

CONTACT:  
Christina Kellogg 510.643.6714  
ckellogg@calperfs.berkeley.edu  
Joe Yang 510.642.9121  
scyang@calperfs.berkeley.edu

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**KRONOS QUARTET COMES TO CAL PERFORMANCES WITH  
WEST COAST PREMIERES OF AVIYA KOPELMAN'S  
WIDOWS AND LOVERS AND HANNA KULENTY'S A CRADLE SONG  
ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1 AT 7:00 P.M. AT HERTZ HALL**

A *Sightlines* post-performance talk will be given by the artists.

**BERKELEY, December 19, 2008**—The ever-adventurous Grammy-winning **Kronos Quartet** returns to Cal Performances on **Sunday, February 1 at 7:00 p.m.** in **Hertz Hall** with another one of its dynamic and eclectic programs. The Kronos Quartet—**David Harrington** (violin), **John Sherba** (violin), **Hank Dutt** (viola) and **Jeffrey Zeigler** (cello)—pursues a vision combining a spirit of fearless exploration with a commitment to expanding the range and context of the string quartet. This approach along with commissioning cutting-edge works won the ensemble the 2004 Grammy Award for Best Chamber Music Performance and a worldwide following. The Berkeley program features four works—by four different women—written specifically for the Quartet, including two West Coast premieres: **Aviya Kopelman's** *Widows and Lovers*, part of the Kronos: Under 30 Project and co-commissioned by Cal Performances; and **Hanna Kulenty's** String Quartet No. 4 (*A Cradle Song*). **Aleksandra Vrebalov's...hold me, neighbor, in this storm...** and **Kaija Saariaho's** *Nymphéa* complete the program.

A *Sightlines* post-performance talk will be given by the artists. This event is free to ticket holders.

**THE PROGRAM**

The program will open with the West Coast premiere of a piece by the Moscow-born Israeli composer Aviya Kopelman. She was selected as the recipient of the fourth commission offered through the Kronos: Under 30 Project. Her *Widows and Lovers* consists of three parts: “White Widow,” referring to a rare and potent form of marijuana, begins with noisy chatter and includes recorded techno beats juxtaposed with strings; in the second movement, “Lovers,” strings soar over the pulsing sound of a heartbeat; and the final movement, “Black Widow,” intersperses “aggressive, slashing chords with moments of sweetness” (*The New York Times*).

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The Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho is interested in expanding the potential of traditional instruments; she uses electronic instruments and computers to that end. She wrote **Nymphéa** in 1987, and it is performed by the Kronos Quartet using live electronics and whispering words from the writings of Russian poet Arseny Tarkovsky.

The first act concludes with the West Coast premiere of Hanna Kulenty's **String Quartet No. 4 (A Cradle Song)** (2007). It was 1982 when the Warsaw-born Kulenty wrote the first version of the work; her daughter had just been born. Her daughter's tragic death ten years later caused her to re-work the composition. In 2007, the piece was further changed. "In this instrumentation, timing and sound, I wanted to give new energy and to see this song in a new light. To me [the work] again has a different meaning. A positive meaning."

The second half of the program consists of *...hold me, neighbor, in this storm...* by Aleksandra Vrebalov, a Serbian composer living in New York City. She was inspired by the musical blending of diverse cultures in the Balkans, an area steeped in ethnic intolerance. "Recordings of church bells and Islamic calls to prayer were woven into a vibrant tapestry of urgent, sinister passages with insistent rhythms, lyrical interludes, raucous folk melodies and microtonal whispers (*The New York Times*).

## KRONOS QUARTET

Adventure and eclecticism have been at the heart of the **Kronos Quartet's** performances and commissions since the ensemble's inception. David Harrington formed Kronos in 1973, after hearing a performance of George Crumb's *Black Angels*, a work for amplified string quartet and featuring spoken word passages, bowed drinking glasses and electronic effects. Kronos themselves released a recording of *Black Angels* in 1990, a year after their ground-breaking recording of Steve Reich's *Different Trains*, a work written for, and dedicated to, the Kronos Quartet.

Kronos recognizes no boundaries. In addition to bringing exceptional technical and interpretive skills to 20th century masterworks by Bartók, Shostakovich, Debussy and Berg, Kronos has gone on to expand the repertoire for string quartet by performing and recording

works from a wide range of artists, including jazz greats such as Ornette Coleman, Charles Mingus and Thelonious Monk, Icelandic experimental art-rockers Sigur Ros and Azerbaijani composer Franghiz Ali Zadeh. Kronos's collaborations have "widened the world of sound" (*The New Yorker*) with works that evoke "awe, ferocity and terror" (*San Francisco Chronicle*). In all, Kronos has given over 400 premieres, including all three of Górecki's string quartets, which were written for, and dedicated to, Kronos. Their search for the new continues.

One of Kronos' most exciting initiatives is the Kronos: Under 30 Project, a unique commissioning and composer-in-residence program for composers under 30 years old, launched in conjunction with Kronos' own 30th birthday in 2003. By cultivating creative relationships with such emerging talents and a wealth of other artists from around the world, Kronos reaps the benefit of 30 years' wisdom while maintaining a fresh approach to music-making inspired by a new generation of composers and performers.

The ensemble has received ten Grammy Award nominations, a Grammy Award for Best Chamber Music Performance, for their 2003 recording of Alban Berg's *Lyric Suite* with soprano Dawn Upshaw, and The Recording Academy President's Merit Award in honor of their professional achievements.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for **Kronos Quartet** on **Sunday, February 1 at 7:00 p.m. in Hertz Hall** are priced at **\$48.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org); and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$5 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988 or visit the Cal Performances web site at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org).

For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior and community rush tickets. Rush tickets are announced two hours prior to a performance and

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are available in person only at the Ticket Office beginning one hour before the performance; quantities may be limited. Rush ticket sales are limited to one ticket per person; all sales are cash only. Rush ticket prices are \$10 for UCB students; \$15 for UCB faculty and staff (UCB ID required) and seniors age 65 or older; and \$20 for all other community members. Information is available at (510) 642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, two hours prior to a performance only.

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Cal Performances 2008/09 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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**CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Sunday, February 1 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus  
Bancroft Way at College Ave., Berkeley**

*20th Century Music & Beyond*  
*Kronos Quartet*

**Program:**

Kopelman/*Wdows and Lovers* (West Coast premiere)

Saariaho/*Nymphéa*

Kulenty/String Quartet No. 4 (*A Cradle Song*) (West Coast premiere)

Vrebalov/*...hold me, neighbor, in this storm...*

**Tickets:** \$48.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988; at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org); and at the door.

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**Sunday, February 1**  
**SIGHTLINES**

**Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**  
**Bancroft Way at College Ave, Berkeley**

A post-performance talk will be held with the artists. *Sightlines* is a continuing program of pre- and post-performance discussions with Cal Performances' guest artists and scholars, designed to enrich the audience's experience. This event is free to ticket holders.

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