

Date Lines: News from the Bay Area arts scene

Joshua Kosman, Kenneth Baker, Robert Hurwitt

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New symphony conductor named

Donato Cabrera, right, a former associate conductor with the **San Francisco Opera** who made his **San Francisco Symphony** debut last month with only 24 hours' notice, has been named as the Symphony's assistant conductor and music director of the **Symphony Youth Orchestra**, beginning in September.

In his new posts, Cabrera will work closely with Music Director **Michael Tilson Thomas** and lead the Symphony in the April 2010 concerts featuring the **Charlie Chaplin** silent film classic "The Gold Rush." He will conduct the Youth Orchestra's concert season as well as selected concerts in the "Concerts for Kids," "Adventures in Music" and "Music for Families" series. He succeeds **Benjamin Shwartz**.

Cabrera, 36, was associated with the Opera from 2005 to 2008, and now holds conducting posts with the **Metropolitan Opera**, **Lyric Opera of Chicago**, **Los Angeles Philharmonic** and **San Francisco Ballet**. In April, he stepped in for an ailing **Alasdair Neale** (himself a late substitution for composer-conductor **Oliver Knussen**) to lead the Symphony in music of **Mozart** and **Mussorgsky**.

- Joshua Kosman

Cole honored at berkeley benefit

Robert Cole, who will step down in August after 23 years as director of **Cal Performances**, will be celebrated at a benefit gala Saturday in Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. The event, which begins with a 7 p.m. cocktail reception and continues with dinner and music at 8 p.m., will feature mezzo-soprano **Frederica von Stade** and composer-pianist **Jake Heggie**, as well as music by the **Cal Band**, the **UC Jazz Ensemble**, several UC choral groups and the **University Chorus**.

The dinner is planned by **Alice Waters** and **Stanlee Gatti**. Tickets: \$500 and up. (510) 643-8783, calperfs.berkeley.edu.

- Joshua Kosman

Photographer salgado shows and tells at palace of fine arts

Renowned Brazilian photographer **Sebastião Salgado** will appear Saturday at the Palace of Fine Arts, 3301 Lyon St., San Francisco.

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"The Genesis Project: A Conversation" will begin with a 25-minute video screening of images from "Genesis," Salgado's new series of pictures of places unspoiled by modernity. He offers them as touchstones of ecological hope in times that have accustomed us to a steady diet of bad environmental news.

The rest of the evening will be devoted to a conversation between Salgado and **Ken Light**, professor at the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism.

The program runs from 8 to 10 p.m. Doors open at 7:30. General admission: \$25; students with identification: \$22. Premium tickets for the first three rows, for \$100, include access to a private reception at 6:30.

Signed copies of Salgado's new book will be offered for purchase.

Tickets available at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/62751. - Kenneth Baker

Stagebridge has a senior moment at 30

Stagebridge, the region's leading theater company for older adults, has reached the ripe old age of 30 and is celebrating the milestone with a four-day public showcase, aided by a few of its friends. Each of the four shows, Thursday through Saturday, features performances by Stagebridge members and special guests: actor **Julian López-Morillas** on Thursday; storyteller **Marijo** on Friday; comic monologist **Josh Kornbluth** for Saturday's gala Champagne benefit; and mother-and-daughter actors and directors **Joy Carlin** and **Nancy Carlin** for the Sunday matinee.

All performances are at Berkeley's Ashby Stage. Tickets (\$15 for the regular shows; \$50-\$100 for the Champagne gala) at www.stagebridge.org.

Shakespearean stimulus funds

California Shakespeare Theater has been selected as one of the 37 companies nationwide to participate in the **National Endowment for the Arts'** Shakespeare for a New Generation initiative, making this the fourth time the Bay Area's leading Shakespeare company has received this award. The \$25,000 grant will help Cal Shakes broaden its school-outreach efforts to include five Student Discovery performances of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in the fall, with accompanying educational programs, to reach some 1,175 middle and high schools from 21 underserved Bay Area and Central Valley schools - a 24 percent increase over last year's program, according to Managing Director **Susie Falk**.

But that's not the full extent of Cal Shakes' part of the stimulus package. The company is also getting \$15,000 through a new partnership between the NEA and the Justice Department's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Those funds will help Cal Shakes expand its Shakespeare for a New Generation services for incarcerated youth in collaboration with Alameda County Library's Write to Read (W2R) program.

- Robert Hurwitt

<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/05/06/DDI0177501.DTL>

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