



**Conductor Donato Cabrera Returns to Reno  
To Lead Reno Chamber Orchestra in Music by Wagner and  
Beethoven Plus Chamber Concerto by Samuel Carl Adams Featuring  
Reno Native violinist Helen Kim**

**Saturday, October 19, 2019 at 7:30pm**

**Sunday, October 20, 2019 at 2pm**

*Pre-concert talks with Donato Cabrera 45 minutes prior to each performance*

**Nightingale Concert Hall at University of Nevada**

**1335 N. Virginia Street | Reno, NV**

**Tickets: \$15-\$55 at [www.renochamberorchestra.org](http://www.renochamberorchestra.org)**

Photo by Lindsay Hale available in high-resolution at [www.jensenartists.com](http://www.jensenartists.com)

**FAST FACTS:**

- Having grown up in Reno since age 10 and a UNR graduate, Donato Cabrera returns to Reno as a music director candidate with the Reno Chamber Orchestra, the very first professional orchestra that he ever conducted.
- Cabrera chose soloist Helen Kim, a Reno native, to return as a soloist with the Reno Chamber Orchestra in a piece written by her husband, the acclaimed and former composer in residence of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Samuel Carl Adams.
- Samuel Carl Adams's Chamber Concerto for violin and ensemble was premiered by violinist Karen Gomyo with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Esa-Pekka Salonen in 2018 to mark the 20th anniversary of the CSO's MusicNOW series.
- Richard Wagner's *Siegfried Idyll* was premiered on Christmas Day, 1870, as a birthday and Christmas present to his wife, Cosima Wagner, and was performed annually in a private performance in their home for many years.
- One of Wagner's favorite pieces, Beethoven's Symphony No. 7, has been considered a masterpiece since its premiere in 1813. Wagner described it as, "the Apotheosis of the Dance."

Reno, NV – Conductor **Donato Cabrera** returns to guest conduct the **Reno Chamber Orchestra** on **Saturday, October 19, 2019 at 7:30pm** and **Sunday, October 20, 2019 at 2pm** at University of Nevada's **Nightingale Concert Hall** (1335 N. Virginia Street). Growing up in Reno, Cabrera says, "Returning to my home town as a music director candidate for the orchestra with which I made my professional debut is a circle that I never envisioned closing. In this regard, it's almost better than a dream come true!" Cabrera will lead pre-concert talks 45 minutes before each concert – 6:45pm on Saturday and 1:15pm on Sunday.

Cabrera crafted this program to feature a fellow Reno native, violinist **Helen Kim**, who is the associate principal second violinist of the San Francisco Symphony. In her Reno debut as an orchestral soloist, she will perform San Francisco-based composer **Samuel Adams'** Chamber Concerto for violin and ensemble (2018).

This work was premiered by violinist Karen Gomyo with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Esa-Pekka Salonen to mark the 20th anniversary of the CSO's contemporary series MusicNOW. "I'm so delighted that the Reno Chamber Orchestra will perform my Chamber Concerto," says Adams. "This piece is expressive and dynamic, and it'll be a joy to collaborate with Donato Cabrera and the musicians of the orchestra." The piece was hailed as "hypnotic, endlessly varied and natural" by *Classical Voice America* and music of "allusive subtlety and ingenuity" by the *Chicago Tribune*. Cabrera describes the Chamber Concerto as being, "first and foremost an exploration of expression, deconstructing musical terms to their essence in order to communicate feeling and emotion, rather than form and function."

**Richard Wagner's Siegfried Idyll** begins the program of works spanning multiple musical eras, yet connected in their shared trait of breaking the molds in which they were conceived. Cabrera states, "Wagner's Siegfried Idyll, the Chamber Concerto of Samuel Carl Adams, and Beethoven's Symphony №7, fit nicely in the current, cookie-cutter format of Overture-Concerto-Symphony that most orchestras follow, as if there's been an international summit on the matter. However, what makes each of these pieces so unique and special, and why I've programmed them together, is how these composers use molds only in order to smash them." Cabrera continues about the Wagner asking, "Is it an overture? A tone-poem? A symphonic miniature? You could easily call it any one of these things but, for me, it is simply a musical expression of a very joyous and idyllic time between two people who were happy and in love."

Reno Chamber Orchestra celebrates Beethoven throughout the 2019-2020 season in celebration of his 250<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2020 and Cabrera ends this program with **Beethoven's Symphony No. 7**. Cabrera also was inspired to program this symphony by a quote by Richard Wagner, calling Beethoven's *Symphony №7*, "the Apotheosis of the Dance." Donato writes, "Why was dance the analogy that Wagner chose to use? The answer is: rhythm. The entire symphony, from the first note to the last, focuses on rhythm. He enlivens and energizes these rhythms with simple yet unforgettable harmonies. He provides further excitement by surprising us with his typically extreme dynamics."

Read Donato Cabrera's program notes here - <http://bit.ly/RCOProgramNotesDC>

Listen to Donato Cabrera's Spotify playlist of his favorite recordings of the concert's music here - <http://bit.ly/DCRCO2019>

Watch Donato's introduction to the concert here - <https://youtu.be/fiEQOQB7IE>

### **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 in 2013 of the California Symphony, the organization has redefined what it means to be an orchestra in the 21st Century. Under Cabrera's baton, the California Symphony 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 has greatly changed the Las Vegas Philharmonic's concert experience by expanding the scope and breadth of its orchestral concerts, hosting engaging and lively pre-concert conversations with guest artists and composers, and by creating the Spotlight Concert series that features the musicians of the Las Vegas Philharmonic in intimate chamber music performances.

Deeply committed to diversity and education through the arts, Cabrera evaluates the scope, breadth, and content of the California Symphony and Las Vegas Philharmonic's music education programs. California Symphony's *Sound Minds* program has achieved national attention for its *El Sistema*-inspired approach and has a proven track record in impacting the lives and improving the test scores of hundreds of K-6 children in San Pablo's Downer Elementary School. Annually reaching over 20,000 Title I fourth graders of the Clark County School District, Cabrera has completely reshaped Las Vegas Philharmonic's Youth Concert Series to be a curriculum-based concert experience, while also integrating a hands-on, complimentary experience with the Discovery Museum, Las Vegas.

In recent seasons, Cabrera has made impressive debuts with the National Symphony's KC Jukebox at the Kennedy Center, Louisville Orchestra, Hartford Symphony, Orquesta Filarmónica de Jalisco, Philharmonic Orchestra of the Staatstheater Cottbus, Orquesta Filarmónica de Boca del Río, Orquesta Sinfónica Concepción, Nevada Ballet Theatre, New West Symphony, Kalamazoo Symphony, and the Reno Philharmonic. In 2016, he led the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in performances with Grammy Award-winning singer Lila Downs. Cabrera made his Carnegie Hall debut leading the world premiere of Mark Grey's *Atash Sorushan* with soprano, Jessica Rivera.

As Resident Conductor of the San Francisco Symphony, Cabrera worked closely with its Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas and frequently conducted the orchestra in a variety of concerts, including all of the education and family concerts, reaching over 70,000 children throughout the Bay Area every year. During his seven seasons as Music Director of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra, Cabrera took the group on two European tours, winning an ASCAP Award for

Adventurous Programming of American Music on Foreign Tours, and receiving critical acclaim for a live recording from the Berlin Philharmonic of Mahler's Symphony No. 1.

Cabrera is equally at home in the world of opera. He was the Resident Conductor of the San Francisco Opera from 2005-2008, and has also been an assistant conductor for productions at the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Ravinia Festival, Festival di Spoleto, the Aspen Music Festival, and the Music Academy of the West. Since 2008, Cabrera has frequently conducted productions in Concepción, Chile.

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. For more information, visit [www.donatocabrera.com](http://www.donatocabrera.com).

### **About Helen Kim**

Violinist Helen Kim enjoys a multi-faceted career that has her regularly performing across the Americas, Europe, and Asia. Since her concerto debut at the age of eight, Kim has given performances at the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, BBC Proms, Suntory Hall, and Disney Hall, among others.

In recent seasons, Kim has made concerto appearances with the St. Louis Symphony and Aspen Festival Orchestra under the baton of conductors Nicholas McGegan and Jun Märkl and performed works for solo violin on San Francisco Symphony's Soundbox series and the Pulitzer Museum.

An eager advocate of contemporary and 20th century music, Kim has performed the works of Pierre Boulez, Morton Feldman, Salvatore Sciarrino, John Adams and James McMillan on notable new music series and festivals. Recent festival appearances include the Innsbrook Institute, Luzerne Music Center, and Missouri River Festival of the Arts.

Since garnering the top prize at the Coleman Competition in 2011 with her piano trio, Kim has enjoyed opportunities to perform chamber music with preeminent artists such as violinist Midori Goto and members of the Juilliard and Tokyo Quartets, and is looking forward to a collaboration with the St. Lawrence String Quartet in the 19-20 season.

Kim is currently the Associate Principal Second Violin of the SF Symphony and was recently appointed Associate Concertmaster of the Seattle Symphony.

### **About Samuel Carl Adams**

Recently named a 2019 Guggenheim Fellow, Samuel Adams (b. 1985, San Francisco, CA) is a composer of acoustic and electroacoustic music. His work has been hailed as "mesmerizing" and "music of a composer with a personal voice and keen imagination" by The New York Times, "canny and assured" by The Chicago Tribune and "wondrously alluring" by The San Francisco Chronicle.

Highlights of the 2019/20 season include a new work for the Australian Chamber Orchestra, which will be toured in both Australia and the United States, and the premiere performances of his Second String Quartet for Chicago-based Spektral Quartet in New York, Seattle, and Berkeley. Adams is also building an evening-length work for dance entitled Lyra, which will premiere this coming July in San Francisco.

Adams served as the curator for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's MusicNOW series from 2015-2018, a period that saw the commissioning of nine new works, including Amy Beth Kirsten's SAVIOR and a new work by Manual Cinema, as well as the development of an audiovisual collaboration with the Art Institute of Chicago. He has also curated for the San Francisco Symphony as part of their experimental SoundBox series.

Adams has held residencies at Civitella Ranieri (Umbria, IT), Visby International Centre for Composers (Visby, SE), Avaloch Farm (Boscawen, NH), Ucross (Ucross, WY), and Djerassi Resident Artists Program (La Honda, CA).

Adams grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area where he attended Berkeley's Crowden School. He went on to study at Stanford University, where he earned a bachelor's degree with honors in composition and electroacoustic music while also working as a bassist in the San Francisco improvised music community. He received a master's degree in composition from The Yale School of Music.

### **About the Reno Chamber Orchestra**

The Reno Chamber Orchestra (RCO) is at an exciting moment as it enters the 2019-20 season of music. This year features finalists vying to become the third Music Director in the chamber orchestra's 45-year history. Audiences will have a chance to meet each conductor 45 minutes prior to performances at pre-concert interviews, and after performances in the lobby. Surveys will follow each finalist, collecting the input of musicians, board, staff, and audience members. In addition to the season of Orchestra concerts, this December the RCO presents the sixteenth annual Nevada Chamber Music Festival, under the leadership of newly-appointed Artistic Director Clive Greensmith. Tickets for all programs are available at [www.renochamberorchestra.org](http://www.renochamberorchestra.org) or by calling (775) 348-9413.

The mission of the Reno Chamber Orchestra is to create intimate, inspirational musical experiences by engaging the community through vibrant music-making by the chamber orchestra and chamber ensembles.

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