
CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, April 6, 2014, 3pm
Wheeler Auditorium

For Families

David Gonzalez and the Yak Yak Band



Aesop Bops!

David Gonzalez	<i>guitar & vocals</i>
Glen Pearson	<i>piano & music director</i>
Gary Brown	<i>bass</i>
Ranzel Merritt	<i>drums</i>

This afternoon's program will be announced from the stage.

Cal Performances' 2013–2014 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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DAVID GONZALEZ is the proud recipient of the 2011 International Performing Arts for Youth “Lifetime Achievement Award for Sustained Excellence.” In 2010, Mr. Gonzalez was named a Joseph Campbell Foundation Fellow. He was nominated for a 2006 Drama Desk Award for “Unique Theatrical Experience” for his production of *The Frog Bride* at Broadway’s New Victory Theater. He has created numerous productions, including the critically acclaimed *¡Sofrito!* with the Latin Legends Band, and *MytholoJazz*, both of which enjoyed sold-out runs at the New Victory Theater. Mr. Gonzalez’s work *Wounded Splendor* was the result of a two-year residency and commission from the University of Maryland. *Sleeping Beauty*, co-commissioned by the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Brooklyn College, and the McCallum Theatre, premiered in March 2010 and has gone on to tour nationally, including a run at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Mr. Gonzalez was a featured performer at the 2007 National Storytelling Festival, and has performed at festivals in Spain, Switzerland, France, Costa Rica, Norway, Puerto Rico, and throughout the United States. He also appeared for three seasons at the Royal National Theatre in London. Mr. Gonzalez is the Artistic Director of Alliance for a New Humanity, an international service organization dedicated to peace and sustainability.

Mr. Gonzalez’s work *Double Crossed: The Saga of the St. Louis* toured nationally, including a run at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1998. The same year, he was honored with the Helen Hayes Performing Artist of the Year Award. *As If the Past Were Listening*, a suite of creation myths, was selected for Lincoln Center Institute’s repertory for three seasons (2002–2004). His Latin jazz poetry project *City of Dreams* was commissioned by the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, premiered at New York’s La MaMa Experimental Theatre, and was the first spoken-word project to be performed at Dizzy’s Club Coca-Cola at Jazz at Lincoln Center. He wrote *Finding North*, a one-man play based on Underground Railroad hero John Parker that was commissioned by the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park and performed at the National Underground Railroad

Freedom Center; *Aesop Bops!*; and co-wrote *Mariel*, an Afro-Cuban musical set in the turbulent times of the Mariel boatlift from Cuba, with Grammy Award-nominated songwriter John Forster. *Mariel* is the winner of the Macy’s New Play Prize for Young Audiences. Mr. Gonzalez is also the author of the opera libretto *Rise for Freedom!*, produced at Cincinnati Opera, and *Jimi and Mr. B*, a musical commissioned by the Empire State Plaza Performing Arts Center. His long-form poem *Oh Hudson*, performed in collaboration with violin virtuoso Mark O’Connor, commemorates the Hudson River Quadracentennial, and his version of *The Carnival of the Animals* with classical piano virtuoso Frederic Chiu was premiered in 2008.

Mr. Gonzalez’s poetry has been featured at the Lincoln Center Out of Doors festival, in Bill Moyers’s PBS documentary *Fooling with Words*, on NPR’s *All Things Considered*, and at the World Science Festival, among many other venues. He was the host of *New York Kids* on WNYC for eight seasons. Mr. Gonzalez received his doctorate in music therapy from New York University and taught there for ten years. He has conducted numerous seminars, workshops, and lectures, and worked as a music therapist in clinical and educational institutions. Mr. Gonzalez is also a professional public speaker on topics ranging from creativity to culture.

To learn more, visit davidgonzalez.com.

Pianist, composer, arranger, and educator **Glen Pearson** (*music director*) has brought sensitivity and expression to the widest variety of music imaginable. His performances on stage, television, radio, and in recording studios have included his well known position as principal keyboardist for Regina Belle, as well as pianist and arranger for such notables as Jimmy Scott, Ernestine Anderson, Melba Moore, Dianne Reeves, Marlena Shaw, Bobby Hutcherson, Delfeayo Marsalis, James Moody, Frank Morgan, Chico Freeman, and Will Downing. Mr. Pearson also served for eleven years as the musical and band director for the world renowned Boy’s Choir of Harlem.

A native of Oakland, California, Mr. Pearson is the current head of music studies at the

College of Alameda. He began studying piano at age six and was playing professionally by age 15. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree from San Francisco State University and a Master of Arts degree from New York University. In addition, he has been the recipient of several honors, including the prestigious Eubie Blake Memorial Scholarship Award.

Mr. Pearson's recording credits are numerous, including an award-winning jazz album by percussionist Babatunde Lea. He has also ap-

peared both on record and in videos with such notables as Will Downing and Gerald Albright. He has worked both on and off Broadway with such varied artists as Savion Glover, Gregory Hines, Arthur Miller, Patrick Stewart, and George C. Wolfe. Mr. Pearson has been privileged to travel and perform throughout the world. He has appeared at such venues as Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam.