

Saturday, August 24, 2013, 8pm
Hearst Greek Theatre

The Goat Rodeo Sessions



Jeremy Couart

featuring

Yo-Yo Ma *cello*
Edgar Meyer *double bass*
Chris Thile *mandolin*
Stuart Duncan *violin*

with

Aoife O'Donovan *vocals*

Tonight's program will be announced from the stage.

Cal Performances' 2013–2014 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

THE MANY-FACETED CAREER of cellist **Yo-Yo Ma** is testament to his continual search for new ways to communicate with audiences and to his personal desire for artistic growth and renewal. Mr. Ma maintains a balance between his engagements as soloist with orchestras worldwide and his recital and chamber music activities. His discography includes over 75 albums, including more than 15 Grammy Award-winners.

Mr. Ma serves as the Artistic Director of the Silk Road Project, an organization he founded to promote the study of cultural, artistic and intellectual traditions along the ancient Silk Road trade routes. Since the Project's inception, more than 60 works have been commissioned specifically for the Silk Road Ensemble, which tours annually. Mr. Ma also serves as the Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's Institute for Learning, Access and Training. His work focuses on the transformative power music can have in individuals' lives, and on increasing the number and variety of opportunities audiences have to experience music in their communities.

Mr. Ma was born in Paris to Chinese parents who later moved the family to New York. He began to study cello at the age of four, attended the Juilliard School and in 1976 graduated from Harvard University. He has received numerous awards, among them the 2001 National Medal of Arts, the 2006 Sonning Prize, the 2008 World Economic Forum's Crystal Award, the 2010 Presidential Medal of Freedom, the 2011 Kennedy Center Honors, and the 2012 Polar Music Prize. Mr. Ma serves as a U.N. Messenger of Peace and as a member of the President's Committee on the Arts & the Humanities. He has performed for eight American presidents, most recently at the invitation of President Obama on the occasion of the 56th Inaugural Ceremony.

For additional information, see www.yoyoma.com, www.silkroadproject.org, and www.opus3artists.com.

In demand as both a performer and a composer, **Edgar Meyer** has formed a role in the music world unlike any other. Mr. Meyer's technique and musicianship, in combination with his gift for composition, have brought him appreciation by a vast, varied audience. His uniqueness in the field was recognized by a MacArthur Fellowship (aka "genius grant") in 2002.

As a solo classical bassist, Mr. Meyer has released a concerto album with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, featuring Bottesini's Gran Duo with Joshua Bell, Mr. Meyer's Double Concerto for Bass and Cello with Mr. Ma, Bottesini's Bass Concerto No. 2, and Mr. Meyer's Concerto in D for Bass, as well as an album of three of Bach's Unaccompanied Suites for Cello. The Sony Masterworks recording *The Goat Rodeo Sessions*, where Mr. Meyer joined Mr. Ma, mandolinist Chris Thile, and fiddler Stuart Duncan, was released in 2011.

Collaborations are central to Mr. Meyer's work. His CD and DVD of original material written and recorded with Chris Thile was released on Nonesuch in fall 2008, following their extensive tours together. His previous performing and recording projects, including a trio with Yo-Yo Ma and Mark O'Connor, have been widely acclaimed. The latter trio collaborated for *Appalachia Waltz*, which was released in 1996, soared to the top of the charts, and remained there for 16 weeks. The trio toured extensively in the United States and was featured both on *The Late Show with David Letterman* and the televised 1997 Inaugural Gala. Joining with Mr. Ma and Mr. O'Connor for a second time, *Appalachian Journey*, the follow-up to *Appalachia Waltz*, was released in March 2000 and won a Grammy Award.

Mr. Meyer began studying bass at age five under the instruction of his father and continued his studies with Stuart Sankey. In 1994 he received the Avery Fisher Career Grant and in 2000 became the only bassist to receive the Avery Fisher Prize. Currently, he is Visiting Professor of Double Bass at the Royal Academy of Music and at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia.

Chris Thile, of Punch Brothers, is a mandolin virtuoso, composer, and vocalist. With his broad outlook that encompasses progressive bluegrass, classical, rock, and jazz, Mr. Thile transcends the borders of conventionally circumscribed genres, creating a distinctly American canon and a new musical aesthetic for performers and audiences alike. In addition to his work on *The Goat Rodeo Sessions*, which won two Grammy Awards in 2013, Mr. Thile was recently awarded a MacArthur Fellowship.

As a soloist, Mr. Thile has released four albums, as well as performing and recording extensively as a duo with fellow *Goat Rodeo* collaborator, double bass virtuoso Edgar Meyer, and eminent mandolinist Mike Marshall. In 2011, Nonesuch Records released the Grammy-nominated *Sleep with One Eye Open*, an impassioned collaboration-conversation between Mr. Thile and guitarist Michael Daves. Mr. Thile has also collaborated with a pantheon of musical innovators from multiple genres, including Béla Fleck, Dolly Parton, Brad Mehldau, and Hilary Hahn.

For more than 15 years, Mr. Thile played in the wildly popular band Nickel Creek, with which he released three albums, sold two million records, and was awarded a Grammy in 2002. Punch Brothers released their latest album, *Who's Feeling Young Now?*, in 2012 on Nonesuch. This summer, Mr. Thile releases *Bach Sonatas & Partitas Vol. 1*, also on Nonesuch.

Multi-instrumentalist **Stuart Duncan** has built upon his bluegrass roots to become an artist who defies categorization and surpasses the limits of any specific genre. The consummate sideman, Mr. Duncan has lent his particular taste and tone to countless artists and projects. Whether trading dizzying instrumental licks with the likes of Béla Fleck and Jerry Douglas, or adding complimentary fills for vocalists Alan Jackson and Barbara Streisand, Mr. Duncan has found a professional "home" both in the studio and on tour. From Robert Plant to Panic at the Disco, Mr. Duncan's playing and influence can be heard among many of today's top hit-makers.

The most recent evidence of Mr. Duncan's cross-genre expansion is *The Goat Rodeo Sessions*, his collaboration with Chris Thile, Edgar Meyer, and Yo-Yo Ma. During the creative course of this recording, Mr. Duncan has opened his mind not only musically, but to a broader concept of composition as well.

When not active in the studio or on tour with others, Mr. Duncan can be seen and heard with the Nashville Bluegrass Band, with which he has been a contributing member since 1985. The band has won two Grammys, multiple IBMA and SPBMA awards, and has toured globally to the Middle East and China. Together, they continue to be an outstanding representation of classic bluegrass music in America—as relevant today as when they started.

Aoife O'Donovan is best known as the lead singer of Crooked Still and as a member of the folk *noir* trio Sometymes Why. The stunning versatility and appeal of her voice brought her to the attention of some of the most eminent names across roots, classical, bluegrass, and jazz and led to collaborations across a wide variety of genres, with everyone from Alison Krauss to Dave Douglas. Aoife (pronounced "ee-fuh") steps to the fore this summer with her debut solo album *Fossils*, produced by Tucker Martine (My Morning Jacket, Tift Merritt) on Yep Roc Records.