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Tickets: City Box Office 415/392-4400, www.cityboxoffice.com

HUMANITIES WEST PRESENTS
Notre Dame: The Soul of Medieval Paris
Friday & Saturday, November 4 & 5, 2011
Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

Humanities West opens its 2011-2012 season with ***Notre Dame: The Soul of Medieval Paris***, a two-day program of lectures, discussions, and music exploring the celebrated cathedral's long reign as the cultural, intellectual, religious, and economic center of Paris during the Middle Ages. The program takes place on Friday, November 4, from 7:30 pm to 10:15 pm and Saturday, November 5, from 10 am to 4 pm, at Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco.

Tickets for ***Notre Dame: The Soul of Medieval Paris*** are priced as follows: Single tickets for the Friday program are \$50 orchestra/dress circle and \$35 balcony; single tickets for the Saturday program are \$75 orchestra/dress circle and \$45 balcony, single tickets for both days are \$115 orchestra/dress circle and \$65 balcony. Special Student/Teacher tickets are available at \$20 balcony for single day admission. Order direct from City Box Office at 415/392-4400 or www.cityboxoffice.com. A limited number of free tickets for students age 25 and under are available; contact info@humanitieswest.org.

Season subscription tickets are also available and offer a significant savings. Season subscription tickets for all three two-day programs in the 2011-12 Season, including ***China: The Power & Glory of the Ming Dynasty*** (Feb. 10 & 11, 2012) and ***Pompeii & Herculaneum: Rediscovering Roman Art & Culture*** (April 27 & 28, 2012), are \$250 orchestra/dress circle and \$150 balcony. A Fridays-only subscription series is \$130 orchestra/dress circle and \$80 balcony, and a Saturdays-only series is \$200 orchestra/dress circle and \$115 balcony. Order direct from City Box Office at 415/392-4400 or www.cityboxoffice.com. For more information call Humanities West at 415/391-9700 or check the website for complete program descriptions and related programs at: www.humanitieswest.org.

Notre Dame: The Soul of Medieval Paris brings together a panel of noted scholars and performers to explore the wondrous art, architecture, and cultural influence of one of the world's most famous cathedrals. Built on the site of a Roman basilica and restored over a dozen centuries, Notre Dame long reigned in splendor as the cultural, intellectual, religious, and economic center of Paris, the most powerful city in northern Europe during the Middle Ages. The cathedral's commanding towers, grand gargoyles, flying buttresses and soaring interior represent amazing achievements in medieval Gothic architecture. Its magnificent stained glass, sumptuous art, and glorious music have inspired awe and creative expression throughout the ages.

On Friday evening, **Stephen Murray** (Lisa and Bernard Selz Professor of Medieval Art, Columbia University) provides the opening lecture on *Notre-Dame of Paris and Manifest Destiny*. Murray examines the creation of this Gothic masterpiece during a time of political uncertainty and discusses how this daring architectural endeavor has come to represent a powerful illusion of manifest destiny. A performance by **Clerestory**, the Bay Area's acclaimed classical *a cappella* ensemble follows, with an introduction by **Clifford (Kip) Cranna** (Director of Musical Administration, SF Opera). Clerestory features **Jesse Antin, Kevin Baum, John Bischoff, Dan Cromeenes, Chris Fritzsche, Tom Hart, David Kurtenbach, Clifton Massey, Jim Monios, and Justin Montigne**.

On Saturday, **Robert A. Scott** (Emeritus, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford) presents a lecture exploring the audacity of Gothic architecture and the social, cultural, religious, ideological and political contexts in which Notre Dame and other cathedrals of medieval Europe were conceived and built. **Hester Gelber** (Religious Studies, Stanford) follows with a presentation on the concept of retributive justice, rewarding the

virtuous and punishing the wicked, as reflected in the imagery displayed in Gothic art and architecture, and prominently evidenced in the sculptures of Notre Dame.

The program includes a performance and lecture by multi-instrumentalist and singer **Tim Rayborn** (Berkeley) exploring the rise of secular culture in mid-thirteenth-century Paris and the conflicts with religious organizations that followed from it. Rayborn will present examples of poetry and music performed with medieval instruments. That demonstration will be followed with a talk by **Suzanne Guerlac** (French, UC Berkeley) on Victor Hugo's famous novel about the magnificent Notre Dame cathedral and the hideously deformed man that resides inside. Guerlac delves into the contrasting imagery of the grand sacred monument and the grotesque character of Quasimodo, and the meaning of the identification between the two.

A panel discussion with all 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

Humanities West, a non-profit serving the Bay Area since 1983, is devoted to exploring history to celebrate the mind and the arts. The only independent non-profit offering humanities and arts programs of this scale, Humanities West presents a diverse series of lectures and performances encompassing fine and performing arts, social history, music, politics, and philosophy of the arts. These interdisciplinary programs are designed to entertain and educate audiences and to illuminate and elevate the human spirit through exploration of the many sources of modern culture.

This program is presented with support from The Consul General of France in San Francisco, Grants for the Arts/SF Hotel Tax Fund; George and Judy Marcus Family Foundation; Bank of the West; Stanford Humanities Center; the Institute of European Studies and the Office of Resources for International and Area Studies at UC Berkeley, Marines Memorial Theatre, and individual donors.

In cooperation with American Decorative Arts Forum Northern California; California Academy of Sciences; Center for the Art of Translation; Commonwealth Club of San Francisco; Docents Council, Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco; Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning; Humanities Department, San Francisco State University; Mapping Gothic France; Mechanics' Institute Library; Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), UC Berkeley; San Francisco and Oakland Unified School Districts; Stanford Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies; Stanford History Department; Stanford Arts Initiative; Stanford University Libraries; Townsend Center for the Humanities, UC Berkeley.

CALENDAR LISTING: EVENTS/LECTURES/ARTS & CULTURE

WHAT: *Notre Dame: The Soul of Medieval Paris*

Humanities West's 2011-2012 Season opens with ***Notre Dame: The Soul of Medieval Paris***, a two-day program of lectures, discussions, and music exploring the celebrated cathedral's long reign as the cultural, intellectual, religious, and economic center of Paris during the Middle Ages. Speakers include Stephen Murray (Columbia), Clifford 'Kip' Cranna (SF Opera), Robert A. Scott (Stanford), **Hester Gelber** (Stanford), and **Suzanne Guerlac** (UC Berkeley); musical performances by **Clerestory**, a Bay Area nine-man classical *a cappella* ensemble, and multi-instrumentalist and singer **Tim Rayborn** of Berkeley.

WHEN: 7:30pm to 10:15pm, Friday, November 4, 2011
10am to 12noon and 1:30pm to 4pm, Saturday, November 5, 2011

WHERE: Herbst Theatre
401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

TICKETS: \$20 - \$75
Tickets are available through City Box Office at
415-392-4400 or online at www.cityboxoffice.com
Group tickets: info@humanitieswest.org
Free Tickets for students 25 years old and younger: info@humanitieswest.org

PUBLIC INFO: 415/391-9700 or www.humanitieswest.org

***RELATED EVENTS for Notre Dame: The Soul of Medieval Paris**

Ancillary programs providing opportunities to learn more about the featured topic and related issues complement this two-day event.

Humanities West Book Discussion with Lynn Harris

Victor Hugo's *Hunchback of Notre Dame*

When: **5:30pm, Wednesday, October 19, 2011**

Where: Board Room, Commonwealth Club of San Francisco
595 Market Street, SF, CA

Cost: Free

RSVP: commonwealthclub.org

Co-Sponsored by the Humanities Member-Led Forum

Fireside Chat with George Hammond - A Notre Dame/Paris Preview

When: **6:30pm, Wednesday, October 26, 2011**

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

Cost: Free

Lecture: Why the West Rules - For Now

When: **6pm, Monday, November 14, 2011**

Where: Commonwealth Club of San Francisco
595 Market Street, SF, CA

Cost: \$20 general

RSVP: commonwealthclub.org

Co-Sponsored by the Humanities Member-Led Forum

Ian Morris (Stanford), author of *Why the West Rules--for Now: The Patterns of History, and What They Reveal About the Future*, will present a lecture on his book.

Humanities West Book Discussion with Lynn Harris

The Great Mortality: An Intimate History of the Black Death, the Most Devastating Plague In All The World by John Kelly

When: **5:30pm, Wednesday, November 16, 2011**

Where: Board Room, Commonwealth Club of San Francisco
595 Market Street, SF, CA

Cost: Free

RSVP: commonwealthclub.org

Co-Sponsored by the Humanities Member-Led Forum

Lecture: George Hammond & Robert Scott (Stanford) in Conversation "Scholasticism and the Design of the Medieval Gothic Cathedral"

When: **6pm, Monday, January 9, 2011**

Where: Commonwealth Club of San Francisco
595 Market Street, SF, CA

Cost: \$20 general

RSVP: commonwealthclub.org

Co-Sponsored by the Humanities Member-Led Forum

Join a discussion on "Scholasticism and the Design of the Medieval Gothic Cathedral". The design of the great Gothic Cathedrals of Medieval Europe is characterized by their geometric regularity. The strict adherence to geometry in the design and building of these great churches derives from Scholasticism, a strain of theology that swept Western Christianity during the middle ages. George Hammond will explain the origins of Scholasticism in Aristotelian philosophy and identify its fundamental precepts. Robert Scott will explain how these ideas were combined with theological notions about light to produce the so-called Gothic look.