NEW SERIES!

CAL PERFORMANCES INTRODUCES
FIRST STAGE FOR FAMILIES WITH THREE OFFERINGS:
THE CASHORE MARIONETTES (OCT. 23),
AMERICAN ROOTS MUSICIAN AND STORYTELLER DAVID HOLT (FEB. 12) AND WORD FOR WORD THEATER COMPANY (MAY 6)

SUNDAY PERFORMANCES AT 11:00 A.M. AND 3:00 P.M.
WILL BE PRESENTED IN WHEELER HALL

BERKELEY, August 18, 2011 — Cal Performances unveils a new series this fall designed to introduce young people to a diverse array of performing arts genres. First Stages for Families invites children and their grownups to experience the performing arts in one-hour, intimate productions at Wheeler Hall. The series will open with The Cashore Marionettes, a troupe that has redefined the art of puppetry, in a program titled Simple Gifts, a sequence of engaging scenes from everyday life set to music by Vivaldi, Strauss, Beethoven and Copland, on October 23. Four-time Grammy Award–winning American folk singer and storyteller David Holt will bring his Songs and Stories of Appalachia which features Holt playing many of his ten acoustic instruments and recounting stories from American folk life on February 12. Concluding the series is Bay Area theater company Word for Word performing Stories from Sonoma Mountain by Greg Sarris, a new production that draws on folk tales from the First Peoples and the landscape of Northern California on May 6. First Stage for Families will feature each artist or company in two Sunday performances, at 11:00 a.m. and at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are affordably priced for families at $12.00 for children, $24.00 for adults.

THE CASHORE MARIONETTES

Joseph Cashore discovered marionettes at the age of ten and has been designing and performing his remarkable puppets for over 30 years. His acclaimed performances are unmatched in artistry, grace and refinement of movement, with each show a breathtaking
exhibition of exquisite marionette craftsmanship and engineering. He has received numerous awards for his artistry, including a Pew Fellowship for Performance Art; a Henson Foundation Grant to promote puppetry to adult audiences; and a Citation of Excellence from the American Chapter of the Union Internationale de la Marionette, the world's oldest theater organization. In Berkeley, the company will perform Simple Gifts, a “brilliant production that carries the audience through a range of feelings...highly recommended even for adults who don’t happen to have kids” (Calgary Herald). (http://www.cashoremarionettes.com/)

DAVID HOLT

Four-time Grammy Award–winner David Holt is a musician, storyteller and historian dedicated to performing and preserving traditional American music and stories. Holt plays ten acoustic instruments and has released numerous award-winning recordings of traditional mountain music and Southern folktale. He is well known for his television and radio series, including “Great Scenic Railway Journeys,” “Fire on the Mountain,” “Celebration Express” and “American Music Shop,” and has been a frequent guest on “Hee Haw,” “Nashville Now” and “The Grand Ole Opry” and was a musician in the film O Brother Where Art Thou. Holt also hosts “Riverwalk: Classic Jazz from the Landing” for Public Radio International. A native of Garland, Texas, Holt’s family moved to Pacific Palisades, California, while he was in junior high school. “I grew up in a family of informal storytellers, and there was plenty to tell about our wild and wooly Texas forefathers. Storytelling was just a natural part of family life for me,” he explains. The songs and tales Holt has collected for the past twenty years have become a part of the permanent collection of the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. (http://www.davidholt.com/)

WORD FOR WORD

“Our brilliant inventiveness in performance, choreography, and staging has created a new artform, and a deeply affecting experience,” trumpets author Tobias Wolf about the actors who comprise Word for Word Performing Arts Company. The triumph of Word for Word is in telling great stories with elegant theatricality, staging performances of classic and contemporary fiction adapted for the stage without changing a word of the original text. Founded in 1993 by Susan Harloe and JoAnne Winter, Word for Word believes in the power of
the short story to provide solace, compassion, and insight into our daily lives. For First Stage for Families, the company will perform *Stories from Sonoma Mountain*, a new work by author Greg Sarris that draws on the folk tales from the indigenous peoples from the Sonoma area. (http://www.zspace.org/w4w.htm)

**TICKET SALE INFORMATION**

All tickets for **First Stage for Families** Sunday events at 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at Wheeler Auditorium (**Cashore Marioinettes** on October 23; **David Holt** on February 12; and **Word for Word Theater Company** on May 6) are priced at $12.00 for children and $24.00 for adults. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students and UC Alumni Association members receive a $5.00 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperformances.org.

For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior and community rush tickets. Rush tickets are announced two hours prior to a performance and are available in person only at the Ticket Office beginning one hour before the performance; quantities may be limited. Rush ticket sales are limited to one ticket per person; all sales are cash only. Rush ticket prices are $10.00 for UCB students; $15.00 for UCB faculty and staff (UCB ID required) and seniors age 65 or older; and $20.00 for all other community members. Information is available at 510-642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, two hours prior to a performance only.

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Cal Performances thanks Wells Fargo, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and Bank of America for major support of the 2011/12 Season.

KDFC is our 2011/12 season media sponsors.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sun., Oct. 23, at 11:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
**First Stage for Families**
**Simple Gifts**
The Cashore Marionettes

Program: The Cashore Marionettes perform an original work for families titled *Simple Gifts*, a series of scenes from everyday life set to music by Vivaldi, Strauss, Beethoven and Copland.

Tickets: $12.00 (children) and $24.00 (adults), available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door.

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Sun., Feb. 12 at 11:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
**First Stage for Families**
**Songs and Stories from Appalachia**
David Holt, instrumentalist, singer and storyteller

Program: Grammy Award–winning instrumentalist, singer and storyteller David Holt brings his *Songs and Stories of Appalachia* for families to Cal Performances.

Tickets: $24.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door.

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Sun., May 6, at 11:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
**First Stage for Families**
**Stories from Sonoma Mountain** by Grey Sarris
Word for Word

Program: Word for Word Performing Arts Company performs *Stories from Sonoma Mountain* by Greg Sarris about the First Peoples and the landscape of Northern California.

Tickets: $24.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door.

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– Cal Performances –

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