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Press Room

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY CELEBRATES  
STEVE REICH AT 80  
WITH THE US PREMIERE OF *RUNNER*,  
A CAL PERFORMANCES CO-COMMISSION,  
PERFORMED BY ENSEMBLE SIGNAL  
JANUARY 29, 2017**

**Reich will participate in residency events on the UC Berkeley campus**

**Berkeley, January 6, 2017** —Cal Performances celebrates the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of composer **Steve Reich** with the US premiere of his new work, *Runner*, a Cal Performances co-commission, on Sunday, January 29 at 7pm in Hertz Hall. Reich visits Cal Performances with New York's **Ensemble Signal**, which has performed and recorded his works to great acclaim. The program also includes Reich's Pulitzer Prize-winning Double Sextet (2007), and the recent works Quartet (2013) and *Radio Rewrite* (2012). Reich himself will join Ensemble Signal's director and conductor, **Brad Lubman**, for a performance of his seminal 1972 work, *Clapping Music*. The performance and residency events are part of the Cal Performances 2016/17 Berkeley RADICAL *Innovation* thematic strand, which follows a group of artistic trailblazers, some celebrating key milestones, who continually ask us to perceive, think, and understand in new ways.

A pioneer of both minimalism and electronic music, Steve Reich's intricately designed, propulsive compositions have had an immeasurable influence on subsequent generations of composers and musicians. In his substantial body of work, Reich has expanded the vocabulary and materials for concert music, incorporating jazz, world folk music, spoken word, electronics, film, and video. Ensemble Signal has enjoyed a fruitful relationship with the composer in recent years, and won a Diapason d'Or for its recording of his *Music for 18 Musicians* in 2015. Ensemble Signal has been featured in many of Reich's birthday concerts throughout 2016, including performances at the Miller

Theater and the Lincoln Center Festival, where *The New York Times* noted that the group's performances of the composer's music are "defined by a vitality of attack and an attention to color."

*Radio Rewrite* (2012), in five movements, is a lush acoustic work inspired by the harmonic frameworks and melodic themes of two songs by the British electronic rock band, Radiohead. *Quartet* (2013) is scored for one of Reich's favorite ensemble combinations: two pianos and two vibraphones. The challenging 17-minute work is dedicated to the percussionist Colin Currie, and explores a wide expressive range, from relaxed and bittersweet to bright and restless. Of his influential work *Clapping Music* (1972), a canon based on his signature phasing technique and scored for two performers, Reich recently told ClassicFM, "Not every piece I write is perfect, but this one, it's perfect."

*Double Sextet* (2007) pairs two identical sextets, each comprised of flute, clarinet, vibraphone, piano, violin, and cello, to create interlocking patterns between identical instruments. While the piece is sometimes performed with six musicians playing against a recording of themselves, Ensemble Signal will perform the piece all-live with 12 musicians conducted by Brad Lubman. Reich was awarded a 2009 Pulitzer Prize for *Double Sextet*—which was described by the Pulitzer committee as "a major work that displays an ability to channel an initial burst of energy into a large-scale musical event, built with masterful control and consistently intriguing to the ear."

In conjunction with the performances, Reich will participate in a Composer Colloquium in the Department of Music, 125 Morrison Hall, on Friday, January 27 at 3pm. The event is free and open to the public. In addition, a post-performance talk with Reich is planned in Hertz Hall, free to concert ticketholders.

### About Steve Reich

Steve Reich's music has influenced composers and musicians all over the world. *Music for 18 Musicians* and *Different Trains* have earned him two Grammy Awards, and in 2009, his *Double Sextet* won the Pulitzer Prize. In 2012, Reich was awarded the Gold Medal in Music by the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He has additionally received the Praemium Imperiale in Tokyo, the Polar Music Prize in Stockholm, the BBVA Award in Madrid, and recently the Golden Lion at the Venice Biennale. He has been named Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres,

and has been awarded honorary doctorates by the Royal College of Music in London, the Juilliard School, the Liszt Academy in Budapest, and the New England Conservatory of Music, among others.

### **About Ensemble Signal**

Ensemble Signal is a New York-based ensemble that offers audience access to a diverse range of contemporary works through performance, commissioning, recording, and education. Since its debut in 2008, the ensemble has performed more than 100 concerts, has given the New York, world, or US premieres of more than 20 works, and co-produced eight recordings. Ensemble Signal, directed by conductor Brad Lubman, is flexible in size and instrumentation, allowing it to meet the ever-changing demands of the 21<sup>st</sup>-century performing ensemble. The group has performed at Lincoln Center Festival, Walt Disney Concert Hall, BIG EARS Festival, Carnegie Hall's Zankel Hall, the Ojai Music Festival, Miller Theatre, (le) Poisson Rouge, and the Bang on a Can Marathon, and has collaborated with composers including Steve Reich, Helmut Lachenmann, Michael Gordon, David Lang, Julia Wolfe, and Charles Wuorinen.

### **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 more than 150,000 people annually through concerts and 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 the intellectual capital of UC Berkeley. The 2016/17 season is the second season for Berkeley RADICAL, and embraces three strands of artistic exploration: *Inclusion*, *Innovation*, and *Immersion*. More information on Berkeley RADICAL can be found at [calperformances.org/berkeley-radical](http://calperformances.org/berkeley-radical).

### **Ticket Information**

Tickets for *Ensemble Signal* on Sunday, January 29, 2017 at 7pm in Hertz Hall range from \$36-\$126 (prices 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](tel:(510)642-9988), at [calperformances.org](http://calperformances.org), and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to [calperformances.org/discounts](http://calperformances.org/discounts).

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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**  
**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

***Residency: Berkley Radical***

Friday, January 27, 2017 at 3pm  
**Composer Colloquium: Steve Reich**

125 Morrison Hall  
UC Berkeley Department of Music  
Bancroft Way at College Avenue  
UC Berkeley campus

In conjunction with his visit to the UC Berkeley campus for the US premiere of *Runner*, a Cal Performances co-commission, iconic composer Steve Reich will participate in a composer colloquium presented by Cal Performances in conjunction with the UC Berkeley Department of Music. Free and open to the public.

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Sunday, January 29, 2017 at 7pm

Hertz Hall  
Bancroft Way at College Avenue  
UC Berkeley campus

***New Music: Berkeley Radical Innovation***

**Ensemble Signal**  
Brad Lubman, *conductor*

**Program:**

Steve Reich/*Clapping Music* (1972)  
Reich/Quartet (2013)  
Reich/*Runner* (2016) (US Premiere, Cal Performances co-commission)  
Reich/*Radio Rewrite* (2012)  
Reich/Double Sextet (2007)

In celebration of iconic composer Steve Reich's 80th birthday, Cal Performances presents the US premiere of *Runner*, a Cal Performances co-commission, performed by Ensemble Signal, which won rave reviews and a Diapason d'Or for its recording of the composer's *Music for 18 Musicians*. The program also includes Reich's Pulitzer Prize-winning Double Sextet and Reich himself performing his 1972 classic, *Clapping Music*.

**Post-performance talk with Steve Reich**  
Free to ticket holders.

**Berkeley RADICAL:** This performance is part of Cal Performances' Berkeley RADICAL *Innovation* strand, which follows a group of artistic trailblazers, some celebrating key milestones, who continually ask us to perceive, think, and understand in new ways. More information at [calperformances.org/berkeley-radical-innovation](http://calperformances.org/berkeley-radical-innovation).

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