



*In Concert With Nature*

## About Stern Grove Festival

The Stern Grove Festival Association is a non-profit arts presenting organization committed to providing the people of the Bay Area with admission-free access to diverse, outstanding performing arts. Every year since 1938, the organization presents admission-free, outdoor concerts at Stern Grove Festival. A San Francisco tradition, music and nature lovers gather at The Festival to enjoy music, picnicking, and relaxation in a serene meadow surrounded by giant eucalyptus, redwood, and fir trees. In 2009, the Festival celebrates its 72<sup>nd</sup> Season.

Stern Grove Festival was founded by Mrs. Rosalie Meyer Stern, a civic activist and arts patron who envisioned a series of free performances open to the public in Sigmund Stern Grove, a stunning natural amphitheater in San Francisco. At the core of the Festival's mission is the belief that the arts build healthy communities. The Festival is, as Mrs. Stern wished, designed for everybody—San Francisco Bay Area residents and visitors, Festival regulars as well as first-timers, and people from all backgrounds. Over the years, The Festival has presented more than 800 performances for more than six million concert-goers.

In keeping with Mrs. Stern's original vision, the Festival has offered admission-free performances by some of the world's greatest artists. The Festival has presented such notable performers as the San Francisco Symphony, Los Lobos, Kronos Quartet, Isaac Stern, San Francisco Ballet, Diana Krall, Miriam Makeba, Los Van Van, Femi-Kuti, Mavis Staples, Cubanismo, Zakir Hussain, Youssou N'Dour, Eddie Palmieri, Cassandra Wilson, Nancy Wilson, Arrested Development, Dr. John, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Ozomatli, Lucinda Williams, and many more.

In addition to the summer concerts, Stern Grove Festival presents interactive community outreach programs for audiences of all ages. Among these are Kids Days, pre-concert Troc Talks with artists, and lecture/demonstrations by artists at community venues. To date, these programs have served more than 25,000 people.

In 2004, Stern Grove underwent a \$15 million renovation, designed by renowned landscape architect, Lawrence Halprin. Completed in June of 2005, the new Stern Grove has been transformed into a world-class performing arts facility and a jewel in the heart of the city, while maintaining its natural beauty and charm.

Stern Grove Festival's 72<sup>nd</sup> Season, featuring an array of music and dance from around the world, begins on June 21 and runs every Sunday through August 23, 2009.