

CONTACT: **Jeanette Peach**
Cal Performances
(510) 642-9121
jpeach@calperformances.org

Jean Shirk
(510) 332-4195
jean@shirkmedia.com

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Press Room



Images of Hot Sardines and Jason Moran are available for download
from the Cal Performances [press room](#)

ADDED SHOW!
CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS
HOT SARDINES AND
JASON MORAN CELEBRATES FATS WALLER
AT THE PARAMOUNT THEATRE IN OAKLAND
SATURDAY, MARCH 11

Berkeley, January 25, 2017 — Cal Performances presents **The Hot Sardines** and **Jason Moran Celebrates Fats Waller** in a specially paired double bill of 1920s-inspired vintage jazz dance bands at Oakland’s historic Deco masterpiece, the Paramount Theatre, on Saturday, March 11 at 8pm. The concert with the Hot Sardines, one of New York City’s most popular “hot jazz” groups, and Jason Moran **Celebrates Fats Waller**, featuring the relentlessly creative pianist and musical explorer Jason Moran, marks the first time audiences have the opportunity to enjoy the two bands together on the same bill.

About Hot Sardines

Formed by bandleader Evan “Bibs” Palazzo and lead singer “Miz Elizabeth” Bougerol, who began playing open mic nights and small gigs together, the Hot Sardines count Dinah Washington, Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holiday among their myriad influences. Their music echoes the joy and pizzazz of Parisian cabaret-style songs, the early jazz of New Orleans, gypsy jazz and swing, and the irresistibly danceable speakeasy sounds of the Roaring 20s. Elizabeth Bougerol, a London School of Economics-educated travel writer who grew up in France, Canada and the Ivory Coast, and Palazzo, a New York City-born and -raised actor who studied theater at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, bonded over their love for Fats Waller. The Hot Sardines’ first, self-titled album was a huge success, debuting in 2014 on Billboard’s Jazz Chart in the top 10 and remaining among the top sellers for more than a year. Their second album, *French Fries & Champagne*, released in June 2016 by Universal Music Classics, contains several original songs as well as Elizabeth’s duet with Alan Cumming on “When I Get Low, I Get High,” her French-language version of jazz standard “Comes Love,” and Robert Palmer’s 1985 “Addicted To Love,” with sizzling horn arrangements. Watch a video of the Hot Sardines here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJTKJwv81A0v6aanjGK5YBw>

About Jason Moran

Jason Moran is a pianist, composer, and bandleader who mines a variety of musical styles to create adventurous, genre-crossing jazz performances. Moran’s music marries established classical, blues, and jazz techniques with funk, hip-hop, and rock. Through reinterpretation of jazz standards and new compositions of his own, Moran is expanding the boundaries of jazz expression and playing a dynamic role in its evolution in the twenty-first century. In his Fats Waller **Celebration** project, he presents a reinvigorated vision of the music of the hugely influential composer and stride pianist, reimagining Waller classics like “Ain’t Misbehavin’,” “Honeysuckle Rose,” and “Jitterbug Waltz” with a playful contemporary twist, and mixing up Waller’s familiar stride piano style with soulful vamps, hip-hop beats, and funk grooves. Moran’s *ALL RISE: A Joyful Elegy for Fats Waller*, featuring vocalist (and co-producer) Meshell Ndegeocello, was nominated for a 2015 Grammy Award for Best Jazz Instrumental Album. Moran was commissioned by the NYC performing arts venue Harlem Stage Gatehouse to create a tribute to Fats Waller as part of its “Harlem Jazz Shrines” series. “If you think about Fats, Duke Ellington, Fletcher Henderson, Earl Hines—all of them were making the

popular sounds of their era: dance music. I asked myself what could be the extra layer, or the extra couple of layers, we might add to Fats' music to provide a number of different ways for audiences to enjoy it?" Joining Moran on piano and Fender Rhodes for the Fats Waller **Celebration** are Ms. Lisa Harris on vocals, Leron Thomas on trumpet and vocals, Tarus Mateen on bass, and Charles Haynes on drums.

In 2014, Jason Moran was named artistic director for jazz at the Kennedy Center, and he composed his first feature film score for *Selma* (2014), directed by Ava DuVernay. In original compositions for his ensemble, The Bandwagon, Moran uses the human voice as a starting point for melodic structure, translating speech patterns into a musical language through which the listener can reflect on the underlying connections between speech and music. On his solo piano album, *Modernistic* (2002), he explores the evolution of twentieth-century rhythmic techniques through his virtuosic execution of two-handed stride piano, while *Same Mother* (2005) is a re-examination of the emotional and stylistic elements of the blues tradition. His additional recordings as a leader include *Soundtrack to Human Motion* (1999), *The Bandwagon: Live at the Village Vanguard* (2003), *Artist in Residence* (2006), and *TEN* (2010), and his latest, *The Armory Concert*, a solo performance recorded at the Park Avenue Armory.

Jason Moran's interests extend beyond musicmaking to collaboration with visual and performing artists, incorporating new technology in imaginative multimedia performances. His 2008 homage to Thelonious Monk, *In My Mind: Monk at Town Hall, 1959*, weaves together crafted and found audio and visual archival material and a re-harmonization of Monk's original big band arrangements. With The Bandwagon, he scored a documentary film called *RFK in the Land of Apartheid: A Ripple of Hope*, about Robert F. Kennedy's trip to South Africa. Moran was awarded the MacArthur ("Genius") Fellowship in 2010, and also joined the faculty of the New England Conservatory that year. He received a Bachelor's of Music in 1997 from the Manhattan School of Music.

About Cal Performances

Cal Performances produces and presents performances of the highest artistic quality, enhanced by programs that explore compelling intersections of education and the performing arts. Founded in 1906, Cal Performances fulfills this mission by presenting a diverse range of over 100 music, dance, and theater performances each season, and creating a context for the work through supporting

education and community programs. Cal Performances' presentations in Oakland are generously underwritten by Signature Development Group. President Michael Ghielmetti says, "The city of Oakland is alive with the arts and culture. I am thrilled that by collaborating with Cal Performances we can together broaden the range of international artists generously sharing their art in our community. I look forward to many more such engagements. As with so much that Cal Performances touches, these performances will connect our communities deeply to the artists on stage at the Paramount Theatre. I am honored to play a part of bringing these gifts to our community."

Ticket Information

Tickets for *Hot Sardines and Jason Moran Celebrates Fats Waller* on Saturday, March 11 at 8pm in the Paramount Theatre range from \$30–\$76 (prices 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, through Ticketmaster, and in person at [the Paramount Theatre Box Office](#). For more information about discounts, go to calperformances.org/discounts.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, March 11 at 8pm

Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland

Hot Sardines

Elizabeth Bougerol, co-founder, vocals, washboard

Evan Palazzo, co-founder, bandleader, piano

Other band members t.b.a.

Jason Moran Celebrates Fats Waller

Jason Moran, piano and Fender Rhodes

Ms. Lisa Harris, vocals

Leron Thomas, trumpet and vocals

Tarus Mateen, bass

Charles Haynes, drums

Program:

The Hot Sardines, the “hot jazz” sensations from New York City, paired with **Jason Moran Celebrates Fats Waller**, the brilliant composer and pianist’s reimagining of Fat Waller’s compositions, for the first time ever, join their exceptional musical ensembles together for 1920s-inspired jazz fused with modern and delightfully danceable beats at the Paramount Theatre in Oakland.

Tickets: Prices range from \$30-\$76 (subject to change). Available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at www.calperformances.org, Ticketmaster.com, and in person at the Paramount Theatre Box Office.

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