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HANDEL AND HAYDN SOCIETY
PERFORM *THE FOUR SEASONS, JEPHTHA, AND MORE*
FRIDAY, APRIL 26 AND SATURDAY, APRIL 27

Sightlines: Pre-concert talks with the artists will occur on April 26, 7-7:30. This event is free to ticket holders.

BERKELEY, March 20, 2013—The Handel and Haydn Society (H&H), America's oldest continuously performing arts organization, comes to Cal Performances for two nights of early classical music. On Friday, April 26 at 8:00 p.m., the Society performs a mixed bill of Baroque works, including Vivaldi's ever-popular *The Four Seasons*. The following night, at 7:00 p.m., the Society performs Handel's 1751 oratorio *Jephtha*. H&H premiered this work in the US in 1855 and, as the first stop on their West Coast tour, Cal Performances' audiences will be the first to hear H&H perform this piece since 1867.

The Handel and Haydn Society was founded in 1814 in Boston by a group of merchants who wanted to improve the quality of music in the city. Originally a chorus, the modern group features both an orchestra and choir that play both Baroque and Classical period pieces. The iconic group has a history of performing the American premieres of some of the most popular classical works including Handel's *Messiah* in 1818, a cornerstone in their annual repertoire, Verdi's Requiem in 1878 and Bach's Mass in 1892. The ensemble has also commemorated some vital moments in history including the end of the Civil War and the Chicago fire. The Handel and Haydn Society has performed for many important dignitaries such as President James Monroe, Grand Duke Alexis of Russia, and Queen Elizabeth II.

The modern Handel and Haydn Society has strived to give historically informed performances of vocal and instrumental authenticity by using period instruments specific to the piece that is being played. The group started touring internationally in 1996 and traveled to many esteemed venues such as the Edinburgh Festival, The Proms, and the Haydn Festival in Austria. H&H won its first Grammy Award in 2003 for their recording of Sir Jon Tavener's *Lamentation*

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and Praises with the San Francisco choral ensemble Chanticleer. The ensemble's current Music Director, Harry Christopher, has been with the group since 2006 and will continue until 2015. Handel and Haydn will celebrate its bicentennial next year starting with their 161st performance of Handel's *Messiah* in December 2014 and ending with *Messiah* in December 2015. The group has a subscription series in their Symphony and Jordan Halls and reaches an annual audience of over 35,000, the largest audience of such historically performed performance in North America.

The Handel and Haydn Society is committed to musical education and has provided outreach opportunities to children in eastern Massachusetts. In 1994, the Vocal Apprenticeship Program (VAP) was started to provide in-depth training for talented young vocalists whose family lack the financial resources to pursue private instruction. They also organize Collaborative Youth Concerts that bring singers from different high schools together in performance alongside the Handel and Haydn Society musicians. The Society also sponsors a financial award given to high school graduates of the VAP program who intend to continue onto a professional musical career.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for the Handel and Haydn Society on April 26 at 8:00 p.m. and April 27 at 7:00 p.m. in First Congregational Church are priced at \$52.00 and are subject to change. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$5.00 discount (Special Events excluded). For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior, and community rush tickets. For more information about discounts, go to <http://calperformances.org/buy/discounts.php> or call (510) 642-9988.

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Cal Performances thanks Wells Fargo and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for their major support of the Season.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Friday, April 26, at 8:00 p.m. & Saturday, April 27, at 7:00 p.m.

First Congregational Church
2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

Early Music

Handel and Haydn Society

Harry Christophers, artistic director and conductor

Rob Murray, Jephtha (tenor)

Catherine Wyn-Rogers, Storgé (mezzo-soprano)

Joëlle Harvey, Iphis (soprano)

William Purefoy, Hamor (countertenor)

Program A: Friday, April 26 at 8:00 p.m.

Vivaldi/*The Four Seasons*

Corelli/Concerto Grosso in D major, Op. 6, No. 4

Geminiani/TBD

Handel/TBD

Program B: Saturday, April 27 at 7:00 p.m.

Handel/*Jephtha*

Tickets: \$52.00, subject to change, tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at calperformances.org; and at the door.

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