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Tickets: City Box Office 415/392-4400
www.cityboxoffice.com

HUMANITIES WEST PRESENTS
Charlemagne: The Father of Western Europe
Friday & Saturday, February 27 & 28, 2015
Marines' Memorial Theatre, 609 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA

Humanities West presents ***Charlemagne: The Father of Western Europe***, a two-day program of lectures, discussions, and musical performances exploring the influence of Charles the Great on politics, religion, education and art, and how his dynasty has come to symbolize a critical turning point in Western civilization. The program takes place on Friday, February 27, from 7:30pm to 9:30pm, and Saturday, February 28, from 10 am to 4 pm, at Marines' Memorial Theatre, located at 609 Sutter Street in downtown San Francisco.

Tickets for ***Charlemagne: The Father of Western Europe***, are priced as follows: Single tickets for individual Friday programs are \$55 orchestra and \$45 balcony and individual Saturday programs are \$80 orchestra and \$55 balcony, single tickets for both days of each program are \$125 orchestra and \$80 balcony. Order direct from City Box Office 415-392-4400 or www.cityboxoffice.com

Individual balcony tickets for teachers and students are available for \$25. Free tickets are available in limited quantities for students age 25 or younger (inquire at info@humanitieswest.org).

Humanities West's 2014-2015 season continues exploring history and celebrating the arts with an in-depth look into the life and influence of ***Charlemagne: The Father of Western Europe***. Even 1200 years after his death in 814, Charlemagne still symbolizes a critical turning point in Western civilization. King of the Franks and Lombards, Emperor of a New Rome, Charles the Great fathered a dynasty as he ushered in the Carolingian Renaissance, a period of renewed emphasis on scholarship and culture. For the first time Europe's political power shifted from the Mediterranean's Byzantine and Islamic empires to continental (and Catholic) Europe. This two-day program explores the impact of Charlemagne's economic, administrative, educational and religious reforms, along with his contribution to the creation of a new and enduring cultural identity for Western Europe.

On Friday evening, **Geoffrey Koziol** (UC Berkeley) provides the opening lecture ***Charlemagne: Myth, Reality, and Legacy***. Even in his own time Charlemagne was known as "the Father of Europe." In this presentation, Koziol will discuss if the reality of "Charles the Great" lives up to the legend. Koziol's talk is followed by a musical performance ***Love and the Knight*** by the a cappella vocal ensemble ***Clerestory***. Introduced by SF Opera's **Clifford (Kip) Cranna**, Clerestory celebrates the great knight-king in songs both sacred and amorous, including Gregorian chant, Flemish polyphony, the French troubadours, and the German Männerchor.

On Saturday, **Lawrence Nees** (University of Delaware) presents **Art Around Charlemagne**. This illustrated lecture will explore Charlemagne's influence on the artistic development of his time and the new directions of art and architecture that would be followed for centuries. **Martin Claussen** (University of San Francisco) follows with a presentation on **Charlemagne's Christianity and the Carolingian Renaissance**. Claussen traces the effects of Charlemagne's deep devotion to the tenets of Christianity and his support of a renewal of religion that has come to be known as the Carolingian Renaissance.

The program continues with **A Lover, Not a Fighter**, a performance/lecture introduced by **Kip Cranna** (SF Opera) tracing the literary transformation of Charlemagne's legendary warrior Roland from hotheaded fighter to jealousy-crazed lover as recounted in musical works. **Clifton Massey** (countertenor) performs, accompanied by **Dwight Okamura** (piano).

The two-day program culminates with a talk about the roles of **Women and Textiles in the Carolingian World**, by **Valerie Garver** (Northern Illinois University). Both women and the textiles played crucial social, political, and religious roles in Carolingian society. Garver discusses how textiles and clothing came to mark status, identity, gender, and religious estate in ways that we can sometimes still see in modern times.

A panel discussion with the presenters will follow, addressing questions from the audience.

*Ancillary programs providing opportunities to learn more about the featured topic and related issues complement this two-day event. For a complete program schedule and additional information about the presenters please visit www.humanitieswest.org

Humanities West, a non-profit serving the Bay Area since 1983, explores history and celebrates the arts through time and across the globe, bringing you illuminating lectures and dynamic performances that focus on the people, places, and events that have shaped, and still inform, modern cultures.

CALENDAR LISTING: EVENTS/LECTURES/ARTS & CULTURE

WHAT: *Charlemagne: The Father of Western Europe*

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WHEN: 7:30pm to 9:30pm, Friday, February 27, 2015
10am to 4pm, Saturday, February 28, 2015

WHERE: Marines' Memorial Theatre
609 Sutter Street, San Francisco

TICKETS: \$25 - \$80
Tickets are available through City Box Office at
415-392-4400 or online at www.cityboxoffice.com
Group tickets: info@humanitieswest.org

PUBLIC INFO: 415/391-9700 or www.humanitieswest.org

RELATED EVENTS for *Charlemagne: The Father of Western Europe

Humanities West Book Discussion with Lynn Harris

Two Lives of Charlemagne

[c. 829-36 by Einhard; c. 883/4 by the Monk of St. Gall]. Digireads, 2010.

When: 5:30pm, Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Where: Board Room, Commonwealth Club of San Francisco
595 Market Street, SF, CA

Cost: \$5

RSVP: commonwealthclub.org

Co-Sponsored by the Humanities Member-Led Forum

Fireside Chat with George Hammond – *Charlemagne: Father of Western Europe*

Join Humanities West board member George Hammond for a preview of the two-day lecture/performance series – ***Charlemagne: Father of Western Europe***

When: 6:30pm, Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Where: Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA

Cost: Free

Humanities West Book Discussion with Lynn Harris

The Song of Roland, Dorothy L. Sayers translator. Penguin, 1957

When: 5:30pm, Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Where: Board Room, Commonwealth Club of San Francisco
595 Market Street, SF, CA

Cost: \$5

RSVP: commonwealthclub.org

Co-Sponsored by the Humanities Member-Led Forum