang's interpretation of the angelic final movement.

Widely regarded as one of the finest chamber orchestras in the world, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, now in its 56th season, performs more than 130 concerts and educational programs each year and is featured regularly on public radio's *Performance Today* and *SymphonyCast*. The orchestra has released 67 recordings, commissioned 142 new works, and performed the world premieres of 49 additional compositions, earning 17 ASCAP awards for adventurous programming. The orchestra is also recognized for its innovative approach to artistic leadership through collaboration between ensemble musicians and a diverse group of renowned Artistic Partners to develop distinctive multi-year programming initiatives.

Swedish clarinetist <u>Martin Fröst</u>, winner of the 2014 Léonie Sonning Music Prize, is widely recognized as one of the most dynamic and gifted wind players of his generation. Fröst's repertoire spans the history of the clarinet, from Baroque and Classical works to new commissions and reinterpretations of modern masterworks. His extensive discography includes two acclaimed releases of Mozart and Brahms on the BIS label, and future releases are planned as part of a new long-term exclusive recording collaboration with Sony Classical. Last fall, Fröst was named an Artistic Partner of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, a post that continues through the 2018—19 season. He is also Artistic Director of Vinterfest in Mora, Sweden and Artistic Director of the International Chamber Music Festival in Stavanger, Norway.

Soprano Ying Fang has been hailed as "the most gifted Chinese soprano of her generation" (*Ningbo Daily*), earning awards in her native country as well as in the United States. The Juilliard graduate is currently a member of the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program. Her recent roles include the Dew Fairy in *Hansel and Gretel* and Barbarina in *Le Nozze di Figaro* at the Metropolitan Opera; Cleopatra in the Wolf Trap Opera Company's *Giulio Cesare*; the leading role in Mozart's *Zaide* with the New World Symphony; and Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte* with the Aspen Opera Theater Center. Fang is a recipient of one of China's most prestigious awards, the Chinese Golden Bell Award for Music.

#### TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for the **Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra** on Friday and Saturday, March 20 and 21 at 8:00 p.m., and Sunday, March 22 at 3:00 p.m. in Hertz Hall are \$72.00 and are 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 <u>www.calperformances.org</u>, and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to <u>http://calperformances.org/buy/discounts.php</u>.

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Cal Performances' 2014-2015 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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### CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

### CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

## <u>Residency</u>

Residency activities are planned with the **Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra** and composer John Adams on campus and in the community. For the most current information, go to <u>www.calperformances.org</u>.

### # # #

Saturday, March 21 at 6:00 p.m. Artist Talk Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus Bancroft Way at College Ave, Berkeley

**Program:** Composer John Adams talks with Cal Performances Executive and Artistic Director Matías Tarnopolsky in a program free and open to the public.

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Friday & Saturday, March 20 & 21 at 8:00 p.m. Sunday, March 22 at 3:00 p.m.

Chamber Music & Orchestra Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra Benjamin Shwartz, conductor Martin Fröst, clarinet Ying Fang, soprano

Program A: Friday, March 20, 8:00 p.m.: Martin Fröst, clarinet Stravinsky/Danses Concertantes Adams/Shaker Loops Mozart/Clarinet Concerto in A

<u>Program B: Saturday, March 21, 8:00 p.m.:</u>
Benjamin Shwartz, conductor\*
Martin Fröst, clarinet
Adams/Son of Chamber Symphony\*
Anders Hillborg/Peacock Tales (clarinet concerto)\*
Beethoven/Symphony No. 3 in E-flat major, Op. 55, "Eroica"

Program C: Sunday, March 22, 3:00 p.m.: Benjamin Shwartz, conductor Ying Fang, soprano Adams/*Chamber Symphony*  Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus Bancroft Way at College Ave, Berkeley Mahler/Symphony No. 4 in G major (arr. Klaus Simon, 2007)

**Tickets:** Tickets are \$72.00 are subject to change. They are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at calperformances.org, and at the door.

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