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FORTY AND FIERCE!
SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK MARKS FOUR DECADES OF
SOULFUL MUSICAL MESSAGES OF HOPE AND LOVE
ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12 IN ZELLERBACH HALL

**SchoolTime performance for Bay Area school children will be given on
Thursday, February 13 at 11:00 a.m.**

BERKELEY, January 13, 2014—*Forty and Fierce!* is the theme when [Sweet Honey in the Rock](#), the renowned African-American female *a cappella* ensemble, comes to Zellerbach Hall on Wednesday, February 12, at 8:00 p.m. The Washington, DC–based group has built a passionate Bay Area following over decades of Cal Performances appearances and brings a repertoire steeped in the sacred music of the Black church, the clarion calls of the civil rights movement, and songs of the struggle for justice everywhere. Sweet Honey in the Rock “has kept African American vocal traditions in the spotlight through performances that are as theatrical as they are soulful” (*San Francisco Chronicle*). Vocalists **Carol Maillard** and **Louise Robinson** (co-founders of the group), **Aisha Kahlil**, **Nitanju Bolade Casel**, and American Sign Language interpreter **Shirley Childress Saxon** make up the current Grammy-nominated troupe. Musical selections will draw from the ensemble’s extensive repertoire (which includes influences of blues, spirituals, gospel, hip-hop, reggae, and jazz) plus several brand new compositions.

Sweet Honey in the Rock will sing a special [SchoolTime performance](#) for Bay Area school children on Thursday, February 13 at 11:00 a.m. Tickets are available in advance only. Go to the Cal Performances website to [register](#).

The program for *Forty and Fierce!* highlights the inspiring and compelling stories of the current and past members of Sweet Honey in the Rock. Their rich musical offering will be supplemented with multimedia elements, special staging and lighting, movement, and spoken-word performance. As always with a Sweet Honey in the Rock performance, the singers’ elegant and colorful costumes, body and hand percussion, and onstage sign language interpretation will

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contribute to an intricately layered evening of soulful, meaningful musical art. Individual works will be announced onstage by the performers.

[Sweet Honey in the Rock](#) was born in 1973, when five African-American women in the vocal workshop at the Black Repertory Theater Company of Washington, DC began singing together. Taking their name from a refrain based on Psalms 81:16, they revived the Gospel-infused African-American female *a cappella* tradition that had thrived in the first half of the 20th century. In the four decades since Sweet Honey in the Rock was founded, 23 different women have been part of the group. Current members of the group are [Carol Maillard](#), a co-founder of the group and an actress in stage, film, and television productions; [Louise Robinson](#), another founding member who also sang for 14 years with the Bay Area *a cappella* group Street Sounds; [Aisha Kahlil](#), a master teacher of voice and dance who studied at the Alvin Ailey School; [Nitanju Bolade Casel](#), a performer, composer, and two-time finalist in the International Songwriters' Competition; and [Shirley Childress Saxon](#), the group's onstage sign language interpreter since 1981 and a founding member of Black Deaf Advocates. Sweet Honey in the Rock has been the subject of a 2005 documentary, *Raise Your Voice*, and a PBS American Masters episode.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for Sweet Honey in the Rock, 40th Anniversary: *Forty and Fierce!* on Wednesday February 12 at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall range from \$22.00-\$58.00 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 calperformances.org, and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to <http://calperformances.org/buy/discounts.php>.

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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

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Wednesday, February 12, at 8:00 p.m.

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

World Stage

Sweet Honey in the Rock
40th Anniversary concert
Forty and Fierce!

Program:

Sweet Honey in the Rock, the renowned *a cappella* ensemble will celebrate its 40th anniversary with a special program highlighting the inspiring stories of the group's members. Individual works will be announced from the stage.

Tickets range from \$22.00-\$58.00 and are subject to change. They are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at calperformances.org, and at the door.

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Thursday, February 13, at 11:00 a.m.
SCHOOLTIME PERFORMANCE

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

World Stage

Sweet Honey in the Rock
40th Anniversary concert:
Forty and Fierce!

Program:

Sweet Honey in the Rock will appear in a special 11:00 a.m. performance for Bay Area school children. Individual works will be announced from the stage.

Tickets: \$8.00 per student or adult chaperone, available in advance only through Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988. SchoolTime performances are open to students in kindergarten through grade 12 in Bay Area public and private schools. Supplemental study guides for the classroom are provided. For more information about the SchoolTime program, contact the SchoolTime coordinator at Cal Performances by emailing eduprograms@calperfs.berkeley.edu or by phone at (510) 642-0212.

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