



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 PRESENTS

Ancient Greeks: The Age of Expansion

Friday & Saturday, February 23 & 24, 2018

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (SAN FRANCISCO, XX December, 2017) Humanities West's 2017-2018 Season continues with ***Ancient Greeks: The Age of Expansion***, a two-day program of lectures, discussions, and musical performances exploring the pivotal cultural strands that contributed to the Greek Age of Expansion, as reflected in art, science, politics, literature, and music. The program takes place on Friday, February 23, from 7:30pm to 9:30pm, and Saturday, February 24, from 10am to 4pm, at Marines' Memorial Theatre, located at 609 Sutter Street in downtown San Francisco.

Tickets for ***Ancient Greeks: The Age of Expansion***, are priced as follows: Single tickets for individual Friday programs are \$60 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. Order direct from City Box Office 415-392-4400 or www.cityboxoffice.com. 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).

Ancient Greeks: The Age of Expansion transports audience members back in history to a time before Athens' Golden Age, when ancient Greek culture was dramatically expanding. Greeks colonized lands on the shores of the Mediterranean and Black Seas. They created communities of citizens, framed laws, and developed institutions to govern themselves. Homer immortalized the Trojan War and Olympian gods and goddesses. Lyric poets sang of love and political intrigue. The Olympic Games rewarded physical fitness and mental discipline. New forms of scientific reasoning were pioneered in Greek cities on the Anatolian coast, and students of Pythagoras brought science to southern Italy. This presentation explores the emerging cultural strands that make the Greek Age of Expansion one of history's most intriguing eras.

On Friday evening, **Josiah Ober** (*Stanford*) gives the opening lecture ***The Rise of the Ancient Greeks***, providing an overview of the “Greek Miracle” and offering insights on how and why the Greek city-states were able to rise from poverty to wealth during the Age of Expansion. Ober examines the creation of new forms of citizenship revolutionized the Greeks’ attitudes towards investment, education, risk-taking, and competition.

Completing the Friday evening program is ***Orpheus’s Lyre***, a special presentation of art, music, and poetry inspired by the Orpheus myth, including the art of Rodin, Moreau, Cortot, music selections from Gluck and Philip Glass, and the poetry of Rainer Maria Rilke. **Kayleen Asbo** (*story and piano*) and **Evan Kahn** (*cello*) perform.

On Saturday, **Richard Martin** (*Stanford*) presents ***Homer and the Hero***, a talk exploring the idea of the hero as a religious, social, and poetic category, while interpreting the two great epic poems attributed to Homer, the mysterious composer of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*.

Margaret Miles (*UC Irvine*) follows with a presentation ***Harmonic Proportions: Pythagorean Architecture in Greek Italy***. In this lecture, Miles explores the impact of Pythagoras, the Greek sage, seer, and philosopher who taught Greeks in southern Italy how number, proportion, and musical harmonics are built into the universe. The talk demonstrates how the architects in southern Italy and Greek Sicily included Pythagorean harmonic proportions in Greek temples.

The program continues with a musical performance by Joe Goodkin, ***The Odyssey: A Modern Folk Opera***. Goodkin’s original musical composition for solo acoustic guitar and voice deconstructs the story of *The Odyssey* in 24 songs, invoking the spirit of the ancient Greek bards who originally brought forth the timeless stories of Odysseus and the heroes of the Trojan War.

The two-day program culminates with a talk by Emily Mackil (*UC Berkeley*), ***The Making of States and Citizenship in Archaic Greece***. Mackil will consider a series of phenomena that contributed to the formation of the distinctive micro-states of the Archaic Greek world, including the entanglement of private wealth and public power, the emergence of written law, and the struggle for justice in the distribution of power.

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

About Humanities West

Serving the Bay Area since 1983, Humanities West Explores History and Celebrates the Arts through time and across the globe, bringing illuminating lectures and dynamic performances that focus on the people, places, and events that have shaped, and still inform, modern cultures.

Each season Humanities West presents a number of programs in which leading scholars and artists present lectures, performances, readings and discussions to audiences in San Francisco's Marines' Memorial Theatre. These one- or two-day events represent an opportunity unique not only to the Bay Area, but also to the entire United States. Humanities West also presents performance salons at Hotel Rex. In cooperation with other institutions, such as the Mechanics' Institute Library and the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco, additional public lectures and panels are presented to further expand upon program topics.

CALENDAR LISTING: EVENTS/LECTURES/ARTS & CULTURE

WHAT: *Ancient Greeks: The Age of Expansion*

Humanities West presents *Ancient Greeks: The Age of Expansion*, a two-day program of lectures, discussions, and musical performances exploring the pivotal cultural strands that contributed to the Greek Age of Expansion, as reflected in art, science, politics, literature, and music. Presenters include noted professors from Stanford, Berkeley, and UC Irvine, with performances by Kayleen Asbo, Evan Kahn, and Joe Goodkin.

**WHEN: 7:30pm to 9:30pm, Friday, February 23, 2018
10am to 4pm, Saturday, February 24, 2018**

**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 *Ancient Greeks: The Age of Expansion

COMMONWEALTH CLUB PRESENTATION:

Pythagoras and the Search for Universal Harmony with Kayleen Asbo

As first philosopher, hidden root of Platonic ideals, father of western music harmony, architect of medieval education, and demigod of myth and legend, Pythagoras' contributions are many. This multimedia presentation examines how the Pythagorean search for underlying patterns in the cosmos shaped much of western civilization.

When: 6:00pm, Monday, January 8, 2018

**Where: Commonwealth Club of California
110 The Embarcadero, SF, CA**

Cost: \$20

TIX: www.commonwealthclub.org or 415-597-6700

FIRESIDE CHAT with George Hammond:

Ancient Greeks: The Age of Expansion – Preview

Join Humanities West board member George Hammond for a preview of ***Ancient Greeks: The Age of Expansion***, a two-day program of lectures, discussions, and musical performances exploring the emerging cultural strands that contributed to the Greek Age of Expansion, as reflected in art, science, politics, literature, and music.

When: 6:30pm, Tuesday, February 20, 2018

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

Cost: Free

HUMANITIES WEST BOOK DISCUSSION led by Lynn Harris:

Ancient Greece: From Prehistoric to Hellenistic Times

Second Edition by Thomas R. Martin

When: 6:30pm, Wednesday, February 21, 2018

Where: Commonwealth Club of California
110 The Embarcadero, SF, CA

Cost: \$5

TIX: www.commonwealthclub.org or 415-597-6700

COMMONWEALTH CLUB PRESENTATION:

Europa and the Alphabet: Phoenicians Awaken the Greeks from their Dark Age with Douglas Kenning

The Greek myth of the Rape (Abduction) of Europa tells of a Phoenician princess stolen across the sea from Tyre to Crete and of her five brothers sent to find her. None did. One brother, Cadmus, however, founded Greek Thebes, married a local girl, Harmonia, and is credited with giving Greece agriculture, the alphabet, and metalworking: the pillars of civilization. The Greek myth is thought to depict the arrival of ideas, art, stories and technical skills from the Near East to Europe in the middle of the first millennium B.C. This lecture tells the history that this richly-layered myth evokes, both as it once was told and as it is told now, all with beautiful images taken from art.

When: 6:00pm, Thursday, February 22, 2018

Where: Commonwealth Club of California
110 The Embarcadero, SF, CA

Cost: \$20

TIX: www.commonwealthclub.org or 415-597-6700

HUMANITIES WEST BOOK DISCUSSION led by Lynn Harris:

The Odyssey

by Homer, Translation by Robert Fagles

When: 6:30pm, Wednesday, March 21, 2018

Where: Commonwealth Club of California
110 The Embarcadero, SF, CA

Cost: \$5

TIX: www.commonwealthclub.org or 415-597-6700