



Saturday, May 11, 2019, 8pm
Sunday, May 12, 2019, 3pm
Zellerbach Playhouse

Song of the Goat Theatre
(Teatr Pieśń Kozła)

Songs of Lear

(West Coast Premiere)

Directed by Grzegorz Bral

Music by Jean Claude-Acquaviva and Maciej Rychły

CAST

Anu Almagro, Anna Grycan, Monika Dryl, Katarzyna Janekowicz, Olga Kunicka,
Natalia Voskoboynikov, Volodymyr Andrushchak, Mikołaj Bońkowski, Piotr Gałek,
Sebastian Mach, Dimitris Varkas, Bogdan Koca

Produced in association with Octopus Theatricals

Alicja Bral, *producer*

This presentation is supported by the Adam Mickiewicz Institute.

*Songs of Lear is performed without an intermission
and will last approximately 70 minutes.*

Cal Performances' 2018–19 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.



Songs of Lear is a non-linear dramatic event that reveals the world of subtle energies and rhythms that govern Shakespeare's tragedy. The ensemble members have chosen crucial scenes from *King Lear* to weave a story out of gestures, words, and music. Each song is a starting point for another "dramatic poem." Here the music becomes character, relationships and events. The creative process has been divided into

several phases: preparation of the concert; dramatizing the songs (an oratorio); creating movement and visual structures; integrating text, music, and movement; and molding the performance into a mature shape. *Songs of Lear* is a constantly evolving creative research project in which audiences will witness a very intimate artistic process.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Established in 1996 in Wrocław, **Song of the Goat Theatre (Teatr Pieśń Kozła)** has developed an international reputation as one of Europe's most innovative theater companies, committed to researching what makes theater distinctive from other art forms. The group's constantly evolving training, rehearsal, and performance process creates a vital creative laboratory, enabling artists to research the crafts of acting and directing and develop new techniques, performance languages, and work. Commitment to connection informs the development of the company's projects, which aim to integrate movement, voice, song, and text, creating performances that have an inherent musicality and connect with audiences on a sensory level.

The quality and distinctiveness of Song of the Goat's pedagogical work forms an integrated part of the company's approach—a means of both enriching and disseminating its practices. In 2004, the company was approached by Manchester Metropolitan University and asked to establish a master's degree program in acting (until 2012). Since 2013, the Bral School of Acting in London, in conjunction with Song of the Goat, has offered a program for theater actors and practitioners that focuses on the Acting Coordination Method, the fundamental training approach of Song of the Goat Theatre.

Director **Grzegorz Bral**, co-founder and artistic director of Song of the Goat Theatre, is also a teacher of the Acting Coordination Method; president of the Song of the Goat Association; artistic director of the Brave Festival—Against Cultural Exile, Brave Kids, and Brave Together; and president of the Bral Foundation. Since the 1990s, he has worked with the charity

organization ROKPA International. In 2013, he established his own theater school in London, the Bral School of Acting.

Bral studied literature, psychology, and theater, and from 1987 to 1992 collaborated with the Centre for Theatre Practices in Gardzianice. From 2010 to 2012, he was an artistic director of Warsaw's Studio Theatre. Song of the Goat Theatre, which Bral co-founded in 1996, has become one of today most interesting and prominent examples of the new Polish theatrical avant-garde.

Bral has received numerous awards for his accomplishments, including the Honorary Order of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage, and a Scotsman Fringe First and the Herald Angel in 2004 (for *Chronicles—A Lamentation*). In 2009, his theater team was nominated for the XII European Theatre Prize in the New Theatrical Realities category. During the 2012 Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, *Songs of Lear*, directed by Bral, received a Fringe First, the festival's oldest and most prestigious award, presented annually by the *Scotsman* newspaper to that year's most innovative projects. *Songs of Lear* also won the Herald Archangel award and a special honor at the Musical Theatre Matters Awards. *Songs of Lear* took first place in the ranking of all theatrical performances presented in Edinburgh, prepared by The List, and the play was nominated for the Total Theatre Award.

Bral is also active as an educator and his teaching efforts and annual workshops attract actors and directors from around the world. In the UK, nearly half of the country's acting schools include elements of the Acting Coordination Method, his teaching approach, in their curricula.