

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 26, 2014

CONTACT:
Rusty Barnes 510.642.9121
rbarnes@calperformances.org

[Images Available Here](#)

[Videos Available Here](#)

**CAL PERFORMANCES CELEBRATES HOMECOMING WEEKEND
WITH PERFORMANCES BY ART SPIEGELMAN,
AFROPOP SPECTACULAR, AND TAKÁCS QUARTET
FRIDAY–SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10–12**

**A Takács Quartet pre-performance talk featuring pianist Marc-André Hamelin
will be held on Sunday, October 12 at 2:00 p.m. in Hertz Hall.**

BERKELEY, August 26, 2014—With three performances that showcase the diversity and breadth of its programming, Cal Performances offers something for everyone during UC Berkeley's Homecoming weekend celebration. Grandfather of the graphic novel **Art Spiegelman** opens the weekend with his multimedia presentation [Wordless!](#). Accompanied live by jazz saxophonist and composer **Phillip Johnston** and his sextet on Friday, October 10 at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall, Spiegelman's appearance is part of the new *Berkeley Talks* series hosted by UC Berkeley Chancellor Nicholas B. Dirks. In a double bill featuring earthy African blues and hypnotic ancient grooves, virtuoso *ngoni* player **Bassekou Kouyate** joins the Ethiopian trio **Krar Collective** in [Afropop Spectacular](#), Saturday, October 11 at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall. Berkeley favorites the [Takács Quartet](#) conclude the weekend on Sunday, October 12 at 3:00 p.m. in Hertz Hall with a program of musical contrasts, featuring pianist **Marc-André Hamelin**. This three day series of events highlights Cal Performances' commitment to making world-class artists across a wide range of interests accessible to the UC Berkeley campus and community.

A Takács Quartet pre-performance talk featuring pianist Marc-André Hamelin will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 12 in Hertz Hall. This event is free and open to ticketholders.

Wordless! is a multimedia presentation of slides, comics, stories, and history by [Art Spiegelman](#), the Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist and author of *MAUS*. Accompanied live by

-MORE-

jazz saxophonist [Phillip Johnston](#) and his sextet, Spiegelman narrates a personal tour of the first graphic novels made by early 20th century masters such as Frans Masereel, Lynd Ward, Milt Gross, and others. He will also feature *Shaping Thought!*, a new work drawn specifically for this project. Spiegelman's appearance is the first Cal Performances production of *Berkeley Talks*, a new series of conversations hosted by UC Berkeley's chancellor, Nicholas B. Dirks, which brings together the world's luminaries to examine the distinctive issues of our time. This series continues on Saturday, November 15 with comedian and best-selling author [David Sedaris](#) and on Wednesday, December 10 with cellist [Yo-Yo Ma](#).

Afropop Spectacular features performances on the banjo-like *ngoni* by virtuoso [Bassekou Kouyate](#) and the Ethiopian trio Krar Collective. Kouyate, who has collaborated with Toumani Diabaté, Ali Farka Touré, and Youssou N'Dour, descends from a long line of Malian *griots*, and combines generations of tradition with innovative rock-inflected techniques on the *ngoni*. Kouyate's debut album won BBC Radio 3's "World Music Album of the Year" (2008), where it was praised as "some of the most exquisite African music making of recent times." The [Krar Collective](#) blends female vocals with the rhythmic riffs of an amplified *krar*, a six-string harp, and the double-headed *kebero* drum.

The esteemed [Takács Quartet](#) returns to Cal Performances for a program of musical contrasts, including Haydn's rhythmically active String Quartet No. 50 in B-flat major, Op. 64, No. 3 (1790), and Debussy's lone composition for quartet, an influential work of musical Impressionism, the String Quartet in G minor, Op. 10 (1893). Longtime collaborator, pianist [Marc-André Hamelin](#), joins the quartet for César Franck's Piano Quintet in F Minor, in a pairing lauded for its previous interpretations of Schumann: "The Takács and Hamelin, at once delicate and muscular, combine to spellbinding effect" (*The Observer*, London).

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Art Spiegelman's** *WORDLESS!* on Friday, October 10 at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall range from \$22.00 to \$58.00. Tickets for **Afropop Spectacular** on Saturday, October 11 at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall range from \$18.00 to \$48.00. Tickets for **Takács Quartet** with **Marc-André Hamelin** on Sunday, October 12 at 3:00 p.m. in Hertz Hall are priced at \$62.00. All ticket prices 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>.

#

Cal Performances' 2014–2015 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

#

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Friday, October 10 at 8:00 p.m.

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

Berkeley Talks

WORDLESS!

Art Spiegelman, cartoonist, writer

Phillip Johnston, composer, saxophonist

Program:

Accompanied live by jazz saxophonist Phillip Johnston, Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist Art Spiegelman brings *WORDLESS!*, a multimedia presentation of slides, stories, and history of the wordless novels of the 20th Century, to Zellerbach Hall as part of the new speaker series *Berkeley Talks*.

Tickets: Prices range from \$22.00 to \$58.00 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.

#

Saturday, October 11 at 8:00 p.m.

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

World Stage

Afropop Spectacular: Bassekou Kouyate and Krar Collective

Program:

Afropop Spectacular features earthy African blues and hypnotic ancient grooves by the banjo-like *ngoni* virtuoso Bassekou Kouyate and the Ethiopian trio Krar Collective.

Tickets: Prices range from \$18.00 to \$48.00 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.

#

Sunday, October 12 at 2:00 p.m.
Pre-performance Talk

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

A pre-performance talk with pianist Marc-André Hamelin will be held in the venue. Free to event ticketholders.

#

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

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

Chamber Music & Orchestra
Takács Quartet
Marc-André Hamelin, piano

Program:

Haydn/String Quartet No. 50 in B-flat major, Op. 64, No. 3

Debussy/String Quartet in G minor, Op. 10

Franck/Piano Quintet in F minor

Tickets: Priced at \$62.00 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 –