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**ENSEMBLE BASIANI BRINGS THE SOUNDS OF GEORGIA TO
CAL PERFORMANCES ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20
IN FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

Sightlines: A pre-performance talk to be given on Saturday, October 20 at 7:00 p.m.

BERKELEY, September 6, 2012—Georgia’s internationally praised **Ensemble Basiani** makes its debut at the **First Congregational Church** on **Saturday, October 20 at 8:00 p.m.** with an evening of songs drawn from the area’s rich history. Led by **George Donadze**, the ensemble sings a variety of secular and religious music from chants to melodic yodeling to complex harmonies, all in a polyphonic style. Founded in 2000 with the blessing of Ilia II, the current Patriarch of Georgia and spiritual leader of the Georgian Orthodox Church, the all male choir dressed in traditional black *chokhas* robes aims to spread Georgian culture and musical tradition. Named after what was a southwest Georgian region, but is now part of Turkey, the group researches and performs music spanning the 7th to the 13th centuries. Content varies from sacred ceremonies to every day work songs. At a recent performance at Alice Tully Hall *The New York Times* claimed Georgia’s Ensemble Basiani “stole the show.”

Georgia’s Ensemble Basiani has toured internationally and released seven albums. In addition to last year’s performance in New York, the choir sang in many prestigious international venues, including Auditorio Nacional de Musica (Madrid), Concertgebouw (Amsterdam) and Aldeburgh Music Festival. The group will finish its United States tour with a performance at Lincoln Center’s White Light Festival. More information can be found at basiani.ge/en.

A Sightlines pre-performance talk will be given on Saturday, October 20 at 7:00 p.m. in First Congregational Church. This event is free to all Ensemble Basiani event ticket holders. Speaker information will be available soon at calperformances.org.

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TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for the **Georgia's Ensemble Basiani** on **October 20** at **8:00 p.m.** in **First Congregational Church** are priced at **\$46.00** and are subject to change. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$5.00 discount (Special Events excluded). For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior, and community rush tickets. For more information about 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 Season.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE: CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, October 20 at 7-7:30 p.m.

**First Congregation Church of Berkeley
2345 Channing Way, Berkeley, CA**

A Sightlines pre-performance talk will be given on Saturday, October 20 at 7:00 p.m. in First Congregational Church. Sightlines is a continuing program of pre- and post-performance discussions with Cal Performances' guest artists and scholars, designed to enrich the audience's experience. These talks are free to event ticket holders.

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Saturday, October 20 at 8:00 p.m.

**First Congregation Church of Berkeley
2345 Channing Way, Berkeley, CA**

World Stage
Georgia's Ensemble Basiani

Program: Under the blessing of the Patriarch of Georgia, Georgia's Ensemble Basiani performs folk songs and chants from the region's rich heritage.

Tickets: **\$42.00** subject to change, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door.

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