

CONTACT:  
Christina Kellogg 510.643.6714  
ckellogg@calperformances.org  
Rusty Barnes 510.642.9121  
rbarnes@calperformances.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 2, 2013

**IN CELEBRATION OF *DIA DE LOS MUERTOS*  
CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS  
MARIACHI VARGAS DE TECALITLÁN  
ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3 AT 7:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

**A pre-performance talk will be held Sunday, November 3 at 6:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall.**

**BERKELEY, October 2, 2013**—Long hailed as the definitive mariachi ensemble, [Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán](#) brings its infectious music to [Cal Performances](#) on Sunday, November 3 at 7:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall. The 14-piece band has been featured in more than 50 recordings and 200 movies since the group's founding in 1898. The ensemble, which includes sixth generation musicians, received popular acclaim in the United States when it appeared on Linda Ronstadt's 1987 Grammy-winning album, *Canciones de mi Padre*. The concert will include traditional and popular mariachi music, such as *pasodobles*, *valses*, *bailables*, polkas, and *danzones*. The program, to be announced from the stage, will include songs that celebrate the Mexican holiday *Dia de los Muertos*, which concludes the day before the performance.

A pre-performance talk will begin on Sunday, November 3 at 6:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall. This event is free to ticketholders. Further details to be announced.

Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán has headlined concerts and mariachi festivals throughout the world for decades. "This group of extraordinary musicians and singers performed music that was unbelievably emotional, accessible, immediate," said Anthony Freud, general director of the Lyric Opera of Chicago. This organization presented *Cruzar la Cara de la Luna* (2011), a mariachi opera composed by the ensemble's music director [Jose "Pepe" Martinez](#). The group's rich sound is produced by three trumpets, five violins, one harp, *vihuela*, guitar, *guitarrón*, and *guitara*. More than half of the musicians also provide vocals. A performance by Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán is as much a visual experience as a sonic one, with the musicians costumed in ornate, embroidered *charro* suits, colorful neck kerchiefs, and broad-brimmed, delicately decorated *sombreros*.

-MORE-

Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán was founded as a quartet in 1898 by Don Gaspar Vargas in the Mexican village of Tecalitlán. Maestro [Rubén Fuentes](#), the group's general director, has led the ensemble since 1944. A classically trained violinist and composer, Fuentes has written more than 200 songs and arrangements, has been named Mexico's songwriter of the year three times, and is widely regarded as one of the most important figures in the history of mariachi. Martinez has been musical director of Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán since 1975. Born in 1941, Martinez began playing violin in mariachi bands at age 13, formed his own ensemble at age 25, and joined Mariachi Vargas at age 34, contributing his extraordinary compositions, arrangements, and medleys.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán on Sunday, November 3, at 7:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall range from \$18.00 to \$48.00 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 <http://www.calperformances.org>; and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to <http://calperformances.org/buy/discounts.php>.

# # #

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

# # #

### **CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

#### **CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

Sunday, November 3, at 6:00 p.m.  
Pre-performance talk

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus  
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

Company members will discuss the history and music of Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán. Talks are free to event ticketholders. Further details to be announced.

# # #

-MORE-

Sunday, November 3, at 7:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus  
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

*World Stage*

Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán

Rubén Fuentes, general director

José “Pepe” Martínez, musical director

Program: Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán will play traditional and popular mariachi music featuring strings, brass, and passionate singing. Songs celebrating the Mexican holiday *Día de Los Muertos*, which concludes the day prior to the performance, will be included.

Tickets range from \$18.00 to \$48.00, subject to change; they are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988; at [calperformances.org](http://calperformances.org); and at the door.

---

– Cal Performances –