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[Press Room](#)

**CAL PERFORMANCES EXPLORES MANKIND'S RELATIONSHIP TO
THE NATURAL WORLD IN FOUR EVENTS:
ECO ENSEMBLE & KAIJA SAARIAHO, OCTOBER 23;
CLOUD GATE DANCE THEATRE OF TAIWAN, JANUARY 22 & 23;
ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY, JANUARY 29 & 31;
AND KRONOS QUARTET, MAY 1**

This series is part of the 2015–2016 season's Berkeley RADICAL

Residency activities are planned on the UC Berkeley campus and in the community

Watch an [exclusive video](#) with photographer Deborah O'Grady discussing her Cal Performances' co-commissioned work in conjunction with the St. Louis Symphony's performance

BERKELEY, September 3, 2015— Cal Performances Executive and Artistic Director **Matías Tarnopolsky** curated three thematic strands when programming the 2015–2016 season. **The Natural World** features four performances in which dancers, composers and musicians explore mankind's relationship to the environment through immersive, thought-provoking artworks and engaging public programs. The Natural World series is part of Cal Performances' Berkeley RADICAL, a new initiative to increase artistic literacy and participation across generational lines. UC Berkeley's [eco ensemble](#), directed by **David Milnes**, performs works by Finnish composer **Kaija Saariaho**, including a chamber adaptation of her cello concerto *Notes on Light*, featuring Finnish cellist **Anssi Karttunen** in his Berkeley debut, on Friday, October 23 at 8:00 p.m. in Hertz Hall. [Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan](#), directed by choreographer **Lin Hwai-min**, gives the West Coast premiere of its meditative work *Rice*, a visually lush exploration of human-nature interactions, Friday and Saturday, January 22 and 23, 2016, at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall. The [St. Louis Symphony](#), with **David Robertson** at the podium, performs Olivier Messiaen's *Des canyons aux étoiles*, illustrated by photographer **Deborah O'Grady**'s stunning images of Utah's canyons, on Sunday, January 31 at 3:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall; the residency also includes works by Gustav Mahler and John Adams in a separate concert on Friday, January 29 at 8:00 p.m. The final Natural World concert is Cal Performances' favorite, [Kronos Quartet](#), performing Terry Riley's monumental *Sun Rings* (2002) on Sunday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall. The score and complementary video by Willie Williams was inspired by NASA recordings of outer space.

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The Natural World series is part of a 2015–2016 campus-wide reflection on UC Berkeley’s historic role in launching and maintaining the National Parks Service, currently celebrating its centenary. Public programs and events will explore aesthetic, spiritual, and creative responses to the natural world in symposia associated with campus residencies by Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan, on Friday, January 23; and the St. Louis Symphony, on Saturday, January 30. Additional activities, including a five-lecture series, are planned in conjunction with Kaija Saariaho’s appointment as a distinguished Bloch Professor in the Department of Music for Fall 2015. For more information please visit <http://calperformances.org/learn/berkeley-radical/programs.php>.

Grammy-winning [Kaija Saariaho](#) collaborates with the UC Berkeley Music Department’s eco ensemble, in a concert of three of her works, including a chamber adaptation of her luminous cello concerto *Notes on Light* (2006). The work was originally composed for Saariaho’s close collaborator and fellow countryman, the superlative cellist [Anssi Karttunen](#), who performs as a guest soloist with the ensemble. Karttunen has given more than 125 world premieres, and 24 concertos have been written for his unique talents. “He makes the most virtuosic passages sound natural. He achieves a wider range of colors than I have ever heard from the cello” (*Los Angeles Times*). *Notes on Light* explores various aspects of light in its five movements: “Translucent, secret,” “On fire,” “Awakening,” “Eclipse,” and “Heart of Light.” The two other works on the program are *The Tempest Songbook* (2004), a group of five songs for two singers and chamber ensemble set to texts from Shakespeare’s *The Tempest*, and *Sept Papillons*, seven miniatures for solo cello, which Karttunen premiered in 2000.

[Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan](#), directed by pioneering Chinese choreographer Lin Hwai-min, returns to Cal Performances for the first time since 2003. In the visually arresting *Rice*, the company’s versatile dancers, trained in meditation, martial arts, modern dance, and ballet, perform within an immersive video landscape inspired by Taiwan’s rice paddies, telling a story of environmental devastation and renewal. “Lin attains a sharply moving synthesis of man and nature, east and west, death and rebirth. *Rice* becomes a dance of the elements, Lin’s own song of the earth” (*The Guardian*, London).

In its first Berkeley visit, the pace-setting St. Louis Symphony, directed by noted Messiaen interpreter David Robertson, performs Olivier Messiaen’s majestic *Des canyons aux étoiles* (1974), an expansive 90-minute, 12-movement work inspired by the dramatic color and shapes of Utah’s

canyons, with guest pianist **Peter Henderson**. As part of a campus-wide centenary celebration of the founding of the U.S. National Park Service in 1916, Cal Performances has co-commissioned a new visual component to Messiaen's score. Created by Bay Area photographer **Deborah O'Grady**, the piece utilizes still and video photography, extended visual techniques, and stage lighting, to create a shifting projected landscape that explores the visual material referenced in Messiaen's score. View Cal Performances' exclusive [video with Deborah O'Grady](#). In a separate program, the St. Louis Symphony performs Mahler's epic Fifth Symphony, and John Adams' Saxophone Concerto (2013), featuring virtuoso saxophonist **Tim McAllister**.

Terry Riley's *Sun Rings* (2002), performed by Cal Performances' Artists in Residence [Kronos Quartet](#), explores the mysteries of the natural world far beyond Earth's boundaries. In this, one of his many works for Kronos, Riley creates "a sound both definitively human and celestial" (*Los Angeles Times*) from source material culled by NASA from the otherworldly sounds of outer space, blended with live strings and imagery by visual designer Willie Williams. The work explores Riley's themes of peace and compassion, discovery and the unknown. "[The] music's intentionally accessible beauty works hand-in-hand with gripping visuals to impart a sense of wondrous, transcendent unity" (*San Francisco Classical Voice*).

BERKELEY RADICAL

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 project 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. Three strands of artistic exploration join together traditional genres with contemporary, less defined forms, encouraging Bay Area audiences to reimagine conventional ideas of the performing arts. Including the Natural World, Berkeley RADICAL strands in the 2015–2016 season are: **ReVisions** with Matthias Pintscher and the Ensemble Intercontemporain (Nov. 6 & 7), **Rude Mechs** (Nov. 19–21), and **Trajal Harrell** (Mar 18 & 19); and **ZellerBACH** with Bach Collegium Japan, (Oct 24), choreographer Twyla Tharp (Oct. 16–18), and violinist Gil Shaham (Apr. 14). For more information as public programs are announced, visit <http://calperformances.org/learn/berkeley-radical/programs.php>.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **eco ensemble** on Friday, October 23 at 8:00 p.m. in Hertz Hall are priced at \$20. Tickets for **Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan**, Friday & Saturday, January 22 & 23, 2016 at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall range from \$30.00–\$72.00. Tickets for **St. Louis Symphony**, Friday, January 29 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, January 31 at 3:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall range from \$38.00–\$98.00. Tickets for **Kronos Quartet** on Sunday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall range from \$30.00–\$76.00. All ticket prices 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, and at the door. For more information about discounts, go <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

Berkeley RADICAL
Wednesday, October 21 at 8:00 p.m.
Artist Talk

Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at College Avenue

Program: Composer Kaija Saariaho talks about her large-scale and chamber works. This talk is part of a five part lecture series presented by the UC Berkeley Music Department and is free and open to the public.

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Friday, October 23 at 8:00 p.m.

Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at College Avenue

New Music
eco ensemble
David Milnes, conductor
Anssi Karttunen, cello

Program:
Kaija Saariaho/*Notes on Light*

Kaija Saariaho/*The Tempest Songbook*
Kaija Saariaho/*Sept Papillons*

Tickets: Prices start at \$20.00 and are subject to change. They are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at calperformances.org, and at the door.

Friday & Saturday, January 22 & 23 at 8:00 p.m.

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

Dance

Rice

Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan

Lin Hwai-min, director

Program: Set against the expansive panorama of Taiwan's living rice paddies, pioneering Chinese choreographer Lin Hwai-min's production *Rice* creates an immersive landscape for the esteemed Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan. Trained in meditation, martial arts, modern dance, and ballet, the dancers explore the human drama of environmental devastation and resurrection through the life cycle of a humble plant.

Tickets: Prices range from \$30.00–\$72.00 and are subject to change. They are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at calperformances.org, and at the door.

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Berkeley RADICAL

Saturday, January 23, 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Community Dance Class

Bancroft Studio, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Dana Street, Berkeley

Program: A Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan company member leads a community dance class, including technique and choreographic phrases from *Rice*. For all ages and abilities, pre-registration required.

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Berkeley RADICAL

Saturday, January 23, 1:00 p.m. –5:30 p.m.

Symposium: *Artists, Aesthetics and the Natural World* [part 1]

David Brower Center
5150 Allston Way, Berkeley

Program: This symposium explores *Rice* in the context of artistic, aesthetic, and spiritual response to the natural world, in this case rice farming in Taiwan's East Rift Valley. Advanced registration requested. RSVP opens January 4, 2016.

Friday, January 29 at 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 31 at 3:00 p.m.

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

Chamber Music & Orchestra
St. Louis Symphony
David Robertson, conductor
Tim McAllister, saxophone
Peter Henderson, piano
Deborah O'Grady, photographer

Program A: Friday, January 29 at 8:00 p.m.
John Adams/Saxophone Concerto
Mahler/Symphony No. 5 in C-sharp minor

Program B: Sunday, January 31 at 3:00 p.m.
Messiaen/*Des canyons aux étoiles* (Cal Performances co-commission of the visual component)

Tickets: Prices range from \$38.00–\$98.00 and are subject to change. They are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at calperformances.org, and at the door.

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Berkeley RADICAL
Saturday, January 9, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Teacher Workshop: *Art Cycle: Nature Feeds Music Feeds Photos Feed Nature*

Longfellow Middle School
1500 Derby Street, Berkeley

Program: A teacher workshop given by Cal Performances Master Teaching Artists with a look at the centenary of the National Parks System.

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Berkeley RADICAL
Thursday, January 28 at 7:00 p.m.
Master Class

Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at College Avenue, Berkeley

Program: Maestro David Robertson coaches the UC Berkeley Symphony Orchestra. Free and open to the public, pre-registration requested. RSPVs are open on January 4.

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Berkeley RADICAL
Saturday, January 30, 1:00-5:30 p.m.
Symposium: *Artists, Aesthetics and the Natural World* [part 2]

David Brower Center
5150 Allston Way, Berkeley

Program: This symposium explores *Des canyons aux étoiles* in the context of artistic, aesthetic, and spiritual responses to the natural world, the second of two linked events on this topic (see Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan above). Advanced registration requested. RSVP opens January 4, 2016.

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Berkeley RADICAL
Monday, February 1, 11:00 a.m.
SchoolTime Performance

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

Program: Excerpts from Messiaen/*Des canyons aux étoiles* with images by photographer Deborah O'Grady.

Tickets: \$8.00 per student or adult chaperone, available in advance only through Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988. SchoolTime performances are open to students in kindergarten through grade 12 in Bay Area public and private schools. Supplemental study guides for the classroom are provided. For more information about the SchoolTime program, contact the SchoolTime coordinator at Cal Performances by emailing eduprograms@calperformances.org or by phone at (510) 642-0212.

Sunday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m.

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

New Music
Kronos Quartet

Program:
Terry Riley/*Sun Rings* (2002), with visual elements by Willie Williams

Tickets: Prices range from \$30.00–\$76.00 and are subject to change. They are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at calperformances.org, and at the door.

Berkeley RADICAL Residency activities to be announced

– Cal Performances –