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Humanities West Announces its 2014-2015 Season
Lecture/Performance Series Celebrating History, Arts, & Culture
Marines' Memorial Theatre, 609 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA

The Roman Republic (509-27 BCE) October 24–25, 2014

Charlemagne: The Father of Western Europe February 27–28, 2015

The Great War: Cultural Reverberations Across Europe May 1–2, 2015

*****Plus a Special Friday Evening Program*****

Rockin' the Sonata with The Saint Michael Trio September 19, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (SAN FRANCISCO, 17 June, 2014) Humanities West opens its 2014-2015 Season of lectures and performances exploring history, arts, and culture with classical music at its most fun, *From Haydn to Schoenfield: Rockin' the Sonata with the Saint Michael Trio*, on Friday, September 19, 2014. The diverse lecture/performance series continues with *The Roman Republic (509-27 BCE)* on October 24 & 25, 2014, *Charlemagne: The Father of Western Europe* on February 27 & 28, 2015, and *The Great War: Cultural Reverberation Across Europe* on May 1 & 2, 2015, all presented at the Marines' Memorial Theatre, located at 609 Sutter Street near Union Square in San Francisco. A detailed schedule with complete list of presenters and other resources is available online at www.humanitieswest.org. Single tickets for individual programs range from \$25 - \$80; discounted series tickets are available; contact City Box Office 415-392-4400 or info@cityboxoffice.com. Order online at www.cityboxoffice.com.

Humanities West brings together regional, national, and international scholars and artists to present lectures, performances, readings, and discussions, transporting its audience across time and around the globe for colorful perspectives on the many sources of modern cultures. The 2014-2015 Season illuminates people and places that mark significant points in history, fine art, the performing arts, social history, politics, and philosophy of the arts. Scholars, students, arts lovers, travel buffs and life-long learners are all invited to come along this season on a journey exploring major moments in European history across two millennia. The two-day programs will visit Republican Rome, Charlemagne's Domain, and Europe after The Great War. And as a special treat, the Saint Michael Trio will Rock the Sonata in one of their trademark 'informances' to demonstrate how Haydn and Schoenfield, two utterly different composers, used the same tools to express the sentiment of their age.

With the support of collaborating organizations, each two-day event is complemented by ancillary programs providing opportunities to learn more about the featured topic and related issues. A schedule of ancillary programs is available online at www.humanitieswest.org.

Season tickets for three two-day programs and *Rockin' the Sonata*, the special Friday program are \$299 orchestra and \$210 balcony. A Fridays-only series is \$165 orchestra and \$125 balcony, and a Saturdays-only series is \$220 orchestra and \$135 balcony. A new Flex series ticket - for a choice of any three program days - is now available for \$180 orchestra and \$115 balcony. Series subscriptions offer significant savings over single-ticket prices. 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. Individual balcony tickets for teachers and students are available for \$25/day for any program. Free tickets are available in limited quantities for students age 25 or younger (inquire at info@humanitieswest.org). Order direct from City Box Office 415-392-4400 or www.cityboxoffice.com.

2014-2015 SEASON BRIEF PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

-Special Friday Evening Program-

***From Haydn to Schoenfield: Rockin' the Sonata with the Saint Michael Trio* September 19, 2014**

Classical music at its most fun! Both Franz Joseph Haydn (1723-1809) and Paul Schoenfield (1947-) are highly formal in their sonata form. Yet Haydn's classical sonatas embodied the formalism of the 18th-century Enlightenment, while Detroit native Paul Schoenfield's 'Café Music' (1987) anticipates and expresses the whimsy and energy of a 21st-century urban metropolis. Daniel Cher (violin), Michel Flexer (cello), and Russell Hancock (piano)--The Saint Michael Trio--demonstrate with passion, wit, and their own virtuosity how two utterly different composers use the same tools to express the sentiment of their age.

Rockin' the Sonata is part of Humanities West's occasional series on the Arts and Humanities in a Material World. How can we live rich lives in the arts while pursuing successful careers devoted to the ever more clever production of material comfort and pleasure? Humanities West board members George Hammond and Patricia Lundberg illustrate how by presenting the Saint Michael Trio—three men who thrive in entrepreneurial careers AND Rock the Sonata.

The Roman Republic (509-27 BCE) October 24 & 25, 2014

From its legendary origins as a tiny cluster of villages in the Italian countryside, ancient Rome grew into a vast metropolis and the dominant power of the Mediterranean. Leaders of the Roman Republic established a constitutional framework that embodied principles of separation of powers, checks and balances, and the rights and duties of citizenship (for some), a model that endured for centuries. Ultimately civil strife exacerbated by wide disparities in social and economic well-being and the strains of governing a far-flung empire doomed Cicero's Republican Rome in the first century BCE. From its modeling of democratic values to its golden age of drama and its Greek- and Etruscan-inspired art, the Roman Republic was a major turning point in western civilization that inspires us to this day.

Presented in collaboration with the Consul General of Italy in San Francisco and the Italian Cultural Institute.

Presenters include Walter Scheidel (*Stanford*), Lisa Pieraccini (*UC Berkeley*), Dan-el Padilla Peralta (*Stanford and Columbia*), Christopher Krebs (*Stanford*), and Susanna Braund (*University of British Columbia*); with a dramatization of Virgil's First Eclogue by Bay Area actors James Carpenter and Julian Lopez-Morillas, and Plautus' lewd and lyrical play *Casina* reconceived in a Nob Hill setting by performers of Stanford Classics in Translation (SCIT).

Charlemagne: The Father of Western Europe Feb. 27 & 28, 2015

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 ushered in the Carolingian Renaissance and fathered a dynasty. Although political unity proved ephemeral, his economic, administrative, educational, and religious reforms created a new and enduring cultural identity that encompassed the heartland of today's Western Europe. For the first time, European political power shifted from the Mediterranean's Byzantine and Islamic empires to continental (and Catholic) Europe.

Presenters include Geoffrey Koziol (*UC Berkeley*), Lawrence Nees (*University of Delaware*), Martin Claussen (*University of San Francisco*), and Valerie Garver (*Northern Illinois University*); with performances by the *a cappella* group Clerestory, and countertenor Clifton Massey singing selections from Handel's Orlando, both introduced by Clifford (Kip) Cranna (*SF Opera*).

The Great War: Cultural Reverberations Across Europe May 1 & 2, 2015

The First World War collapsed empires, redrew national boundaries, caused cataclysmic change in a generation of Europeans, and revolutionized long-held world views all across Europe. From 1914-18, "The Great War" raged amid a vast crisis of cultural confidence. The war to end all wars was a monumental catastrophe, one of history's major turning points. Yet among The Great War's legacies of drastic political, social, and cultural change has been its immense artistic response in music, art, literature, and film.

Speakers include Tyler Stovall (*UC Berkeley*), Adam Hochschild (*Mother Jones, UC Berkeley*), Jennifer Shaw (*Sonoma State University*), and Saikat Majumdar (*Stanford*); with performances by Céine Ricci, Eliane Lust, Daniel Lockert and Jenny Matteucci.

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ABOUT HUMANITIES WEST:

A non-profit serving the Bay Area since 1983, Humanities West is devoted to exploring history to celebrate the mind and the arts. The only independent non-profit offering humanities and arts programs of this scale, Humanities West presents a diverse series of lectures and performances encompassing fine arts, social history, music, politics, and philosophy of the arts. These multidisciplinary programs are designed to entertain and educate audiences and to illuminate and elevate the human spirit through exploration of the many sources of modern culture.

30