

Saturday Evening
March 10th, 2018; 7 pm

Conrad Prebys Concert Hall
University of California, San Diego

***Bula Matari* | Breaker of Rocks**

a one-act opera

Music and Libretto by Josh Charney

Cast of Characters

<i>The Mahdi</i>	Barbara Byers
<i>Henry Morton Stanley</i>	Jonathan Nussman
<i>Emin Pasha</i>	Adam Davis

The Ensemble

Piano/Music Director	Siu Hei Lee
Double Bass	Tommy Babin
Double Bass	Kyle Motl
Percussion	Christopher Clarino

Historical Overview:

In February of 1887, British explorer Henry Morton Stanley left the island of Zanzibar with 700-some-odd men to embark on the Emin Pasha Relief Expedition, an expedition that would require the traversing of thousands of miles of African terrain, take over two years to complete, and ultimately cost the lives of hundreds of men, both African and European. Now under contract with Belgian King Leopold II, a forty-six-year-old Stanley began what would be his last major adventure - to rescue the Egyptian appointed Pasha, Emin Hakim, from Mahdist forces in Equatoria. The Mahdists were an army of mostly Sudanese Muslims who had risen under the leadership of Muhammad Ahmad, the self-proclaimed Mahdi (Savior). His mission was to take back Sudan from Egyptian rule. The Mahdi and his army had claimed a significant victory in 1885 by taking the capital city Khartoum and killing the Governor General of Sudan, Englishman Charles Gordon. This came as a major blow to Egypt, Britain, and Emin Pasha who was personally appointed by Gordon. That same year, Emin Pasha withdrew south to Lake Albert to avoid an attack and await relief, though Stanley would not reach the lake for another three years.

Special thank you to Sarah Charney, all the performers, and the Gran Maestro Anthony Davis.