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Santa Rosa Symphony Presents **"A New World" with Dvořák's Symphony No. 9** ***From the New World***

Conducted by Yue Bao and Featuring violinist Simone Porter
March 22, 23 & 24, 2025 Weill Hall, Green Music Center

(Santa Rosa, Calif.) — Santa Rosa Symphony welcomes guest conductor Yue Bao for their sixth Classical Series Concert, A New World. This concert includes Antonín Dvořák's Symphony No. 9 *From the New World* and features Avery Fisher Career Grant recipient violinist Simone Porter performing Felix Mendelssohn's Concerto in E minor. Performances at Weill Hall, Green Music Center, on March 22, 23 & 24, 2025. Tickets available at srsymphony.org.

Yue Bao, an internationally recognized conductor celebrated for her graceful elegance and economy of movement, makes her debut with the Santa Rosa Symphony. An alumna of The Curtis Institute of Music, Shanghai Conservatory of Music, and Mannes School of Music, Bao debuted with Houston Symphony in the 2020-2021 season and has worked with top symphonies in San Francisco, Minnesota, and Detroit.

Bao conducts a diverse program that includes Dvořák's Symphony No. 9 *From the New World*, a vivid exploration of the composer's impressions of American music. Molded by his distinctively European style, Dvořák fuses elements of Native American melodies and African American spirituals with his own Czech heritage.

The concert also features violinist Simone Porter, acclaimed for her "impassioned energy, interpretive integrity, and vibrant communication." Porter made her professional debut at age 10 and international debut just three years later. She will perform Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E minor, celebrated for its perfect blend of elegance, passion, and dynamic energy.

Rounding out the program is Bay Area composer Gabriela Lena Frank's *Elegía Andina*. Dedicated to Frank's oldest brother, the piece is a musical painting of her multicultural heritage and upbringing.

"I am thrilled to welcome rising star conductor Yue Bao to make her Santa Rosa Symphony debut. Dvořák's timeless masterpiece, Symphony No. 9 *From the New World*, brings the best of the classic romantic symphony to the concert. We are also thrilled to present music by Bay Area composer Gabriela Lena Frank. I am also happy to welcome back audience favorite Simone Porter, who brings her dazzling virtuosity to Mendelssohn's beloved violin concerto."

- **Francesco Lecce-Chong**, Music Director and Conductor

BIOGRAPHIES:

Yue Bao, conductor

Conductor Yue Bao made her subscription debut with Houston Symphony on their opening night concert of the 2020-2021 season and has led the orchestra both at Jones Hall and at their summer concert series at the Miller Theatre. She made her Chicago Symphony Orchestra debut at the Ravinia Festival in 2021.

Recently, Bao debuted with Munich Symphony, Singapore Symphony Orchestra with soloist Jan Vogler, and with Orchestra of St. Luke's with soloist Hélène Grimaud. She will debut with Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and make her debut in Spain.

In recent seasons, Bao has conducted Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, and Calgary Philharmonic. She also debuted with San Francisco Symphony, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and Minnesota Orchestra.

Bao was the Bruno Walter Memorial Foundation Conducting Fellow at the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music. In 2018, she served as the David Effron Conducting Fellow at the Chautauqua Music Festival, where she returned as a guest conductor in the 2022 season.

She has worked extensively in the United States and abroad. Equally at home with both symphonic and operatic repertoire, she has conducted Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*, Bizet's *Carmen*, Kurt Weill's *Mahagonny: Ein Songspiel*, and Gian Carlo Menotti's *The Medium*.

Bao received her Artist Diploma from The Curtis Institute of Music, where she was the Rita E. Hauser Conducting Fellow and studied with Yannick Nezet-Séguin. Bao holds Bachelor of Music degrees in orchestral conducting and opera accompanying from the Shanghai Conservatory of Music and a Master of Music degree in orchestral conducting from the Mannes School of Music. She served as the Ting Tsung and Wei Fung Chao Foundation Assistant Conductor at the Houston Symphony.

Simone Porter, violin

Violinist Simone Porter has been recognized as an emerging artist of impassioned energy, interpretive integrity, and vibrant communication. In the past few years she has debuted with New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic; and with a number of renowned conductors, including Stéphane Denève, Gustavo Dudamel, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Nicholas McGegan, Ludovic Morlot, and Donald Runnicles. Born in 1996, Porter made her professional solo debut at age 10 with Seattle Symphony and her international debut with Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in London at age 13. In March 2015, Porter received an Avery Fisher Career Grant.

With the cessation of live concerts Porter continued to record streamed events with Seattle, Pittsburgh, Charlotte and Greater Bridgeport Symphonies. Subsequent seasons included extensive US touring with debuts and return visits to orchestras such as Colorado, North Carolina, St. Louis, Grand Rapids, Omaha, Quebec, Princeton, Monterey, Bakersfield, Marin, Ridgefield, Wyoming, Winston-Salem, Virginia, Lexington, Modesto, New Haven, Bozeman, Portsmouth and Jacksonville symphonies, Erie Philharmonic and Florida Orchestra. Recent recital highlights include a tour in Spain with pianist Pallavi Mahidhara and debuts at Celebrity Series in Boston and NY92, both of which featured the newly commissioned piece by composer Reena Esmail. The 2023-2024 season started with Domaine-Forget and Moab Music Festivals, followed by orchestral performances in Shreveport, Burlington, Columbus, Hawaii, Greenville, Mobile and Rockford symphonies as well as a debut with Orquesta Clasica Santa Cecilia de la Fundacion Excelentia in Madrid. In recital, Porter was heard in Kentucky, California, and Aspen, CO.

At the invitation of Esa-Pekka Salonen, Porter performed his work 'Lachen verlernt' ('Laughing Unlearned'), at New York Philharmonic's "Foreign Bodies," a multi-sensory celebration of the work of the composer and conductor. In recent seasons, she has also appeared at the Edinburgh Festival performing Barber under the direction of Stéphane Denève, and at the Mostly Mozart Festival performing Mozart under Louis Langrée. She has also performed with Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl with both Nicholas McGegan and Ludovic Morlot, and at Walt Disney Concert Hall with Gustavo Dudamel.

Internationally, Porter has performed with Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra with Gustavo Dudamel; Orquestra Sinfônica Brasileira in Rio de Janeiro; National Symphony Orchestra of Costa Rica; City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong; Royal Northern Sinfonia; Milton Keynes City Orchestra in the United Kingdom; and Opera de Marseilles.

Porter made her Carnegie Zankel Hall debut on the Emmy Award-winning TV show *From the Top: Live from Carnegie Hall* followed in November 2016 by her debut in Stern Auditorium. In June 2016, her featured performance of music from *Schindler's List* with Maestro Gustavo Dudamel and members of the American Youth Symphony was broadcast nationally on the TNT Network as part of the American Film Institute's Lifetime Achievement Award: A Tribute to John Williams.

Raised in Seattle, Washington, Porter studied with Margaret Pressley as a recipient of the Dorothy Richard Starling Scholarship and was then admitted into the studio of the renowned pedagogue Robert Lipsett, with whom she studied at the Colburn Conservatory of Music in Los Angeles. Summer studies have included many years at the Aspen Music Festival, Indiana University's Summer String Academy, and the Schlern International Music Festival in Italy.

Simone Porter performs on a 1740 Carlo Bergonzi violin made in Cremona Italy on generous loan from The Master's University, Santa Clarita, California.

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE:

GABRIELA LENA FRANK: *Elegía Andina* for Orchestra

FELIX MENDELSSOHN: Concerto in E minor for Violin and Orchestra, Opus 64

ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK: Symphony No. 9 in E minor, Opus 95, *From the New World*

High-res photos and interview opportunities available: Yue Bao and Simone Porter.

CONCERT ENHANCEMENTS:

Concert Program books: Available at all Classical Series concerts.

Concert Program notes: These can be read on the [Digital Program Books & Notes](#) page.

Pre-concert talk: Guest Conductor Yue Bao, and Simone Porter provide a 30-minute pre-concert talk one hour prior to the performances.

SPONSORS:

Classical Series underwritten by **Anderman Family Foundation**

Sponsored by **Susan & Bruce Dzieza and Marsha Vas Dupre & Jack Dupre**

Simone Porter sponsored by **Vic & Karen Trione, in memory of Henry Trione**

Mendelssohn: Concerto for Violin and Orchestra sponsored by **The E. Nakamichi Foundation**

Discovery Rehearsal Series sponsored by **The Stare Foundation** and **David Stare of Dry Creek Vineyard**

Pre-concert talk sponsored by **Jamei Haswell & Mack Schwing**

Season Media Sponsor: ***The Press Democrat***

AT A GLANCE / CALENDAR LISTINGS:

WHO: [Santa Rosa Symphony](#)

WHAT: [A New World](#)

WHERE: Weill Hall, Green Music Center, Sonoma State University

WHEN:

Saturday, March 22, 2025, at 2:00 pm – Discovery Open Rehearsal (no Pre-concert talk)

Saturday, March 22, 2025, at 7:30 pm (Doors at 6:00 pm, Pre-concert Talk 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm)

Sunday, March 23, 2025, at 3:00 pm (Doors at 1:30 pm, Pre-concert Talk 2:00 pm - 2:30 pm)

Monday, March 24, 2025, at 7:30 pm (Doors at 6:00 pm, Pre-concert Talk 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm)

TICKET PRICES:

\$20/adult; \$10/youth (7-17) for Discovery Open Rehearsal.

\$34-\$110 for Classical Series performances.

Youths 7-17 may receive one complimentary ticket with every paid adult. Request tickets through Patron

Services at (707) 546-8742. Classical Series concerts only.

\$10 student rush tickets for college students with a valid student ID. Available at the door only.

HOW TO PURCHASE TICKETS:

srsymphony.org or (707) 546-8742 or in person: 50 Santa Rosa Ave, 1st Floor, Santa Rosa, CA. (Weekdays 9:00 am – 5:00 pm; 10:30 am – 5:00 pm on Wednesday; closed Saturday & Sunday.)

ABOUT SANTA ROSA SYMPHONY

Santa Rosa Symphony, the Resident Orchestra of the Green Music Center, is the third-oldest professional orchestra in California and the largest regional symphony north of Los Angeles. Francesco Lecce-Chong began his tenure in 2018 as the Symphony's fifth music director in its 97 years. J. Andrew Bradford joined SRS as President and CEO in 2023. The Symphony is committed to the core values of artistic excellence, innovative programming, comprehensive music education, and community service.

The Symphony's performance schedule includes 21 Classical Series concerts grouped into seven sets, seven Discovery Dress Rehearsal concerts, a three-concert Family Series, a four-concert Pops Series, and special concerts.

Awards include an American Symphony Orchestra League MetLife Award for Community Engagement and a first-place award for adventurous programming from the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP).

The Symphony is recognized as having one of California's most comprehensive music education programs, serving nearly 20,000 youths annually. Collaborations with schools and organizations across Sonoma County have gained the Santa Rosa Symphony national attention and support.

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