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Cal Performances Announces 2011–2012 Season

**U.S. PREMIERE OF NEW WORK BY PETER SELLARS AND TONI MORRISON;
VALERY GERGIEV AND THE MARIINSKY ORCHESTRA IN THREE-CONCERT
RESIDENCY; PINA BAUSCH'S *DANZÓN*; OJAI NORTH! WITH LEIF OVE ANDSNES;
MARK MORRIS CONDUCTING *DIDO AND AENEAS* WITH STEPHANIE BLYTHE;
AND JOHN MALKOVICH HIGHLIGHT THE SEASON**

More than 25 artists and companies make first appearances,
including countertenor **Philippe Jaroussky**; soprano **Sandrine Piau**; bass-baritone **Eric Owens**;
the **Trey McIntyre Project**; **Roz Chast**; **Abraham, Inc.**; *fado* singer **Ana Moura**;
Tomáš Kubínek; and conductors **Marin Alsop** and **Nicola Luisotti**

Season features **Ten Great Pianists**, including **Lang Lang**, **Herbie Hancock**, **Keith Jarrett**,
Kirill Gerstein, **András Schiff**, **Yefim Bronfman**, **Peter Serkin**, **Alfredo Rodriguez** and
Jonathan Biss exploring diverse keyboard literature; and the **Gate Theatre of Dublin**, **Kronos
Quartet** celebrating **Steve Reich**, **Takács Quartet**, **Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance
Company**, **Davitt Moroney**, **Sweet Honey in the Rock** and **David Rakoff** return

***2011–2012 Season Begins September 25 with Second “Fall Free for All”
and New “First Stage for Families” Is Launched***

BERKELEY, CA — For more than a century, Cal Performances has excelled at building
creative relationships with the world's finest performing artists by presenting them in Berkeley
in adventurous and compelling performances, residencies and education programs. This
tradition continues in the 2011–2012 season as director **Matías Tarnopolsky** has invited both
emerging talents and established distinguished performers, and deepened collaborations with top
institutions and groups to assemble a performing arts presenting/producing series of great
ambition and scope. Such artists as **Philippe Jaroussky**, **Trey McIntyre**, **Marin Alsop** and the
Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and **John Malkovich** make their first appearances on Cal
Performances' stages, and long-time collaborators, including **Mark Morris**, **Philharmonia
Baroque Orchestra**, **Kronos Quartet**, **Davitt Moroney**, **Bill T. Jones** and the **Gate Theatre of
Dublin** with actor **Barry McGovern**, return. The visionary director **Peter Sellars** brings the
U.S. premiere of *the Desdemona project*: A collaboration with Nobel Prize-winning writer **Toni
Morrison** and Malian singer/composer **Rokia Traoré**, the work explores issues of gender, race,

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love and destiny as Desdemona and her maid Barbary reach beyond *Othello*. The 2011 orchestra residency, launched in the 2010–2011 season with the Vienna Philharmonic, features legendary Russian conductor **Valery Gergiev** and the great **Mariinsky Orchestra** of St. Petersburg in a three-performance cycle of the six Tchaikovsky symphonies.

Deeply committed to making the arts as accessible as possible, Cal Performances opens the season with a full day of free performances in the second **Fall Free for All**. More than 13,000 people attended **Fall Free for All** in 2010, its inaugural year. For families, this season also introduces a new series, **First Stage for Families**, designed to introduce young people and their adults to an array of performing arts; and Cal Performances continues the popular Family Fare series on the main stage, as well as its *SchoolTime*, Cal Performances in the Classroom and AileyCamp programs that reach some 20,000 young people each year.

“The performing arts are alive at Cal Performances. Not only exciting, but also relevant and contemporary,” comments **Matías Tarnopolsky**. “Artists encourage us to think about the world we live in—whether through an exploration of the symphonies of Tchaikovsky with Gergiev, history through music and literature with Peter Sellars, or a better understanding of contemporary African culture through the musical offerings of Seun Kuti and Egypt 80. We strive to make the arts an essential part of our audiences’ lives through innovative, world-class performances, significant residencies that transport us deeper into the arts and education programs designed to instill a lifelong love of culture in our community’s young people.”

Cal Performances has maintained long and rich relationships with many celebrated artists, but no more so than with choreographer **Mark Morris**, famed as much for his musical insights as for his choreography. Morris will make his Bay Area debut as a conductor with the **Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra** when the season opens with his production of *Dido and Aeneas*, starring leading mezzo-soprano **Stephanie Blythe** in the roles of Dido and the Sorceress.

Keyboard literature and the piano will be celebrated with a widely varied group of the finest pianists from the worlds of classical music and jazz: **Lang Lang**, **Keith Jarrett**, **Jean-**

Yves Thibaudet, Andrés Schiff, Yefim Bronfman, Herbie Hancock, Murray Perahia, Richard Goode and Wu Han join Cal Performances debuting artists **Leif Ove Andsnes, Alfredo Rodriguez, Kirill Gerstein and Anna Polonsky**. Pre-concert talks and other educational events are being planned to expand patrons' experiences of these musicians and concerts.

Other Education and Community Program highlights include performances and residency programs with pianist **Lang Lang**; Sellars's *the Desdemona project*; **Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company**; and concurrent community programs in collaboration with **Marin Alsop and the Baltimore Symphony**'s performances of Richard Einhorn's *Voices of Light* (featuring Dreyer's 1928 silent film masterpiece *The Passion of Joan of Arc*), their concert of works by Copland, Tower, Higdon and Prokofiev, and a special *SchoolTime* program.

FALL FREE FOR ALL

Cal Performances again launches its season by opening its doors to the community with the second **Fall Free for All**, a full day of free performances showcasing dozens of musical, theatrical and dance groups. Last September, a diverse audience of all ages and interests came to the UC Berkeley campus to experience the kind of artistry, collaborations and education programs that are available at Cal Performances throughout the year. On Sunday, September 25, the roster of artists, both international and local, plus student and faculty performers from the UC Berkeley Departments of Music, Theater, Dance and Performance Studies and Student Musical Activities, will be even broader than last year's, with more performances on more stages. **American Bach Soloists, AXIS Dance, Wayne Wallace Quintet, Los Cenzontles Mexican Dance and Music, CK Ladzekpo and the African Music and Dance Ensemble, SF Opera Adler Fellows and Berkeley Symphony Orchestra** are just a few of the artists slated to appear.

CAL PERFORMANCES 2011–2012 SEASON BY SERIES

SPECIAL EVENTS

The **Special Events Series** for the 2011–2012 season begin with award-winning stage and screen actor **John Malkovich** in *The Infernal Comedy: Confessions of a Serial Killer*, an astonishing multidisciplinary performance that combines theater, opera and the music of Beethoven, Haydn and Mozart. *The Infernal Comedy* recounts the story of Austria’s Jack Unterweger, a convicted murderer who becomes a literary celebrity only to murder many times again after being paroled. The performance features the Baroque ensemble **Musica Angelica** conducted by Martin Haselböck (Oct. 21). A classical music superstar hailed the “hottest artist on the classical music planet” by *The New York Times*, **Lang Lang** offers audiences a dimension of his artistry with an exploration of the Classical and Romantic repertoire with Bach’s Partita No.1 in B-flat major, Schubert’s Sonata in B-flat major, D. 960, and Chopin’s 12 Etudes, Op. 25 (Nov. 2). Also included as a 2011–2012 season Special Event is **Marin Alsop and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra**’s performance of Richard Einhorn’s *Voices of Light*, performed as the accompaniment of the 1928 silent film classic *The Passion of Joan of Arc* and featuring the **UC Choral Ensemble** under the direction of **Mark Sumner** (Mar. 31). Each of these three Special Events will be performed one night only.

FIRST STAGE FOR FAMILIES

Having identified a need to expand performing arts offerings for young people, this season Cal Performances launches **First Stage for Families**. Conceived as an introduction to a wide range of genres, First Stage for Families invites children and their grownups to experience the performing arts in one-hour, intimate productions at Wheeler Hall. The season begins with the **Cashore Marionettes**, a company that has redefined the art of puppetry, in a program titled *Simple Gifts*—a sequence of affecting scenes from everyday life set to music by Vivaldi, Strauss, Beethoven and Copland (Oct. 23). Four-time Grammy Award-winner **David Holt** has been collecting tales about the Southern Mountains for over 30 years. He makes his Cal Performances debut with *Songs and Stories of Appalachia*, accompanying himself on ten acoustic instruments (Feb. 12). San Francisco’s **Word for Word Performing Arts Company**, which turns works of fiction into theater without changing a word, played to a standing-room-only crowd at last year’s Fall Free for All. The troupe returns with *Stories from Sonoma Mountain* by Greg Sarris, a new

production that draws on folk tales from the First Peoples and the landscape of Northern California (May 6). First Stage for Families will feature each artist or company in two Sunday performances, at 11:00 a.m. and at 3:00 p.m. in Wheeler Hall. Tickets are affordably priced for families at \$12.00 for children, \$24.00 for adults.

DANCE

Five influential leaders in modern dance anchor the 2011–2012 **Dance Series**. With a focus on contemporary dance, we begin with the **Mark Morris Dance Group** in *Dido and Aeneas*, the first opera by English Baroque composer Henry Purcell. Morris makes his Bay Area conducting debut leading **Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra**, his long-time musical partner, and mezzo-soprano **Stephanie Blythe** in the roles of Dido and the Sorceress and baritone **Philip Cutlip** as Aeneas in “a staging excellent as dance and phenomenal as dramatic poetry” (*New York Times*) (Sept. 16–18).

The **Trey McIntyre Project** (TMP), one of America’s hottest and newest contemporary dance companies, makes its Cal Performances debut. The company’s “trademark freewheeling energy and musicality marries polished balletic lines to a speedy intensity [that is] relevant to modern life,” proclaims the *San Francisco Chronicle*. TMP will perform three of McIntyre’s most recent works: *In Dreams* (2007) set to the music of Roy Orbison; *Oh, Inverted World* (2010), which will receive its first Bay Area performance by TMP; and a new work set to premiere this summer (Feb. 18).

Pina Bausch famously said: “I’m not interested in how people move; I’m interested in what makes them move.” Crowned “the undisputed Queen of European dance theater” (*London Times*), her **Tanztheater Wuppertal** returns to Cal Performances for the first time since the 2009 death of its founder. With them comes Bausch’s Cuban music-inspired *Danzón* (1995), never before seen on the West Coast. Accompanied by a musical montage comprising Mahler, Cilea, Giordano, Purcell, Saint-Saëns, Ben Webster, Billie Holiday and pop and traditional music from around the world, *Danzón* is a flight through the ages of man, “an essential moment in the history of gesture in the 20th century” (*L’Humanité*) (Dec. 2–3).

Recent Kennedy Center Honors Awardee **Bill T. Jones** returns to Berkeley with his groundbreaking troupe, the **Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company**, and a new work, *Story/Time* (Feb. 24–25). Currently in development, this multidisciplinary work will incorporate an original score with film and other media, short stories from Jones’s own life and his ever-inventive choreography. In combining technology and dance, Jones attempts to connect his “inner world, the stories, the ideals that move me, with an external world, [my dancers] and the audience and...the social network,” he said recently in the *Christian Science Monitor*. In the first season under the direction of **Robert Battle**, **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** returns for its annual weeklong residency, which includes Ailey classics such as *Revelations* and new works by leading choreographers (Mar. 13–18).

THEATER

Peter Sellars has consistently created stunningly original productions to Cal Performances’ audiences, including *I Was Looking at the Ceiling and Then I Saw the Sky* (1995), *Peony Pavilion* (1999) and *Kafka Fragments* (2008). Now added to that list is the U.S. premiere of a new work co-commissioned by Cal Performances, *the Desdemona project*, inspired by Shakespeare’s *Othello*, written by Noble Prize-winner **Toni Morrison** and starring Malian singer/songwriter **Rokia Traoré** as Barbary, Desdemona’s African maid. The work draws back the veil on Desdemona and Barbary’s relationship, as Desdemona reflects on the tales Barbary shares from her homeland. What were those stories that set the stage for the tragic events that follow? *the Desdemona project* illuminates these touching, personal imagined conversations between Desdemona and Barbary from beyond the grave (Oct. 26–29).

Ireland’s acclaimed **Gate Theatre of Dublin** returns with a double bill from the postmodernist genius of playwright **Samuel Beckett** and starring the distinguished Irish actor **Barry McGovern**. The company will perform *Endgame*, directed by **Alan Stanford**, and an hour-long distillation of Beckett’s novel *Watt*, adapted by McGovern and directed by **Tom Creed**. “McGovern’s expressive reading of this strange narrative is compulsive from first to last, the actor wringing humour from a tale that reads like an allegory of life” says Dublin’s *Metro Herald* of *Watt*. McGovern—who performs in both *Endgame* and *Watt*—has burnished his reputation throughout the world as one of the great Beckett interpreters, and notably in the

Bay Area from the 2000 and 2006 performances as Didi in the Gate’s “crystalline production” (*San Francisco Chronicle*) of *Waiting for Godot*. *Endgame* and *Watt* will be performed together on opening night, then rotate in separate performances through the engagement (Nov. 17–20).

RECITAL

The **Recital Series** showcases the piano with a dozen of the finest pianists gathered on one season. **Kirill Gerstein**, who makes his Cal Performances debut, studied classical repertoire as a child and then, as a young teen, attended Berklee College to concentrate on jazz. He ultimately returned to classical music, a decision applauded by audiences and critics alike many times over, most recently when he received the Gilmore Artist Award in 2010, given only once every four years to a pianist of “broad and profound musicianship” (Feb. 12). **Jonathan Biss**, another “A-list” rising star, will return to Berkeley in a program combining a new work by David Ludwig with three Beethoven sonatas—No. 5 in C minor, Op. 10, No. 1; No. 14 in C-sharp minor, Op. 27, No. 2, “Moonlight”; and No. 26 in E-flat major, Op. 81a, “*Les Adieux*”—and Janáček’s *In the Mists* (Apr. 1). And Cal Performances welcomes the inspired leadership of pianist **Leif Ove Andsnes**, music director of the 2012 Ojai North! festival (see page 9), for the first time on campus in June 2012.

Another five major pianists, well known to Bay Area audiences, return to Cal Performances during this year of focus on the instrument: **Yefim Bronfman** (Oct. 11), **András Schiff** (Feb. 29), **Murray Perahia** (Mar. 11) and **Richard Goode** (Mar. 25). **Peter Serkin** concludes the Recital series with Schoenberg’s *Suite*, Op. 25, Wolpe’s *Toccata*, Takemitsu’s *For Away* and concludes with one of the definitive compositions for the piano, Beethoven’s *Diabelli Variations*, Op. 120 (May 8). (More on jazz pianists **Keith Jarrett**, **Herbie Hancock** and **Alfredo Rodriguez** on page 11.)

Two vocalists new to Cal Performances will grace Hertz Hall: the superb French soprano **Sandrine Piau** will sing selections from her new CD *Après un Rêve*, a collection of 19th- and 20th-century French, German and English songs soon to be released in the United States (Apr. 29); and the commanding bass-baritone **Eric Owens**, who made a sensational role debut as Alberich in the Met’s recent new staging of *Das Rheingold* and known in the Bay Area for his

portrayal of General Groves in John Adams's *Doctor Atomic* (Nov. 20). Baritone **Wolfgang Holzmaier**, an artist with a gift for communicating the poetry of *lieder*, sings Schubert's beloved song cycle *Winterreise*, set to the poetry of Wilhelm Müller (Mar. 4). The world-renowned mezzo-soprano and Merola Opera Program graduate **Susan Graham**, "an eloquent interpreter of a large repertory, from German Classicism to contemporary American music" (*New York Times*), returns to Berkeley with pianist Malcolm Martineau in the New Year (Jan. 14).

ORCHESTRA

The abundant 2010–2011 **Orchestra Series** at Cal Performances opens with maestro **Valery Gergiev**, a major interpreter of Russian masterpieces, leading the **Mariinsky Orchestra** in a three-concert exploration of all six Tchaikovsky symphonies (Oct. 14–16). Two weeks later, there will be a rare chance to hear **Nicola Luisotti** in concert performances conducting the **San Francisco Opera Orchestra** on stage, as Cal Performances deepens its collaboration with this great institution. Maestro Luisotti will conduct Beethoven's Symphonies Nos. 5 and 7 (Oct. 28) and a program featuring Prokofiev's "Classical" Symphony, a Boccherini cello concerto with **Amit Peled** and Cherubini's Symphony in D major (June 3). Maestro **Charles Dutoit** and the **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra** will offer Brahms's Symphony No. 1 and Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 2 with pianist **Jean-Yves Thibaudet**, who gave a masterful all-Liszt concert at Zellerbach Hall in January 2011 (Jan. 28). The **Baltimore Symphony Orchestra** and conductor **Marin Alsop** will give three concerts in March (see Special Events on page 5). In addition to *Voices of Light* (Mar. 31), the orchestra's Berkeley visit includes a program featuring Jennifer Higdon's Grammy Award- and Pulitzer Prize-winning *Percussion Concerto* with **Colin Currie**, Aaron Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man*, Joan Tower's *Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman* and Prokofiev's Symphony No. 5 (Mar. 30), as well as a one-hour *SchoolTime* performance featuring Philip Glass's *Life: A Journey Through Time* (Mar. 30, 11:00 a.m.).

The **San Francisco Symphony** (SFS), which performed regularly in Berkeley from its first appearances at the Hearst Greek Theater in 1912 to the opening of Davies Symphony Hall in 1980, returns to Zellerbach Hall in honor of the Symphony's Centennial Season. Berkeley music lovers salute the SFS in this important birthday season in a concert of Baroque masterworks led

by **Jane Glover** featuring Handel's *Water Music* and *Music for the Royal Fireworks* and Bach's *Brandenburg Concertos* Nos. 2, 3 and 6 (May 1).

CHAMBER MUSIC

Ojai North!, Cal Performances' new partnership with the Ojai Music Festival, returns for a second season with a program featuring co-productions and multiple concerts. The 2012 Ojai Festival music director, Norwegian pianist **Leif Ove Andsnes**, will create innovative programs in concert with the **Norwegian Chamber Orchestra** (June 12–14). In an unprecedented three-concert appearance, the **Takács Quartet** returns to Berkeley in concerts featuring Dvořák, Haydn, Britten, Debussy and Janáček (Nov. 6, Dec. 4 & Feb. 19). “America's power couple of chamber music” (*Wall Street Journal*), cellist **David Finckel** and pianist **Wu Han**, return with *Schubert Through Brahms: The Romantic Legacy*, tracing the beginnings of the Romantic cello sonata from its birth to its full flowering (Mar. 24). For 47 years, the **Musicians from Marlboro** have created exciting chamber music that pairs seasoned musicians at the height of their talents with talented emerging artists. **Peter Wiley**, cellist of the Guarneri String Quartet, and the gifted young Russian pianist **Anna Polonsky** join two additional musicians in a program featuring Mendelssohn's String Quartet in A minor, Op. 13, Shostakovich's Piano Quintet in G minor, Op. 57, and a Haydn piano trio, to be announced. This event is the second annual Robert W. Cole Emerging Artist Concert (Apr. 22).

EARLY MUSIC

The much anticipated first hearing of the “exceptionally pure voice” (*New York Times*) of French countertenor **Philippe Jaroussky** begins the **Early Music Series**. Jaroussky will sing Handel arias from *Oreste and Ariodante* and Vivaldi arias from *Orlando*, *Finto Pazzo*, *Cantone in Utic*, *Giustino* and *Orlando Furioso* with American Baroque ensemble **Apollo's Fire** led by director and harpsichordist **Jeannette Sorell**, which will also perform Vivaldi's Concerto in B minor for Four Violins and *La Folia* (“Madness”) (Oct. 30). Award-winning conductor, organist and harpsichordist **Ton Koopman** is a Bach specialist with hundreds of acclaimed recordings in his discography. The **Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra**, founded by Koopman in 1979, and its **Choir** come to Berkeley for the first time to perform Bach's monumental Mass in B minor (Mar. 10). Conductor, harpsichordist and UC Berkeley Professor of Music **Davitt Moroney** gives two

concerts on the 2011–2012 series: an encore performance of Alessandro Striggio's *Missa sopra Ecco sì beato giorno in 40 and 60 parts*, the largest known contrapuntal choral work in Western music and the musical *tour de force* of the 2008 Berkeley Festival & Exhibition, will be paired with works by Cavazzoni and Rossetto and other composers, featuring His Majestys Sagbutts and Cornetts (Feb. 3 & 4); Moroney will also perform the complete set of Bach's French Suites, BWV 812–817 (Nov. 13). Three renowned musical groups, all particular favorites of Cal Performances' audiences, return in new programs: **Europa Galante** and conductor **Fabio Biondi** in a program titled *New Faces and Old* featuring concertos, symphonies and a suite from the best known to newly discovered composers, including Brioschi, Scaccia, Haydn, Bach and Handel (Jan. 27); the internationally acclaimed **Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra**, endeared in Berkeley for its performances with the Mark Morris Dance Group, brings Handel's *Messiah* conducted by **Nicholas McGegan** to Zellerbach Hall (Dec. 10); and the Early Music series concludes with a concert by **Quatuor Mosaïques**, Austria's peerless period instrument quartet whose style London's *Daily Telegraph* has affirmed: "Playing does not come any more eloquent or richly imagined than this" (Apr. 13).

Early Music has long been fundamental to Cal Performances' programming, so much so that in 1990 the Berkeley Festival & Exhibition of Early Music, held biennially in early June, was created. Since then, the Berkeley Festival & Exhibition has been regarded as one of the premiere events of its kind, as early music societies, performers, scholars, instrument makers, publishers and enthusiasts gather in Berkeley for a week of concerts, lectures, master classes and more. Programmatic details for the 2012 Berkeley Festival & Exhibition, co-sponsored by the San Francisco Early Music Society and Early Music America, will be announced at a later date.

NEW MUSIC

The **Kronos Quartet** anchors the **New Music Series** with two distinctive programs in the 2011–2012 season. In salute to the legendary composer's 75th birthday year, Kronos brings an all-**Steve Reich** program, including the Bay Area premiere of *WTC 9/11*, which incorporates voices and sounds from the tragic events at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Also on the concert will be *Triple Quartet* (1998), selections from *The Cave* (1993/2003) and *Different Trains* (1988), three compositions that feature Kronos performing live alongside

recorded sounds and voices. (Oct. 9). On Feb. 5, Kronos Quartet pairs up with Azerbaijan’s celebrated singer **Alim Quasimov**—“one of the most thrilling, unashamedly emotional performers on the planet” (*The Guardian*, UK)—and his ensemble. The artists will perform five works drawn from the repertoire of Azerbaijani *ashiqs*—oral-tradition singer-songwriters—melding different musical styles, traditions and instrumentation.

New music can also be found throughout the season: **Bill T. Jones**’s *Story/Time* incorporates an original composition (page 6); **Ojai North!** will feature one or more new works (page 9); **Kirill Gerstein** performs a new composition, part of his prize for winning the Gilmore Artist Award (page 7); David Ludwig is composing a new work for **Jonathan Biss** (page 7); and the first concert of the **Baltimore Symphony Orchestra** includes Jennifer Higdon’s 2010 Grammy and Pulitzer Prize-winning *Percussion Concerto* (page 8).

JAZZ

Continuing Cal Performances celebration of the piano in 2011–2012, the **Jazz Series** highlights performances from three greats of the piano. Of the three, Cuban-born **Alfredo Rodriguez** is the newcomer to Berkeley. His “elegant yet explosive technique and command of an array of musical idioms” (*Los Angeles Times*) will be on display (Jan. 29). **Keith Jarrett**, considered one of the most creative keyboard geniuses, performs with **Gary Peacock** and **Jack DeJohnette**—a trio that has played together for more than 30 years (Oct. 29). **Herbie Hancock**, a major influence in acoustic, electronic jazz and R&B with a dozen Grammy Awards to show for it, returns for another riveting performance (Sept. 21). The **New Orleans Jazz Orchestra**, founded by trumpeter, composer and bandleader **Irvin Mayfield**, has emerged as one of the “leading voices of the Crescent City’s modern jazz tradition” (*Detroit Free Press*). Mayfield bring his band to Cal Performances for the first time (Mar. 3). Closing the series is the one and only **Dianne Reeves**, a dazzling vocalist by any measure who has won three consecutive Grammys for Best Jazz Vocal Performance—a Grammy first. With her three-octave range and distinctive phrasing, she is the pre-eminent jazz vocalist in the world (May 4).

WORLD STAGE

Cal Performances' **World Stage** is among the largest and most diverse world music, dance and theater series in the United States. The 2011–2012 roster features five artists new to Berkeley (for additional international artists see Fall Free for All on page 3), beginning with Czechoslovakian-born **Tomáš Kubínek**, a “hilarious and enormously talented” (*Time Out*, London) Certified Lunatic and Master of the Impossible, whose unique brand of physical comedy is simultaneously virtuosic vaudevillian derring-do and irrepressible charm (Nov. 25–27), a Thanksgiving fête for the whole family; the expressive and moving Portuguese *fado* singer **Ana Moura**, already a star in Europe at age 25 (Feb. 18); Nigerian singer **Seun Kuti**, who leads his father Fela Kuti's legendary band **Egypt 80** (Apr. 19); Ireland's award-winning **Danú** from County Waterford, performing traditional music on the flute, tin whistle, fiddle, button accordion and *bouzouki* and featuring both Irish- and English-language songs (Mar. 8); and **Abraham, Inc.**, a ten-member ensemble serving a spirited mash-up of klezmer, funk and hip-hop, with clarinetist **David Krakauer**, trombonist and arranger **Fred Wesley** and beat maker **Socalled** (Nov. 13).

Cal Performances also welcomes six acclaimed artists and companies from around the globe, all of whom have thrilled Zellerbach Hall audiences in past seasons. The list includes the gold standard of *a cappella* ensembles, the Grammy Award-winning all-woman **Sweet Honey in the Rock**, whose performances capture the essence of the African-American vocal legacy and brings activist songwriting forward for the next generation (May 6); the classically trained *tabla* artist **Zakir Hussain**, who performs with five **Masters of Percussion** along with the **Meitei Pung Cholom Performing Troupe**—the dancing drummers from Manipur—in an evening of classical *ragas*, drumming and dance, fully displaying the breadth of Indian music (Mar. 24); from Brazil, the **Assad Brothers**, Sergio and Odair, who the *Washington Post* called “the best two-guitar team in existence, maybe even in history” (Feb. 17); **Sophie Cheam Shapiro**, who returns with classical Cambodian dance and music when her **Khmer Arts Ensemble** performs *The Lives of Giants*, a new work featuring 36 dancers, instrumentalists, singers and an ogre (Oct. 22); Spain's **Jose Porcél**, hailed “a musical savant, a charismatic personality and a master improviser” (*Voice of Dance*), and his **Compañía Flamenca** bring to life the purest and oldest elements of flamenco from Andalusia with Porcel's newest production, *Gypsy Fire* (Nov. 19);

and the **Peking Acrobats** start off the New Year by once again topping themselves, when gymnasts, jugglers, cyclists, tumblers and musicians from China burst onto the stage in a colorful, awe-inspiring display of this 2000-year-old art form ([Jan. 21–23](#)).

STRICTLY SPEAKING

Three eagle-eyed observers of the idiosyncrasies of American life will unveil their findings to Cal Performances audiences in the 2011–2012 **Strictly Speaking Series**. At Cal Performances for the first time is *New Yorker* cartoonist **Roz Chast**, who editor David Remnick describes as the only “certified genius at the magazine.” Her *Evening of Images and Conversation* (subtitled *Theories of Everything*) includes an illustrated tour of the evolution of her drawing style, an audience Q&A and a book signing ([Nov. 19](#)). A regular contributor to public radio’s *This American Life* and the author of *New York Times* bestsellers *Fraud* and *Don’t Get Too Comfortable*, **David Rakoff** contributes his witty and heartfelt—and often skeptical—outlook on life. His new book is aptly titled *Half Empty* and examines from his unique perspective the power of negative thinking ([Oct. 22](#)). The quintessential American humorist **Garrison Keillor** is best known for his hugely popular radio program *A Prairie Home Companion*. (He will be sorely missed when he retires from the program in spring 2013.) For one performance only, Keillor fans can glory in this inspired storyteller’s yarns of Midwestern life, late-life fatherhood and the contradictions and vagaries of human endeavor ([Mar. 7](#)).

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Each season, Cal Performances offers an array of community and education programs—on the UC Berkeley campus, and beyond—to enrich audiences’ experiences, including pre- and post-performance talks, master classes, lecture/demonstrations, performances for schoolchildren, professional development workshops for teachers, academic conferences and special sessions for UC Berkeley students. **Education and Community Programs** associated with the Mariinsky and Baltimore Symphony orchestras, *the Desdemona project*, Ojai North! and more, are being planned; further information will be available on our website. Three ongoing series are scheduled: **Key Notes**, **Lobby Talks** and **Sightlines** events.

Curated in collaboration with the UC Berkeley Department of Music, **Key Notes** is an annual series of talks about music. For the 2011–2012 season, the series will focus on the Music for Symphony Orchestra and three specific concerts: the Tchaikovsky symphonies offered by the **Mariinsky Orchestra** (Oct. 14); the **San Francisco Opera Orchestra's** Beethoven program (Oct. 28); and the **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's** program of Kodály, Liszt and Brahms (Jan. 28). The talks will include artist interviews, lively conversation and inspiring commentary. These talks, which take place in Zellerbach Hall lobby mezzanine, are free and open to the public; tickets must be purchased for the associated concerts.

Lobby Talks is a series of events prior to selected dance, music and theater events for a stimulating, hour-long preview of the performances onstage. Except where noted, Lobby Talks are held in Zellerbach Hall Lobby mezzanine; food and beverages may be purchased from the café. In 2011–2012, Lobby Talks are scheduled from 5–6:00 p.m. prior to the performances by **Herbie Hancock** (Sept. 21), **Trey McIntyre Project** (Nov. 18), **Davitt Moroney** (Feb. 3) and **Seun Kuti & Egypt 80** (Apr. 19). Talks are free and open to the public; tickets must be purchased for the associated concerts.

Cal Performances **Sightlines** talks are delivered by prominent artists and UC Berkeley resident or visiting scholars. **Sightlines** pre- and post-performance events are free to ticketholders for the designated performances and include the following 2011–2012 season events (additional talks are scheduled throughout the year):

- Mariinsky Orchestra pre-performance talk by UC Berkeley musicologist Emily Frey on Sat., Oct. 15, 7–7:30 pm
- *the Desdemona project* pre-performance talks with director Peter Sellars on Fri., Oct. 28, and Sat., Oct. 29, 7–7:30 pm
- Takács Quartet pre-performance talk by Prof. Nicholas Mathew, UC Berkeley Department of Music on Sun., Nov. 6 & Dec. 4, 2–2:30 pm
- Europa Galante pre-performance talk by Prof. Kate van Orden, UC Berkeley Department of Music on Sat., Jan. 27, 7–7:30 pm
- Takács Quartet pre-performance talk by Scott Foglesong, Chair, Department of Musicianship and Music Theory, San Francisco Conservatory of Music on Sun., Feb. 19, 2–2:30 pm
- Ton Koopman and the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra & Choir pre-performance talk by Prof. Jeffrey Thomas, UC Davis Department of Music and Artistic Director of American Bach Soloists, on Sat., Mar. 10, 7–7:30 pm
- Baltimore Symphony Orchestra pre-performance talk with conductor Marin Alsop, hosted by Cal Performances Director Matías Tarnopolsky on Sat., Mar. 31, 7–7:30 pm

- Jonathan Biss, piano, pre-performance talk by UC Berkeley musicologist Rachana Vajjhala on Sun., Apr. 1, 2–2:30 pm
- Peter Serkin, piano, pre-performance talk by UC Berkeley musicologist Rachana Vajjhala on Sun., May 13, 2–2:30 pm
- Quatuor Mosaïques pre-performance talk by Victor Gavenda on Fri., Apr. 13, 7–7:30 pm

TICKETS AND OTHER INFORMATION

Subscriptions go on sale for the 2011–2012 season at 11:30 a.m. on **April 26, 2011**, and can be purchased by series in discount packages ranging from \$35.00 to \$325.00. Making arts and culture accessible to the broadest possible audience is a cornerstone of Cal Performances' mission. To that end, there are a number of ways to purchase discounted tickets. Series subscribers save up to 15% off single ticket prices, and a 10% discount on additional single tickets purchased throughout the season. Patrons may also select Choose-Your-Own subscription packages of six or more events on a single order, receiving 10% off single ticket prices. The **Family Fare** series offers 50% off single ticket prices for children 16 and younger. Family Fare events for the 2011–2012 season are the **Khmer Arts Ensemble's *The Lives of Giants*** (Sun., Oct. 2, at 3:00 p.m.); **Tomáš Kubínek** (Sat., Nov. 26, at 2:00 p.m.); and the **Peking Acrobats** (Sun., Jan. 22, at 3:00 p.m.). Subscription orders may be placed online at calperformances.org, mailed, faxed to Cal Performances' Ticket Office at 510.643.2359, or phoned in to 510.642.9988. Single tickets go on sale to **E-mail Club** members on **July 31** and to the general public on **August 7** and range from \$20.00 to \$150.00. UCB students receive a 50% discount on single tickets. Cal Alumni Association members, UCB faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$5.00 discount (Special Events excluded). Discounts are also available for groups of ten or more (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at 510.642.9988, e-mail a brochure request to tickets@calperfs.berkeley.edu or visit the web site at calperformances.org.

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Web link to 2011/12 season photos:

http://www.calperformances.org/season_announcement_1112

Web link to 2011/12 online brochure:

<http://www.calperformances.org/brochure>