FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (SAN FRANCISCO, 25 July, 2018) Humanities West is proud to announce its 35th Anniversary Season featuring three diverse lecture/performance programs: *Late Czarist Russian Artistic Brilliance* on November 2 & 3, 2018; *Creating Leonardo: Celebrating 500 Years of His Legacy* on February 22 & 23, 2019; and *Bronze Age Greece: Mycenaeans & the Origins of Western Civilization* on May 3 & 4, 2019. The season includes a special added anniversary presentation *Democracy Then & Now: From Ancient Greece to This Week* on February 2, 2019. All of the presentations take place 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. For details contact City Box Office 415-392-4400 or info@cityboxoffice.com. Order tickets online at www.cityboxoffice.com.

Celebrating its 35th Anniversary Season, Humanities West is a Bay Area arts organization dedicated to presenting multidisciplinary programs exploring history and celebrating the arts. Thought-provoking lectures and dynamic performances focus on the people, places, and events that have shaped and still inform modern culture. Each season Humanities West brings together leading scholars, musicians, and artists to entertain and educate a wide audience of arts lovers, travel buffs, students, teachers, and life-long learners.
The 2018-2019 Season embarks on a grand adventure, first to the twilight years of **Czarist Russia** exploring the enduring contributions of Russian art, music, and literature created at this time, then journeying to the Renaissance world of **Leonardo da Vinci** to celebrate 500 years of his legacy, and finally to **Bronze Age Greece**, to rediscover the fascinating stories of the Mycenaean and their influence on the origins of Western Civilizations. The season includes a special added Saturday evening program, saluting Humanities West at 35 and Stanford Humanities Center at 39. This program examines the history of democracy and the contemporary relevance of ancient Greek political thought and practice, with lively discussions and a unique performance by Stanford Repertory Theatre.

In cooperation with other institutions, such as the Italian Cultural Institute, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Mechanics’ Institute Library and the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco, additional public lectures, salons, and panels are presented to further expand upon program topics. A schedule of related programs is available online at [www.humanitieswest.org](http://www.humanitieswest.org).

Season tickets for all three two-day programs, plus the special Saturday evening program are $360 orchestra and $250 balcony. A Fridays-only series is $165 orchestra and $129 balcony, and a Saturdays-only series (includes special Saturday evening program) is $300 orchestra and $192 balcony. Series subscriptions offer significant savings over single-ticket prices. 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 Friday & Saturday 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](http://www.cityboxoffice.com).

**2018-2019 SEASON BRIEF PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS**

**Late Czarist Russian Artistic Brilliance November 2 & 3, 2018**
Explore the fascinating and enduring contribution to world culture of Russian music, art and literature created during the twilight years of Czarist Russia: Tchaikovsky, Scriabin, Rachmaninoff, Stravinsky, and Prokofiev; Kramskoy, Repin, and Levitan; Pushkin, Gogol, Turgenev, Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, and Chekhov. This program reveals the cultural and historical influences that helped to recognize and to reward the gifts of these Russian artists, and looks into how the trajectory of European arts may have been different without the genius of Russia’s contributions.

Presenters include Robert Greenberg (*Composer/Lecturer/Performer*), Luba Golburt (*UC Berkeley*), Gary Hamburg (*Claremont-McKenna College*), and Molly Brunson (*Yale*). Kip Cranna (*SF Opera*) introduces the musical performance featuring Rhoslyn Jones (*soprano*), Eugene Brancoveanu (*baritone*) and Keith Korth (*piano*).
Creating Leonardo: Celebrating 500 Years of His Legacy Feb. 22 & 23, 2019

Celebrate Leonardo da Vinci, the quintessential "Renaissance man" whose paintings and drawings inspire and whose inventions still fascinate us, even after 500 years. Iconic images like the Mona Lisa, The Last Supper, and the Vitruvian Man; a remarkable range of artistic and scientific drawings; and inventions far ahead of their time, all demonstrate his intense curiosity about "how things work" and led to groundbreaking creations. Join local and international scholars for scintillating discussions exploring Leonardo’s vast achievement and his interaction with the world that shaped him. The program includes music and dramatic works inspired by Leonardo performed by acclaimed Bay Area artists.

Presenters are Martin Kemp (Oxford), Paula Findlen (Stanford), Monica Azzolini (University of Bologna) Pamela O. Long (MacArthur Fellow), and Deborah Loft (College of Marin). The program includes a performance of dramatic readings by accomplished Bay Area actor James Carpenter and a musical performance by the noted men’s classical vocal ensemble Clerestory.

This program is presented with support from the Stanford Department of History and the Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies; the Stanford Humanities Center; the Italian Cultural Institute; the UC Berkeley Institute of European Studies; and the Leonardo da Vinci Society.

Bronze Age Greece: Mycenaeans & the Origins of Western Civilization
May 3 & 4, 2019

A prehistoric culture from mainland Greece, now called the Mycenaeans inherited the magnificence of Minoan Crete, yet both the Mycenaeans and Minoans seemingly disappeared from history when the Bronze Age collapsed. Only their oral tales remained, composed half a millennium later by Homer into the Iliad and the Odyssey. Most scholars came to assume that the Homeric tales and even the society they described were fiction. However, 19th-century discoveries made by amateur archaeologists (most memorably Heinrich Schliemann) proved the existence of the ancient Greek’s brilliant predecessors. This program explores the Mycenaeans’ fascinating story, along with the archaeologists who uncovered the latest Mycenaean finds, to shed new light on the origins of Western Civilization.

Presenters include Douglas Kenning (Sicily Tour), Mark Griffith (UC Berkeley), Ian Morris (Stanford), Jack Davis (University Cincinnati), Sharon Stocker (University Cincinnati), Kim Shelton (UC Berkeley), and Sarah P. Morris (UCLA).

*Plus a Special Anniversary Program Saluting Humanities West at 35 & Stanford Humanities Center at 39!

Democracy Then & Now: From Ancient Greece to This Week February 2, 2019

Humanities West teams up with Stanford Humanities Center to present an engaging program on the ancient principles of democracy, oligarchy, and dictatorship; on the Roman Republic experiment and its failure of Empire; on the implications of Ancient Greece and Rome for American intellectual life and its representative democracy; on the contemporary relevance of ancient Greek political thought and practice; on inequality in democratic societies; and more. Speakers are Josiah Ober (Stanford), and Caroline Winterer (Stanford); Tyler Stovall (UCSC), moderates.

The program includes a special performance of Democratically Speaking by Stanford Repertory Theatre. This dynamic staged reading explores democracy from ancient Greece forward, with a powerful smorgasbord of speeches, writings, and rubrics about democracy across 2,500 years. Directed by Rush Rehm (Theater and Classics, Stanford) and performed by Courtney Walsh and Thomas Freeland.

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