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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 25, 2019  
[Press Room](#)



Images of Song of the Goat Theatre are available for download from the Cal Performances [press room](#).

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS  
POLAND'S SONG OF THE GOAT THEATRE  
IN THE WEST COAST PREMIERE OF *SONGS OF LEAR*  
SATURDAY–SUNDAY, MAY 11–12  
IN ZELLERBACH PLAYHOUSE**

**MULTI-SONG ORATIO BASED ON THE NARRATIVE OF  
SHAKESPEARE'S *KING LEAR***

**Berkeley, April 25, 2019** — Cal Performances at UC Berkeley presents the Warsaw-based **Song of the Goat Theatre** in its Bay Area debut, performing the West Coast premiere the company's award-winning *Songs of Lear* on Saturday–Sunday, May 11–12 in Zellerbach Playhouse. Directed by Grzegorz Bral, *Songs of Lear* retells the story of Shakespeare's *King Lear* as a dramatic oratorio, blending Corsican folk music and Gregorian chant with original music and arrangements by Jean-Claude Acquaviva and Maciej Rychly. *Songs of Lear* had its international premiere at

Edinburgh's Fringe Festival in 2012, where it won three major awards. The production follows similar acclaimed works by company, which has previously explored the emotional undercurrents of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, and *The Tempest*, Chekov's *The Cherry Orchard*, and Euripedes' *Bacchus*, through vocal polyphony, Mediterranean and Eastern European folk song, and movement.

*Songs of Lear* features a cast of 10 male and female vocalist-performers, who together distill the narrative elements of Shakespeare's tragedy to its barest essence, combining raw physicality and emotionally-charged song (in Latin, Polish, and English) to explore King Lear's madness, despair, passion, and desperation. Performed on a mostly bare stage, the non-linear, evolving song cycle combines haunting *a cappella* singing, folk instrument accompaniment, and choreography to give audiences a multidimensional experience of the story. Song of the Goat Theatre was founded in 1996, and was once under the auspices of Poland's famed Grotowski Institute, before launching its own training program and theater in Warsaw in 2002.

### **Ticket Information**

Tickets for *Song of the Goat Theatre, Songs of Lear* on Saturday May 11 at 8pm, and Sunday, May 12 at 3pm in Zellerbach Playhouse are \$35 (prices 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 [calperformances.org](http://calperformances.org), and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to [calperformances.org/discounts](http://calperformances.org/discounts).

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

#### **CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Saturday, May 11, 8pm**  
**Sunday, May 12, 3pm**

**Zellerbach Playhouse**  
Bancroft Way at Dana Street  
UC Berkeley campus

**Song of the Goat Theatre**  
***Songs of Lear*\*** (West Coast Premiere)  
**Directed by *Grzegorz Bral***  
**Music by Jean-Claude Acquaviva and Maciej Rychly**

**Program:** The Warsaw-based Song of the Goat Theatre integrates movement, song, and text to mine historical works for fresh insights. Receiving its West Coast premiere, the company's award-

winning *Songs of Lear* retells the tragic story of Shakespeare's king as a dramatic oratorio, blending Corsican folk music and Gregorian chant. These performances mark the company's Bay Area debut.

*\* please note that this program has changed from what was originally announced*

**Tickets:** \$35 (prices subject to change)

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