

**KRONOS QUARTET GIVES THE WORLD PREMIERE OF TERRY RILEY'S *THE CUSP OF MAGIC* WITH *PIPA* VIRTUOSO WU MAN
SUNDAY, MAY 1 AT 7:00 P.M. AT CAL PERFORMANCES**

**PROGRAM ALSO FEATURES BAY AREA PREMIERE OF *CAMPOSANTO* COMMISSIONED BY
THE KRONOS: UNDER 30 PROJECT**

***Sightlines*: Post-concert discussion with the members of Kronos Quartet**

BERKELEY, April 12, 2005—The celebrated **Kronos Quartet** has been exciting audiences for over thirty years, but there will be no time for nostalgia when the group returns to **Cal Performances** on **Sunday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m.** in **Hertz Hall**. The aggressively innovative string ensemble never looks back. Founder and first violinist **David Harrington** notes that “our age is the most exciting I have ever known for music,” and the promise of new musical adventures continues to impel him and fellow Kronos iconoclasts—**John Sherba** (violin), **Hank Dutt** (viola), and **Jennifer Culp** (cello)—to scour the globe for fresh influences and cutting-edge compositions to incorporate into their repertoire.

The May 1 program boasts the world premiere of *The Cusp of Magic*, a six-movement work written and arranged for Kronos by composer and long-time collaborator **Terry Riley**. The piece will feature the renowned musician **Wu Man** accompanying Kronos on the short-necked Chinese lute called the *pipa*. Kronos will also perform *Mehbooba Mehbooba (Beloved, O Beloved)* and *Nodir Pare Utthchhe Dhnoa (Smoke Rises Across the River)*, written by the highly influential and eclectic Indian composer **Rahul Dev Burman**, as well as *String Quartet No. 8 (Black Woman Rising)* by South African-born **Kevin Volans**. Of special note is the Bay Area premiere of *CampoSanto* by **Felipe Pérez Santiago**, a piece commissioned by The Kronos: Under 30 Project, a commissioning and composer-in-residence program for composers under 30 years of age established to acknowledge the 30th anniversary of the founding of Kronos Quartet in 1973.

A free *Sightlines* post-concert discussion with the members of Kronos Quartet, follows the performance.

KRONOS QUARTET

Called the “The Fab Four of classical music” by *Rolling Stone*, the **Kronos Quartet** continues to live up to all that the sobriquet implies. Kronos is an international phenomenon that has reinvented the idea of the string quartet and redefined the boundaries and scope of new music.

In 1973, violinist David Harrington was inspired to form Kronos after hearing George Crumb’s *Black Angels*, a highly unorthodox, Vietnam War-inspired work. Kronos went on to build a compellingly eclectic repertoire for string quartet, performing and recording works by 20th-century masters (such as Bartók, Shostakovich and Webern), contemporary composers (Sofia Gubaidulina, Arvo Pärt and Alfred Schnittke), jazz legends (Ornette Coleman, Charles Mingus and Thelonious Monk), and artists from even farther afield (rock guitar legend Jimi Hendrix, Pakistani vocal master Pandit Pran Nath and avant-garde saxophonist John Zorn). Integral to Kronos’ work is a series of long-running, in-depth collaborations with many of the world’s foremost composers such as Terry Riley, Philip Glass, Azerbaijan’s Franghiz Ali Zadeh, Steve Reich (whose Kronos-recorded *Different Trains* earned a Grammy), and Argentina’s Osvaldo Golijov.

Kronos has performed thousands of concerts worldwide, released more than 40 recordings, collaborated with many of the world’s most eclectic composers and performers, and commissioned hundreds of works and arrangements for string quartet. Kronos’ work has also garnered numerous awards, including a Grammy for Best Chamber Music Performance (2004) and Musicians of the Year (2003) from *Musical America*.

The ensemble’s discography on Nonesuch Records includes commercial and critical successes like *Pieces of Africa* (1992); *Caravan* (2000); the ten-disc anthology *Kronos Quartet 25 Years* (1998); the Grammy- and Latin Grammy-nominated *Nuevo* (2002); and the 2003 Grammy-winner, *Berg’s Lyric Suite*.

Based in San Francisco, the Kronos Quartet/Kronos Performing Arts Association has commissioned more than 450 new works and arrangements for string quartet. One of Kronos’

most exciting initiatives in this area is The Kronos: Under 30 Project, a unique commissioning and composer-in-residence program for composers under 30 years old, launched in conjunction with Kronos' own 30th birthday in 2003.

WU MAN

Wu Man was cited by the *Los Angeles Times* as “the artist most responsible for bringing the *pipa* to the Western World.” Born in Hangzhou, China, she studied the classical styles of *pipa* at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing where she became the first recipient of a master's degree in that instrument. She currently lives in Boston where she was selected as a Bunting Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Study at Harvard University. Wu Man was chosen by Yo-Yo Ma as the winner of the City of Toronto Glenn Gould Protégé Prize in music and communication. Her work has inspired new *pipa* works from composers Terry Riley, Philip Glass, Lou Harrison, Tan Dun, Bright Sheng, Chen Yi, and many others. Wu Man has toured in Europe and the U.S. with Yo-Yo Ma's highly praised Silk Road Project including the Cal Performances presentation in April 2002.

THE COMPOSERS

Terry Riley, often called the "father of minimalism", is one of the quartet's earliest and most frequent composer-collaborators. His most recent collaboration with Kronos is *Sun Rings*, a multimedia, NASA-commissioned ode to the earth and its people, featuring celestial sounds and images gathered by the space agency. Kronos has commissioned four pieces from the South African-born **Kevin Volans** including *White Man Sleeps*, which was the centerpiece of two of Kronos Quartet's best-selling CDs: *White Man Sleeps* and *Pieces of Africa*—the latter was simultaneously number one on the *Billboard* and world music charts for 26 weeks. The late, beloved Indian composer and multi-instrumentalist **Rahul Dev Burman** composed music for more than 400 films. His willingness to innovate and to incorporate new styles brought new dimensions to Indian film and popular music. In 2003, Mexican-born **Felipe Perez Santiago** became the recipient of the second commission offered through The Kronos: Under 30 Project, created to acknowledge the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Kronos Quartet. Highly trained in electronic music, his much sought-after work includes pieces for dance, opera, video, film, and multimedia productions.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Kronos Quartet** with **Wu Man** on **Sunday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m.** in Hertz Hall are priced at **\$42.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

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

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

20th Century Music & Beyond

Kronos Quartet

Wu Man, *pipa*

Program:

Rahul Dev Burman / *Mehbooba Mehbooba (Beloved, O Beloved)*, arr. Stephen Prutsman / Kronos

Rahul Dev Burman / *Nodir Pare Utthchhe Dhnoa (Smoke Rises Across the River)*, arr. Stephen Prutsman / Kronos

Kevin Volans / *String Quartet No. 8 (Black Woman Rising)* (Bay Area premiere)

Felipe Pérez Santiago / *CampoSanto (Holy Ground)*

Terry Riley / *The Cusp of Magic* with special guest Wu Man, *pipa* (world premiere)

Tickets: \$42.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door.

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SIGHTLINES

Post-performance discussion with the artists immediately following the concert. *Sightlines* is a continuing program of pre- and post performance discussions with Cal Performances' guest artists and scholars, designed to enrich the audience's experience. These events are free to ticketholders.