

## CALIFORNIA SYMPHONY CELEBRATES SPRING WITH **FRENCH IMPRESSIONS**

March 26 - 27, 2022

**WHAT:** California Symphony will celebrate spring with the World Premiere of Katherine Balch's *Illuminate*, the centerpiece of a program titled *French Impressions*.

Mezzo-soprano Kelly Guerra and sopranos Molly Netter and Alexandra Smither will perform this new work by Balch, who was California Symphony's Young American Composer-in-Residence from 2017-2020 and was scheduled to present this World Premiere in March 2020, postponed due to COVID. Incorporating text from *Les Illuminations* by French poet Rimbaud, blended with works by Balch's other favorite poets, *Illuminate* offers a celebration of friendship and joy from the female perspective over the course of five movements via a framework of the cycle of the seasons, beginning and ending with the spring.

The program will also present British composer Thomas Adès' homage to Couperin, the French baroque composer who served as Louis XIV's organist in Versailles, in *Three Studies After Couperin*, an arrangement of three harpsichord pieces that recall the master's ability to sketch nimble personal portraits with his keyboard. *French Impressions* will also include works by the two leading French impressionist composers, Debussy's *Danse* and Ravel's *Ma mère l'Oye (Mother Goose)*, displaying their lighter sides with these lively selections.

***Patrons must be fully vaccinated, and masks are required.*** For more information, please visit [californiasymphony.org/COVIDsafety](https://californiasymphony.org/COVIDsafety).

**WHEN:** 7:30pm, Saturday, March 26  
4:00pm, Sunday, March 27

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

**TICKETS:** \$44-\$74 and \$20 for students 25 and under with valid Student ID.

**INFO:** For more information or to purchase tickets, the public may visit [CaliforniaSymphony.org](https://CaliforniaSymphony.org) or call the Leshar Center Ticket Office at (925) 943-7469

(open Wed – Sun, noon to 6pm).

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**MEDIA:** Contact Sydney Albin, Carla Befera & Co.  
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**PHOTOS:** Downloadable high-res photos are available here:  
<http://www.cbpr.co/press/frenchimpressions>