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**MARCUS SHELBY JAZZ ORCHESTRA CELEBRATES  
DUKE ELLINGTON IN A SPECIAL COLLABORATION WITH  
CALIFORNIA SHAKESPEARE THEATER  
FRIDAY, MAY 2 IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

**BERKELEY, April 7, 2014**—Returning to Cal Performances, bassist and Bay Area native **Marcus Shelby** and his 16-piece jazz orchestra pay tribute to one of the most influential composers in jazz history with [\*The Legacy of Duke Ellington: 50 Years of Swing!\*](#) on Friday, May 2 at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall. Complete with guest performances by two Bay Area natives, vocalist **Faye Carol** and violinist **Mathew Szemela**, the first half of the Berkeley program will feature music spanning Ellington’s 50-year career, including such jazz standards as *Creole Love Call*, *Black Beauty*, and *C Jam Blues*. Then in a special collaboration, Shelby and his orchestra will be joined for the second half of the program by actors from [California Shakespeare Theater](#) to perform Ellington and longtime collaborator Billy Strayhorn’s 1957 album *Such Sweet Thunder*, a 12-part musical suite inspired by the work of William Shakespeare.

Named one of the “Top Ten Most Influential African Americans in the Bay Area” by City Flight Magazine (2005), bassist [Marcus Shelby](#) has been teaching, composing, and performing for more than 20 years. A blues and swing activist, his mission is to educate his audience and youth groups in African American arts. Based in San Francisco since its inception in 1997, the Marcus Shelby Jazz Orchestra makes frequent appearances at jazz clubs, schools, churches, festivals, and other concert venues in the Bay Area and has been commissioned for new works by several organizations, including the Oakland Ballet and Yerba Buena Gardens Festival. Shelby’s 2011 album *Soul of the Movement* reached No. 2 on National Jazz Radio Charts, the same year he was commissioned to compose an original musical (*Be Bop Baby*) with Bay Area director, writer, and actress Margo Hall, first performed at The Z Space in San Francisco.

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Upon his death in 1974, Duke Ellington had accumulated a colorful and wholly American repertoire with his orchestra of 50 years. With more than 1,000 original compositions, including 12 Grammy Award-winning works and nine records in the Grammy Hall of Fame, Ellington is revered as one of the most influential figures in jazz history, and one of the most well-known African American individuals of the century.

California Shakespeare Theater was founded in 1974 as an artistic collective known as the Emeryville Shakespeare Company. In 2003, the company changed its name to California Shakespeare Theater to better encompass its year-round presence in the community. Since its first performance at the Unitarian Fellowship Hall in Berkeley, Cal Shakes, as it is affectionately known, has evolved into a summer festival, hosting more than 53 productions of Shakespeare across 40 years. Located between the Berkeley Hills and Orinda, Cal Shakes currently operates out of the Sharon Simpson Center, one of the largest, solar-powered outdoor theaters in the country. Since 2000, Cal Shakes has been led by artistic director Jonathan Moscone.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for Marcus Shelby Jazz Orchestra on Friday, May 2 at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall range from \$22.00 to \$56.00 and are subject to change. Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org), and at the door. For more information about tickets and discounts, go to [www.calperformances.org/buy/discounts.php](http://www.calperformances.org/buy/discounts.php) or call (510) 642-9988.

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Cal Performances thanks Wells Fargo and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for their major support of the 2013—2014 Season.

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### **CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

Friday, May 2, at 8:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus  
Bancroft Way at Dana Street, Berkeley

*Jazz*

*The Legacy of Duke Ellington: 50 Years of Swing!*

**Marcus Shelby Jazz Orchestra**

**California Shakespeare Theater**

**Faye Carol**, vocalist\*

**Mathew Szemela**, violin^

**Program:**

Black Beauty

Creole Love Call

Black and Tan Fantasy

Perdido

Boy Meets Horn

Moon Mist^

Tourist Point of View

In my Solitude

TBA work\*

C Jam Blues\*

Such Sweet Thunder

Lady Mac

Up and Down, Up and Down

Madness in Great Ones

The Star Crossed Lovers

Sonnet to Hanq Cinq

Sonnet in Search of a Moor

Sonnet for Sister Kate

Half the Fun

Circle of Fourths

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