

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

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**PHILHARMONIA BAROQUE ORCHESTRA RETURNS TO
CAL PERFORMANCES WITH HANDEL'S MESSIAH
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, AT 8:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

BERKELEY, November 25, 2013—The acclaimed early music ensemble [Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra](#), led by music director **Nicholas McGegan**, will perform George Frideric Handel's cherished oratorio *Messiah* at [Cal Performances](#) on Saturday, December 14, at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall. The orchestra is renowned for its authentic performances, employing period instruments and performance practices that transport the audience back to the 17th and 18th centuries. Although the musicians adhere closely to early practices, "their playing laces precision with a heady dose of abandon. . . . McGegan presides with genial vigor, encouraging and enjoying the extravagance" (*Boston Globe*). The ensemble will be joined by soloists **Yulia van Doren**, soprano; **Jay Carter**, countertenor; **Lawrence Wiliford**, tenor; and **Philip Cutlip**, baritone. The **Philharmonia Chorale**, the orchestra's 24-member chorus directed by **Bruce Lamott**, will sing the oratorio's choral sections.

The Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra has presented historically informed Baroque, Classical, and early-Romantic music on original instruments since its founding in 1981 by harpsichordist and early music pioneer **Laurette Goldberg**. McGegan has led the orchestra since 1986 and is extolled for his Baroque recordings, including the first modern recording of Handel's *Susanna*, which garnered a Gramophone Award and a Grammy Award nomination. In addition to its concert series in the San Francisco Bay Area, Philharmonia Baroque regularly tours nationally and internationally. Throughout its history, the group has collaborated with a wide range of artists, including pianist Emanuel Ax, choreographer Mark Morris, gambist Jordi Savall, mezzo-soprano Susan Graham, and countertenor David Daniels. The orchestra and chorale appear frequently at Cal Performances and performed Handel's *Messiah* here in December 2011 and December 2012. The ensemble's next appearance in Berkeley will be in the world premiere of Mark Morris's production of Handel's [Acis and Galatea](#), April 25–27, 2014.

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TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra on Saturday, December 14, at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall range from \$30.00 to \$75.00 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>.

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Cal Performances thanks Wells Fargo and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for their major support of the 2013–2014 Season.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, December 14, at 8:00 p.m.

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

Holiday

Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra
Nicholas McGegan, conductor
Yulia van Doren, soprano
Jay Carter, countertenor
Lawrence Wiliford, tenor
Philip Cutlip, baritone
Philharmonia Chorale
Bruce Lamott, director

Program: Handel/*Messiah*

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