FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (SAN FRANCISCO, XX December, 2019) Humanities West’s 2019-2020 Season continues with Etruscan Italy: Life and Afterlife, a two-day program of lectures, discussions, and musical performance exploring the rich cultural contributions of Etruscan society in architecture, politics, engineering, and art. The program takes place on Friday, February 28, from 7:30pm to 9:30pm, and Saturday, February 29, from 10am to 4pm, at Marines’ Memorial Theatre, located at 609 Sutter Street in downtown San Francisco.

Tickets for Etruscan Italy: Life and Afterlife, are priced as follows: Single tickets for individual Friday programs are $74 orchestra and $54 balcony and individual Saturday programs are $89 orchestra and $64 balcony, single tickets for both days of each program are $149 orchestra and $99 balcony. Order direct from City Box Office 415-392-4400 or www.cityboxoffice.com. Individual balcony tickets for teachers and students are available for $30/day for any program. Free tickets are available in limited quantities for students age 25 or younger (inquire at info@humanitieswest.org).

Humanities West brings together a panel of noted scholars and performers to present a unique lecture-performance event that takes its audience on a journey to Italy, between the 8th and 2nd century BCE. Etruscan Italy: Life and Afterlife celebrates a sophisticated and wealthy people, whose vibrant past has been revealed through their material culture, as discovered in tombs, temples, habitation sites, and more. This program examines the Etruscans as major contributors to some of Western civilization’s greatest achievements in architecture, engineering, politics and art, offering new perspectives and insights to broaden our understanding and demystify Etruscan life and afterlife.
The program opens Friday evening with a presentation by Lisa C. Pieraccini (UC Berkeley) titled *Etruscan Life and Afterlife Revisited*. Pieraccini provides an introduction and overview of the rich and complex Etruscan society and culture as uncovered through archaeological remains of buildings and towns, as well as vase paintings, sculpture and jewelry.

A special musical performance, *Etruscans at the Opera: Highlights from Benjamin Britten’s The Rape of Lucretia*, introduced by Clifford ‘Kip’ Cranna (Dramaturg Emeritus, SF Opera) follows. The performance features Hope Briggs (soprano), Eugene Brancoveanu (baritone), and Christopher Colmenero (tenor), with Chantal Grybas (mezzo-soprano) singing the title role, accompanied by Kevin Korth (piano).

On Saturday, Ingrid Edlund-Berry (University of Texas) presents *Etruscan Development of Organized Government and City-States*, exploring Etruscan political power as manifested through an intricate pattern of local government in which each city-state prospered on its own terms, and where individuality was used as a tool to create unity and strength.

Christopher Hallett (UC Berkeley) follows with a presentation on *The Etruscans in the Roman Imagination*. This presentation will discuss Rome’s interest in the Etruscans during the reign of Augustus (ca. 30 BCE). Hallett uncovers what this Roman generation chose to remember about their great predecessors and what they made of the legends, art, and structures that survived.

The program continues with *Quintessentially Etruscan: Art and Architecture: Villanovan to Etrusco-Roman*, a lecture by Alexandra Carpino (Northern Arizona University). Carpino’s talk delves into temples, tombs, vases, and jewelry created by Etruscan artists and craftsmen, to look for statements about Etruscan society, its wealth, beliefs, and traditions.

Lisa C. Pieraccini returns to give the final lecture on *The Rediscovery of the Etruscans: A Retrospective*. This presentation traces the reception of certain aspects of Etruscan culture over several centuries to the present. Examples of Etruscan reception, including monuments, forgeries, the borrowing of imagery, and subjects of literary works, illustrate the varying motivations through the ages for appropriating the Etruscans. Dr. Pieraccini seeks to illuminate where the Etruscans have gone and suggest where they still might be going.
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](http://www.humanitieswest.org)

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**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. In cooperation with other institutions, such as the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco, additional public lectures and panels are presented to further expand upon program topics.

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**CALENDAR LISTING: EVENTS/LECTURES/ARTS & CULTURE**

**WHAT: Etruscan Italy: Life and Afterlife**

Humanities West presents *Etruscan Italy: Life and Afterlife*, a two-day program of lectures, discussions, and musical performance exploring the rich cultural contributions of Etruscan society in architecture, politics, engineering, and art. Presenters include Lisa C. Pieraccini (UC Berkeley), Ingrid Edlund-Berry (University of Texas), Christopher Hallett (UC Berkeley), and Alexandra Carpino (Northern Arizona University).

The program includes a special opera performance of highlights from Benjamin Britten’s *The Rape of Lucretia*, introduced by Clifford ‘Kip’ Cranna (Dramaturg Emeritus, SF Opera) featuring Hope Briggs (soprano), Eugene Brancoveanu (baritone), and Christopher Colmenero (tenor), with Chantal Grybas (mezzo-soprano) singing the title role, accompanied by Kevin Korth (piano).

**WHEN:** 7:30pm to 9:30pm, Friday, February 28, 2020
10am to 4pm, Saturday, February 29, 2020

**WHERE:** Marines’ Memorial Theatre
609 Sutter Street, San Francisco

**TICKETS:** $30 - $89
Tickets are available through City Box Office at 415-392-4400 or online at [www.cityboxoffice.com](http://www.cityboxoffice.com)
Group tickets: [info@humanitieswest.org](mailto:info@humanitieswest.org)

**PUBLIC INFO:** 415/391-9700 or [www.humanitieswest.org](http://www.humanitieswest.org)

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