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[Images Available Here](#)

[Videos Available Here](#)

**BRITISH TENOR IAN BOSTRIDGE STARS IN NEW MULTIMEDIA STAGING
OF BENJAMIN BRITTEN'S *CURLEW RIVER*,
MAKING ITS WEST COAST PREMIERE AT CAL PERFORMANCES
NOVEMBER 14 AND 15 IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

Residency activities are planned on campus and in the community, including an artist talk with director Netia Jones and Cal Performances Associate Director Rob Bailis on November 14

BERKELEY, October 9, 2014—British tenor **Ian Bostridge** returns to Cal Performances for the first time since 2011, in the West Coast premiere of a new multimedia staging of Benjamin Britten's haunting opera, [Curlew River – A Parable for Church Performance](#), Friday, November 14 at 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, November 15 at 2:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall. Bostridge, a noted interpreter of Britten's work, sings with “plangent poignancy and haunted intensity” (*The Telegraph*, UK) as the griefstricken Madwoman in an immersive production, directed and designed by visual artist **Netia Jones**. [Watch her in an exclusive video interview with Cal Performances](#). Part *noh* theater and part medieval mystery play, Britten's austere, ritualistic opera from 1964 is an encounter between Japanese aesthetics and Christian traditions, with music that incorporates plainchant, chamber organ, and rhythms inspired by traditional *gagaku* drumming. A rarely-performed work, *Curlew River* is based on the play *Sumidagawa* by **Jūrō Motomasa**, which tells the story of a Madwoman (Bostridge) tortured by the loss of her child, joined by a trio of male characters (the Abbot, Ferryman, and the Traveller) with a chorus of eight pilgrims and a score for seven musicians, which are performed live by UK chamber ensemble **Britten Sinfonia** and the **Britten Sinfonia Voices**. *Curlew River* is co-produced by Cal Performances in collaboration with the Barbican Centre, London; Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, New York; and Carolina Performing Arts.

Residency activities are planned on campus and in the community, including an artist talk with director and video designer Netia Jones moderated by Cal Performances' Associate Director Rob Bailis, on Friday, November 14 at 6:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall. This talk is free and open to the public.

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[Netia Jones](#) is a British director, designer, and video artist working in opera, staged concerts, performance and installation. She uses video, film, and projected media in all of her work. Celebrated for "bringing intelligence and integrity to the task of bringing video into classical music" (*The Guardian*, UK), she is the director of LIGHTMAP, a mixed media creative studio and production company that creates video, film, installation, and interactive media projects in the UK, United States, and Europe.

[Ian Bostridge](#) returns to Cal Performances later this season in a more intimate context, for a recital with pianist Wenwen Du on Sunday, April 12, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. in Hertz Hall. [The Music and Poetry of the Great War](#) is a program curated by Bostridge to commemorate the centennial of the outbreak of WWI, that features songs by soldier composers George Butterworth and Ivor Gurney, Britten's setting of poems about children in wartime, and Weill's cycle on Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*, as well as works by Mahler and Lehár.

In a career that has brought him to all of the world's major stages, from intimate recital halls, to symphony halls and majestic opera houses, Bostridge is recognized as one of the most commanding performers and nuanced interpreters of his generation. He has an extensive, award-winning discography of German *lieder*, English song, orchestral song cycles, Bach cantatas, Baroque arias, and complete opera recordings. In 2013 Bostridge performed the *War Requiem* with the London Philharmonic Orchestra under Vladimir Jurowski, *Les Illuminations* with the Concertgebouw Orchestra under Andris Nelsons, and premiered a new production of *Curlew River – A Parable for Church Performance* at the Barbican to great critical acclaim.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for *Curlew River – A Parable for Church Performance* on Friday, November 14 at 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, November 15 at 2:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall range from \$30.00 to \$90.00 and are subject to change. Tickets for *The Music and Poetry of the Great War* on Sunday, April 12 at 3:00 p.m. in Hertz Hall are priced at \$68.00 and 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 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' 2014—2015 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Residency

Curlew River: Residency activities are planned on campus and in the community. For information, visit <http://calperformances.org/learn/discover-engage/programs.php>.

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Friday, November 14 at 6:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus

Artist Talk

Bancroft Way at Dana Street, Berkeley

Cal Performances' Associate Director Rob Bailis moderates an artist talk with *Curlew River* director Netia Jones.

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Friday, November 14 at 8:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus

Saturday, November 15 at 2:00 p.m.

Bancroft Way at Dana Street, Berkeley

Special Event

Curlew River – A Parable for Church Performance

Netia Jones, director

Martin Fitzpatrick, organ, music director

William Plomer, libretto

Ian Bostridge, Madwoman

Jeremy White, Abbot

Neal Davies, Traveller

Mark Stone, Ferryman

Program: Britten/*Curlew River – A Parable for Church Performance* (Cal Performances co-commission)

Tickets: Prices range from \$30.00-\$90.00 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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Sunday, April 12 at 2:00 p.m.
Pre-performance Talk

Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at College Avenue

A pre-performance talk will be held in the venue. Free to event ticketholders.

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Sunday, April 12 at 3:00 p.m.

Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at College Avenue

Recital

Ian Bostridge, tenor
Wenwen Du, piano

Program: British tenor Ian Bostridge and pianist Wenwen Du perform a program exploring the music and poetry of the Great War, including works by Butterworth, Gurney, Weill, Mahler, Lehár, and Britten.

Tickets: Priced at \$68.00 and 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.

– Cal Performances –