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[Press Room](#)

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS
KRONOS QUARTET
PERFORMING THREE FROM ITS *FIFTY FOR THE FUTURE* INITIATIVE,
INCLUDING THE WORLD PREMIERE OF NEW WORK BY ANNA MEREDITH

COMMEMORATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE,
MARY KOUYOUMDJIAN'S *SILENT CRANES* RECEIVES BAY AREA PREMIERE**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2016

Berkeley, November 10, 2016 — Cal Performances welcomes back the [Kronos Quartet](#) for a concert featuring three works by composers from *Fifty for the Future: The Kronos Learning Repertoire*, on Saturday, December 3, at 8pm in Zellerbach Hall. Through its *Fifty for the Future* initiative, Kronos is commissioning a collection of 50 new works—10 per year for five years—from an eclectic group of 50 composers (25 men and 25 women); the new works explore contemporary approaches to the string quartet, designed for student players and emerging professional ensembles. Cal Performances is a major project partner for *Fifty for the Future*, which aligns closely with its Berkeley RADICAL initiative to cultivate artistic literacy in future generations.

Of *Fifty for the Future*, Kronos Quartet artistic director, violinist and founder David Harrington told NPR, “What I hope will happen is that the art form is just going to expand. And the explorations that will be possible from this body of work will just bring a lot of new energy into the field.” The score for each of Kronos’ *Fifty for the Future* commissions will be made available to musicians free of charge, along with accompanying digital learning materials, recordings, and performance notes.

In this concert, Kronos performs the World Premiere of *Tuggemo* by **Anna Meredith**, one movement from *Satellites* by **Garth Knox**, and *My Desert, My Rose* by **Aleksandra Vrebalov**, all of which are among the expansive new works to come from Kronos’ *Fifty for the Future* project. The

concert includes two additional premieres: the Bay Area Premiere of *Silent Cranes* by **Mary Kouyoumdjian** and the West Coast Premiere of **Jacob Garchik's** arrangement of *Strange Fruit* by **Abel Meeropol**. Philip Glass' String Quartet No. 7 and Reena Esmail's arrangement of N. Rajam's *Dadra in Raga Bhairavi* will also be performed in this concert. All of these compositions draw inspiration from diverse human experiences, both joyful and tragic: from the Armenian genocide, to man's perilous relationship with water, to the cosmos.

Called "one of the most innovative minds in modern British music" (*Pitchfork*), composer, producer and performer Anna Meredith's new work *Tuggemo* will receive its World Premiere at Cal Performances. Meredith's compositions often straddle multiple genres, from contemporary classical to avant pop, electronica to experimental rock. As a composer, she won the 2010 Paul Hamlyn Award and served as Composer-in-Residence with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra; *Tuggemo* is Meredith's first commission by Kronos.

First generation Armenian-American and Bay Area native Mary Kouyoumdjian's *Silent Cranes* was composed to commemorate the 2015 centennial of the Armenian genocide. The work, which will receive its Bay Area Premiere at Cal Performances, combines the live acoustic sounds of the string quartet with prerecorded Armenian folk songs, testimonies from genocide survivors, and video projection by Laurie Olinder that evokes aspects of Armenian culture and history. *Silent Cranes* was premiered by Kronos at the Yerevan Perspectives 16th International Music Festival in the Armenian National Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet in Yerevan, Armenia, on April 29, 2015, four days after the 100th anniversary of the genocide was officially commemorated. This is Kouyoumdjian's second work commissioned by Kronos; she was previously among the composers selected to participate in the *Kronos: Under 30 Project*, a commissioning and residency program for composers under 30 years of age.

Abel Meeropol's song *Strange Fruit*, best known from Billie Holiday's haunting 1939 vocal rendition, paints a harrowing portrayal of the lynching of a black man in the American South. Commissioned for Kronos by the Kronos Performing Arts Association's David Harrington Research and Development Fund, Jacob Garchik's arrangement of the well-known song positions the quartet as an extension of the voice of Billie Holiday, and will receive its West Coast Premiere at Cal

Performances. Garchik has had a long relationship with Kronos, arranging over 70 pieces for the quartet over the past ten years, including two for the *Fifty for the Future* initiative.

Aleksandra Vrebalov is a frequent Kronos collaborator, whose recent work for Kronos, *Beyond Zero: 1914–1918*, had its World Premiere at Cal Performances as part of Kronos' 40th anniversary season. *The New York Times* wrote that the “the intricate, industrious patterns” in Vrebalov's *Fifty for the Future* composition *My Desert, My Rose*, “exuded adventure and intensity.”

Garth Knox's *Satellites* draws on the physics, and the mystery, of outer space, to explore non-traditional techniques on the string instruments of the quartet.

As part of the *Fifty for the Future* program, Kronos will participate in several residency activities, free and open to the UC Berkeley campus and community. On Thursday, December 1, members of the Kronos Quartet will coach small ensembles from local middle and high schools in *Fifty for the Future* compositions, hosted at Oakland School for the Arts (OSA). A Composer Colloquium is planned on Friday, December 2, from 3 to 4:30pm in the Department of Music, and will feature Kronos Quartet's David Harrington alongside composer Mary Kouyoumdjian in a discussion of the ensemble's *Fifty for the Future* initiative. Harrington and Kouyoumdjian will participate in an Artist Talk on Saturday, December 3, at 5pm in Zellerbach Hall to discuss Kouyoumdjian's *Silent Cranes*.

About Kronos Quartet

For more than 40 years, San Francisco's Kronos Quartet – David Harrington (violin), John Sherba (violin), Hank Dutt (viola), and Sunny Yang (cello) – has combined a spirit of fearless exploration with a commitment to continually reimagining the string quartet experience. In the process, Kronos has become one of the world's most celebrated and influential ensembles, performing thousands of concerts, releasing more than 60 recordings, collaborating with an eclectic mix of composers and performers, and commissioning over 900 works and arrangements for string quartet. The Grammy-winning quartet has also received the Polar Music and Avery Fisher Prizes. The nonprofit Kronos Performing Arts Association manages all aspects of Kronos' work, including the commissioning of new works, concert tours and home-season performances, education programs, and an annual Kronos Festival in San Francisco. In 2015, Kronos launched *Fifty for the Future*: The Kronos Learning Repertoire, which commissions and distributes online for free 50 new works (five by

women and five by men, each year for five years) that are designed to train students and emerging professionals.

About Cal Performances

Cal Performances is the performing arts presenter and producer of the University of California, Berkeley, fulfilling its mission by presenting, producing, and commissioning renowned and emerging artists in music, dance, and theater. Cal Performances reaches more than 150,000 people annually through concerts and campus and community events, including talks, symposia, lecture demonstrations, and academic courses based on Cal Performances' season. Under the leadership of Matías Tarnopolsky, the organization launched Berkeley RADICAL (Research and Development Initiative in Creativity Arts and Learning) to cultivate the artistic literacy of future audiences and connect some of the most innovative artists in the world with the intellectual capital of UC Berkeley. The 2016/17 season is the second year of Berkeley RADICAL, and embraces three strands of artistic exploration: *Inclusion*, *Innovation*, and *Immersion*. More information on Berkeley RADICAL can be found at calperformances.org/berkeley-radical.

Ticket Information

Tickets for Kronos Quartet; *Fifty for the Future* on Saturday, December 3 at 8pm in Zellerbach Hall range from \$36–\$68 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 calperformances.org, and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to calperformances.org/discounts.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, December 3 at 8pm

New Music: Berkeley RADICAL
Kronos Quartet *Fifty for the Future*

Zellerbach Hall
Bancroft Way at Dana Street
UC Berkeley campus

Program:

Aleksandra Vrebalov	<i>My Desert, My Rose</i> *
Garth Knox	“Dimensions” (third movement) from <i>Satellites</i> *
N. Rajam (arr. Reena Esmail)	<i>Dadra in Raga Bhairavi</i>
Anna Meredith	<i>Tuggemo</i> (World Premiere)*
Philip Glass	String Quartet No. 7
Abel Meeropol (arr. Jacob Garchik)	<i>Strange Fruit</i> (West Coast Premiere)
Mary Kouyoumdjian	<i>Silent Cranes</i> (Bay Area Premiere)

* Composed for *Fifty for the Future: The Kronos Learning Repertoire*

Kronos Quartet brings its ambitious and much-lauded *Fifty for the Future* commissioning initiative to Berkeley—where Cal Performances is among the project's lead partners—with an expansive program of new and recent works that draw inspiration from diverse human experiences, both joyful and tragic: from the cosmos, to man's perilous relationship with water, to the lingering effects of world conflicts.

Berkeley RADICAL: This performance is part of Cal Performances' Berkeley RADICAL *Inclusion* strand, embracing the idea that in the world of the arts, no person, no group, no art form is excluded. More information at calperformances.org/berkeley-radical-inclusion.

Tickets: Prices range from \$36–\$68 (subject to change).

Kronos Quartet Residency Activities:

Composer Colloquium
Friday, December 2, 3–4:30pm

125 Morrison Hall
UC Berkeley Department of Music

Kronos Quartet's David Harrington will discuss the ensemble's *Fifty for the Future* initiative with composer Mary Kouyoumdjian.

Tickets: Free and open to the public.

Artist Talk
Saturday, December 3, 5pm

Zellerbach Hall
Bancroft Way at Dana Street
UC Berkeley campus

Kronos Quartet's David Harrington and composer Mary Kouyoumdjian discuss *Silent Cranes*, her musical commemoration of the Armenian genocide

Tickets: Free to ticket holders.