

CONTACT:
Christina Kellogg 510.643.6714
ckellogg@calperformances.org
Joe Yang 510.642.9121
jyang@calperformances.org

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**FABIO BIONDI AND HIS EUROPA GALANTE RETURN TO
CAL PERFORMANCES FRIDAY, JANUARY 27 AT 8:00 P.M.
AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

Sightlines: Pre-concert talk by Professor Kate van Orden UC Berkeley, Department of Music and ensemble founder and director Fabio Biondi, January 23 at 7:00 p.m.

BERKELEY, December 21, 2011—Fabio Biondi returns with his superb **Europa Galante** to Berkeley's **First Congregational Church** on **Friday, January 27 at 8:00 p.m.** Led by founder Biondi, an inspired baroque violinist/conductor and fervent iconoclast, the band is considered the premiere ensemble in resurrecting and performing Italian classical pieces. The group will bring a new program titled *New Faces & Old* which is composed of works by some of the best known classical artists and some newly discovered transitional figures. The concert will include **Antonio Brioschi's** Sinfonia in D major; **Joseph Haydn's** Concerto for Violin and Harpsichord in F major; **Angelo Scaccia's** Violin Concerto in E-flat major; **Antonio Vivaldi's** Concerto for Violin, Op. 3, No. 3, from *Estro Armonico*; **J. S. Bach's** Concerto for Two Violins in D minor; and **George Handel's** Suite from *Rodrigo*.

A **Sightlines** pre-performance talk will be given by UC Berkeley Department of Music professor **Kate van Orden** on Friday, January 27, from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. at First Congregational Church. This event is free to ticket holders.

FABIO BIONDI

Born in Palermo, **Fabio Biondi** performed his first solo with Italy's RAI Symphony Orchestra at the age of 12. He has since performed with many ensembles, including Cappella Real, Musica Antiqua Wien, Seminario Musicale, La Chapelle Royale and Les Musiciens du Louvre, all of which play Baroque music using original technique and instruments. He plays on an Andrea Guarneri Violin and also a 1766 Carlo Ferdinando Gagliano Violin on loan by the Salvatore Ciero Foundation in Palermo. Biondi is known for his meticulous musicianship

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coupled with a lack of pretentiousness and is intent in his quest to keep true to the original style of composers. He has collaborated as soloist and conductor with many orchestras, including Santa Cecilia, Mozarteum Orchestra of Salzburg, European Baroque Orchestra, Opera of Halle, the Zurich Chamber Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of Norway, Orchestre Nationale of Montpellier, and Mahler Chamber Orchestra. Biondi has toured extensively and often performs in duets with pianist in many different locations including Paris, Tokyo, Madrid and London.

Biondi founded Europa Galante in 1990 and since then has conducted the group and played as violinist. In 2005, Biondi took on the role of artistic director for the Stavanger Symphony Orchestra. In addition, he is also an academic of the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome.

EUROPA GALANTE

Since its beginning almost 20 years ago, **Europa Galante** became an internationally respected in the Baroque music world as a result of its impressive recordings and tireless worldwide concert schedule. The ensemble has performed in many of the world's major concert halls, including La Scala in Milan, the Accademia di Santa Cecilia in Rome, Suntory Hall in Tokyo, Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Royal Albert Hall in London, Musikverein in Vienna, Lincoln Center in New York, and Sydney Opera House in Australia. Its repertoire ranges three centuries from universal repertoire to rediscovering music by minor composers and include works by Vivaldi, Scarlatti, Handel, Shubert and Schuman as well as 18th century Italian violin repertoires by Veracini, Vivaldi, Locatelli, Tartini. Biondi and the group have also helped to recover and restore several 18th-century Italian operas, including Antonio Caldara's *La Passione di Gesù Cristo* and Leonardo Leo's *Sant'Elena al Calvario*, and presented several world premieres. Because the ensemble can grow or shrink as the music demands, Europa Galante also has been known to perform chamber music such as string sonatas and string quintets. The group is currently the resident orchestra of Fondazione Teatro Due in Parma, Italy.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Europa Galante** with **Fabio Biondi**, director & violin, on **Friday, January 27, 2012**, at **8:00 p.m.** in **First Congregational Church** are priced at **\$52.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$5 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988 or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperformances.org.

For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior and community rush tickets. Rush tickets are announced three hours prior to a performance and are available in person only at the Ticket Office beginning one hour before the performance; quantities may be limited. Rush ticket sales are limited to one ticket per person; all sales are cash only. Rush ticket prices are \$10 for UCB students; \$15 for UCB faculty and staff (UCB ID required) and seniors age 65 or older; and \$20 for all other community members. Information is available at (510) 642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, three hours prior to a performance only.

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Cal Performances thanks Wells Fargo, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and Bank of America for their major support of the Season.

KDFC is media sponsor of the 2011/12 Season

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CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:
CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Friday, January 27 at 7:00 p.m.
SIGHTLINES

First Congregational Church
2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

Pre-performance talk by Professor Kate van Orden, UC Berkeley Department of Music.

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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. This event is free to ticket holders.

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Friday, January 27 at 8:00 p.m.

First Congregational Church
2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

Early Music

Europa Galante

Fabio Biondi, director & violin

New Faces & Old

Program:

Brioschi/Sinfonia in D major

Haydn/Concerto for Violin and Harpsichord in F major

Scaccia/Violin Concerto in E-flat major

Vivaldi/Concerto for Violin, Op. 3, No. 3, from *Estro Armonico*

Bach/Concerto for Two Violins in D minor

Handel/Suite from *Rodrigo*

Tickets: \$52.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office in Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door.

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