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## CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY TO LAUNCH BERKELEY RADICAL *IMMERSION* SEASON-LONG THEMATIC STRAND WITH RESIDENCY BY ESA-PEKKA SALONEN and PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA, LONDON FIVE WORKS by STRAVINSKY October 7–9

2016/17 *IMMERSION* PERFORMANCES ALSO TO FEATURE TAKÁCS QUARTET performing the COMPLETE BEETHOVEN STRING QUARTET CYCLE October 15–16, 2016, and March 4–5, April 8–9, 2017

### SEASON-LONG CELEBRATION OF THE HUMAN VOICE FEATURING 11 CHOIRS, ENSEMBLES, SOLOISTS Beginning October 21

Collaborative UC Berkeley campus and community events: Master Classes, Colloquia, Lecture Demonstrations, Artist Talks, Digital Documentation, and Other Engagement for All Ages to Accompany Presentations

**Berkeley, CA, August 30, 2016** — Cal Performances continues the second season of its Berkeley RADICAL initiative with the launch of the season-long *Immersion* thematic strand, which embraces the idea of deep exploration. Over the course of the 2016/17 season, *Immersion* performances and public programs offer audiences a variety of opportunities for intense engagement with one of the most innovative composers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, **Igor Stravinsky**; the complete string quartet cycle by the most well-known name in classical music, **Beethoven**; and perhaps the most enduring, elastic, and unpredictable musical instrument, **the human voice**.

The 2016/17 *Immersion* events begin October 7–9, 2016, as Cal Performances welcomes back the **Philharmonia Orchestra, London** and its principal conductor and artistic advisor, **Esa-Pekka Salonen**, for a three-concert residency featuring performances of five symphonic works by Stravinsky over two programs. This focused exploration includes the composer's iconic *The Rite of Spring, Symphonies of Wind Instruments,* and *Agon* on October 8; and on October 9, a re-creation of one of the opening concerts at Zellerbach Hall, when Stravinsky was in attendance, in May of 1968—*Symphony of Psalms* and *Oedipus Rex.* Salonen and the orchestra also perform Beethoven's Symphony No. 3, *Eroica,* and Sibelius' Symphony No. 5 on October 7.

One of the most immediately recognizable names in classical music is Beethoven; while his nine symphonies are staples of orchestras world-wide, a focused presentation of the string quartets provides a fresh chance for understanding and relating to his brilliance. The **Takács Quartet** performs the complete cycle in six concerts over the course of Cal Performances' 2016/17 season: October 15–16, 2016; March 4–5; and April 8–9, 2017. As part of the *Immersion* thematic strand, Cal Performances also invites audiences to engage in a celebration of the human voice, with contributions from a culturally, historically, and geographically diverse group of international artists, reflecting a wide range of human experience—from **Basiani**, a respected folk ensemble from Georgia, the **Vienna Boys Choir**, the **Choir of Trinity Wall Street**, and **Capella SF**, to jazz stylist **Anne Hampton Calloway** and Ethiopian master vocalist **Mahmoud Ahmed**, among others.

"Depth, detail, and concentrated focus are often casualties of the digital age, with so much media and information competing for our attention," commented Cal Performances executive and artistic director Matías Tarnopolsky. "Our *Immersion* thematic strand this season revels in the ideas of deep connection. The chance to hear Esa-Pekka Salonen, one of Stravinsky's greatest champions, perform five works over two programs, and the extraordinary Takács Quartet traverse the glorious string quartets of Beethoven during three visits to Cal Performances, are two sublime propositions. Further, to have the opportunity to immerse oneself in the complexities and capabilities of the human voice, as demonstrated by so many diverse artists, invites audiences to listen intensely and engage through a variety of Berkeley RADICAL forums—to tell us something we don't already know about these musical giants." Each Berkeley RADICAL strand of artistic exploration in Cal Performances' 2016/17 season— *Inclusion, Innovation,* and *Immersion*—encourages audiences to re-imagine conventional ideas of the performing arts. Performances are complemented with related academic symposia, public programs, education programs, and community interactions that connect Cal Performances with the singular learning environment of UC Berkeley. Under the banner of Berkeley RADICAL, artists, curators, UC Berkeley faculty, and other noted figures create imaginative, immersive programs that enhance the commissioning, creation, and presentation mission of Cal Performances. One of the initiative's key goals is to increase artistic literacy for the next generation and beyond.

The opening night concert on Friday, October 7 at 8pm, showcases the Philharmonia Orchestra, London, in two grand masterworks: Beethoven's genre-redefining *Eroica* Symphony and Sibelius' majestic, nature-inspired Fifth Symphony. Salonen's most recent *Eroica* performance in Los Angeles, as part of his popular *Beethoven Unbound* series with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, was widely praised for its dynamism and energy—the *Orange County Register* called it a "thrilling and cohesive *Eroica*" and the *Los Angeles Times* wrote, "Beethoven the radical was present in this performance."

Philharmonia's other programs explore the breadth of Stravinsky's orchestral music across decades of his prolific career. On Saturday, October 8 at 8pm, the performance highlights two rarely performed works, both composed or re-orchestrated during the 30 years when Stravinsky lived in Los Angeles. The program includes the 12-tone ballet *Agon* (as well as the Fanfare for Three Trumpets, which was originally composed as the ballet's opening) and Stravinsky's homage to Debussy, *Symphonies of Wind Instruments*. The groundbreaking *The Rite of Spring* concludes the program, representing the composer's formative years collaborating in Paris with Sergei Diaghilev and the legendary Ballets Russes.

The performance on Sunday, October 9 at 3pm, features two of Stravinsky's major works for orchestra and chorus. For the ritualistic opera-oratorio *Oedipus Rex*, the orchestra is joined by the Lund University Men's Chorus, directed by Andreas Lönnqvist, and the San Francisco Conservatory Chorus, directed by Eric Choate, with guest soloists, including celebrated mezzo-soprano Michelle DeYoung, bass-baritone Hadleigh Adams, and tenors Nicholas Phan and Thomas Glenn. The libretto is by Jean Cocteau with sung texts translated into Latin by Abbé Jean Daniélou; as The Speaker, Carl Lumbly will narrate using using e.e. cummings' English-

language translation. The Lund University Men's Chorus, the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Men's Chorus, and the **Young Women's Chorus of San Francisco**, directed by **Susan McMane**, augment the orchestra for the austere *Symphony of Psalms*, which the *Guardian* (London) has described as "one of the most deeply moving and genuinely spiritual pieces Stravinsky ever wrote."

#### About Esa-Pekka Salonen

Esa-Pekka Salonen's career as a conductor and composer has been characterized by a constant spirit of innovation, an attitude toward music-making that has marked him as one of today's most important artists in classical music. He is the principal conductor and artistic advisor of the Philharmonia Orchestra, London, and conductor laureate of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, where he was music director from 1992 until 2009. Salonen is currently serving a three-year position as the Marie-Josée Kravis Composer-in-Residence at the New York Philharmonic. He is also the artistic director and co-founder of the annual Baltic Sea Festival, which invites artists to promote unity and ecological awareness among the countries around the Baltic Sea, and in 2016 was appointed to a five-year term as artist-in-association by The Finnish National Opera and Ballet. Salonen's work as a composer combines intricacy and technical virtuosity with playful rhythmic and melodic innovations. He is a recipient of the Grawemeyer Award, and his works have been performed by major symphonies all over the world.

#### About the Philharmonia Orchestra, London

Widely acknowledged as one of the UK's musical pioneers, the Philharmonia Orchestra, London, is recognized internationally for its quality of playing and for its innovative approach to audience development, residencies, music education, and the use of new technologies in reaching a global audience. The orchestra celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015; performs more than 160 concerts each year in the UK and abroad; and records music for films, video games, and commercial CD releases. The orchestra has enjoyed associations with the major artists of our time, including Furtwängler, Richard Strauss, Toscanini, Cantelli, Karajan, and Giulini. Resident conductors have included Otto Klemperer, Lorin Maazel, Charles Mackerras, Riccardo Muti, Kurt Sanderling, and Giuseppe Sinopoli.

#### **About Cal Performances**

Cal Performances is the performing arts presenter and producer of the University of California, Berkeley, fulfilling its mission by presenting, producing, and commissioning renowned and emerging artists in music, dance, and theater. Cal Performances reaches over 150,000 people annually through concerts as well as campus and community events including talks, symposia, lecture demonstrations, and academic courses based on Cal Performances' season. Under the leadership of Matías Tarnopolsky, the organization launched Berkeley RADICAL (Research and Development Initiative in Creativity Arts and Learning) to cultivate the artistic literacy of future audiences and connect some of the most innovative artists in the world with UC Berkeley. For details about the many public events offered to enhance Cal Performances' 2016/17 season, please visit calperformances.org/public-programs.

#### **Ticket Information**

Tickets for **Esa-Pekka Salonen** and the **Philharmonia Orchestra, London** on Friday–Saturday, October 7–8 at 8pm, and Sunday, October 9 at 3pm in Zellerbach Hall range from \$35–\$150 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 <u>calperformances.org</u>, and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to <u>calperformances.org/discounts</u>.

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# CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE: CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

#### Orchestra Residency

Friday, October 7, 8pm Saturday, October 8, 8pm Sunday, October 9, 3pm Zellerbach Hall Bancroft Way at Dana Street UC Berkeley campus

Berkeley RADICAL Philharmonia Orchestra, London Esa-Pekka Salonen, principal conductor and artistic advisor

Program: Friday, October 7 Beethoven/Symphony No. 3 in E-flat Major, Op. 55, *Eroica* Sibelius/Symphony No. 5 in E-flat Major, Op. 82

<u>Saturday, October 8</u> Stravinsky/Fanfare for Three Trumpets Stravinsky/*Symphonies of Wind Instruments* Stravinsky/*Agon* 

Stravinsky/The Rite of Spring

Sunday, October 9 \* Stravinsky/Symphony of Psalms San Francisco Conservatory Chorus Eric Choate, director Lund University Men's Chorus Andreas Lönngvist, artistic director Young Women's Chorus of San Francisco Susan McMane, director Stravinsky/Oedipus Rex Oedipus-Nicholas Phan, tenor Jocasta-Michelle DeYoung, mezzo-soprano Creon-Hadleigh Adams, bass-baritone Tiresias–Hadleigh Adams Shepherd– Thomas Glenn, tenor Messenger–Hadleigh Adams Narrator/The Speaker– Carl Lumbly San Francisco Conservatory of Music Men's Chorus Ragnar Bohlin, director Lund University Men's Chorus Andreas Lönnqvist, artistic director \* A re-creation of one of the opening concerts at Zellerbach Hall in May, 1968

**Berkeley RADICAL:** These performances are part of Cal Performances' Berkeley RADICAL *Immersion* season-long thematic strand, which explores a single genre or follows the trajectory of an artist's work, allowing new perspectives to emerge. More information at calperformances.org/berkeley-radical-immersion.

**Tickets**: Performance prices range from \$35–\$150 (subject to change).

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