A SPECIAL THURSDAY EVENING
Blues, Jazz, & Rock ‘n’ Roll: An Evening with Robert Greenberg, the Erik Jekabsons Quartet, & John Santos
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2018 7:30–10:00 pm
An extraordinary offshoot of the otherwise historic institution of slavery was the synthesis of African and European music in the mid-19th century. African American Spirituals, Blues, and the emergence of Ragtime.
We will pay special attention to the “birth” of jazz in the amazing multi-racial, multi-cultural New Orleans, and the role of New Orleans native Louis Armstrong in the advent and popularization of jazz in the 1920s. From there, we’ll trace the development of “swing” in the 1930s. “Swing” in the 1930s—post-WWII youth culture and the advent of Rock ‘n’ Roll in the 1950s—marked a harbinger of the Civil Rights and Youth movements of the 1960s.
Note: Deadline to purchase meal tickets is two weeks prior to each program.
Tickets at City Box Office 415.392.4400
Order meal tickets below or call City Box Office at 415.392.4400.
No Deadline to purchase meal tickets is two weeks prior to each program.

DINE WITH HUMANITIES WEST
Dinners: fridays | 5:30 pm (for Donors of $1,400 annually)
November 3, 2017 | February 23, 2018 | May 4, 2018
Mark the season with three-course dinners & fine wines, Marines’ Memorial Club
FRIENDS LUNCHEON: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4 | NOON
November 4, 2017 | May 5, 2018
Join our presenters at plated lunches with premium wines. Open to donors.

Order meal tickets below or call City Box Office at 415.392.4400.
Your Deadline to purchase meal tickets is two weeks prior to each program.

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Please note: City Box Office is located on the 1st floor of the Marines’ Memorial Club. Please present your ticket at the door in exchange for your meal ticket. For reservations and more information, please call 415.392.4400 or visit www.humanitieswest.org.

Welcome to the Humanities West 2017–2018 Season at Marines’ Memorial Theatre near Union Square.

HUMANITIES WEST transports you... through time and across the globe, bringing you illuminating lectures and performances that engage your people, places, and events that have shaped, and still inform, modern culture. Now in our 36th year, our unique multidisciplinary approach is designed to entertain and educate the intellectually curious, whether you are an arts lover, scholar, student, travel buff, or lifelong learner. Come stretch your intellect with Humanities West!

You are invited on a grand adventure that explores major cultural shifts in history Journey with Homerus and the Colonizing Greeks; experience the cultural clash of 16th-century Norman Sicily; travel carefully in the Italian Renaissance Court of the Spanish Borgia; and celebrate the unique blend of blues, ragtime, and jazz synthesized from African and European cultures.

Subscribe today for the best seats at the best discounts!
Call City Box Office at 415.392.4400. Reserve your concert seats! Season subscriptions and donors enjoy priority seating until July 31, 2017.

Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/HumanitiesWest to get the latest on our upcoming Salons and other events.

Norman Sicily
Ancient Greeks

Blues, Jazz, & Rock ‘n’ Roll

Lucrezia’s Family: The Borgias Dynasty May 4–5, 2018
The Borgias, Blues, Jazz, & Rock ‘n’ Roll February 1, 2018

HUMANITIES WEST 2017–2018 SEASON
A Unique Lecture & Performance Series
Ancient Greeks: The Age of Expansion February 23–24, 2018

DINNER ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3 AT MARINES’ MEMORIAL THEATRE
Tickets at City Box Office 415.392.4400

“There are many ways to feed your intellectual curiosity in San Francisco, but Humanities West offers one of the finest—a varied selection of lectures and performances addressing a specific topic—covering social history, fine arts, music, politics, and philosophy of the arts.”
—Laura Zucker, FIVE THOT, A Digital Salon
Norman Sicily: Art & Power in Palermo

Decades before their rapid conquest of England, Norman mercenary soldiers served the Lords of the Byzantine, who, all the while keeping an eye on their long-term opportunities in Sicily. Those who found it more enticing than a Crusade to the Holy Land settled, in dominating the local population. They honored their former masters by endowing Palermo with great Byzantine—or so art that glorifies the severest authoritarianism of concentric stone and brine power, as seen in the famous mosaic of Christ Pantocrator in Monreale.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2017 | 7:30–9:30 pm

Sicily as a Site of Encounter / Textile Rites (History, UCLA)

Lecture & Performance / Sicily at the Opera: Scilicet On the Operatic Stage / Clifford "Kip" Cranna (Dramming, San Francisco Opera): Including a live performance featuring Maria Pia Casale (soprano) and Philip Morris (harpsichord), with piano accompaniment.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2017 | 10 am–noon & 1:30–4 pm

Before the Normans / Paul Salsman (Jewish Studies, SFSU)

Manifecting Connections: The Art and Architecture of the Kingdoms of Sicily / Shaunan Gordon (Art and Archaeology, UC-LA)

The County Love Poetry of Syracuse in Sicily / Beverly Allen (English, Syracuse University)

Performance / Troubadour Music from the Court of Frederick II / Vanessa Raybaud, including pieces by the Occitan troubadours in cote, the German Minnesingers, and the maître of the Tuscan Minstrels, played on the medieval cote, the medieval harp, the psalter, and the discussion.

Discussion with Presenters / George Hammond, Moderator (Humanities West)

Ancient Greeks: The Age of Expansion

Before Athens’ Golden Age, the ancient Greek economy had already expanded dramatically. Greeks had colonized lands on the shores of the Mediterranean and Black Sea. They created communities of citizens, framed laws, and developed institutions to govern them. Homer immortalized the Trojan War and the Olympian gods and goddesses. Lyric/ poetic song of love and political intrigue. The Olympic Games rewarded physical 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. These pivotal cultural strides made the Greek Age of Expansion one of history’s most intriguing era.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2018 | 7:30–9:30 pm

The Rise of the Ancient Greeks / Jonah Subler (Classics, Stanford)

Performance / Stephen’s Lyre: Sarkophagus story (lyra and piano) and Ivan Kohn (solo): Music selections from Stravinsky, Gersh, and Philip Glass; poetry of Rimbaud, and the Art of Rodin, Morse, and Cartier.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2018 | 10 am–noon & 1:30–4 pm

Homer and the Hero / Richard Martin (Classics, Stanford)

Harmonie Proportion: Pythagorean Architecture in Greece in Greek Myth / Margaret Miles (Classics and Art History, UC-Los Angeles)

Performance / The Odyssey: A Modern Folk Opera / Joe Goodrain performs 24 original songs for solo acoustic guitar, lyrics inspired by Odyssey famous 'epiphanies'.

The Making of States and Citizenship in Archaic Greece / Emily Mackey (History, UC Berkeley)

Discussion with Presenters / George Hammond, Moderator (Humanities West)

Lucrècia’s Family: The Borgias Dynasty

Much maligned for their misuse of power, the Borgias are being reexamined in our age of secular politics. Were Allies (Popes Callistus III, Rodrigo (Pope Alexander VI), Cesare, and Lucrècia distrusted characters or monarchs in Machiavellian? Was Lucrècia one of history’s great villains or her powerful family’s pawns? Were the Borgias simply victims of early biographers intent on character assassination and gender politics, or of a poor understanding of how their political power was used? Our program re-examines the Borgias in the context of their considerable contributions to the Italian Renaissance.

FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2018 | 7:30–9:30 pm

The Borgias and the Renaissance Politics of Europe / Thomas Dandell (History, UC Berkeley)


SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2018 | 10 am–noon & 1:30–4 pm

Giulia "La Bella" Farnese: Papal Concubines and Families in Renaissance Rome / Carol Laming (History, UCLA)

Confidence Games: Bishops, Couriers and the End of Power in Machiavelli’s The Prince / Tim Stephens, UCLA, USC

Rodrigo Borgia’s Legacy as an Art Patron / Maryly Ellis (Art History, Mills College)

Silk, Clay Walls, Portraits, and Living Spaces of Lucrècia Borgia, Duchess of Ferrara / Alyson Burgess Williams (Art History, SDSU)

Discussion with Presenters / George Hammond, Moderator (Humanities West)