

Saturday, March 30, 2013, 8pm
Zellerbach Hall

Afropop Spectacular

with
Oliver Mtukudzi & Fatoumata Diawara



Folklore Productions

OLIVER MTUKUDZI AND THE BLACK SPIRITS

Oliver Mtukudzi	<i>lead vocals, guitar</i>
Tendai Samson Mataure	<i>drums</i>
Enock Piroro	<i>bass, backing vocals</i>
Strovers Maswobe	<i>percussion, backing vocals</i>
Samson Felo	<i>percussion, backing vocals</i>



Youri Lenquette

FATOUMATA DIAWARA

Fatoumata Diawara	<i>lead vocals, guitar</i>
Ekoue Jean-Baptiste Gbadoe	<i>drums</i>
Jean-Alain Hohy	<i>bass</i>
Gregory Emonet	<i>guitar</i>

Tonight's program will be announced from the stage.

Cal Performances' 2012–2013 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.



Tuku Music

Zimbabwean **Oliver Mtukudzi** is a truly great guitarist, vocalist, performer, and composer. He is one of very few people to have a beat named after him: *'tuku!*

Zimbabwe's pride, most successful artist, and national treasure, Mr. Mtukudzi is gifted with a deep and gusty voice and a talent for writing songs that reflect on the daily life and struggles of his people. "Tuku," as he is known, began performing in 1977 and has earned a devoted following across Africa and beyond, all the while incorporating elements of different musical traditions. A member of Zimbabwe's Kore Kore tribe, he sings in that nation's dominant Shona language, as well as Ndebele and English.

Tuku's music is heavily influenced by a humanist *chimurenga* ethos, which, in turn, is inspired by the hypnotic rhythms of the *mbira* (thumb piano). His music also incorporates South Africa *mbaqanga*, the energetic Zimbabwean pop style *jit*, and the traditional *kateke* drumming of his clan. One of Tuku's biggest fans is Bonnie Raitt, who has not only called Tuku "a treasure," and recorded a cover of "Hear Me, Lord" but also credits Tuku as the inspiration for the song "One Belief Away" on her album *Fundamental*.

Tuku (along with Angélique Kidjo, Hugh Masekela, and Ladysmith Black Mambazo) is one of the most successful African recording artists in North America, having sold hundreds of thousands of records on Putumayo, Heads Up/Telarc, and Sheer Sound. Tuku is an alumnus of Acoustic Africa II (2011 edition) and a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador for Eastern and Southern Africa, focusing on Young People's Development and HIV and AIDS Prevention.

The 2012–2013 season marks the return to North America of one of Africa's musical giants. Tuku's most recent album is entitled *Sarawoga*.



Youri Lenquette

Perpetuating Mali's rich musical tradition, **Fatoumata Diawara** presents a joyous mix of the vibrant and the understated, combining songs about love, politics, and empowerment, with arresting melodies soaring over intricate guitar and drum arrangements. Inspired by Wassoulou tradition, jazz, and blues, Ms. Diawara has created her own unique contemporary folk sound, with a distinctly African spin to the concept of the female singer-songwriter.

At the center of the music is Ms. Diawara's warm, affecting voice; spare, rhythmical guitar playing; and gorgeously melodic songs that draw powerfully on her own often troubled experience. Born in Côte d'Ivoire, raised in Mali, and now based in Paris, Ms. Diawara has had a life covering a whole gamut of contemporary African experience: fighting parental opposition to her artistic ambitions and the cultural prejudice faced by women throughout Africa, winning success as an actress in film and theater, before planting both feet in the medium she was always destined to make her own: music.

Damon Albarn, Toumani Diabaté, Herbie Hancock, and Led Zeppelin's John Paul Jones are just a few of the major players who have fallen for Ms. Diawara's effortless musical charm, as her presence has lit up shows in Europe by Africa Express, AfroCubism, and Hancock's *Imagine* project. Yet her debut album *Fatou*, released in North America on Nonesuch Records in 2012, is almost entirely her own work: self-composed and arranged, with her own backing vocals and percussion. It breathes with the natural warmth, confidence, and spontaneity that are the essence of Ms. Diawara herself.