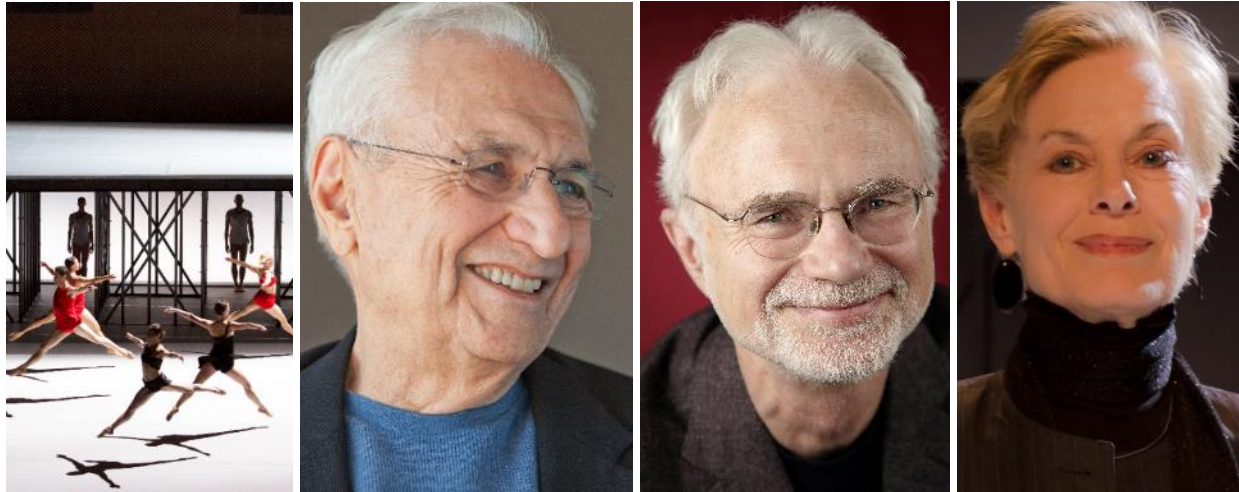


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Press Room



Images of *Available Light* in performance, and creators from left to right: Frank O. Gehry, John Adams, and Lucinda Childs are available for download from the Cal Performances [press room](#).

**IN CELEBRATION OF JOHN ADAMS' 70TH BIRTHDAY
CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS
AVAILABLE LIGHT
A COLLABORATION BY JOHN ADAMS, LUCINDA CHILDS & FRANK O. GEHRY
IN A NEWLY-COMMISSIONED REVIVAL,
FEBRUARY 3–4, 2017**

**Related events include pre- and post-performance discussions with the artists
and their collaborators, and a community dance class**

Berkeley, January 11, 2017—Cal Performances celebrates the 70th birthday of longtime collaborator and Berkeley resident, composer **John Adams**, with a co-commissioned revival of choreographer **Lucinda Childs**' classic work, [Available Light](#), on Friday–Saturday, February 3–4 at 8pm in Zellerbach Hall. *Available Light* is set to Adams' impressionistic electronic composition, *Light Over Water*, and features a striking asymmetrical set designed by architect **Frank O. Gehry**. Berkeley audiences last saw Childs' now-iconic Minimalist choreography in the revival of *Einstein on the Beach* in the Cal Performances 2012/13 season; here she returns with her company to explore tensions

between simplicity and complexity, patterns and permutations, repetitions and variations, in a work hailed by *The New York Times* in its 1983 premiere as “a career breakthrough...a work of blazing formal beauty.” The performances and surrounding events illuminate the *Innovation* strand of Cal Performances’ 2016/17 season Berkeley RADICAL programming, which joins trailblazing artists at key moments in their careers, and recognizes their lasting contributions to contemporary performance practice.

“John Adams has changed music,” commented Matías Tarnopolsky, executive and artistic director of Cal Performances. “More importantly, however, he has changed lives. From *Nixon in China* to *The Death of Klinghoffer* to *Dr Atomic*, from his early *Shaker Loops* to the first major musical response to 9/11, *On the Transmigration of Souls*, John has given the world a way of seeing humanity at its most daring, its brightest, its most perilous. He has shown the world’s orchestras and opera houses creative and ambitious ways forward — and at 70, at the height of his intellect and artistry, he continues to soar ahead, to charge into the future. To witness the transformative magic of our quintessentially Berkeley friend, to support his creation, to help bring back to life is landmark *Available Light*, to celebrate this life milestone — John Adams at 70 — is the greatest personal joy.”

Adams has a rich history with Cal Performances. In 1995 the organization co-commissioned and produced the world premiere of his song-play *I Was Looking at the Ceiling, and Then I Saw the Sky* with libretto by UC-Berkeley based poet June Jordan, and directed by Peter Sellars. Cal Performances presented 20-member ensemble Alarm Will Sound in an all-Adams Composer Portrait concert in 2006 with their performances of his *Chamber Symphony* (1992), *Short Ride in a Fast Machine* (1986), *Gnarly Buttons* (1996), *China Gates* (1977), and selections from *Hoodoo Zephyr* (1992). In 2014/15 the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra performed a week-long residency with Cal Performances featuring Adams’ *Shaker Loops*, *Chamber Symphony* and *Son of Chamber Symphony*. In early 2016 David Robertson and the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra performed Adams’ Saxophone Concerto featuring Timothy McAllister for whom it was written and dedicated to. In 2014 at Cal Performances the Joffrey Ballet performed Stanton Welsh’s choreography to John Adams’ *Son of Chamber Symphony*, a piece that “lay bare the complicated threads of rhythm that mesh and flow in [the music.]” wrote a reviewer for RepeatPerformances.org.

John Adams created *Light Over Water*, the music for *Available Light*, in 1983, at the beginning of what turned out to be one of the most productive and successful composing careers of the 20th century. *Light Over Water* foreshadowed all that would follow from composer Adams — large orchestral scores, choral works, chamber music, operas, and more. He created it with what he describes today as “a very simple digital keyboard synthesizer, very simple effects with some filters, delay units, and an eight-channel tape.” Brass was recorded and added later. *Light Over Water* reflects Adams’ inspiration taken during a retreat at the Djerassi Resident Artists Program where he translated into music the exchange of colors between sky and winter ocean. *Light Over Water* is not a live performance work. No score or printed performance parts exist for it, but a commercial recording of it is available from New Albion records, and an audio sample and more information about it can be accessed on John Adams’ website at carbox.com/light-over-water.

The Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles (MOCA) originally commissioned *Available Light*, inviting Lucinda Childs to create a new collaborative piece with Northern California composer John Adams and Los Angeles architect Frank O. Gehry. The work opened the programming at MOCA’s Temporary Contemporary (later renamed the Geffen Contemporary) in downtown Los Angeles, bringing together these leading artists at a pivotal moment in their careers. The name of the piece originates from the “available light” streaming through the museum’s converted warehouse skylights which Childs used as spotlights for the choreography. The original lighting design was by Beverley Emmons who has co-designed this revival with John Torres. Following the premiere, Gehry created a proscenium version for the Brooklyn Academy of Music later that year; *Available Light* has rarely been seen since. Adams discusses the nature of the *Available Light* collaboration with Childs and Gehry in a short video produced by Cal Performances [here](#).

The current revival of *Available Light* is performed by 11 dancers, on Gehry’s newly-re-imagined split-level stage with chain-link scrim, and danced to a gently revised version of Adams’ original 50-minute tape score for synthesizer and recorded brass. Childs has updated the original choreography to set the work on her current company. The sound design was done by long time John Adams collaborator, Mark Grey, and the costumes redesigned for this production by Kasia Walicka Maimone are one of the most visible and significant changes between the two productions. *The Los Angeles Times* called this new revival “a revelation... a compelling interplay between dance, music, and setting — gorgeous to behold and thrilling to hear.”

Artist and producer talks and a community dance class are planned in conjunction with the performances, and will offer insights into the creation and revival of this significant work of the 20th century. Preceding the performances on both nights at 7pm Cal Performances associate director, Rob Bailis moderates a pre-performance discussion with Julie Lazar, who produced *Available Light* in 1983, and Linda Brumbach, who produced this most recent staging in 2015. Following the Friday, February 3 performance, Cal Performances artistic and executive director, Matías Tarnopolsky, is joined by the two-thirds of the creative team behind *Available Light*, John Adams and Lucinda Childs. On Saturday, February 4 after the performance Ara Guzelimian, provost and dean of the Juilliard School in New York City, will moderate a talk with Childs and Adams joined by Frank O. Gehry. These events are free to ticket holders. Members of the Lucinda Childs Dance Company are also leading a Community Dance Class on Saturday, February 4 at 11am, in the Bancroft Studio on the UC Berkeley campus. The public is invited to attend and the cost to participate is \$5 per person.

About the Artists

Acclaimed composer, conductor, and creative thinker, [John Adams](#) occupies a unique and leading position in the world of music. His works, spanning more than three decades, are among the most performed of all contemporary classical music, among them *Harmonielehre*, *Shaker Loops*, *El Niño*, the *Chamber Symphony*, and *The Dharma at Big Sur*. His stage works, all in collaboration with director Peter Sellars, have transformed the genre of contemporary music theater. Nonesuch Records has recorded nearly all of Adams' music over the past three decades, and in 2015 the San Francisco Symphony released their own recording of a piece they commissioned, *Absolute Jest*. In 2017 Adams celebrates his 70th birthday with festivals of his music in Europe and the US, including special retrospectives at London's Barbican, at Cité de la Musique in Paris, and in Amsterdam, New York, Geneva, Stockholm, Los Angeles and San Francisco. His new opera, *Girls of the Golden West*, an opera about the California Gold Rush, will premiere in November of 2017 at the San Francisco Opera. Adams turns 70 on February 15, 2017.

[Lucinda Childs](#) began her career at the Judson Dance Theater in 1963, where she choreographed 13 works and performed in works by Yvonne Rainer, Steve Paxton, and Robert Morris. Since forming her dance company in 1973, she has created more than fifty works, both solo and ensemble. She collaborated with Robert Wilson and Philip Glass on the opera *Einstein on the Beach*, and with

Glass and Sol LeWitt for the work *Dance*, and has appeared in a number of Wilson's productions, including Marguerite Duras' *Maladie de la Mort*, Wilson's *I Was Sitting on my Patio This Guy Appeared I Thought I Was Hallucinating*, Heiner Muller's *Quartett*, Wilson and Glass' opera *White Raven*, and Arvo Pärt's *Adam's Lament*. Childs has choreographed works for the Paris Opera Ballet, Les Ballets de Monte Carlo, and Baryshnikov's White Oak Dance Company, as well as for many opera companies internationally. She is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Bessie Award for Sustained Achievement, and the NEA/NEFA American Masterpiece Award. A retrospective of her work was performed by her company at the Joyce in New York City November 29- December 11, 2016.

Architect [Frank O. Gehry](#) has revolutionized architecture's aesthetics, social and cultural role, and relationship to the city. A number of Gehry's buildings, including his private residence, have become world-renowned attractions. His works are cited as being among the most important works of contemporary architecture in the 2010 World Architecture Survey, which led *Vanity Fair* to call him "the most important architect of our age." Gehry's best-known works include the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain; Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles; Louis Vuitton Foundation in Paris, France; Experience Music Project in Seattle; New World Center in Miami Beach; and 8 Spruce Street in New York City. Gehry's innovation and ability to push the boundaries of architecture earned him the Pritzker Architecture Prize in 1989. He was recently the subject of an exhibition at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and is the recipient of the 2015 J. Paul Getty Medal for artistic achievement.

About Cal Performances

Cal Performances is the performing arts presenter and producer of the University of California, Berkeley, fulfilling its mission by presenting, producing, and commissioning renowned and emerging artists in music, dance, and theater. Cal Performances reaches more than 150,000 people annually through concerts and campus and community events, including talks, symposia, lecture demonstrations, and academic courses based on Cal Performances' season. Under the leadership of Matías Tarnopolsky, the organization launched Berkeley RADICAL (Research and Development Initiative in Creativity Arts and Learning) to cultivate the artistic literacy of future audiences and connect some of the most innovative artists in the world with the intellectual capital of UC Berkeley. The 2016/17 season is the second season for Berkeley RADICAL, and embraces three strands of

artistic exploration: *Inclusion, Innovation, and Immersion*. More information on Berkeley RADICAL can be found at calperformances.org/berkeley-radical.

Ticket Information

Tickets for *Available Light* on Friday & Saturday, February 3 & 4 at 8pm in Zellerbach Hall range from \$36–\$126 and are subject to change. Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at calperformances.org, and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to calperformances.org/discounts.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Residency

Lucinda Childs Dance Company: Community Dance Class
Saturday, February 4, 11am

Bancroft Studio
UC Berkeley Campus

Members of the Lucinda Childs Dance Company host a Community Dance Class on the UC Berkeley campus. The public is invited to attend; the cost to participate is \$5 per person. Pre-registration is required by visiting calperformances.org.

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Friday, February 3 at 8pm
Saturday, February 4 at 8pm

Zellerbach Hall
Bancroft Way at Dana Street,
UC Berkeley campus

Berkeley RADICAL

Dance

Available Light

John Adams, composer

Lucinda Childs, choreographer

Frank O. Gehry, stage designer

Program: Lucinda Childs' *Available Light*, hailed in its 1983 premiere as “a career breakthrough...a work of blazing formal beauty” (*The New York Times*), is set to composer John Adams' impressionistic score *Light Over Water*, with a striking set designed by Frank O. Gehry. This Cal

Performances co-commissioned revival is a rare opportunity to experience the collaborative work of these three visionary artists and celebrate Adams' milestone 70th birthday.

Pre-Performance Talk
Friday, February 3, 7pm
Saturday, February 4, 7pm

Zellerbach Hall
Bancroft Way at Dana Street,
UC Berkeley campus

Julie Lazar, who produced *Available Light* in 1983, and Linda Brumbach, who produced the most recent staging in 2015, are joined in conversation with Cal Performances associate director, Rob Bailis. This event is free to all ticket holders.

Post-Performance Talks
Friday, February 3
Saturday, February 4

Zellerbach Hall
Bancroft Way at Dana Street,
UC Berkeley campus

Join the creative team behind *Available Light* for a post-performance conversation free to all ticket holders. On Friday, February 3, a talk with composer John Adams and choreographer Lucinda Childs will be moderated by Cal Performances artistic and executive director, Matías Tarnopolsky. Following the performance on Saturday, February 4 Ara Guzelimian, provost and dean of the Juilliard School in New York City, moderates a talk with Adams, Childs and stage designer, architect Frank O. Gehry.

Berkeley RADICAL: This performance is part of Cal Performances' Berkeley RADICAL *Innovation* strand, which follows a group of artistic trailblazers, some celebrating key milestones, who continually ask us to perceive, think, and understand in new ways. More information at calperformances.org/berkeley-radical-innovation.

Tickets: \$36–\$126 and subject to change.

The 2015 revival of Available Light was commissioned by the Cal Performances, University of California, Berkeley; Festspielhaus St. Pölten; FringeArts, Philadelphia with the support of The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage; Glorja Kaufman Presents Dance at the Music Center and The Los Angeles Philharmonic Association; International Summer Festival Kampnagel, Hamburg; Onassis Cultural Centre - Athens; Tanx Im August, Berlin; and Théâtre de la Ville - Paris and Festival d'Automne à Paris.

Available Light was developed at MASS MoCa (Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art).