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***PIPA* VIRTUOSO WU MAN RETURNS TO CAL PERFORMANCES
TO EXPLORE THE 2,000-YEAR HISTORY OF HER INSTRUMENT
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26 AT 3:00 P.M. IN HERTZ HALL**

[WATCH AN EXCLUSIVE VIDEO OF WU MAN DEMONSTRATING THE *PIPA*](#)

BERKELEY, December 27, 2013—Winner of the 2013 Instrumentalist of the Year award by *Musical America*, Chinese-born [Wu Man](#) has become a celebrated musician since moving to the United States 20 years ago. While documenting hundreds of journeys to little-known regions of Asia, she unearthed ancient musical traditions that have influenced both the *pipa*'s repertoire and her own technique. "The effects Wu Man can extract from her instrument cover a wide spectrum: it can caress, crack jokes and sing sweetly, or it can howl and roar to a degree you'd scarcely dream possible with 10 fingers and four strings stretched over a shallow rosewood box" (*Songlines Magazine*). Her [Cal Performances](#) recital on Sunday, January 26 at 3:00 p.m. in Hertz Hall will explore the full range of this two century old instrument by demonstrating traditional sounds, as well as those she creates when performing with such contemporary greats as Tan Dun, Terry Riley, and Philip Glass.

By meshing the ancient with the modern, Wu Man will take the Berkeley audience on an illuminating personal journey. Opening with two hand-written scores from the 1870s, *Xi Yang Xiao Gu* ("Flute and Drum Music at Sunset) and *Shi Mian Mai Fu* ("Ambush Laid on Ten Sides"), these compositions feature the "civil" and "martial" styles of classical *pipa* music—the latter of which is structured in traditional storytelling form portraying the epic battle between the kingdoms of Han and the warlord of Chu in 202 B.C. The program then moves into the 20th century with Liu Tianhua's *Xu Lai* ("Meditation") and *Music from Kyrgyzstan*, composed by Nurlanbek Nyshanov for Wu Man during the Silk Road Project residency in Boston in 2004. The next piece, *Dance of the Yi People* by Wang Hurian, displays virtuoso *pipa* techniques, such as tremolos, strumming, sliding notes, and harmonics. Concluding the program is a traditional work *San Liu* ("Three Six"), followed by two of Wu Man's own contemporary compositions, *Night Thoughts* and *Leaves Flying in Autumn*.

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Born in Hangzhou, China, Wu Man studied with Lin Shicheng, Kuang Yuzhong, Chen Zemin, and Liu Dehie at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, where she became the first recipient of a master's degree in *pipa*. Brought up in the Pudong School of *pipa* playing, one of the most prestigious classical styles of imperial China, she gained her first exposure to western classical music in 1979 when she saw Seiji Ozawa and the Boston Symphony performing in Beijing. Adamant that the *pipa* not be confined to its traditional role, Wu Man has worked to develop a place for the instrument in many musical forms. In addition to performing as a soloist with some of the world's major orchestras, she regularly collaborates with new music ensemble The Kronos Quartet and Yo-Yo Ma's The Silk Road Ensemble. She was most recently at Cal Performances when she joined The Kronos Quartet on stage for its 40th birthday concert. Wu Man was the first artist from China to perform at the White House.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for Wu Man on Sunday, January 26 at 3:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall are \$32.00 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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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, January 26, at 3:00 p.m.

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

World Stage
Wu Man, *pipa*

-MORE-

Program:

Anon/*Xi Yang Xiao Gu* (“Flute and Drum Music at Sunset”) including

The Sound of Bells and Drums from a Distant; Temple along the River; Moon on the Eastern Mountain; Breeze over the Quiet Water; Shadows of Flowers; Clouds and Water Far Away Become as One; A Fishman’s Song in the Evening; Waves Lapping at the Shore; The Returning Boat (Classical - civil)

Anon/*Shi Mian Mai Fu* (“Ambush Laid on Ten Sides”) (Classical - martial)

Liu Tianhua/ *Xu Lai* (“Meditation”)

Nurlanbek Nyshanov/ *Music from Kyrgyzstan* (2004)

Wang Hurian/ *Dance of the Yi People* (1960)

Anon/*San Liu* (“Three Six”) (Traditional)

Wu Man/*Night Thoughts* (2005)

Wu Man/ *Leaves Flying in Autumn* (2000)

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– Cal Performances –