

# THE SAINT PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

## For Immediate Release

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### SPCO featured at Cal Performances 2014-2015 Orchestra Residency

**February 27, 2015** – March 20 through 22, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) will perform three concerts at University of California, Berkeley, as part of Cal Performances' marquee Orchestra Residency program. The SPCO will be the first chamber orchestra to participate in this program, joining the ranks of such world-renowned orchestras as the Vienna Philharmonic, the Mariinsky Orchestra, and the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela. Programs will highlight The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra's long-time association with American composer John Adams and will feature Adams' *Shaker Loops*, Chamber Symphony and *Son of Chamber Symphony*. Programs will also include Stravinsky's *Danses concertantes*, Mahler's Fourth Symphony, and clarinet concertos by Mozart and Anders Hillborg. The SPCO will be joined for these performances by clarinetist and newly appointed Artistic Partner Martin Fröst, conductor Benjamin Shwartz and soprano Ying Fang. These performances will be the first West Coast appearances by the SPCO in 8 years.

#### Featured artists:

[Martin Fröst](#), director and clarinet

[Benjamin Shwartz](#), conductor

[Ying Fang](#), soprano

#### Program A:

**Stravinsky:** *Danses concertantes*

**Adams:** *Shaker Loops* for string orchestra

**Mozart:** Clarinet Concerto

#### Program B:

**Adams:** *Son of Chamber Symphony*

**Hillborg:** Clarinet Concerto, *Peacock Tales*

**Beethoven:** Symphony No. 3, *Eroica*

#### Program C:

**Adams:** *Chamber Symphony*

**Mahler:** Symphony No. 4 (arranged for chamber ensemble)

**Dates and locations:**

Friday, March 20, 8:00pm

Saturday, March 21, 8:00pm

Sunday, March 22, 3:00pm

[Hertz Hall, University of California, Berkeley](#)

**Tickets:**

Starting at \$72

Call 510.642.9988 or visit [calperformances.org](http://calperformances.org)

**MARTIN FRÖST**

Winner of the 2014 Léonie Sonning Music Prize, the clarinetist Martin Fröst will make his debut this season with the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich (Herbert Blomstedt), Orchestre de la Suisse Romande (Neeme Järvi) and Houston Symphony (Andrés Orozco-Estrada). The Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra has re-engaged him for a concert with the conductor Thomas Søndergård and he will return as well for performances with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra (Louis Langrée), which he serves as artist in residence. He is also artist in residence at Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, the Gothenburg Symphony and London's Wigmore Hall. High points of his 2013/14 season included debuts with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra (Xian Zhang), Orchestre National de France (David Zinman), National Symphony Orchestra Washington (Osmo Vänskä) and Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. Upcoming tours include Gewandhausorchester Leipzig (Riccardo Chailly), Camerata Salzburg (Louis Langrée) and the Academy of St Martin in the Fields. Fröst also undertakes tours to the US with the Australian Chamber Orchestra and Spain with the Swedish Chamber Orchestra (Thomas Dausgaard). In addition, he works as a conductor in association with the Norrköping Symphony and with Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. Martin Fröst has an extensive discography; his two most recent releases on BIS are an all-Mozart CD and Brahms' Clarinet Quintet. 2015 marks the 10th season of Vinterfest in Mora, Sweden, of which Martin Fröst is Artistic Director. He is also Artistic Director of the International Chamber Music Festival in Stavanger, Norway.

**BENJAMIN SHWARTZ**

In 2013 Benjamin Shwartz was appointed Music Director of the Wrocław Philharmonic Orchestra. Previous positions include his tenure as Resident Conductor of the San Francisco Symphony, where he assisted Michael Tilson Thomas, led numerous concerts and was the Wattis Foundation Music Director of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra. Leading the latter's European tour during the summer of 2008 was among the highlights of his music directorship of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra. Shwartz has also conducted, among others, the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the Iceland Symphony Orchestra, the Trondheim Symphony Orchestra, the New World Symphony and the Oregon Symphony Orchestra. Shwartz recently gave debut performances with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Tokyo Symphony, the Duisburg Philharmonic, the Tiroler Symphonieorchester Innsbruck and the Georgian Chamber Orchestra. In the field of opera, Shwartz has conducted a new production of Berlioz's *Beatrice et Benedict* at the Deutsches Nationaltheater and Staatskapelle Weimar and Strauss' *Die Fledermaus* at the Royal Swedish Opera, as well as three new productions at the Curtis Institute: Bellini's *La sonnambula*, Rossini's *Il viaggio a Reims* and Gounod's *Faust*. Born in Los Angeles in 1979 and raised both there and in Israel, Benjamin Shwartz attended the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia and received the institute's Shanis Fellowship to study conducting. Whilst at Curtis, he worked closely with Christoph Eschenbach in preparing the Curtis Orchestra for concert performances. He also studied composition with James Primos at the University of Pennsylvania, with Karlheinz Stockhausen in Germany and at IRCAM in Paris. He is currently based in Berlin. As a committed advocate of new music, Shwartz has led many world premieres of works by such composers of his generation as Mason Bates, Nathaniel Stookey and Zhou Tian. He is the conductor of Mercury Soul [[www.mercurysoul.org](http://www.mercurysoul.org)], a new music project which he curates together with composer Mason Bates and the visual artist, designer and director Anne Patterson. The ensemble presents new music for acoustic and electronic instruments in clubs and other unusual locations, effectively blurring the

lines between classical, experimental, and electronic music. Benjamin Shwartz has received numerous awards for his work, including the Presser Music Award, and was a prize-winner in the 2007 Bamberg Symphony Orchestra's International Gustav Mahler Conducting Competition.

## **YING FANG**

Soprano Ying Fang has been hailed by the New York Times for her “pure and moving soprano, phrasing with scrupulous respect for the line and traveling with assurance through the mercurial moods,” as well as “singing with a fresh, appealing soprano and acting with coquettish flair.” She is blooming as a well-rounded singer. Ms. Fang has most recently performed Cleopatra in Wolf Trap Opera's production of Handel's *Giulio Cesare*. She has been featured in The Metropolitan Opera and The Juilliard School's production of ‘A concert of comic operas’ conducted by James Levine, in which she sang Konstanze, Teresa and Adina. Ms. Fang made her Metropolitan Opera debut in their 2013-14 season singing the role of Madame Podtochina's Daughter in Shostakovich's opera *The Nose*. The roles she performed include: Contessa di Folleville in Rossini's *Il viaggio a Reims* with Wolf Trap Opera Company, the leading role in Mozart's opera *Zaide* with the New World Symphony; Bellezza in Handel's oratorio *Il trionfo del Tempo e del Disinganno* with the Juilliard 415 under the baton of William Christie at Alice Tully Hall. She was also heard in the role of Pamina in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* with the Aspen Opera Theater Center, and gained acclaim: “Soprano Ying Fang sang Pamina with a creamy tone and marvelous specificity in each moment.” (*The Aspen Times*) She also did Maria in Bernstein's *West Side Story* with the Aspen Opera Theater Center. Making her Alice Tully Hall debut performing Handel's motet *Silete Venti* with conductor Steven Fox leading the *Juilliard 415*. She sang the soprano solo in Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* with the National Symphony Orchestra at the Filene Center in Wolf Trap. In Juilliard opera productions, she has been feathered as Zerlina in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Fanny in Rossini's *La Cambiale di Matrimonio* and The Spirit of the Boy in Britten's *Curlew River*. A native of Ningbo, China, Ms. Fang most recently won The Gail Robinson Award of The Sullivan Foundation, The Opera Index Award of The 2013 Opera Index Vocal Competition and 1st Prize Award of 2013 Gerda Lissner International Vocal Competition. She won one of China's most prestigious awards- The 2009 7th Chinese Golden Bell Award for Music, one of the youngest singers ever accorded this honor. She has been hailed as “the most gifted Chinese soprano of her generation.” (*Ningbo Daily*) Ms. Fang holds a Master's degree from The Juilliard School and a Bachelor's degree from The Shanghai Conservatory of Music. She is a member of The Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program.

## **ABOUT THE SAINT PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, now in its 56th season, is widely regarded as one of the finest chamber orchestras in the world. In collaboration with its group of artistic partners – Roberto Abbado, Jeremy Denk, Martin Fröst, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Christian Zacharias and Thomas Zehetmair – the virtuoso musicians present more than 130 concerts and educational programs each year, and are regularly heard on public radio's Performance Today which reaches 1.3 million listeners each week on 289 stations, and *SymphonyCast* reaching 250,000 listeners each week on 143 stations nationwide. The SPCO has released 67 recordings, commissioned 142 new works, and performed the world premiere of 49 additional compositions. The SPCO has earned the distinction of 17 ASCAP awards for adventurous programming. Renowned for its artistic excellence and remarkable versatility of musical styles, the SPCO tours nationally and internationally, including performances in premier venues in Europe, Asia and South America. Launched in 1994, the SPCO's award-winning CONNECT education program reaches over 5,000 students and teachers annually in 12 Minneapolis and St. Paul public schools. For more information, visit [www.thespc.org](http://www.thespc.org).

## **ABOUT CAL PERFORMANCES**

Cal Performances is the performing arts presenting, commissioning and producing organization based at the University of California, Berkeley. The origins of Cal Performances date from 1906, when stage actress Sarah Bernhardt appeared at the William Randolph Hearst Greek Theater to help rebuild public morale after the devastating San Francisco earthquake and fire in April of that year.

Over the subsequent century, Cal Performances grew to become the largest, multi-discipline performing arts presenter in Northern California, and one of the largest university-based arts presenters in the United States. Traditional and non-traditional artists regularly appear on or near the UC Berkeley campus in the theaters and concert halls managed by Cal Performances, including Mikhail Baryshnikov, Wynton Marsalis, Cecilia Bartoli, Bryn Terfel, Mark Morris, Yo-Yo Ma, Philip Glass, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Merce Cunningham, Pina Bausch, Bill T. Jones, Peter Sellars, and Robert Lepage; as well as artists based in the San Francisco Bay Area like John Adams, Lou Harrison, Margaret Jenkins, Paul Dresher, Kronos Quartet, Joe Goode, Kaila Flexer, Jon Jang, and Sarah Cahill. Cal Performances is also instrumental in facilitating the touring of large ensembles from abroad, and has hosted such companies as the Grand Kabuki Theater of Japan, the Bolshoi and Kirov Ballet companies, Lyon Opera Ballet and Orchestra, the Kirov Orchestra, the Russian National Orchestra, the Berliner Ensemble, the Beijing People's Art Theater, the Gate Theater of Dublin, Les Arts Florissants, Ballet Nacional de Cuba, and Nederland Dans Theater, among others.

Cal Performances presents over 100 performances annually in five venues—Zellerbach Hall, Zellerbach Playhouse, Hertz Hall, and Wheeler Hall on the UC Berkeley campus, and First Congregational Church of Berkeley—and in site-specific locations and other spaces. The performances range among Modern and Classical Dance, Theater, Instrumental and Vocal Recital, Early Music, Opera, Chamber Music, Jazz, New Music, World Music, Dance & Theater, and a speaking series. Cal Performances serves some 300,000 patrons annually through performances and arts education, residency and community programs.

Cal Performances current Director is Matías Tarnopolsky, who assumed the directorship in August 2009.

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