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At the home of **Doug and Barbara Engmann** last week, San Francisco Ballet principal dancer **Muriel Maffre** and UC Berkeley professor and conceptual artist **Ken Goldberg** made a presentation and pitch for "Ballet Mori," in which Maffre will dance to sounds based on the Earth's seismic movements. The piece, created in homage to the 1906 quake centennial, will be part of the San Francisco Ballet's performance on April 4.

Goldberg and six collaborators have used UC Berkeley's Strawberry Canyon seismograph, which records movement along the Hayward Fault, to make music from samplings of mainly natural sounds, thunderstorms and avalanches, for example. The Earth movement becomes the "conductor," as Goldberg put it, for the full range of available sounds, presided over by **Randall Packer**. Maffre's dance will be improvised to the music emanating from the Hayward instrumentation.

When Maffre and Goldberg proposed the project, **Helgi Tomasson** asked if the Earth could fall silent during the presentation, leaving Maffre on a soundless stage. That hasn't happened in a while — billions of years.

