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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 20, 2013

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS LES VIOLONS DU ROY  
WITH MEZZO-SOPRANO STEPHANIE BLYTHE  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, AT 3:00 P.M. IN HERTZ HALL**

**A pre-performance talk will be given by Bernard Labadie on  
Sunday, October 20 at 2:00 p.m.**

**BERKELEY, September 20, 2013**—Named after the string ensembles kept close at hand by the kings of France, Canadian ensemble [Les Violons du Roy](#) combines historical accuracy with passionate musical expression. The 15-member string ensemble of “almost superhuman perfection” (*Opera News*) will be joined by the incomparable mezzo-soprano [Stephanie Blythe](#) on Sunday, October 20, at 3:00 p.m. in Hertz Hall. The program consists of two orchestral works, Georg Philipp Telemann’s Suite in C major, TWV 55: C6, and J. S. Bach’s Suite No. 4 in D major, BWV 1069 (original version); plus arias from Joseph Haydn’s *Arianna a Naxos*, Hob. XXXVIb: 2 and George Frideric Handel’s *Giulio Cesare*, HWV 17. The ensemble was founded in 1984 by its music director [Bernard Labadie](#), who will conduct the concert.

Bernard Labadie will give a pre-performance talk beginning at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 20, in Hertz Hall. This event is free to event ticket holders; talks are designed to enrich the experience of concertgoers.

Québec City–based Les Violons du Roy was founded by artistic director Bernard Labadie almost 30 years ago and specializes in the vast repertoire of music for chamber orchestra, performed in the stylistic manner most appropriate to each era. Although the ensemble plays on modern instruments, its approach to the works of the Baroque and Classical periods has been strongly influenced by current understanding of performance practice in the 17th and early 18th centuries; in this repertoire Les Violons du Roy uses Baroque bows and bowing technique.

Cal Performances, Violons du Roy with Stephanie Blythe

Stephanie Blythe, considered one of the finest mezzo-sopranos of the day, has sung in many of the renowned opera houses in the United States and Europe and with many of the world's finest orchestras. This season, she appeared as Fricka in the Metropolitan Opera's new productions of *Das Rheingold* and *Die Walküre* and made her debut at the Lyric Opera of Chicago in *Un Ballo in Maschera* and *The Mikado*. She also appeared in concert at the Concertgebouw and with the Collegiate Chorale in Carnegie Hall. This summer she appeared in concerts at the Cincinnati May Festival and the Tanglewood Festival. Blythe has received many awards, including the 2009 Musical America's Vocalist of the Year, 2007 *Opera News* Award, and the 1999 Richard Tucker Award.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for **Les Violons du Roy with Stephanie Blythe** on **Sunday, October 20**, at **3:00 p.m.** in **Hertz Hall** range from **\$30.00** to **\$68.00** and are subject to change. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988; at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org); and at the door. For more information about tickets and discounts, go to <http://calperformances.org/buy/discounts.php> or call (510) 642-9988.

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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**

Sunday, October 20, at 2:00 p.m.  
Pre-performance talk

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

Program: Bernard Labadie, the music director of Les Violons du Roy, will give a talk before the concert. This event is free to ticket holders.

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Cal Performances, Violons du Roy with Stephanie Blythe

Sunday, October 20, at 3:00 p.m.

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

*Early Music*

**Les Violons du Roy**

**Bernard Labadie**, music director

**Stephanie Blythe**, mezzo-soprano

Program:

Telemann/Suite in C major, TWV 55: C6 (Ouverture à 7)

Haydn/ *Arianna a Naxos*, Hob. XXXVIb: 2

(anonymous string orchestra arrangement), excerpts

Bach/Suite No. 4 in D major, BWV 1069 (original version)

Handel/*Giulio Cesare*, HWV (17), excerpts

Tickets: Range from \$30.00 to \$68.00, and are subject to change. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org); and at the door.

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