FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WEILL HALL AND THE GREEN MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCE 2015–16 SEASON

MASTERCARD PERFORMANCE SERIES IN WEILL HALL
TO LAUNCH WITH GALA OPENING BY PIANIST LANG LANG
Two Additional Special Concerts to Feature Violinist Joshua Bell
And Jazz Pianist Chick Corea With Banjo Master Béla Fleck

All-Star Lineup to Include Latin Music Stars Chucho Valdés and Eddie Palmieri,
Russian Piano Prodigy Daniil Trifonov, Organ Virtuoso Cameron Carpenter,
World Musicians Anoushka Shankar and Zap Mama,
Flutist Sir James Galway, Violinist Midori and Vocal Ensemble Chanticleer

Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra to Return With Three All-Handel Programs

SUMMER 2015 MASTERCARD PERFORMANCE SERIES
TO INCLUDE ARRAY OF CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS AT WEILL HALL + LAWN
Kevin Spacey in Concert, Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis,
Kristin Chenoweth, Martina McBride, Colbie Caillat and Christina Perri,
4th of July with Megan Hilty and the Santa Rosa Symphony,
Pink Martini, Russian National Orchestra: Beethoven 9, Orquesta Buena Vista Social Club®,
Dawg Day Afternoon Bluegrass Festival and More

SCHROEDER HALL TO HOST FOUR SERIES THIS SEASON
Sundays at Schroeder Returns Blending Chamber Music, Pops and Masterworks for Pipe Organ

Saturday Cabaret Series to Debut with Artists Including
Storm Large, Richard Glazier and Paula West

New ChamberFest 2015 to Debut with Jeffrey Kahane as Artistic Director

Musicians from Valley of the Moon Music Festival to Offer Performances Of
18th- and 19th-Century Works on Period Instruments

Sonoma County, CA — Weill Hall and the Green Music Center (GMC) at Sonoma State University (SSU) announced its 2015–16 season today, with concerts in Weill Hall, Schroeder Hall, and through the summer at Weill Hall + Lawn. The season comprises the MasterCard Performance Series — 39 concerts on the stage of the 1,400-seat Weill Hall, featuring a roster of internationally renowned stars from the genres of classical music,
world music, jazz and pop — leading off with a Gala Opening Night performance by piano superstar Lang Lang; the **Summer 2015 MasterCard Performance Series**, which takes place with seating both indoors in Weill Hall and on the spacious Weill Lawn featuring an array of contemporary music; and 24 concerts in 240-seat Schroeder Hall, including the popular **Sundays At Schroeder** series plus three new offerings — a five-day, nine-concert **GMC ChamberFest 2015**, led by Jeffrey Kahane, a new **Saturday Cabaret** four-concert series, and four performances with **Musicians from Valley of the Moon Music Festival**, featuring early music performed on period instruments by leading Bay Area musicians.

“The 2015–16 season is truly remarkable for the wide variety and outstanding quality of artists who will be performing,” said Co-Executive Director Zarin Mehta. “We have internationally known soloists and ensembles coming from Africa, India, Spain and Great Britain bringing their signature music and dance to our stages as well as an outstanding lineup of award-winning classical artists. Our jazz, folk and pop offerings represent the best of those worlds. And we also have some artists — true originals — who simply transcend labels and categories.”

“A concert here is first and foremost an artistic event, but is so much more,” said Co-Executive Director Larry Furukawa-Schlereth. “From the acoustical perfection to the unforgettable experience of enjoying a concert while picnicking on Weill Lawn, a visit — whether as a regular or a casual visitor — is a memorable experience. The tremendous and growing support of patrons, friends and enthusiastic audiences is a testimony to how the community has embraced Weill Hall and the Green Music Center in just the few short years since we opened our doors.”

“Having Weill Hall and Green Music Center as part of our university has been a long-held vision; the reality has been far surpassed and it gets better each year,” said Sonoma State University President Ruben Armiñana. “Weill and Schroeder Halls are not only wonderful places to experience a concert, but also invaluable platforms for lectures, seminars and educational activities. We are especially grateful to Don and Maureen Green and Sandy and Joan Weill, as well as our Weill Hall and Green Music Center Board of Advisors, and many other generous friends, who made this possible and who support the growth of this remarkable addition to our campus and the community.”

“My wife Joan and I couldn’t be more thrilled with the excitement Weill Hall and the Green Music Center has brought to the Bay Area,” said Board Chairman Sandy Weill. “Although still in its infancy, this has quickly become a world class performing arts venue. With their vision and ability to attract and showcase terrific talent, Co-Executive Directors Zarin Mehta and Larry Furukawa-Schlereth are building a performing arts venue where world-class performers want to appear. Weill Hall is an important cultural destination in the Bay Area and we hope it will continue to transform Sonoma State University.”

### 2014-15 MASTERCARD PERFORMANCE SERIES IN WEILL HALL

The 2015–16 season’s 39-concert MasterCard Performance Series in Weill Hall kicks off with a Gala Opening Night concert by superstar pianist **Lang Lang**, performing Bach, Tchaikovsky and Chopin (Oct. 3). This is one of three special non-subscription concerts. The others are a recital by violinist **Joshua Bell** (Oct. 17) and a joint appearance by jazz pianist **Chick Corea** and banjo master **Béla Fleck** (Apr. 21).

### ORCHESTRAL CONCERTS / INSTRUMENTAL RECITALS

In addition to Lang Lang and Bell, the season features a lineup of the world’s greatest classical music superstars in recital, including pianists **Jean-Yves Thibaudet** (Nov. 6) playing a varied program, such as his signature Ravel; **Marc-André Hamelin** (Jan. 22) with a program showcasing his skills as an interpreter and composer; **André Watts** (Apr.1) performing Liszt and Schubert; **Peter Serkin** (Apr.10) mixing it up with Mozart, Beethoven, Sweelinck and Reger; and **Yuja Wang** (May 6) essaying Bach, Schoenberg and Chopin. Violinist **James Ehnes** and pianist **Orion Weiss** will perform works by Ravel, Beethoven, Schubert and Copland, (Mar. 19) and **Midori** will play Bach, Prokofiev and Brahms (Apr. 23). For something completely different, there’s Punch Brothers founder and virtuoso mandolin player **Chris Thile** in a solo appearance (Nov. 14), playing Bach as well as his own compositions, and organ wizard **Cameron Carpenter** performing on his custom-built electronic international touring organ (Feb. 12).

Other classical performances in 2015–16 include the **Academy of St. Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble** with an evening including the Schubert Octet (Oct. 24); **Orpheus Chamber Orchestra** with guest
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violin soloist Augustin Hadelich (Nov. 29); and the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal conducted by California native Kent Nagano and featuring pianist Daniil Trifonov playing Prokofiev’s blazing Piano Concerto No. 3 (Mar. 25). The San Francisco-based Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra also returns with three all-Handel performances featuring vocal soloists (Dec. 20, Feb. 14, May 14).

CHAMBER ENSEMBLES
Smaller chamber and vocal ensembles appearing in the 2015–16 season at Weill Hall include the renowned Juilliard String Quartet with a program of Mozart, Schubert and Debussy (Nov. 13); the Pacifica Quartet with pianist Menahem Pressler (Dec. 13); the Kahane-Swensen-Brey Trio, three renowned soloists who’ve joined forces and will perform Mozart, Schumann and Ravel (Jan. 16); members of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center in a program that includes Richard Strauss’s Sextet for Strings from Capriccio (Apr. 8); and flutist Sir James Galway with Lady Jeanne Galway and the Galway Chamber Players (Mar. 18) playing a potpourri of classical and pop works, including Mozart, Debussy, Mancini and Claude Bolling.

VOCAL RECITALS AND SOLOISTS
This season’s vocal offerings include acclaimed opera stars such as bass-baritone Eric Owens with a program of lieder by composers including Wolf, Schumann and Ravel (Nov. 1); tenor Lawrence Brownlee performing works by Liszt, Ginastera and others, along with his signature interpretations of African American spirituals (Mar. 11); baritone Matthias Goerne, with pianist Alexander Schmalcz, singing Schubert’s riveting song cycle Die Schöne Müllerin (Apr. 24); Chanticleer, the San Francisco-based, 12-voice male ensemble which calls itself “an orchestra of voices” (Apr. 16); and the beloved male vocal sextet The King’s Singers (Feb. 19).

In addition, the GMC welcomes appearances by Susan Graham, Anne Sofie von Otter and Andreas Scholl, appearing with San Francisco-based Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra. The Baroque ensemble, led by Nicholas McGegan, makes three appearances this season at the GMC, performing Handel’s Messiah to celebrate the holiday season (Dec. 20), an all-Handel program with Graham (Feb. 14), and a celebratory concert marking McGegan’s 30-year tenure with the ensemble, featuring Handel arias with Von Otter and Scholl as well as a newly arranged work by acclaimed Estonian composer Arvo Pärt (May 14).

WORLD MUSIC AND DANCE
World music and dance are represented by the Bollywood Masala Orchestra and Dancers of India, a 17-member ensemble of musicians, acrobats and dancers (Oct. 16); Compañía Flamenca led by Artistic Director José Porcel (Nov. 22); Soweto Gospel Choir with stirring gospel music for the holidays (Dec. 19); the Band of the Royal Marines featuring the Pipes, Drums and Highland Dancers of the Scots Guards with signature music of the British Isles (Feb. 26); Ireland’s beloved Paddy Moloney and the Chieftains (Feb. 27); Acoustic Africa featuring two legendary singers, Habib Koité and Vusi Mahlasela (Mar. 30); renowned sitarist and global musician Anoushka Shankar (Apr. 16); and Zap Mama, the Congolese-based vocal quintet helmed by Marie Dauline (Apr. 22).

JAZZ
Jazz and Latin music are well-represented in 2015–16 by a stellar group of GRAMMY® Award-winning artists: Chucho Valdés, celebrating the 40th anniversary of his band, Irakere, shares the stage on the same night as the Pedrito Martinez Group (Oct. 25); the legendary salsa king Eddie Palmieri and his Latin Jazz Band perform on the same evening as the Pete Escovedo Latin Jazz Ensemble (Jan. 23); and Lisa Fischer, best known for her duet with Mick Jagger in “Gimme Shelter,” appears with her band Grand Baton (Feb. 6).

SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGES FOR WEILL HALL:
Available to MasterCard cardholders and subscribers beginning today, April 14, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (PST)
Available to the general public beginning Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (PST)

SINGLE TICKETS FOR WEILL HALL:
Single tickets for Weill Hall will be available beginning August 11, 2015.
SUMMER 2015 MASTERCARD PERFORMANCE SERIES

In summer 2015, the action centers on Weill Hall, but also moves outdoors to Weill Lawn for a concert series showcasing a glittering array of stars from the worlds of Broadway, film, television, cabaret and jazz.

4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR WITH MEGAN HILTY AND THE SANTA ROSA SYMPHONY

JUL. 4 | WEILL HALL + LAWN

There will be fireworks onstage and off when Broadway and TV’s petite powerhouse Megan Hilty joins the Santa Rosa Symphony on Independence Day to launch the summer season. Enjoy an all-American program, followed by eye-popping pyrotechnics!

MARTINA MCBRIDE
THE EVERLASTING TOUR

JUL. 11 | WEILL HALL + LAWN

Four time CMA Female Vocalist of the Year Martina McBride writes and produces, but most of all the Kansas-born megastar sings her heart out. She has won millions of fans around the world with her searingly honest songs of family, faith, heartbreak and redemption.

DAWG DAY AFTERNOON BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL
WITH THE DAVID GRISMAN SEXTET, THE DEL MCCOURY BAND
AND JERRY DOUGLAS PRESENTS EARLS OF LEICESTER

JUL. 12 | Weill Hall + Lawn

There’s more to country than heartbreak and hillbillies. Experience the depth and breadth of this American art form when GMC hosts Dawg Day Afternoon Bluegrass Festival with the Del McCoury Band, Sonoma favorite The David Grisman Sextet, and dobro master Jerry Douglas Presents the Earls of Leicester.

KEVIN SPACEY IN CONCERT

JUL. 18 | WEILL HALL + LAWN

You know Kevin Spacey best as the star of the mega hit House of Cards, but he wears many hats from actor to director and comedian. Spacey dons yet another topper — vocalist with a swing band — for this unforgettable evening.

RUSSIAN NATIONAL ORCHESTRA & CHORUS: BEETHOVEN 9

JUL. 21 | WEILL HALL

The mighty Ninth Symphony is considered Beethoven’s crowning masterpiece. Hear it in a quintessential performance by the Russian National Orchestra, with its “intensity and blazing power” (The New York Times). Conductor Kristjan Järvi leads the mighty band and soloists soprano Amber Wagner, mezzo-soprano Kelley O’Connor, tenor John Tessier, bass-baritone Brandon Cedel and San Francisco’s Volti Chorus.

ORQUESTA BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB® ADIÓS TOUR

AUG.16 | WEILL HALL + LAWN

The Green Music Center will be one of the final stops for Orquesta Buena Vista Social Club before returning to Cuba. Don’t miss an opportunity to catch this legendary band as it wraps up its worldwide Adiós Tour.

COLBIE CAILOTT and CHRISTINA PERRI
THE GIRLS NIGHT OUT, BOYS CAN COME TOO TOUR

AUG. 23 | WEILL HALL + LAWN

You get two for the price of one with this duo of stellar singer-songwriters: GRAMMY® Award winner Colbie Caillat and multi-platinum artist Christina Perri bring their Girls Night Out, Boys Can Come Too Tour.

PINK MARTINI

AUG. 30 | WEILL HALL + LAWN

The group that calls itself “a little orchestra,” will intoxicate you with its eclectic repertoire and vintage vibe. Bring the whole family to find out why Pink Martini “speaks to just about everybody … from grade-schoolers to grandmothers to the young and hip and beautiful.” (Washington Post)
JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ORCHESTRA WITH WYNTON MARSALIS
SEP. 17 | WEILL HALL
Nine-time GRAMMY® Award winner Wynton Marsalis doesn’t just play jazz, he lives and breathes it. Whether you love the standards or seek new horizons, Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra will thrill you with their historically informed approach to jazz classics, as well as their playing of scores hot off the presses.

KRISTIN CHENOWETH
SEP. 25 | WEILL HALL + LAWN
Fresh from Broadway, where she played Lily in On the Twentieth Century to rave reviews, Emmy and Tony Award-winning actress and singer Kristin Chenoweth brings the GMC summer season to a rousing conclusion. Revel in what the New York Daily News called the “nuclear glow” of this “stick of blond dynamite.”

MORE SHOWS TO BE ANNOUNCED

ALL TICKETS FOR SUMMER 2015:
Available to MasterCard cardholders and subscribers beginning today, April 14, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (PST)
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SCHROEDER HALL
The intimate, 240-seat Schroeder Hall hosts four series in 2015–16 including the return of Sundays at Schroeder, as well as three new offerings: a chamber festival, cabaret and an early music festival.

GMC CHAMBERFEST 2015: BACH, BEETHOVEN, BRAHMS
JUNE 24-28, 2015
New this season at Schroeder is a nine-concert series devoted to exploring the three beloved Bs: Bach, Beethoven and Brahms. Led by Festival Artistic Director and Santa Rosa native Jeffrey Kahane, GMC ChamberFest 2015 takes place over five days and features violinists Jennifer Koh and Benjamin Beilman, pianist Benjamin Hochman, organist Charles Rus and the Miró Quartet. The Festival also includes musicians from the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, the Orcas Island Chamber Music Festival and the San Francisco, Santa Rosa, San Diego and California Symphonies. For the final performance, the festival will move from Schroeder to Weill Hall for a performance of all six of Bach’s Brandenburg Concertos.

SUNDAYS AT SCHROEDER
Returning in 2015-16, the popular Sundays at Schroeder series continues with an eclectic eight-concert mix of concerts on Sunday afternoons. The series opens with vocalist Storm Large and Le Bonheur and their unique blend of cabaret, French chanson and heavy metal (Sep. 27). The series continues with the Chicago-based Lincoln Trio playing works by Bach, Brahms and Rebecca Clarke (Nov. 15); and tenor Nicholas Phan with pianist Myra Huang in a program including Schumann’s Dichterliebe and contemporary works (Jan. 17). The San Francisco-based Cypress Quartet offers the music of Haydn and Beethoven (Feb. 28); and Trio of Tangos (Victor Villena, bandoneon; Eileen Moon, cello; and Krisztina Wajsza, piano) presents a program that includes Piazzolla’s Le Grand Tango (Mar. 6).

Schroeder Hall’s 1,248-pipe Brombaugh organ will be showcased in two recitals — the first, a return appearance by Charles Rus, director of music at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Medina, Wash. (Jan. 31); the second by James David Christie, former organist of the Boston Symphony Orchestra (Apr. 17).

SATURDAY CABARET
New this season at Schroeder is Saturday Cabaret. This evening series debuts with Storm Large and Le Bonheur (Sep. 26) and continues with Intersection, a piano-violin-cello trio that seamlessly melds the
traditional and the new (Mar. 12); cabaret pianist Richard Glazier (Mar. 26), who brings new life to old favorites; and Bay Area vocalist Paula West, known for her singular interpretation of the jazz and cabaret classics (Apr. 30).

MUSICIANS FROM VALLEY OF THE MOON MUSIC FESTIVAL
Also making its Schroeder Hall debut in 2015-16 is this four-concert series of chamber music by Schubert, Schuman, Haydn and Beethoven, played on period instruments (Nov. 21, Jan. 30, Feb. 13 and Mar. 5). Participants are premier Bay Area musicians, including violinists Elizabeth Blumenstock, Monica Hugget and Axel Strauss; cellist Tanya Tomkins; Eric Zivian on fortepiano and soprano Christine Brandes.

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DINING AT THE GREEN MUSIC CENTER
Concertgoers not only get to hear great music at Green Music Center performances, they have an array of dining options — from enjoying an elegant full-service meal at the year-round Prelude Restaurant, to a casual bring-your-own picnic on Weill Lawn with the option of purchasing local wine or beer from a GMC kiosk.

PRELUDE RESTAURANT
Exemplary culinary creations, focused on locally grown food await you at Prelude Restaurant. Elegant surroundings, gourmet cuisine and a full bar are just steps away from Weill Hall pre-concert, at intermission and following every performance. For reservations, call 1.866.955.6040, ext. 2 or visit gmc.sonoma.edu/prelude. Customers may also use their MasterCard to take advantage of premium table reservations.

WEILL HALL + LAWN SUMMER DINING
Dining offerings at the Green Music Center are expanded during the summer months in Weill Hall + Lawn.

• Dining Terrace: Concertgoers pair a pre-concert, three-course meal with the finest outdoor table seats (for select concerts).
• Pre-Ordered Meals: Instead of packing a picnic, pre-ordered boxed meals and small platters are available from San Francisco's iconic Boudin Bakery.
• Concessions: A wide variety of on-site concessions provide options for both Weill Hall and Lawn patrons. From savory meals to sweet snacks, options are abundant. (Concertgoers save 10% with a MasterCard).
• Pack a Picnic: Enjoy a homemade feast at the outdoor tables or on Weill Lawn.
• Wine and Beer: A day in Sonoma’s Wine Country isn't complete without a remarkable vintage. Choose from a selection of prizewinning reds, whites and sparklings, not to mention the best domestic and craft brews.
• Prelude Restaurant: Open pre-show, during intermission, and following every concert in the summer.

For information visit: gmc.sonoma.edu/visit/Dining

* No outside liquids (including water, beer, wine or sodas) may be carried into the hall or onto the lawn.
* Free water bottle-filling stations are available at the Trione Courtyard in front of Weill Hall and at the South Restrooms.
EDUCATION
As an integral part of the Sonoma State University (SSU) campus, the GMC also serves the college and the surrounding community’s educational needs. Each year, SSU’s Department of Music uses the GMC facilities to present more than 100 performances for approximately 9,000 audience members. Outreach initiatives, festivals and invitational bring an additional 2,500 secondary school students, teachers and guests to GMC. This year’s festivals and invitational include:

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC FESTIVALS AND INVITATIONALS
Jazz Day | Oct. 15 | Weill Hall
Choral Festival | Nov. 6 | Schroeder Hall
CMEA Jazz Festival | Jan. 15 | Weill Hall
Sonoma County Honor Band | Jan. 29 & 30 | Weill Hall
CMEA Solo and Ensemble Festival | Mar. 13 | Schroeder Hall
Wind Band Festival | Mar. 23 & 24 | Weill Hall
CMEA Choral Festival | Apr. 8 & 9 | Schroeder Hall

K-12 PROGRAM
The Green Music Center hosts Sonoma County’s local K-12 school districts throughout the year to showcase the school’s performances of choral, instrumental and jazz music. Each district has the opportunity for its students to perform in Weill Hall, joining together all of its schools for one tremendous evening of music and fun. These districts currently include: Santa Rosa City Schools, Waldorf Schools, West Sonoma County Union High School District and the Cotati Rohnert Park Unified School District.

ACADEMIC INTEGRATION
Green Music Center Academic Integration builds bridges between Sonoma State University and the GMC. Ten proposals submitted by SSU faculty will be implemented in the 2015–16 season. Events dates will be announced.

• Instrumental Music Methods Outreach
• You Are Here: USA/Korea International Dance & Live Music Exchange
• America at War and Peace: An Oral History Performance and Discussion
• Math and Music in Schroeder Hall
• GMC Academic Integration: the Big Ethics and Law Lecture
• Incorporation of Design and Implementation of Musical Instruments and Effects within Engineering Science Project
• Latina/o Performing Arts Series
• Neuroscience and Music Symposium
• The First High-Tech Conference by Students for Students
• Jewish Music Series

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MasterCard is the Preferred Card of the Green Music Center.

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The Press Democrat is the Media Sponsor of the Green Music Center.

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GMC ChamberFest 2015 is made possible by the generous support of Alan Mason and Timothy Rodrigues. Additional support has been provided by Sandra Velasco Jordan and Catherine and David Marsten.

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**BOX OFFICE:**
Call **1.866.955.6040** or visit us online at [gmc.sonoma.edu](http://gmc.sonoma.edu).

Subscriptions for Weill Hall and single tickets for Summer 2015 and Schroeder Hall are available to exclusively to MasterCard cardholders and subscribers beginning today, **April 14, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (PST)**

Subscriptions for Weill Hall and single tickets for Summer 2015 and Schroeder Hall are available to the general public beginning **Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (PST)**

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Single tickets for Weill Hall will be available beginning **Tuesday, August 11, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (PST).**

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The Box Office is open Monday–Friday, 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m., and one hour prior to all concerts.

During regular business hours, the Green Music Center Box Office is located on the first floor of the Sonoma State University Student Center. 1801 East Cotati Avenue, Rohnert Park, CA 94928.

One hour prior to all Green Music Center performances, the Box Office is open adjacent to the Trione Courtyard in front of Weill Hall at the Green Music Center.

Single tickets for Weill Hall will be available beginning **August 11, 2015.**

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