

CALIFORNIA SYMPHONY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alexi Kenney is the soloist for conductor-less performances of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* and Walker's *Lyric for Strings* in *FOUR SEASONS*, November 6 & 7 at the Leshar Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek. Images available [here](#).

CALIFORNIA SYMPHONY CONTINUES SEASON WITH *FOUR SEASONS* FEATURING BAY AREA VIRTUOSO ALEXI KENNEY

November 6–7, 2021

WALNUT CREEK, CA (October 12, 2021) - Following a critically acclaimed season opener, **California Symphony** and Music Director **Donato Cabrera** present a line-up of illustrious works in **FOUR SEASONS**, an all-strings concert at the Leshar Center for the Arts (1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek) on [Saturday, November 6 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, November 7 at 4:00 p.m.](#) Violinist and Bay Area native **Alexi Kenney** headlines the concerts with a performance of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, returning to perform with the California Symphony after an acclaimed 2018 debut and a 2020 virtual Season Finale recital. Named by *The New York Times* as "a talent to watch," Kenney has earned wide-spread acclaim for his insightful and artistic interpretations and range, often melding the new with the old, the familiar with the obscure.

[Single tickets are \\$44-\\$74 and \\$20 \(for students 25 and under with valid Student ID\).](#)

Audiences must be fully vaccinated per California Symphony and Leshner Center Health and Safety Policy. For more information or to purchase tickets, the public may visit CaliforniaSymphony.org or call the Leshner Center Ticket Office at (925) 943-7469 (open Wed - Sun, noon to 6:00 p.m.).

Other featured works on the FOUR SEASONS program include **George Walker's *Lyric for Strings***. Dedicated to the memory of his grandmother, Walker's hauntingly beautiful *Lyric for Strings* is full of rising and falling melodic lines, concluding somberly yet with a sense of peace. A notable figure in the music community, Walker was the first African American composer to win a Pulitzer Prize. Also on the program is **Jessie Montgomery's *Starburst***, a brief one-movement work that plays on imagery of rapidly changing musical colors. One of the most remarkable composers of her generation, Montgomery has been affiliated since 1999 with The Sphinx Organization, which supports young African American and Latinx string players. **Schubert's *Death and the Maiden* (arr. by Mahler)** ties the evening together, exploring the range of human emotions, from dark to positive and optimistic.

CALENDAR DATES AND DETAILS

WHEN: 7:30pm, Saturday, Nov. 6 and 4:00pm, Sunday, Nov. 7
Free 30-minute pre-concert talk begins one hour before each show

WHERE: Hofmann Theatre at the Leshner Center for the Arts
1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek

TICKETS: Single tickets \$44-\$74 and \$20 for students 25 & under with valid Student ID

INFO: For more information or to purchase tickets, the public may visit CaliforniaSymphony.org or call the Leshner Center Ticket Office at (925) 943-7469 (open Wed - Sun, noon to 6:00 p.m.).

MORE: [FOUR SEASONS](#)
Donato Cabrera, conductor
California Symphony
Alexi Kenney, violin

PROGRAM:
Walker—*Lyric for Strings*
Vivaldi—*Four Seasons*
Alexi Kenney, violin
Montgomery—*Starburst*
Schubert—*Death and the Maiden* (arr. by Mahler)

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ABOUT ALEXI KENNEY

Winner of a 2016 Avery Fisher Career Grant and a 2020 Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award, violinist Alexi Kenney has performed as soloist with orchestras including: Detroit, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Indianapolis, Sarasota, Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne, and in a play-conduct role as guest leader of both the Mahler Chamber Orchestra and the Pittsburgh Symphony. Upcoming 21-22 engagements include returns to

Pittsburgh and Indianapolis. He has played recitals at Wigmore Hall, on Carnegie Hall's 'Distinctive Debuts' series, at Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival, the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, Phillips Collection in DC, Mecklenberg-Vorpommern Festival, and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Winner of the 2013 Concert Artists Guild Competition and laureate of the 2012 Menuhin Competition, Kenney has been profiled by Musical America, Strings Magazine, and The New York Times, and he has written for The Strad.

ABOUT DONATO CABRERA

[Donato Cabrera](#) is the Music Director of the California Symphony and the Las Vegas Philharmonic and served as the Resident Conductor of the San Francisco Symphony and the Wattis Foundation Music Director of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra from 2009-2016. Since Cabrera's appointment as Music Director of the California Symphony in 2013, the organization has reached new artistic heights by implementing innovative programming that emphasizes welcoming newcomers and loyalists alike, building on its reputation for championing music by living composers, and committing to programming music by women and people of color.

Cabrera's awards and fellowships include a Herbert von Karajan Conducting Fellowship at the Salzburg Festival and conducting the Nashville Symphony in the League of American Orchestras' prestigious Bruno Walter National Conductor Preview. Donato Cabrera was recognized by the Consulate-General of Mexico in San Francisco as a Luminary of the Friends of Mexico Honorary Committee, for his contributions to promoting and developing the presence of the Mexican community in the Bay Area.

ABOUT CALIFORNIA SYMPHONY

Under the leadership of Music Director [Donato Cabrera](#), California Symphony is distinguished by its vibrant concert programs that combine classics alongside American repertoire and works by living composers, and for bringing music to people in new and unconventional settings. The orchestra includes musicians who perform with the San Francisco Symphony, San Francisco Opera, San Francisco Ballet, and others, and performs around the extended Bay Area region in Walnut Creek, Napa Valley, Concord, Oakland, and Berkeley.

Outside the concert hall, the Symphony actively supports music education as a driver for social change through its El Sistema-inspired [Sound Minds program](#) which brings intensive after-school music instruction and academic enrichment to elementary school children in a part of the Bay Area where 94% of students qualify for the federal free or reduced-price lunch program, at no cost to the students who participate.

The Orchestra also hosts the highly competitive [Young American Composer-in-Residence program](#) and its current, tenth composer is **Viet Cuong** (2020-2023). Past composers include [Mason Bates](#), [Christopher Theofanidis](#), and [Kevin Puts](#). California Symphony has also launched the careers of some of today's most well-known artists, including violinist [Anne Akiko Meyers](#), cellists [Alisa Weilerstein](#) and [Joshua Roman](#), and pianist [Kirill Gerstein](#).

In 2017, California Symphony was the first professional orchestra to publish a public [Commitment to Diversity](#). For more information, please visit californiasymphony.org.

MEDIA CONTACTS

For more information, or for interview requests, please contact Theresa Madeira at Theresa@californiasymphony.org or 415.577.5823.

General press photos [here](#).

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