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Photos of the Vienna Philharmonic, conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin, and pianist Yefim Bronfman are available for download from the Cal Performances [online press room](#).

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

**VIENNA PHILHARMONIC,
YANNICK NÉZET-SÉGUIN, CONDUCTOR,
YEFIM BRONFMAN, PIANO**

**MARCH 5–7, 2025 AT ZELLERBACH HALL, UC BERKELEY,
MARCH 9 AND 11, 2025 AT THE RENÉE AND HENRY
SEGERSTROM CONCERT HALL, COSTA MESA, CA**

Berkeley, CA, January 24, 2024, updated February 12, 2024 –Cal Performances at UC Berkeley and the Philharmonic Society of Orange County announce today that the new **Maria Manetti Shrem and Elizabeth Segerstrom Orchestra Residency** will bring the **Vienna Philharmonic** and conductor **Yannick Nézet-Séguin** to California for an exclusive residency and tour during the spring of 2025.

The residency begins in Northern California with three performances at Zellerbach Hall hosted by Cal Performances, March 5–7, and concludes in Orange County with two performances at the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, March 9 and 11, hosted by Philharmonic Society. The five concerts are the Vienna Philharmonic’s only 2025 appearances in the United States outside of a visit to Carnegie Hall. Grammy Award-winning pianist **Yefim Bronfman** will join the orchestra in both venues for performances of Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 3.

Also in both venues, the Vienna Philharmonic will perform Richard Strauss’ epic *Ein Heldenleben* (*A Hero’s Life*); Schubert’s Symphony No. 4, *Tragic*; and Dvořák’s Symphony No. 9, *From the New World*.

In Berkeley only, the orchestra performs Mozart's Symphony No. 41, *Jupiter*, and Mahler's Symphony No. 1. Both Cal Performances and the Philharmonic Society will celebrate the residency with a host of festivities, including the Cal Performances Gala on March 7, 2025, and a Viennese Ball as part of the Philharmonic Society's annual gala event on March 9, 2025.

The spring 2025 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 from 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 Philharmonic Society's artistic endeavors and their missions to bring world-renowned artists to California residents.

There is perhaps no other 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"; Gustav Mahler claimed to be joined together with the orchestra through "the bonds of musical art"; 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 Berkeley, carrying on the tradition forged during its previous engagements on campus in 2023 conducted by Christian Thieleman; in 2014 in concerts led by Lorin Maazel and Andris Nelsons; and in 2011 under the baton of Semyon Bychkov. Prior to these residencies in Berkeley, the orchestra had not performed in the Bay Area since 1987. The Vienna Philharmonic first appeared at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts in 2002 with conductor Bernard Haitink; returned in 2011 with Semyon Bychkov; and most recently performed in 2014, with Lorin Maazel.

One of the most highly regarded and dynamic conductors of our time, Yannick Nézet-Séguin has enjoyed a long relationship with the Vienna Philharmonic since he first led them in performances in 2010. As well as guest conducting this hallowed orchestra, Nézet-Séguin concurrently holds the prestigious positions of Music Director of the Metropolitan Opera; Artistic and Music Director of the Philadelphia Orchestra; and Music 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. These upcoming March 2025 performances with the Vienna Philharmonic and guest soloist Yefim Bronfman will mark Nézet-Séguin's Cal Performances debut.

A recitalist at Cal Performances since 2004, piano virtuoso Yefim Bronfman joins the Vienna Philharmonic and Yannick Nézet-Séguin for Cal Performances' gala evening performance of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor on Friday, March 7. Internationally recognized as one of today's most acclaimed and admired pianists, Bronfman is consistently acknowledged by the press and audiences alike for his commanding technique, power, and exceptional lyrical gifts.

Of this trio of powerhouse talents coming to the West Coast, Cal Performances' Jeremy Geffen shared, "Any time the Vienna Philharmonic performs is a grand occasion. Since its debut at Cal

Performances in 2011, this world-renowned orchestra has performed more often in Berkeley than anywhere else on the West Coast, a history of performances that has created a special relationship between this legendary orchestra and Bay Area audiences. Its performances are always highlights of the California cultural season, so it is especially significant that, in March 2025, they bring with them one of the most acclaimed and transcendent conductors of our time, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, making his Cal Performances debut. This residency retains even greater significance for us at Cal Performances given that this dedicated California tour is made possible by two of the most generous and forward-thinking philanthropists in the world, benefactors who have chosen to make this state their home.”

“The longtime support and commitment of Elizabeth Segerstrom and Maria Manetti Shrem to each of our organizations has been invaluable,” said the Philharmonic Society’s Tommy Phillips. “We are thrilled that these two arts lovers have come together to share their passion for classical music and are making this vision a reality for our audiences.”

Maria Manetti Shrem has had an influential career in the fashion industry establishing Gucci as a globally revered brand. Today, her focus is philanthropy, as she and her husband, Jan Shrem, plan to give away the bulk of their wealth during their lifetimes: “We are determined to give with warm hands, and not cold ones after passing,” Maria Manetti Shrem declared. “We intend to motivate youth and inspire other benefactors to do the same.” Since the mid-1990s, organizations, including Cal Performances, across the fields of fine arts, education, science, and music, located in the San Francisco Bay Area, New York, the United Kingdom, and Manetti Shrem’s home country of Italy, especially Florence, have been the beneficiaries of their largesse. A deep admirer of performing artists, Maria Manetti Shrem has fostered many professional and personal connections among musicians and counts sopranos Renée Fleming and Nadine Sierra, and tenor Michael Fabiano, as personal friends. She was especially close to the late legendary tenor Luciano Pavarotti, whom she hosted as if he were a family member whenever he performed in San Francisco. Among her and her husband’s many gifts to Cal Performances are the Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Orchestra Residencies in 2012 and 2015 featuring Gustavo Dudamel and the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela; Renée Fleming’s Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Celebrity Recital in 2016; the Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Great Artist Performance of Gustavo Dudamel conducting the Encuentros Orchestra with special guest esperanza spalding at the Greek Theater in 2022; and this season’s February 9 recital by Renée Fleming.

Maria Manetti Shrem has received numerous prestigious awards and recognition as an outstanding and influential cultural ambassador between Italy and the US including the Grand Officer of the Order of the Star of Italy; Keys to the City of Florence; the Angels of the Arts Award from Festival Napa Valley; the Spirit of the Opera Award from San Francisco Opera; and the 2023 UC Davis Medal (honoris degree) as the major philanthropist of the arts for UC Davis. The City and County of San Francisco proclaimed June 22, 2022, as Manetti Shrem Day for Philanthropy.

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. She and her husband helped create the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall and 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.

Information about the Maria Manetti Shrem and Elizabeth Segerstrom California Orchestra Residency will continue to be updated at calperformances.org/vienna-philharmonic-2425 and philharmonicsociety.org.

CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Vienna Philharmonic
Yannick Nézet-Séguin, *conductor*
Yefim Bronfman, *piano*

Zellerbach Hall
Bancroft Way at Dana Street
UC Berkeley campus

Program:

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 7:30pm

Mozart/Symphony No. 41 in C major, K. 551, *Jupiter*

Mahler/Symphony No. 1 in D major

Thursday, March 6, 2025 7:30pm

Schubert/Symphony No. 4 in C minor, D 417, *Tragic*

Dvořák/Symphony No. 9 in E minor, Op. 95, *From the New World*

Friday, March 7, 2025 7pm

Cal Performances' 2025 Gala

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

Yefim Bronfman, *piano*

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

Tickets: Tickets for these performances will go on sale with the rest of Cal

Performances' 2024-25 season with details to be announced on April 16 at calperformances.org.

PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY PRESENTS

Vienna Philharmonic
Yannick Nézet-Séguin, *conductor*
Yefim Bronfman, *piano*

Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall
615 Town Center Drive
Costa Mesa, CA

Program:

Sunday March 9, 2025 3pm

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

Yefim Bronfman, *piano*

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

Tuesday March 11, 2025 8pm

Schubert/Symphony No. 4 in C minor, D 417, *Tragic*

Dvořák/Symphony No. 9 in E minor, Op. 95, *From the New World*

Tickets: Currently offered as part of Philharmonic Society's 2024–25 season ticket packages. Individual concert tickets will be made available for purchase in late August. More information at philharmonicsociety.org.

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