



HUMANITIES WEST

Exploring History. Celebrating the Arts.

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Public Info: Humanities West

www.humanitieswest.org

Tickets: City Box Office 415/392-4400

www.cityboxoffice.com

Humanities West Announces its 2015-2016 Season

A Unique Lecture & Performance Series

Exploring History, Celebrating the Arts

Marines' Memorial Theatre, 609 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA

Dawn of the Italian Renaissance (1275-1400) October 23–24, 2015

Shakespeare & Cervantes February 26–27, 2016

The Celts: History, Culture, Legend May 6–7, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (SAN FRANCISCO, 1 July, 2015) Humanities West proudly announces its 2015-2016 Season featuring three diverse lecture/performance programs: *Dawn of the Italian Renaissance (1275-1400)* on October 23 & 24, 2015; *Shakespeare & Cervantes* on February 26 & 27, 2016; and *The Celts: History, Culture, Legend* on May 6 & 7, 2016, at the Marines' Memorial Theatre, located at 609 Sutter Street in downtown 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.

Serving the Bay Area since 1983, Humanities West explores history and celebrates the arts through time and across the globe by presenting illuminating lectures and dynamic performances that focus on the people, places, and events that have shaped and still inform modern culture. Each season Humanities West brings together leading scholars and artists to engage, educate, and entertain audiences of arts lovers, travel buffs, students, and life-long learners. The 2015-2016 Season programs will explore the allure of the ***Dawn of the Italian Renaissance***, the literary and cultural contributions of ***Shakespeare & Cervantes***, and the enduring traditions and legends of ***The Celts***.

In cooperation with other institutions, such as the Italian Cultural Institute, Mechanics' Institute Library and the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco, additional public lectures and panels are presented to further expand upon program topics. A schedule of ancillary programs is available online at www.humanitieswest.org.

Season tickets for all three two-day programs are \$299 orchestra and \$210 balcony. A Fridays-only series is \$165 orchestra and \$125 balcony, and a Saturdays-only series is \$225 orchestra and \$140 balcony. The Flex series ticket - for a choice of any three programs - is available for \$225 orchestra and \$140 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 \$90 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.

2015-2016 SEASON BRIEF PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Dawn of the Italian Renaissance (1275-1400) October 23 & 24, 2015

The Italian Renaissance represents a high point of early Western European culture. Italian writers and artists first recaptured and reinvigorated the artistic accomplishments of classical antiquity. The republican communes erected monumental civic palaces and other major architectural works, such as fortifications and public fountains. This program explores the rich contributions of Renaissance artists, architects, writers and musicians. Learn about Duccio, Giotto, Simone Martini, and Giovanni Pisano as each entered new territory in painting and sculpture, paving the way for later artists such as Masaccio and Brunelleschi. Discover how Dante, Petrarch, and Boccaccio wrote their masterpieces in verse and prose, which Chaucer would later retrieve and reimagine in the English language. Finally, revel in the music of the time with performances by local artists performing the music of the Trecento and Ars Nova.

Commemorating the 750th anniversary of Dante's birth and presented in collaboration with the Consul General of Italy in San Francisco, the Italian Cultural Institute, the Leonardo da Vinci Society, and the Department of History, Stanford.

Presenters include Paula Findlen (*Stanford*), Carol Lansing (*UC Santa Barbara*), Max Grossman (*University of Texas at El Paso*), and David Lummus (*Stanford*); with musical performances by Shira Kammen (*early strings and voice*), Tim Rayborn (*percussion, lute, and voice*), Phoebe Jevtovic Rosquist (*voice*), Allison Zelles Lloyd (*voice and medieval harp*), Frances Blaker (*recorders and hackbrett*), and Letitia Berlin (*recorders and douçaine*).

Shakespeare & Cervantes Feb. 26 & 27, 2016

Miguel de Cervantes (1547–1616) and William Shakespeare (1564 –1616), two of Western civilization’s greatest writers, helped to define modern forms of literature, while enriching the power and expressiveness of their respective languages. They lived amid the tumultuous interconnected histories of the Spanish Golden Age and the Golden Ages of Jacobean and Elizabethan England. On the 400th anniversary of their deaths, this two-day program celebrates both Shakespeare & Cervantes, the enduring themes and vivid characters in the timeless stories they created, and their respective literary contributions that have become deeply embedded in modern world culture.

Presenters include Roland Greene (*Stanford*), Anthony Cascardi (*UC Berkeley*), Stephen Orgel (*Stanford*), and Barbara Fuchs (*UCLA*). Shira Kammen directs *Gallimaufry*, the new chamber chorus of 20 voices, performing music set to texts of Cervantes and Shakespeare, accompanied by Peter Maund (*percussion*) and Michelle Levy (*vielle*).

The Celts: History, Culture, Legend May 6 & 7, 2016

From Galatia in modern Turkey to Galicia in northwest Spain, Celtic peoples dominated pre-Roman Europe. Celtic culture outlasted Roman military rule and generated a rich archive of art, religious and cultural traditions, and legends that inspired epic and lyric poetry in Europe’s successor languages. Some Celtic polities (Wales, Brittany) were absorbed into larger national units only in the late medieval period, and Celtic cultural identity remains strong wherever Celtic languages are spoken. Celtic musical and literary contributions to the European culture have been notable—from Thomas Moore, the Bard of Erin, to Seamus Heaney. This program uncovers Celtic myths and misconceptions, explores ancient legends and lore connecting the present to the past, and brings to life the things that mattered most to our Celtic predecessors.

Presented in collaboration with the UC Celtic Colloquium and the UC Berkeley Celtic Studies Program.

Speakers include Daniel Melia (*UC Berkeley*), Joseph Falaky Nagy (*UCLA*), Elaine Treharne (*Stanford*), Karen Eileen Overbey (*Tufts University*) and Catherine Flynn (*UC Berkeley*); with a musical/theater performance by Patrick Ball of the celebrated Irish artist Turlough O’Carolan.