

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 8, 2014

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[Images Available Here](#)

[Videos Available Here](#)

**THE CZECH PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA AND
PRAGUE PHILHARMONIC CHOIR BRING DVOŘÁK'S *STABAT MATER* TO
CAL PERFORMANCES ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9 AT 3:00 P.M.**

A panel of distinguished arts writers will discuss "Creativity and Criticism" presented in association with the Rubin Institute for Music Criticism on November 9 at 11:00 a.m. in Hertz Hall. This event is free and open to the public

A pre-performance talk will be given by arts writer John Rockwell at 2:00 p.m. This event is free and open to ticketholders.

BERKELEY, October 8, 2014—Commemorating the 110th anniversary of the death of Czech composer Antonín Dvořák, Cal Performances presents the [Czech Philharmonic Orchestra and Prague Philharmonic Choir](#) in a rare performance of the composer's Romantic choral masterpiece, *Stabat Mater*, on Sunday, November 9 at 3:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall. The Philharmonic Orchestra, reunited with Chief Conductor **Jiří Bělohlávek** since 2012, and the Philharmonic Choir, led by choirmaster **Lukáš Vasilek**, have long been celebrated for their interpretations of their nation's most beloved composer. "The Czech Philharmonic boasts a burnished and refined European sound, with a warm, string-dominated center, brilliant brass and inimitable, characterful woodwinds, which serve music of their native composers Dvořák, Janáček and Martinů so well" (*Miami Sun Sentinel*). The Orchestra and Choir are making their Berkeley debut.

A panel discussion titled "Criticism and Creativity" will be moderated by Tim Page, Professor, University of Southern California, and held on Sunday, November 9, in Hertz Hall from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This panel is part of the Rubin Institute for Music Criticism, the first program of its kind focusing on music and music criticism and bringing together national music journalists, renowned musicians, and aspiring young writers. The panel will be drawn from the 2014 participating arts writers, including Anne Midgette, *Washington Post*; John Rockwell, writer and arts critic; Alex Ross, *The New Yorker* magazine critic and author; Heidi Waleson, *Wall Street Journal* critic and author; Rubin Institute benefactor Stephen Rubin,

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President and Publisher of Henry Holt & Co., whose writing credits include having written features for *The New York Times* for more than a decade; and Tim Page. The panel discussion is free and open to the public. For further information and a complete calendar of events go to <http://www.sfcm.edu/rubin-institute>.

A pre-performance talk about *Stabat Mater* will be given by arts writer and critic John Rockwell at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 9 in Zellerbach Hall. The event is free to concert ticketholders.

Dvořák's mournful *Stabat Mater*, scored for soli, choir and orchestra, is based on a Roman Catholic poem that evokes the pain of the Virgin Mary upon the death of her son Jesus Christ. Deeply religious, Dvořák began the score for his monumental cantata after the death of his own child. With their performances this season, the Czech Philharmonic and Prague Philharmonic Choir celebrate their long association with their nation's most beloved composer, who conducted the Philharmonic's debut performance in 1896 at the Rudolfinum in Prague.

Founded in 1896, the [Czech Philharmonic](#) has served as a symbol of Czech culture internationally and at home generations, through associations with great Czech conductors such as Václav Talich, Rafael Kubelík, Karel Ančerl, and Václav Neumann. The orchestra has received numerous awards and nominations, including ten Grands *Prix du Disque de l'Académie Charles-Cros*, five *Grand Prix du Disque de l'Académie française*, several Cannes Classical Awards, and a ranking in *Gramophone's* Top 20 Orchestras in the World. The Philharmonic's celebrated partnership with conductor Jiří Bělohlávek began during his tenure as Chief Conductor from 1990-1994, and has continued since his return to the position in 2012.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for the **Czech Philharmonic Orchestra and Prague Philharmonic Choir** on Sunday, November 9 at 3:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall range from \$36.00-\$112.00 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 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

Sunday, November 9 at 11:00 a.m.
Panel discussion

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

A panel discussion titled "Criticism and Creativity" will be moderated by Tim Page, Professor, University of Southern California and will include top arts writers and critics from around the country. This event is free and open to the public.

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Sunday, November 9 at 2:00 p.m.
Pre-performance Talk

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

A pre-performance talk with arts writer John Rockwell will be given at 2:00 p.m. at Zellerbach Hall on Sunday, November 9. This talk is free to event ticketholders.

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Sunday, November 9 at 3:00 p.m.

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

Chamber Music & Orchestra
Czech Philharmonic Orchestra
Jiří Bělohlávek, conductor
Prague Philharmonic Choir
Lukáš Vasilek, choirmaster

Program:

Dvořák/*Stabat Mater*, Op. 58

Tickets: Prices range from \$36.00-\$112.00 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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