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CONTACT: Rusty Barnes
Cal Performances
510-642-9121
rbarnes@calperformances.org

Eric Latzky
Culture | Communications NY
212-358-0223
eric@elccny.com

[Press Room](#)

BERKELEY RADICAL

**ON THE CENTENARY OF THE US NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
CAL PERFORMANCES EXPLORES THE NATURAL WORLD
IN MUSIC, MEDIA, AND MOVEMENT PERFORMANCES,
ACADEMIC SYMPOSIA, AND COMMUNITY EVENTS
JANUARY 22–31, 2016**

**DAVID ROBERTSON AND THE ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY
MESSIAEN'S *DES CANYONS AUX ÉTOILES...*
WITH A MULTIMEDIA ESSAY BY PHOTOGRAPHER DEBORAH O'GRADY**

**CLOUD GATE DANCE THEATRE OF TAIWAN'S *RICE*
CHOREOGRAPHED BY LIN HWAI-MIN**

Related Berkeley RADICAL Events

**FREE PUBLIC SYMPOSIA: ARTISTS, AESTHETICS AND THE NATURAL WORLD
To be Presented in Collaboration with UC Berkeley Center for Chinese Studies and the Berkeley
Food Institute (January 23), and The Trust for Public Land (January 30)
MASTER CLASS, CHILDREN'S LEARNING, AND SCHOOLTIME CONCERT**

#BerkeleyRADICAL

BERKELEY, December 10, 2015—As part of its new Berkeley RADICAL initiative, Cal Performances continues thematic artistic exploration with *The Natural World*, January 22–31, 2016. In the context of global ecological concerns, and on the centenary of the [UC Berkeley-inspired](#) founding of the US National Park Service, Cal Performances presents a pair of contrasting and complementary works of dance, orchestral music, and visual art related to the environment, and framed by twin symposia on a range of related subjects in collaboration with UC Berkeley academic departments and San Francisco Bay Area organizations. A master class with David Robertson, children's learning programs, and a SchoolTime concert will also be offered.

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The programs include Music Director **David Robertson** leading the **St. Louis Symphony Orchestra** on January 31 at Zellerbach Hall in Messiaen's *Des canyons aux étoiles... (From the canyons to the stars...)*, [with stunning imagery](#) by Berkeley-based photographer **Deborah O'Grady**. On January 22 and 23, **Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan** performs pioneering Chinese choreographer **Lin Hwai-min**'s *Rice* in Zellerbach Hall.

Two symposia, both under the banner of *Artists, Aesthetics, and the Natural World* and each featuring an artist talk, a panel discussion on the highlighted work, and a conversation about their larger contexts, will be held at the David Brower Center. The first, on January 23, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., in collaboration with the UC Berkeley Centers for Chinese Studies and Buddhist Studies, and the Berkeley Food Institute, features Cloud Gate Dance Theatre's Lin Hwai-min in conversation with SanSanKwan of UC Berkeley's Department of Theater, Dance and Performance Studies, art historians Katharine Burnett of UC Davis and Patricia Berger of UC Berkeley, San Francisco Zen Center's Sara Tashker, Director of Green Gulch Farm and anthropologist and organic farmer Yen-ling Tsai of Taiwan's national Chiao Tung University. The second, on January 30, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Cal Performances Executive and Artistic Director **Matías Tarnopolsky** will be joined by Robertson and O'Grady, art historians Margaretta Lovell, and Kathryn Barush, choreographer Anna Halprin, as well as Ken Brower, Will Rogers, Caryl Hart, and Johnathan Logan Jr. from the environmental community. Partners for both events include the David Brower Center and College of Natural Resources. RSVPs open on January 5, 2016.

[Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan](#) performs the West Coast premiere of its visually-arresting work *Rice*, choreographed by Lin Hwai-min, Friday and Saturday, January 22 and 23, 2016 at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall. In *Rice* (2013), the versatile dancers of Taiwan's first professional dance company—trained in meditation, martial arts, modern dance, and ballet—perform as part of an immersive video landscape inspired by Taiwan's rice paddies, telling a poignant story that “honors a crop and a people” (*New York Times*). *Rice* is inspired by the landscape of Chihshang in the East Rift Valley of Taiwan, where a farming village reclaimed the dying ecosystem of its centuries-old rice paddies by adopting organic farming practices. The choreography, video, and sound design reflect on the life cycle and cultivation of the rice plant,

set against the verdant panorama of rural Taiwan. The work is set to a score of Taiwanese folk songs and Western opera arias. “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).

The [St. Louis Symphony](#), led by Music Director David Robertson, makes its Berkeley debut on Friday, January 29, 2016 at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall with Mahler’s Fifth Symphony and John Adams’ Saxophone Concerto with virtuoso saxophonist **Timothy McAllister**, who was praised by *Gramophone Magazine* for his “wondrous dexterity” in Adams’ 2013 work, which he composed for and dedicated to McAllister. Inspired by classic studio recordings from the 1950s and ’60s by Charlie Parker, Stan Getz, and Cannonball Adderley, the “dark whirlwind of a piece” (*San Jose Mercury News*) pushes the limits of the instrument’s technical and expressive powers. Mahler’s epic Fifth Symphony, composed more than 100 years earlier, rounds out the program. In a second program on Sunday, January 31, 2016 at 3:00 pm in Zellerbach Hall, Robertson leads the Orchestra in *Des canyons aux étoiles... (From the canyons to the stars...)*, Messiaen’s 12-movement work inspired by Utah’s majestic canyon lands, and highlighted by Berkeley-based photographer Deborah O’Grady’s still and video photography, extended visual techniques, and stage lighting. Her multimedia production creates a shifting projected landscape that explores the visual material referenced in Messiaen’s score. [Watch an exclusive interview with O’Grady here.](#) The multimedia production is co-commissioned by Cal Performances, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, St. Louis Symphony, Washington Performing Arts, and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. Pianist **Peter Henderson** is a soloist with the orchestra. Olivier Messiaen’s *Des canyons aux étoiles... (1974)* was composed at the request of Alice Tully to commemorate the United States bicentennial. Messiaen and his wife made a pilgrimage to Utah’s Bryce Canyon, Zion National Park, and Cedar Breaks National Monument in 1972, to explore the landscapes and document bird song for the composition.

Cal Performances’ Berkeley RADICAL (**R**esearch **A**nd **D**evelopment **I**nitiative in **C**reativity, **A**rts, and **L**earning), initiative was announced in February 2015 and launched in September, with performances, symposia, and master classes with conductor Gustavo Dudamel and the

Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela. (For original digital content related to the Inaugural Residency, see Cal Performances' Berkeley RADICAL Revisited page at <http://calperformances.org/learn/berkeley-radical/berkeley-radical-revisited.php>.) Berkeley RADICAL is designed 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 in the 2015–2016 season join together traditional genres with contemporary forms, encouraging Bay Area audiences to reimagine conventional ideas of the performing arts. They are [The Natural World](#), [Revisions](#), and [ZellerBACH](#). For more information as public programs are announced, visit <http://calperformances.org/learn/berkeley-radical/programs.php>

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan**, Friday and Saturday, January 22 and 23, 2016 at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall range from \$30.00–\$72.00 and are subject to change. Tickets for the **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 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, and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to <http://calperformances.org/buy/discounts.php>.

Admission to the twin symposia, *Artists, Aesthetics, and the Natural World*, Part 1 (January 23) and Part 2 (January 30), in the David Brower Center, Berkeley, is free, but advance registration is requested. RSVP [here](#) for Part 1 and [here](#) for Part 2. RSVPs open on January 5, 2016.

A community dance class with members of Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan, for all ages and abilities, will be held on Saturday, January 23, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Bancroft Studio, on the UC Berkeley Campus. [Advance registration is required](#), beginning on January 5, 2016.

David Robertson coaches the UC Berkeley Symphony Orchestra in a master class on Saturday, January 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Hertz Hall. The event is free and open to the public, with [advance registration requested](#), beginning on January 5, 2016.

Two programs are planned for K-12 students and teachers: a teacher workshop, *Art Cycle: Nature Feeds Music Feeds Photos Feeds Nature*, will be held on Saturday, January 9 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Longfellow Middle School, Berkeley; and a SchoolTime performance on Monday, February 1 at 11:00 a.m. in Zellerbach Hall. Both programs require advance registration.

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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

K-12 Teacher Workshop

Art Cycle: Nature Feeds Music Feeds Photos Feed Nature
Saturday, January 9 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Longfellow Middle School
1500 Derby Street, Berkeley

Cal Performances offers a workshop for K-12 teachers focusing on the centenary of the National Park Service. Advance registration required.

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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, choreographer

Program: Set against the expansive panorama of Taiwan's 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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Community Dance Class

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

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

A Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan company member leads a community dance class, including technique and choreographic phrases from the company's production, *Rice*. All ages and abilities are [welcome with preregistration](#), beginning on January 5, 2016.

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Symposium

Artists, Aesthetics and the Natural World [Part 1]

Saturday, January 23, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

David Brower Center
2150 Allston Way, Berkeley

This symposium explores Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan's *Rice* in the context of artistic, aesthetic, and spiritual response to the natural world, with a focus on rice farming in Taiwan's East Rift Valley. Guest speakers include Lin Hwai-min, SanSan Kwan, Katharine Burnett, Patricia Berger, Robert Sharf, Yen-ling Tsai, and Sara Tashker. [Advanced registration requested](#). RSVP opens January 5, 2016.

###

Master Class

Saturday, January 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at College Ave., Berkeley

St. Louis Symphony Orchestra Music Director David Robertson coaches the UC Berkeley Symphony Orchestra. Free and open to the public. [Advance registration requested](#). RSVPs open January 5, 2016.

###

Symposium

Artists, Aesthetics and the Natural World [Part 2]

Saturday, January 30 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

David Brower Center
2150 Allston Way, Berkeley

Cal Performances hosts the second in a two-part symposium series, *Artists, Aesthetics and the Natural World*, with a focus on Olivier Messiaen's *Des canyons aux étoiles...* and the centenary of the National Park Service. Guest speakers include David Robertson, Deborah O'Grady, Margaretta Lovell, Kathryn Barush, Anna Halprin, Will Rogers, Ken Brower, Caryl Hart, and Johnathan Logan Jr. Free and open to the public. [Advance registration requested](#). RSVPs open January 5, 2016.

###

Sunday, January 31, 2:00 p.m.
Pre-performance Talk

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

St. Louis Symphony Orchestra: Music Director David Robertson and photographer Deborah O'Grady talk about their collaboration on the production of Messiaen's *Des canyons aux étoiles*...

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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 Orchestra

David Robertson, conductor

Friday, January 29 at 8:00 p.m. with **Timothy McAllister**, saxophone

John Adams/Saxophone Concerto

Mahler/Symphony No. 5 in C-sharp minor

Sunday, January 31 at 3:00 p.m. with **Peter Henderson**, piano

Messiaen/*Des Canyons aux Étoiles* (visuals by Deborah O'Grady; Cal Performances co-commission)

Tickets: Prices range from \$38.00–\$98.00 and are subject to change.

###

SchoolTime K-12 Performance

St. Louis Symphony Orchestra

David Robertson, conductor

Monday, February 1 at 11:00 a.m.

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

The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra performs excerpts from Olivier Messiaen's *Des canyons aux étoiles*... in a matinee performance for grades K-12. Pre-registration is required.

– Cal Performances –