

## California Symphony To Present Three Upcoming Concerts

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Music Director **Donato Cabrera** leads the **California Symphony** in the Orchestra's first performance of Beethoven's Symphony No. 4 and a performance of Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 by Romanian-Austrian pianist **Maria Radutu**, who is making her West Coast orchestral debut as

soloist, **Sunday, January 22 at 4 pm** at the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek. **Christopher Theofanidis's** *Peace Love Light YOU ME ONE*, written during his tenure as the Orchestra's Young American Composer-in-Residence (1994-96), opens the concert. Theofanidis's Bassoon Concerto was nominated this month for a 2017 Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Classical Composition, for a recording of a performance by Northwest Sinfonia and conducted by California Symphony's founding Music Director, Barry Jekowsky.

Theofanidis, 48, who won the Rome Prize and the International Masterprize in Composition, was previously nominated for a Grammy Award for best composition for his chorus and orchestra work, *The Here and Now*, based on the poetry of Rumi. His orchestral concert work, *Rainbow Body*, is one of the most performed recent orchestral works. Theofanidis has written a ballet for the **American Ballet Theatre**, a work for the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, and was commissioned by the San Francisco Opera for his 2011 opera *Heart of a Soldier*. He has a long-standing relationship with the Atlanta Symphony, and in 2009 had his first symphony premiered and recorded with that orchestra. His 2015 oratorio *Creation/Creator* was also commissioned and premiered by the Atlanta Symphony.

Theofanidis "uses sound in a way that suggests bright colors - bold blues, bold yellows - it's quite visceral. His is a very powerful voice, creating music that is using the full palette of emotional colors," said Donato Cabrera.

Pianist Maria Radutu's noteworthy accomplishments include solo concerts, appearances with the New Piano Trio, and concerts as a soloist with orchestra in the Golden Hall of the Vienna Musikverein, the Great Hall of the Vienna Konzerthaus, the Salle Gaveau in Paris, and the Auditorio Nacional in Madrid, as well as an Asia tour with the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra and Cornelius Meister. In January 2017, she will make her U.S. orchestral debut with the Las Vegas Philharmonic and the California Symphony, both under the baton of Music Director Donato Cabrera.

"Maria Radutu has a way of showing her tenderness, this beautiful sense of reservedness - there's no filter between what she's feeling and what she's trying to project to the audience," Cabrera said. "She reveals these intimate emotions that people aren't so quick to bring to the stage."

Recitals and chamber music concerts have taken Radutu from **Carnegie Hall** in New York to the Festspielhaus in Baden-Baden to Beijing, where she performed in 2006 with **Lang Lang** and Dominik Hellsberg. In her recording career, she has developed a number of distinctive concepts for albums with **Universal Music Group/Decca**, including her most recent, *Insomnia*, released in June 2016. Her debut CD *Joujoux* was released in 2013. Together with Florian Willeitner and Ivan Turkalj, she forms the New Piano Trio, whose first album, *NP3*, also was released in 2016.

Radutu has served as the artistic director of the Philharmonie ensemble, program director

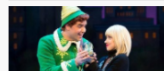
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