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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 4, 2012

**CAL PERFORMANCES' FIRST STAGE FOR FAMILIES SERIES
FEATURES MUSIC, THEATER AND CIRCUS ARTS IN WHEELER
AUDITORIUM AT 11:00 A.M. AND 3:00 P.M. ON SUNDAYS**

Special hour long events are created for children and their grown ups

BERKELEY, October 4, 2012—The First Stage for Families series kicks off on Sunday, **November 4** with the **Dell' Arte Company** in **Wheeler Auditorium** with two performances at **11:00 a.m.** and **3:00 p.m.** A company of seven actors combine theater, music and acrobatics in a new production titled *The Fish in My Head* directed and designed by **Ronlin Foreman**. Featuring the untold stories that swirl about in our dreams, the ensemble will use a blend of mask, circus skills, stilt-walking, physical comedy and songs to transform the stage into a realm of imagination full of fantasy. Originally founded in 1971 by Carlo Mazzone-Clementi and Jane Hill, Dell' Arte was created to bring the European physical training tradition to the United States and, in particular, to Blue Lake, California, where the troupe is still located. The company has created award-winning original works that tour nationally and internationally. "The spirit and originality of this company is ultimately irresistible" (*Variety*).

Next up in the series are double-bill performances by ensembles led by **Kaila Flexer: Oakland Folkharmonic** and **Teslim** on Sunday, February 24. The Oakland Folkharmonic is a five-piece string band that includes fellow fiddler **Shira Kammen**. Flexer will also perform with long-time collaborator **Gari Hegedus**, a multi-instrumentalist and the other half of Flexer's "exotic ... spellbinding" (*Billboard*) duo, as Teslim. Known for her work in various folk traditions from around the world, including Jewish klezmer music and Turkish folk music, Flexer's concerts will showcase her ensembles' eclectic repertoire, ranging from traditional modal music of Greece, Turkey and the Middle East to medieval music to original compositions by Flexer, Kammen, Hegedus and **Ross Daly**.

The series concludes with two performances by four-time Grammy-nominated duo, **Trout Fishing in America**, on Sunday, April 14. "Embody[ing] a kind of goofball gestalt at

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odds with the sugary-sweet format of so much other music for the younger crowd” (*The New York Times*), bassist **Keith Grimwood** and guitarist **Ezra Idlet** create an broad mix of folk and rock music that is family-friendly.

TICKET INFORMATION

First Stage for Families series features two Sunday one-hour performances by each company at 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at Wheeler Hall. Tickets are priced modestly at \$10.00 for children and \$20.00 for adults. 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 visit <http://calperformances.org/performances/2012-13/first-stage/>

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

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Sunday, November 4, at 11:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m. Wheeler Auditorium, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

First Stage for Families
The Fish in My Head
Dell’Arte Company

Program: Incorporating circus arts, comedy routines and musical theatre, Dell’Arte Company will bring their work, *The Fish in My Head*, to Cal Performances in a one hour concert.

Tickets: \$20.00 adults/\$10.00 children, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at calperformances.org; and at the door.

Sunday, February 24, at 11:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m. Wheeler Auditorium, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

First Stage for Families
Kaila Flexer, violin & leader
Oakland Folkharmonic
with **Shira Kammen**, fiddle
Teslim
with **Gari Hegedus**, multi-instrumentalist

Program: Kaila Flexer's Oakland Folkharmonic and Teslim will perform a repertoire ranging from traditional modal music of Greece, Turkey and the Middle East, to medieval music, to the original compositions of Kammen, Flexer, Hegedus and Ross Daly in this one hour concert.

Tickets: \$20.00 adults/\$10.00 children, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at calperformances.org; and at the door.

Sunday, April 14, at 11:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.

Wheeler Auditorium, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

First Stage for Families

Trout Fishing in America

Keith Grimwood, bass

Ezra Idlet, guitar

Program: Bringing their eclectic mix of family friendly folk/rock music, Trout Fishing in America makes their Cal Performances debut in this one hour concert.

Tickets: \$20.00 adults/\$10.00 children, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at calperformances.org; and at the door.

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