

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** January 14, 2015

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[Images Available Here](#)

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## ADDED EVENT

### CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS CECILIA BARTOLI

**CELEBRATED MEZZO-SOPRANO IN TWO RECITALS  
TUESDAY AND THURSDAY, MARCH 31 AND APRIL 2,  
IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

**BERKELEY, January 14, 2015**—The “triumphant, exhilarating and downright unforgettable” (*San Francisco Chronicle*) **Cecilia Bartoli** returns to Cal Performances for two concerts featuring works from her Grammy Award-winning album *Sacrificium*. Her program, which she is singing for the first time in the United States, celebrates the art of the castrati during their golden age in the 18th century and is performed on [Tuesday and Thursday, March 31 and April 2, at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall](#). Her longtime accompanist **Sergio Ciomei** will be at the piano. Fittingly, Bartoli, who made her West Coast debut at Cal Performances in 1991, will conclude this three-stop California tour in Berkeley, following appearances at [The Eli and Edythe Broad Stage](#) at Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center ([March 21 and 26](#)); and Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, presented by the [Philharmonic Society of Orange County](#) ([March 23](#)). This recital marks her tenth engagement with Cal Performances. Bartoli is a longtime audience favorite in Berkeley; she received the first Cal Performances Award of Distinction in the Performing Arts in 2009. The award is a University of California, Berkeley, honor given to an individual whose contributions demonstrate exceptional achievement in the performing arts, at Cal Performances and throughout the world.

Tickets will go on sale to the public at all three venues on Thursday, January 22.

“I first met Cecilia Bartoli in Chicago in 2001. She gave a recital with Daniel Barenboim at Orchestra Hall, and it was an unforgettable experience” said **Matías Tarnopolsky**, Executive

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and Artistic Director of Cal Performances. “I am delighted to welcome her back to Cal Performances.”

[Cecilia Bartoli](#), a force offstage as well as on, had a particularly productive 2014. She released two CDs, Rossini operas *Le Comte Ory* and *Otello*, and in April, after an absence of more than 20 years from Parisian stages, she returned singing Desdemona in *Otello*. Her most recent CD, *St. Petersburg*, was issued in October, and has been greeted with rave reviews. The album features Baroque arias composed for the court of Catherine the Great and two of her predecessors. A passionate and devoted researcher, Bartoli rediscovered these hidden musical treasures of Tsarist Russia, which offer the first opportunity to hear her sing in Russian. The new project reunited her with longtime collaborators I Barocchisti, famed Baroque ensemble, and organist and conductor Diego Fasolis.

Cecilia Bartoli exercised another of her strengths when she became Artistic Director of the Salzburg Whitsun Festival in 2012. She highlighted Cleopatra as the theme for her first year at the festival’s helm. In 2013, the festival featured a new milestone for the revered mezzo: her stage debut as the title character in *Norma*, with Giovanni Antonini conducting the Orchestra La Scintilla. The same month brought the audio release of Bellini’s opera, again conducted by Antonini and starring Bartoli.

When Cecilia Bartoli made her West Coast debut in February 1991 at Cal Performances, she was not well known to Bay Area audiences and performed to a half-full Hertz Hall. Everything changed within a year, and when she returned the following season she performed to a standing-room-only audience, which has been the case in all of her subsequent concerts. She performed at Cal Performances in 1992, 1993, 1994, and in a concert in Zellerbach Hall with San Francisco Opera orchestra members in 1995. She returned in 2001 after a six-year absence, followed by concerts in 2004, 2005, and 2009.

The concerts are organized in association with U-Live/Universal Music Arts and Entertainment in London.



### TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for Cecilia Bartoli on Tuesday and Thursday, March 31 and April 2, at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall begin at \$45.00 and are subject to change. Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. Tickets will go on sale to the general public on January 22, and are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org), and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to <http://calperformances.org/buy/discounts.php>.

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Cal Performances' 2014–2015 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

### CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Tuesday, March 31, at 8:00 p.m.  
Thursday, April 2, at 8:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus  
Bancroft Way at Dana Street, Berkeley

*Recital*

**Cecilia Bartoli**, mezzo-soprano  
**Sergio Ciomei**, piano

**Program:** Mezzo-soprano Cecilia Bartoli sings works from her Grammy Award-winning album *Sacrificium*. Her program, which she is singing for the first time in the United States, celebrates the art of the castrati during their golden age in the 18th century.

**Tickets:** Prices begin at \$45.00 and are subject to change. They are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at [calperformances.org](http://calperformances.org), and at the door.

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