

August 25, 2010
Media Contact: Genevieve Antaky
510/482-3553, gantaky@comcast.net
Public Info: Humanities West www.humanitieswest.org
Tickets: City Box Office 415/392-4400, www.cityboxoffice.com

HUMANITIES WEST
In Collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute
PRESENTS

Venice: Queen of the Adriatic

Friday & Saturday, October 22 & 23, 2010
Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

Humanities West open its 2010-2011 season with ***Venice: Queen of the Adriatic***, a two-day program of lectures, discussions, and music exploring the history of Venice and her magnificent art, architecture, music, and fashion. The program takes place on Friday, October 22, from 8 pm to 10:15 pm and Saturday, October 23, from 10 am to 4 pm, at Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco.

Tickets for ***Venice: Queen of the Adriatic*** are priced as follows: Single tickets for the Friday program are \$45 orchestra/dress circle and \$30 balcony; single tickets for the Saturday program are \$65 orchestra/dress circle and \$40 balcony, single tickets for both days are \$100 orchestra/dress circle and \$55 balcony. Special Student/Teacher tickets are available at \$20 balcony for single day admission. Order direct from City Box Office at 415/392-4400 or www.cityboxoffice.com. A limited number of free tickets for students age 25 and under are available; contact info@humanitieswest.org.

Season subscription tickets are also available and offer a significant savings. Season subscription tickets for all three two-day programs in the 2010-11 Season, including ***Toledo: Multicultural Challenges of Medieval Spain*** (Feb. 4 & 5, 2011) and ***Minoan Crete: Dawn of European Civilization*** (April 29 & 30, 2011), are \$220 orchestra/dress circle and \$140 balcony. A Fridays-only subscription series is \$115 orchestra/dress circle and \$75 balcony, and a Saturdays-only series is \$175 orchestra/dress circle and \$105 balcony. Order direct from City Box Office at 415/392-4400 or www.cityboxoffice.com. For more information call Humanities West at 415/391-9700 or check the website for complete program descriptions and related programs at: www.humanitieswest.org.

Venice: Queen of the Adriatic brings together a panel of noted scholars and performers to explore the dynamic city of Venice and reveal how a rich cosmopolitan culture, unique governance model, and advanced manufacturing and commercial practices distinguished Venice from its urban rivals. Poised regally on the Adriatic coast, Venice dominated the Eastern Mediterranean from the twelfth century. Discover how the confluence of this unique location, with political and commercial prowess, and a tolerant cultural environment came to produce the most prosperous city in Europe and a showcase of magnificent art, architecture, music and fashion.

On Friday evening, social historian **Joanne Ferraro** (San Diego State University) provides the keynote address on *The Allure of Venice: Civic Myth and Social Reality*. Ferraro examines the reasons why Venice, the Floating City, acquired its reputation as 'The Most Serene Republic'. A performance of Venetian music of the Renaissance follows, introduced by **Clifford (Kip) Cranna** (Director of Musical Administration, SF Opera). Featuring the more intimate of the Venetian musical styles—love songs, carnival songs, street sellers' songs, as well as more formal celebratory compositions by some of the Renaissance master composers, the musicians are **Allison Zelles Lloyd** (soprano); **David Morris**, (viola da gamba, gittern and voice); **Gilbert Martinez** (harpsichord); **Shira Kammen** (violin and voice).

On Saturday, moderator **Paula Findlen** (History, Stanford University) introduces the second day of programming. **Maureen C. Miller** (History, UC Berkeley) presents a lecture narrating the emergence and early development of Venice, giving particular attention to the impact of environmental factors. Miller traces the gradual fusion of island parishes into a city and highlights the distinctive features of Venice's urban fabric. **Sally McKee** (History, UC Davis) follows with a presentation on the city of Venice as a multicultural melting pot and examines the city's far-reaching influence on the economy and culture of the surrounding Mediterranean Sea region.

The two-day program includes a special presentation on Venetian musical instruments. **Herb Myers** (Lecturer in Renaissance Winds and Curator of Instruments at Stanford and member of The Whole Noyse) will demonstrate copies and show images of instruments by Venetian builders of the Renaissance and early Baroque -- instruments clearly designed to appeal to the eye as well as the ear. That demonstration will be followed with a performance by Italian cellist **Alessandro Palmeri** playing the unique Bassetto Cimapanè, the only copy in existence of the cello's grandfather. This very instrument was used in the orchestra of the greatest Italian baroque composer of all times: Arcangelo Corelli. The performance will be introduced by **Luciano Chessa** (Musical Program Coordinator, Italian Cultural Institute) and accompanied by lutenist **Richard Savino** (CSU Sacramento).

Max Grossman (Art History, University of Texas El Paso) will give the final lecture on the Piazza San Marco of Venice, long admired as one of the most beautiful and best preserved public squares in Europe.

A panel discussion with all the presenters will follow, addressing questions from the audience. 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, 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 and performing arts, social history, music, politics, and philosophy of the arts. These interdisciplinary 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.

This program is presented in collaboration with the Consul General of Italy and the Italian Cultural Institute; sponsored by Bank of the West, Stanford University and The Institute of European Studies, UC Berkeley.

Other contributors include: American Decorative Arts Forum Northern California; California Academy of Sciences; Commonwealth Club of San Francisco; Docents Council, Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco; Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning; Humanities Department, San Francisco State University; Indigo Restaurant; Mechanics' Institute; Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), UC Berkeley; San Francisco and Oakland Unified School Districts; Ovation Restaurant at the Opera; Stanford Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies; Stanford History Department; Stanford University Libraries; Summit Photographic Workshops; Department of Italian Studies and Townsend Center for the Humanities, UC Berkeley

CALENDAR LISTING: EVENT/LECTURES/ARTS & CULTURE

WHAT: *Venice: Queen of the Adriatic*

Humanities West's 2010-2011 Season opens with ***Venice: Queen of the Adriatic***, a two-day program of lectures, discussions, and music exploring the history of Venice and her magnificent art, architecture, music, and fashion. Presenters include Joanne Ferraro (San Diego State University), Clifford 'Kip' Cranna (SF Opera), Paula Findlen (Stanford), Maureen C. Miller (UC Berkeley), Sally McKee (UC Davis), Max Grossman (UT El Paso), Herb Myers (Stanford), and Luciano Chessa (Italian Cultural Institute); music by Allison Zelles Lloyd (soprano), David Morris (viola da gamba, gittern and voice), Gilbert Martinez (harpsichord), and Shira Kammen (violin and voice); plus Italian cellist Alessandro Palmeri playing the unique Bassetto Cimapanese, accompanied by Richard Savino (lute).

**WHEN: 8pm to 10:15pm, Friday, October 22, 2010
10am to 12noon and 1:30pm to 4pm, Saturday, October 22, 2010**

**WHERE: Herbst Theatre
401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco**

TICKETS: \$20 - \$100
Tickets are available through City Box Office at 415-392-4400 or online at www.cityboxoffice.com
Group tickets: info@humanitieswest.org
Free Tickets for students 25 years old and younger:
info@humanitieswest.org

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

***Related Events for Venice: Queen of the Adriatic**

With the support of collaborating organizations, ancillary programs providing opportunities to learn more about the featured topic and related issues complement this two-day event. Collaborators include the Consuls General of Italy and Switzerland, Italian Cultural Institute, Commonwealth Club of San Francisco, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and City Lights Bookstore.

Humanities West Book Discussion with Lynn Harris

5:30pm, Wednesday, October 6, 2010

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

cost: Free

Join a discussion on the historical triumphs of city-states, with a special focus on Venice. Joel Kotkin's book, *The City: A Global History*, highlights the effectiveness of powerful cities in history, and showcases Venice's achievements.

Fireside Chat with George Hammond - A Venice Preview

7pm, Tuesday, October 19, 2010

where: Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA

cost: Free

Join in a Fireside Chat previewing Humanities West's presentation of *Venice: Queen of the Adriatic*.

Antonio e Giuseppe Sardi da Morcote-Architetti ticinesi nella Venezia del Seicento

Exhibit and Lecture by Paola Piffaretti

6:30pm, Tuesday, October 19, 2010

where: Swissnex
730 Montgomery Street, SF, CA

cost: Free rsvp: vertretung@sfr.rep.admin.ch

The exhibition and lecture by Paola Piffaretti focus on two main aspects of the lives of Antonio and his son Giuseppe Sardi: Antonio's immigration from Morcote (Canton Ticino, Switzerland) to Venice around 1600 and Antonio's and Giuseppe's artistic activity showcased through their artworks: altars, sepulchral monuments, and façades of churches and buildings. Organized by the Consulate General of Switzerland in San Francisco and the Italian Cultural Institute. Reception follows.

Ezra Pound in Venice - A Conversation with Margaret Fisher and Bob Hughes

6:30pm, Wednesday, October 20, 2010

where: Italian, Cultural Institute
814 Montgomery Street, SF, CA

cost: Free

rsvp: 415-788-7142 x18

Ezra Pound, best known for his *Cantos*, referred to himself as a "poet and composer" in the 1929 edition of *Who's Who*. Conductor and music scholar Robert Hughes and Margaret Fisher, independent researcher, choreographer, and video director, give a lecture on Pound's relationship with Venice, a city Pound fell in love with at the age of 13, and where he later lived. Organized by the Italian Cultural Institute.

Open Wall - Shan Shan Sheng Exhibit

Wednesday, October 20 and continuing

where: Italian Cultural Institute
814 Montgomery Street, SF, CA

cost: Free

Info: 415-788-7142x18

Shan Shan Sheng is celebrated as the first Chinese visual artist to be invited to collaborate with Venetian glass experts of Murano, the island renowned for a glass art tradition that extends back over a thousand years. From the city where she was born, Shanghai, to the United States where she pursued her education and artistic development, she is an artist whose universal message is appreciated around the world. Shan Shan Sheng, through her Open Wall project, currently on display in the Chinese pavilion at the Shanghai Expo, is considered the symbol of the relationship among East and West and above all between San Francisco and Venice. Organized by the Italian Cultural Institute.

SF Conservatory Faculty Recital with Alessandro Palmeri on Bassetto Cimapanè

2pm, Sunday, October 24, 2010

where: SF Conservatory of Music
50 Oak Street, SF, CA

cost: \$20/\$15

rsvp: 415-503-6275

SF Conservatory of Music Faculty Richard Savino (lute), Corey Jamason (harpsichord), and Elizabeth Reed (cello) in recital with Alessandro Palmeri on the Bassetto Cimapanè. Organized with the Italian Cultural Institute and SF Conservatory of Music.

Venice Salon

5:30, Thursday, October 28, 2010

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

cost: Free

rsvp: commonwealthclub.org

Co-Sponsored by the Humanities Member-Led Forum.

Jack Hirschman presents *In Danger* by Pier Paolo Pasolini

7pm, Wednesday, November 3, 2010

where: City Lights Bookstore
261 Columbus Avenue, SF, CA

cost: Free

Organized by City Lights bookstore and the Italian Cultural Institute

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