FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 31, 2013

## CAL PERFORMANCES' <u>FIRST STAGE FOR FAMILIES</u> SERIES CONTINUES WITH KAILA FLEXER, OAKLAND FOLKHARMONIC AND TESLIM IN WHEELER AUDITORIUM AT 11:00 A.M. AND 3:00 P.M. SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24

## Special hour long events are created for children and their grown ups

BERKELEY, January 31, 2013—The second First Stage for Families offering of the 2012-2013 season features a program led by Kaila Flexer on Sunday, February 24 at 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. in Wheeler Auditorium. Flexer and her co-conspirators, Shira Kammen and Gari Hegedus, are known for their work as composers who take inspiration from Greek, Turish, Sephardic and medival music. The concerts will showcase two ensembles. Teslim which has been praised as "exotic...spellbinding" (Billboard) will be composed of Flexer on fiddle and Hegedus on *oud*, *saz* and *mandocello*. The Oakland Folkharmonic is a new five-piece string band that includes Flexer, Kammen, and three of Flexer's former students, Danielle Taylor, Rachel Taylor and Kyla Danysh. Special guests include percussionist Tobias Roberson and basisst Miles Jay who will perform with both ensembles.

The First Stages for Family series concludes with two performances by four-time Grammy-nominated duo, Trout Fishing in America, on Sunday, April 14. "Embody[ing] a kind of goofball gestalt at odds with the sugary-sweet format of so much other music for the younger crowd" (*The New York Times*), bassist Keith Grimwood and guitarist Ezra Idlet create an broad mix of folk and rock music that is family-friendly. The series kicked off with a performance by Dell'Arte Company in November 2012.

## TICKET INFORMATION

First Stage for Families series features two Sunday one-hour performances by each company at 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at Wheeler Hall. Tickets are priced modestly at \$10.00 for children and \$20.00 for adults. 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 visit http://calperformances.org/performances/2012-13/first-stage/

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Cal Performances thanks Wells Fargo and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for their major support of the season.

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Sunday, February 24, at 11:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.

Wheeler Auditorium, UC Berkeley Campus Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

First Stage for Families
Oakland Folkharmonic
Kaila Flexer, violin
Shira Kammen, violin
Danielle Taylor
Rachel Taylor, viola/violin
Kyla Danysh, violin
Teslim
Kaila Flexer, violin
Gari Hegedus, multi-instrumentalist

Program: Kaila Flexer's Oakland Folkharmonic and Teslim will perform a repertoire ranging from traditional modal music of Greece, Turkey and the Middle East, to medieval music, to the original compositions of Kammen, Flexer, and Hegedus in this one hour concert.

Tickets: \$20.00 adults/\$10.00 children, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at <u>calperformances.org</u>; and at the door.

Sunday, April 14, at 11:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.

Wheeler Auditorium, UC Berkeley Campus Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

First Stage for Families
Trout Fishing in America
Keith Grimwood, bass
Ezra Idlet, guitar

Program: Bringing their eclectic mix of family friendly folk/rock music, Trout Fishing in America makes their Cal Performances debut in this one hour concert.

Tickets: \$20.00 adults/\$10.00 children, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at <u>calperformances.org</u>; and at the door.

- Cal Performances -