



Photo by Kristen Loken available in high resolution at <http://www.jensenartists.com/donato-cabrera>

Conductor Donato Cabrera

**Leads the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra
Music by Copland, Bottesini, Williams, & Bruckner**

**Saturday, October 28, 2017 at 8pm
Miller Auditorium | Western Michigan University
2200 Auditorium Drive | Kalamazoo, MI**

**Tickets: \$12-\$60 available at 269.387.2300 or
www.kalamazoosymphony.com**

“He’s a passionate, heart-on-the-sleeve conductor, with eclectic musical tastes and a wealth of experience.” –*San Jose Mercury News*

www.donatocabrera.com

Kalamazoo, MI – **Conductor Donato Cabrera** will make his debut with the **Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra** in Western Michigan University’s **Miller Auditorium** (2200 Auditorium Drive) with a program including Copland’s *Fanfare for the Common Man*, Bottesini’s Double Bass Concerto No. 2 in B minor, John Williams’ Oboe Concerto and Bruckner’s Symphony No. 1.

For this performance, Cabrera says, “I am very excited about my debut with the Kalamazoo Symphony and the program we’ve chosen to perform. It is an eclectic mix of composers that will not only showcase the wonderful talents of the various sections of the orchestra, but it also reveals music seldom performed. The concert begins with one of Copland’s most majestic compositions, *Fanfare for the Common Man*, a powerful work for brass and percussion. We will then have the opportunity to hear the gold medalist of the 2017 Stulberg International String Competition, double-bassist, **William McGregor**, in a grand concerto written specifically for this instrument, Bottesini’s Concerto No. 2 for Double Bass and Orchestra. The spotlight then falls on **Gabriel Renteria-Elyea**, KSO’s principal oboe, as we perform John Williams’s beautiful Oboe Concerto. The second half of the concert features a real rare gem, Bruckner’s Symphony No. 1. Bruckner, like Brahms, didn’t begin writing symphonies until later in life and this first symphony was so important to Bruckner that he spent an entire year revising it for publication.”

Founded in 1921, the **Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra** is Southwest Michigan’s premier musical organization, providing musical enrichment to over 80,000 adults and youth per year. The third-largest professional orchestra in the state, the KSO has won numerous awards and grants, including the Met Life Award for Arts Access in Underserved Communities, the National Endowment for the Arts for its extensive education programs, and a major Ford Foundation grant to found its innovative *Artist-in-Residence* program.

Donato Cabrera is the Music Director of the California Symphony and the Las Vegas Philharmonic. He 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. Cabrera is one of only a handful of conductors in history who has conducted performances with the San Francisco Symphony, San Francisco Opera, and the San Francisco Ballet.

Since Cabrera's appointment as Music Director of the California Symphony, the organization has been reinvigorated. With its expanded concerts, dramatically increased ticket sales, and innovative programming, the California

Symphony and Cabrera are redefining what it means to be an orchestra in the 21st Century. Through the California Symphony's celebrated Young American Composer in Residence program, Cabrera has supported the burgeoning careers of composers including D.J. Sparr, Dan Visconti, and the current Composer-in-Residence, Katherine Balch. Sound Minds, California Symphony's nationally recognized music education program, reflects Cabrera's commitment to diversity and education through the arts.

Under Cabrera's leadership, the Las Vegas Philharmonic has also enjoyed a dramatic increase in ticket sales and an engagement with the community never before seen in Southern Nevada. Cabrera's programming includes not only the celebrated symphonic repertoire but also music by acclaimed living composers, demonstrating his commitment to keeping the art form relevant and vital. Through his creation of the very popular Spotlight Concerts, which showcase the musicians of the Las Vegas Philharmonic in intimate chamber music concerts, initiating community outreach concerts throughout the city, and expanding and revamping the Youth Concert Series, Cabrera has completely reshaped the relationship between the orchestra and the community.

Over the last couple of seasons, Cabrera has made impressive debuts with the National Symphony's KC Jukebox at the Kennedy Center, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Louisville Orchestra, Hartford Symphony, New West Symphony, Sinfónica de Oaxaca, and the Orquesta Filarmónica de Boca del Rio. 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 *Átash Sorushan*.

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. He also led the San Francisco Symphony Chorus with Paul Jacobs on organ in the world premiere of Mason Bates' *Mass Transmission*, subsequently conducting it in Carnegie Hall. During his seven seasons as Music Director of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra, Cabrera upheld the orchestra's reputation for outstanding artistry at home and abroad. He 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 Philharmonie of Mahler's Symphony No. 1.

Donato Cabrera co-founded the New York-based American Contemporary Music Ensemble (ACME), which is dedicated to the outstanding performance of masterworks from the 20th and 21st centuries. He conducted ACME in the world premiere of the all-live version of Steve Reich's WTC 9/11 for three string quartets and tape at Le Poisson Rouge in New York City, and recently led performances of Icelandic composer Jóhann Jóhannsson's *Drone Mass* with ACME and Theatre of Voices at Duke Performances and the Big Ears Festival.

Cabrera is equally at home in the world of opera, frequently conducting productions in the United States and abroad. He was the Resident Conductor of the San Francisco Opera from 2005-2008, working on over 18 productions and conducting multiple performances. Cabrera 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, he has frequently conducted productions ranging from Mozart to Puccini 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 Orchestra's 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.

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