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[Press Room](#)



Images of Apollo's Fire are available for download from the Cal Performances [press room](#).

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS
APOLLO'S FIRE – THE CLEVELAND BAROQUE ORCHESTRA
IN A SEMI-STAGED PRODUCTION OF MONTEVERDI'S *L'ORFEO*
FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2018**

**A free pre-performance talk for ticket holders is planned with scholar Thomas Forrest Kelly,
Professor of Music at Harvard University**

Berkeley, March 9, 2018 — Cal Performances at UC Berkeley welcomes back Apollo's Fire – The Cleveland Baroque Orchestra in a semi-staged production of Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo*, on Friday, April 20 at 8pm in Zellerbach Hall. Director and harpsichordist Jeannette Sorrell conducts the acclaimed ensemble of instrumentalists and vocalists, including soloists **Karim Sulayman** in the role of Orfeo and **Erica Schuller** as Euridice. The performance, sung in Italian with English surtitles, includes period dancers and digital projections as set pieces, and features a historically reconstructed version of the work's original ending, in which Orfeo perishes at the hands of Bacchus' followers.

Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo* (1607) sets to music the Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice, whose long-awaited wedding night ends in tragedy when Eurydice is bitten by a poisonous snake and Orfeo storms the gates of hell to rescue her. *L'Orfeo* exists as one of the earliest and most enduring operas in the canon, a groundbreaking achievement of the 17th century in its unprecedented marriage of drama and music. Apollo's Fire recorded the work to great critical acclaim in 2001, and their new recording, *Songs of Orpheus*, will be released on April 6.

The ending of *L'Orfeo* has been a source of debate for years. The original libretto by Alessandro Striggio, published for the work's premiere at the palace of Mantua in 1607, includes the classical Greek ending of the Orpheus story: Orpheus, having rejected all womankind, is attacked and torn to pieces by a band of wild *Bacchantes* (drunken female worshippers of Bacchus, the god of wine). However, the manuscript score used at those 1607 performances was lost, survived by a slightly later version of the score (1609) that includes an alternative ending wherein Apollo gently rebukes Orpheus before taking him to heaven in a golden chariot. The Apollo's Fire production presented in Berkeley will include a reconstruction of the original, "lost" ending. Composer and Apollo's Fire principal cellist René Schiffer, respected for his reconstructions of lost pieces in historical styles, set Striggio's verses of the Bacchanale scene to music in the style of Monteverdi.

In conjunction with the performance, a free pre-performance talk for ticket holders is planned with musicologist, musician, and scholar Thomas Forrest Kelly, Morton B. Knafel Professor of Music at Harvard University, at 7pm in Zellerbach Hall.

Ticket Information

Tickets for *Apollo's Fire – The Cleveland Baroque Orchestra* on Friday, April 20 at 8pm in Zellerbach Hall range from \$36–\$72 (prices 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, visit calperformances.org/discounts.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Friday, April 20, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall
Bancroft Way at Dana Street

Early Music

Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo*

Semi-Staged Production

Apollo's Fire – The Cleveland Baroque Orchestra

Jeannette Sorrell, conductor and harpsichord

Karim Sulayman, Orfeo

Erica Schuller, Euridice

Program: Cleveland's period-music ensemble Apollo's Fire returns with a semi-staged production of Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo*. Director Jeannette Sorrell leads instrumentalists and vocalists on a dramatic journey to Hades and back, following the mythic Orpheus on his tragic mission—including a reconstruction of the work's original ending, in which Orpheus perishes at the hands of Bacchus' followers.

Tickets: \$36–\$72 (prices subject to change)

Residency

Pre-Performance Talk

Friday, Apr 20, 7pm

Zellerbach Hall

With musicologist, musician, and scholar Thomas Forrest Kelly, Morton B. Knafel Professor of Music at Harvard University. Free to ticket holders.