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[Press Room](#)



Images of Yo-Yo Ma, Edgar Meyer, and Chris Thile are available for download from the Cal Performances [Press Room](#).

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY ANNOUNCES
YO-YO MA, EDGAR MEYER, CHRIS THILE
PERFORMING THE MUSIC OF J.S. BACH**

Performance will precede second annual Gala at the Greek, benefitting Cal Performances' Education and Community Programs
SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2017 AT 6PM

Berkeley, CA, August 18, 2016—Cal Performances announces today that the trio of cellist **Yo-Yo Ma**, bassist **Edgar Meyer**, and mandolin player **Chris Thile** will perform music by Johann Sebastian Bach set against a breathtaking dusk view of the Bay, at the second annual [Gala at the Greek](#), Sunday, April 30, 2017, at 6pm in the Hearst Greek Theatre on the UC Berkeley campus. The trio of Ma, Meyer, and Thile—who alongside Stuart Duncan made their first appearance at Cal Performances in 2013 as part of the eclectic Grammy-winning *Goat Rodeo Sessions*, which blended bluegrass, jazz, and classical music—returns to the Greek Theatre as a new ensemble, re-imagining Bach's chamber works for its inventive instrumental configuration. The concert at the historic Greek

Theatre is followed by a gala dinner to benefit Cal Performances' education and community programs.

Ma, Meyer, and Thile have each spent a lifetime with Bach's solo works—in Thile's case, recording and performing the solo violin partitas on mandolin, and in Meyer's case, showcasing the double bass in the unaccompanied suites for cello. Meyer's recordings have set a new standard for double bass solo performance on this repertoire. And the *New Yorker* praised Thile's solo Bach recording: "His timing is meticulous—no one can play top-flight bluegrass whose timing is uncertain—but his version also has the liveliness that improvising musicians sometimes can bring to written material." Ma last performed Bach's cello suites, a major part of his repertoire throughout his long career, at the Hearst Greek Theatre during Cal Performances' 2015/16 season. Ma continues to be a close collaborator with Cal Performances, and was a creative force behind choreographer Mark Morris' *Layla and Majnun*, which receives its world premiere in Zellerbach Hall on September 30 – October 2, featuring the Mark Morris Dance Group and the Silk Road Ensemble.

In conjunction with the concert this April 30, 2017, Cal Performances will hold its second annual [Gala at the Greek](#), which directly supports Cal Performances' extensive education and community programs—activities that encourage all to investigate, imagine, and connect through the performing arts. These include K-12 programs, such as Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp, SchoolTime performances, and teacher workshops, as well as free community events and campus residency activities in the form of dance classes, artist talks, master classes, colloquia and symposia. With a unified approach, Cal Performances places audiences of all ages within the artistic process, inviting people with every level of experience to connect meaningfully with works of art.

Concert tickets are available to the general public beginning at noon on November 15. Table sponsorships opportunities for the Gala are available from August 19, and individual dinner tickets go on sale on October 3.

The Host Committee for Gala at the Greek II includes honorary chairs Gregg and Laura Perloff, co-chairs Helen Meyer and Sara E. Wilson, and co-chair emerita Maris Meyerson. The Gala committee includes Kit Leland, Sylvia Lindsey, Carol Neil, Jinee Tao, Leigh Teece, Carol Jackson Upshaw, and Caroline Winnett.

About Yo-Yo Ma

The rich career of cellist Yo-Yo Ma is testament to his lifelong search for new ways to communicate with audiences, as well as his personal search for artistic growth and renewal. He is a close collaborator of Cal Performances, and was a creative force behind the creation of choreographer Mark Morris' *Layla and Majnun*, which receives its world premiere in Zellerbach Hall on September 30 – October 2, featuring the Mark Morris Dance Group and the Silk Road Ensemble. Ma's discography as a world-renowned cellist includes more than 100 albums, including 18 Grammy winners. He is the artistic director of Silkroad, an organization he founded to promote cross-cultural performance and collaboration; more than 80 works have been commissioned specifically for the Silk Road Ensemble. He also serves as the Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's Negaunee Music Institute. Ma is a Kennedy Center honoree (2011), and has received numerous awards, including the Avery Fisher Prize (1978), the National Medal of Arts (2001), and the Presidential Medal of Freedom (2010).

About Edgar Meyer

A MacArthur Award fellow and a five-time Grammy winner, composer and bassist Edgar Meyer has built a singular career, combining unparalleled technique and musicianship with a gift for composition and an openness to new musical encounters. As a solo classical bassist, Meyer has recently recorded three of Bach's unaccompanied suites for cello, as well several recordings with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. He has collaborated with Chris Thile, Béla Fleck, Zakir Hussain, Mark O'Connor, Yo-Yo Ma, Emanuel Ax, Joshua Bell, and Mike Marshall, among many others. Meyer is the only bassist to receive the Avery Fisher Prize (2000). He teaches bass at the Curtis Institute of Music.

About Chris Thile

Mandolin virtuoso, composer, and vocalist Chris Thile is a member of the acclaimed genre-crossing ensembles Punch Brothers and Nickel Creek, was part of the legendary *Goat Rodeo Sessions*, and is set to succeed Garrison Keillor as the host of *A Prairie Home Companion*. He is a four-time Grammy winner and a MacArthur Fellow, and in addition to his many collaborations, has released five albums as a soloist, spanning classical, rock, jazz, and bluegrass. He has also earned critical accolades for his solo performances of Bach performed on mandolin. Thile and Meyer's latest album collaboration,

the duo recording *Bass & Mandolin*, won the Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Instrumental Album in 2015.

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 over 150,000 people annually through concerts as well as 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 UC Berkeley. For details about the many public events offered to enhance the experience of Cal Performances' 2016/17 season, please visit calperformances.org/public-programs.

Ticket Information

Concert tickets for Yo-Yo Ma, Edgar Meyer, and Chris Thile on Sunday, April 30, 2017 at 6pm in the Hearst Greek Theatre will go on sale to the general public at noon on November 15. Tickets range between \$50–\$250 (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, and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to calperformances.org/discounts.

Table sponsorships for the Gala at the Greek II: Yo-Yo Ma, Edgar Meyer, and Chris Thile go on sale Friday, August 19, 2016. Table sponsorship includes a cocktail reception, dinner with the artists, premium seating, and other benefits. The gala dinner is limited to 280 guests; pending availability, individual dinner tickets will go on sale to the public October 3, 2016. For more information or to reserve seats, visit calperformances.org/gala or contact Amanda Wu, Individual Giving and Special Events Manager, at (510) 642-7837 or awu@calperformances.org.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, April 30, 2017 at 6pm

Hearst Greek Theatre
2001 Gayley Road, Berkeley, CA

Special Event

Yo-Yo Ma, Edgar Meyer, Chris Thile

Gala at the Greek II

Program: For its second annual Gala at the Greek concert and benefit, Cal Performances welcomes the trio of cellist Yo-Yo Ma, bassist Edgar Meyer, and mandolin player Chris Thile for a celebration of the music of J.S. Bach.

4pm – Cocktail Reception for Gala attendees, backstage at the Hearst Greek Theatre

***6pm – Performance,** Hearst Greek Theatre

****Concert tickets available at noon on November 15***

8pm – Gala Dinner, Field Club, California Memorial Stadium

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