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[Press Room](#)

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS THE VENERABLE  
ENSEMBLE INTERCONTEMPORAIN  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6 & 7 AT ZELLERBACH HALL**

**This Berkeley RADICAL residency is part of the ReVisions thematic strand, including artist talks, a reading of works by UC Berkeley student composers, and a symposium.**

**Berkeley is the only West Coast stop on the tour.**

**BERKELEY, September 17, 2015**—The contemporary Paris-based music laboratory [Ensemble Intercontemporain](#), led by Artistic Director **Matthias Pintscher**, makes a rare U.S. visit for two programs of modern masterpieces, recent contemporary works, and U.S. premieres of UC Berkeley faculty compositions, as part of the Cal Performances 2015–2016 season. The concerts include the U.S. premiere of UC Berkeley composer **Edmund Campion**'s *Cluster.X*, featuring video and electronic sound component by **Kurt Hentschläger**, as well as the U.S. premiere of a new work by fellow faculty member **Franck Bedrossian**, among other works by Pintscher, Furrer, Stroppa, and Varèse, and *Sur Incises* (1996/1998), an infrequently performed work by the ensemble's founder and longtime director, **Pierre Boulez**. Praised by *The New York Times* for interpretations of “nearly supernatural precision and finesse,” the **Ensemble Intercontemporain** performs on Friday & Saturday, November 6 & 7 at 8:00 p.m. in Hertz Hall.

In February 2015, Cal Performances unveiled Berkeley RADICAL (**R**esearch **A**nd **D**evelopment **I**nitiative in **C**reativity, **A**rts, and **L**earning) its new initiative to cultivate the artistic literacy of future audiences and to connect the world's most innovative artists with the intellectual capital of the UC Berkeley campus. Through carefully crafted public programs and creative artistic residencies, Berkeley RADICAL serves as a framework to expand the reach of Cal Performances by providing audiences with multiple access points to a single work of art or artist. With a program that challenges genre stereotypes and reimagines conventional performing arts practices, Ensemble Intercontemporain's residency is the first in a series of performances and public programs titled [ReVisions](#), one of three thematic strands—

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[ZellerBACH](#), [The Natural World](#), and ReVisions—that merge traditional and contemporary genres, weaving intriguing ideas throughout the rich fabric of the season.

The Ensemble Intercontemporain’s visit is complemented by a series of campus programs that are free and open to the public. Music Department faculty member Franck Bedrossian leads a discussion about his new composition with members of the ensemble on Wednesday, November 4 at 4:00 p.m. in Morrison Hall. Thursday, November 5 begins with a reading of new student compositions by members of the ensemble at 11:00 a.m. in Morrison Hall, followed by a discussion with Artistic Director Matthias Pintscher, Edmund Campion, and UC Berkeley Music Department students at 2:00 p.m., also in Morrison Hall. A symposium titled Next! Pierre Boulez, Matthias Pintscher, and Ensemble Intercontemporain is planned for Saturday, November 7 from 2:00 p.m., in Wheeler Auditorium. It features film clips, artist talks, musical performance, and a panel discussion focusing on the future of contemporary music. Visit the Cal Performances website for the most current information about residency activities.

The first Ensemble Intercontemporain concert, on November 6, includes the U.S. premieres of new works by Franck Bedrossian, Associate Professor in the Department of Music, and fellow faculty member Edmund Campion, whose *Cluster.X* is a collaboration with Chicago-based, Austrian media artist Kurt Hentschläger. Swiss-born composer Beat Furrer’s work *Linea dell’orizzonte* (2012) is scored for the full ensemble, and Marco Stroppa’s *Gla-Dya, études sur les rayonnements jumeaux* (2007, rev. 2010) is for horn duo.

The second concert, on November 7, includes Pintscher’s “mesmerizing and sophisticated” (*New York Times*) exploration of the Book of Genesis, *bereshit* (2013), and his solo flute piece, *Beyond (A System of Passing)*, as well as Varèse’s bracing, concentrated work *Octandre* (1924), for eight instruments. Boulez’s *Sur Incises* (1996/1998), the grand reimagining of his solo piano piece *Incises*, for three concurrent trios of piano, harp, and percussion, concludes the program.

The 31-member [Ensemble Intercontemporain](#) was founded nearly 40 years ago by Pierre Boulez to incubate and perform rigorous contemporary works in close collaboration with living composers. Under the artistic direction of Matthias Pintscher, the musicians explore new

repertoire through frequent commissions, and develop projects that interweave music, dance, theater, film, video, and visual arts. In collaboration with IRCAM (Institut de Recherche et Coordination Acoustique/Musique), the Ensemble Intercontemporain is also active in the field of synthetic sound generation and is celebrated for its strong emphasis on music education and outreach.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for the **Ensemble Intercontemporain** on Friday & Saturday, November 6 & 7 at 8:00 p.m. in Hertz Hall are \$76.00 and are subject to change. Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. Tickets 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' 2015–2016 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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### **CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

#### **CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

#### **Wednesday, November 4 at 4:00 p.m.**

Artist Talk, 125 Morrison Hall

UC Berkeley Department of Music Professor and composer Franck Bedrossian discusses his new work with members of the Ensemble Intercontemporain. Free and open to the public.

#### **Thursday, November 5 at 11:00 a.m.**

Readings of Student Composers, 125 Morrison Hall, UC Berkeley campus

Members of the Ensemble Intercontemporain give a first reading of new works by UC Berkeley student composers. Free and open to the public.

#### **Thursday, November 5 at 3:30 p.m.**

Artist Talk, 125 Morrison Hall, UC Berkeley campus

Matthias Pintscher, composer and Artistic Director of the Ensemble Intercontemporain, discusses his work with Edmund Campion, Professor of Music, and students in the UC Berkeley Department of Music. Free and open to the public.

**Saturday, November 7 at 2:00–5:00 p.m.**

Symposium, Wheeler Auditorium, UC Berkeley campus

Ensemble Intercontemporain founder Pierre Boulez is a formidable shaper of contemporary classical music. Now the EIC is in new hands with Matthias Pintscher at the helm. With music composed in the ensembles' beginnings included on their "traditional" programs, what has changed and what are the possibilities in new music today?

**Friday & Saturday, November 6 & 7 at 8:00 p.m.**

Concert, Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley campus

*New Music*

**Ensemble Intercontemporain**

**Matthias Pintscher**, music director

**Program:**

Friday, November 6, 2015 (multimedia program)

Franck Bedrossian/new work (US premiere)

Beat Furrer/*Linea dell'orizzonte* (2012)

Marco Stroppa/*Gla-Dya, études sur les rayonnements jumeaux* (2007, rev. 2010)

Edmund Campion/*Cluster.X* (US premiere), video and electronic sound component by Kurt Hentzschläger

Saturday, November 7, 2015

Varèse/*Octandre* (1924), for eight instruments

Matthias Pintscher/*bereshit*, for ensemble

Matthias Pintscher/*Beyond (A System of Passing)*, for solo flute

Pierre Boulez/*Sur Incises* (1996/1998), for three pianos, three harps, and three percussion

**Tickets:** Priced at \$76.00 and 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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