

Cal Performances Presents

Sunday, April 1, 2007, 7pm
Zellerbach Hall

Highland, Heath & Holler



Celtic Music's Voyage to Appalachia

Alasdair Fraser *fiddle*
Martin Hayes *fiddle*
Bruce Molsky *fiddle*
Natalie Haas *cello*
Dennis Cahill *guitar*

Co-presented with Freight & Salvage Coffee House.

Cal Performances' 2006–2007 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

About the Artists

Highland, Heath & Holler

The early Scottish and Irish immigrants who filtered into southern Appalachia brought with them their culture, their stories and their music. Their ballads, jigs, reels and rowdy tunes served as a foundation of what we know as the unique musical heritage of the region.

Highland, Heath & Holler celebrates and documents this remarkable cultural transference with musicians who are steeped in their own traditions and far reaching in their artistic views.

Alasdair Fraser and **Natalie Haas** pair a master Scottish fiddler with a brilliant young cellist for a virtuoso musical partnership of award-winning and dazzling musicianship. Alasdair Fraser has long been regarded as the most important figure in traditional Scottish music as well as a charming and eloquent musical ambassador. His performances are colorful musical explosions of passion, wit and rhythm. Natalie Haas is a Juilliard-trained cellist who began performing with Fraser at the age of 11 at his Valley of the Moon Scottish Fiddling School. Since then, she has gone on to perform and teach internationally, including with Mark O'Connor's Appalachian Waltz Trio. Together Fraser and Haas recorded the CD *Fire and Grace*, which was awarded the 2004 Scots Trad Album of the Year.

Martin Hayes and **Dennis Cahill** have been called the most impressive partnership in Irish instrumental music. Fiddler Martin Hayes has

won the All-Ireland fiddle championship six times and was named Folk Instrumentalist of the Year in 1999 by the BBC Radio Awards. Guitarist Dennis Cahill has developed a unique and innovative accompaniment style and has performed with such performers as Liz Carroll and Eileen Ivers. Together, Hayes and Cahill form a musical bond of uncommon lyricism and rich musicality. The depth and intimacy of their musical partnership makes listeners feel as though they were hearing one musician playing two instruments.

Bruce Molsky is one of the most influential fiddlers of his generation, but he doesn't stop there. He is also a terrific guitarist, banjoist and singer. The *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* calls him "old time music's answer to Ry Cooder...a musician with a voracious appetite for traditional music styles." Musician Darol Anger calls him "the Rembrandt of Appalachian Fiddling." He has performed internationally, including concerts at Lincoln and Kennedy centers and the Smithsonian Folklife Festival. Fiddlers 4—Bruce's band (including Darol Anger, Michael Doucet and Rushad Eggleston)—also tours internationally. His musical collaborators have included Natalie MacMaster, Mike Seeger, Bill Frisell, and both Alasdair Fraser and Martin Hayes. Bruce is also in constant demand as a banjo and fiddle teacher, and holds workshops throughout the United States.

Education & Community Event

Sightlines

Sunday, April 1, 6–6:30pm
Zellerbach Hall

Pre-performance talk by Highland, Heath & Holler artistic director Alasdair Fraser.
This *Sightlines* event is free to all event ticket holders.