

## Pat Metheny to orchestrate documentary on California's environment

SACRAMENTO, California – October 7, 2011 – The legendary jazz guitarist Pat Metheny has joined a California team of distinguished scientists, educators and digital-media producers working to create inspirational stories about the state's natural environment.

Metheny will compose and perform music for the soundtracks of a PBS prime-time documentary and for short films to reach millions of visitors at national and state parks throughout California.

The productions are part of the California Environmental Legacy Project, a pioneering initiative that uses artful storytelling and state-of-the-art digital media to raise environmental awareness and understanding.

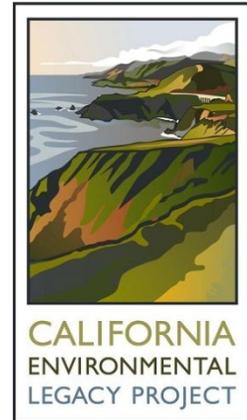
"I am excited to find a musical language to give voice to the great assembling of California," said Metheny, a highly versatile and inventive musician.

"California represents so many things and is in many ways a land of extremes – from the world's largest and biggest living things (coast redwood and giant sequoia) to the highest and lowest points in the continental U.S. (Mount Whitney, Death Valley) – and it is inhabited by one of the greatest and most diverse populations in the history of mankind."

The two-hour documentary, "Becoming California," will take audiences on a journey across 2 billion years of natural history and explore our past, present and future relationship with the environment. With Metheny's original score, the program will present a monumental story of colliding tectonic plates, the community of life, human exploitation, coexistence and more. The program is targeted for broadcast in spring 2013 on public television stations throughout California.

"Pat Metheny is an exquisite match for this project," said Jim Baxter, a biology professor at Sacramento State University and a director of the Legacy Project. "We have a jazz great whose music is as diverse and superlative as life in California."

Funded in part by the National Science Foundation, the Legacy Project also will provide an online educational portal featuring unparalleled access to high quality videos, 3D animations, images, maps and interactive media resources that tell the story of the state from its origins to the present day and beyond. Media resources for teachers and students are also being developed. Collaborators on the project include California State Parks, the National Park Service and the U.S. Geological Survey. Sacramento State is the lead institution along with Humboldt State University, where biology professor Jeffrey White also directs the project.



One of the most enterprising jazz musicians of his generation, Metheny has 18 Grammy Awards in 12 categories, more than any artist in Grammy history. He also has three Gold Records and numerous readers' poll awards. Metheny has performed with artists as diverse as Steve Reich, Ornette Coleman, Herbie Hancock, Jim Hall, Charlie Haden and David Bowie. His body of work includes compositions for solo guitar, small ensembles, electric and acoustic instruments, large orchestras and ballet pieces, with settings ranging from modern jazz to rock to classical to his latest creation, the Orchestrion.

More information is available on the Legacy Project website: [www.calegacy.org](http://www.calegacy.org).

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