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**CEDAR LAKE CONTEMPORARY BALLET
MAKES ITS BAY AREA DEBUT
IN ZELLERBACH HALL ON FEBRUARY 22 AND 23
HIGHLIGHTING TOP CONTEMPORARY CHOREOGRAPHY**

**Free pre-performance talk with the artists will be held
one hour prior to the February 22 performance**

BERKELEY, January 24, 2014—Powerful dancing of modern choreography is the focus when Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet makes its Bay Area debut on Saturday, February 22 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, February 23 at 3:00 p.m. in Cal Performances' Zellerbach Hall. The 16-dancer company, known for championing the works of living choreographers with European connections, will showcase dances by Jiří Kylián, Crystal Pite, and Jo Strømngren in a program that includes two Bay Area premieres. "Cedar Lake's popularity has everything to do with its roster of technically strong, stylistically malleable dancers, and its formidable repertoire of works by A-list choreographers" (*Boston Globe*).

Three dance works are on Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet's Berkeley program. *Indigo Rose* was created by Czech-born choreographer Jiří Kylián in 1998, using music by Robert Ashley, François Couperin, John Cage, and J.S. Bach. Its three movements use muscular motion, tender duets, shadow play, and projected images to document and illuminate the transient nature of youth and human relationships. Making its Bay Area premiere, *Ten Duets on a Theme of Rescue*, a piece created in 2007 by Vancouver-based choreographer Crystal Pite, uses music by rock drummer Cliff Martinez from the 2002 motion picture *Solaris*. As its title implies, Pite's work consists of 10 concise duets, separate yet interconnected, each with a unique emotional tone that is enhanced through creative lighting designed by Jim French. Another Bay Area premiere, *Necessity Again*, was commissioned by Cedar Lake from Norwegian choreographer Jo Strømngren in 2012. It uses music by popular French-Armenian singer/songwriter Charles Aznavour and a recorded interview with philosopher Jacques Derrida to explore those ineffable moments when emotion, represented by the music, trumps the rationality of words.

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New York City-based [Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet](#) was established in 2003 by heiress Nancy Walton Laurie and quickly rose to worldwide acclaim. Noted for daring, athletic movement that integrates contemporary and popular dance forms into ballet, Cedar Lake's repertoire is heavily influenced by Benoit-Swan Pouffer, the French-born, Alvin Ailey-trained dancer who guided the company toward works by contemporary European choreographers in his eight years as artistic director. Pouffer recently resigned; the company's interim artistic director is **Alexandra Damiani**, a French dancer who has been the troupe's ballet master since 2005. The 16 dancers in Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet are Jon Bond, Nickemil Concepcion, Jason Kittelberger, Navarra Novy-Williams, Matthew Rich, Joaquim de Santana, Acacia Schachte, Vânia Doutel Vaz, Ebony Williams, Rachelle Scott, Billy Bell, Ida Saki, Jin Young Won, Joseph Kudra, Guillaume Quéau, and Madeline Wong.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet on Saturday, February 22 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, February 23 at 3:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall range from \$30.00 to \$68.00 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 <http://www.calperformances.org>, and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to <http://calperformances.org/buy/discounts.php>.

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Cal Performances thanks Wells Fargo and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for their major support of the 2013—2014 Season.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, February 22, at 7:00 p.m.

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

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Pre-performance talk with dance specialist Kathryn Roszak and the artists. These talks are free to event ticketholders.

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Saturday, February 22, at 8:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus

Sunday, February 23, at 3:00 p.m.

Bancroft Way at Dana Street, Berkeley

Dance

Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet

Alexandra Damiani, Interim Artistic Director

Program:

Indigo Rose (1998): music by Robert Ashley, François Couperin, John Cage, and J.S. Bach; choreography by Jiří Kylián

Ten Duets on a Theme of Rescue (2007): music by Cliff Martinez; choreography by Crystal Pite (Bay Area premiere)

Necessity, Again (2012): music by Charles Aznavour, text by Jacques Derrida; choreography by Jo Strømngren (Bay Area premiere)

Tickets range from \$30.00 to \$68.00 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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