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[Press Room](#)



Images of Daniel Barenboim and the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra
are available for download from the Cal Performances [press room](#).

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS
DANIEL BARENBOIM AND THE
WEST-EASTERN DIVAN ORCHESTRA
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10 AT 3PM IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

**Orchestra comprised of Israeli, Palestinian, and multi-national Arab musicians
embraces the philosophy #EqualInMusic**

**Performance is part of the Berkeley RADICAL 2018–19 *Citizenship* programming strand,
in which artists explore issues of belonging and place in the context of current conversations
about immigration and nationalism**

**A Post-performance Talk is planned with Maestro Barenboim and Matías Tarnopolsky,
former director of Cal Performances and current CEO and president of
the Philadelphia Orchestra, onstage in Zellerbach Hall**

Berkeley, April 3, **Updated October 16, 2018** — Cal Performances at UC Berkeley presents renowned conductor and pianist **Daniel Barenboim** with his **West-Eastern Divan Orchestra**, on Saturday, November 10 at 3pm in Zellerbach Hall. The concert marks the orchestra's West Coast debut, and is part of a five-city US tour, **with Berkeley as the sole Bay Area engagement**. The West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, formed in 1999 by Argentine-Israeli conductor Barenboim and the late Palestinian literary scholar Edward Said, is made up of Israeli, Palestinian, and multi-national Arab musicians and embraces the philosophy "Equal in Music." **A Barenboim visit to the Bay Area is exceedingly rare: he last performed in the region in 2004, conducting the Staatskapelle Berlin in San Francisco's Davies Symphony Hall, and before that had not appeared locally for decades.**

At Cal Performances, Barenboim and the orchestra will perform Richard Strauss' *Don Quixote*, featuring cellist **Kian Soltani** and violist **Miriam Manasherov** stepping forward from the orchestra to play the solo parts, and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5. Earlier this year, CBS News' *60 Minutes* aired a [14-minute feature story](#) about Barenboim and the orchestra that was taped in Ramallah at the Barenboim-Said Music Center, and in Berlin at the Barenboim-Said Akademie.

"This concert with Daniel Barenboim and the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra is something rare and special for us at Cal Performances, and for all of the Bay Area," said interim artistic director Rob Bailis. **"We are proud to welcome Maestro Barenboim, and we are eager to reflect on the inspiring message of this ensemble as part of our timely conversations this season about citizenship, belonging, and identity."**

The orchestra's performance is part of the 2018–19 season's Berkeley **RADICAL *Citizenship*** programming strand, which explores the human need for belonging, and connects the performing arts to our society's current sense of urgency around issues of immigration and nationalism. The artists in this strand share their unique perspectives on the threats to—and responsibilities of—citizenship. More information about *Citizenship* programming can be found at calperformances.org/berkeley-radical and in the article ["Within and Without: Addressing Citizenship Through Artistic Engagement."](#)

Barenboim and Said formed the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra to provide a workshop for young musicians from Israel, Palestine, and several Arab countries to promote coexistence and intercultural

dialogue. Named after Goethe's collection of poems entitled *West-Eastern Divan*, the orchestra's repertoire includes symphonic works as well as opera and chamber music. Concert highlights have included performances at the most prestigious venues in Europe, Asia, and the Americas. The only political aspect of the orchestra is the conviction that there is no military solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, and that the destinies of Israelis and Palestinians are inextricably linked. While music alone cannot resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, the orchestra represents an alternative model to the current situation in the Middle East. More information about the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra can be found at west-eastern-divan.org.

Cellist **Kian Soltani** was born in Bregenz, Austria to a family of Persian musicians. He first gained international recognition at age 19, with acclaimed debuts in the Vienna Musikverein's Golden Hall and at the Hohenems Schubertiade, and later won first prize in the International Paulo Cello Competition in Helsinki. In the summer of 2015 he joined Maestro Barenboim as one of the soloists in Beethoven's Triple Concerto, performing the work with the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra in major concert halls and festivals in Europe and South America. He returns as a soloist in Richard Strauss' *Don Quixote* for the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra's 2018 US tour. Israeli violist **Miriam Manasherov** has been a member of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra since its inception in 1999. Currently based in Tel Aviv, she has also lived in Germany for 10 years, where she was a recipient of a DAAD scholarship and performed for three years with the WDR Sinfonieorchester Köln. Manasherov is also the winner of the chamber music competition at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance.

Ticket Information

Tickets for *Daniel Barenboim and the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra* on Saturday, November 10 at 3pm in Zellerbach Hall range from \$50–\$275 (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.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, November 10, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall
Bancroft Way at Dana Street
UC Berkeley campus

Orchestra

Daniel Barenboim and the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra (West Coast Debut)

Daniel Barenboim, conductor

featuring

Kian Soltani, cello

Miriam Manasherov, viola

Program:

R. Strauss/ *Don Quixote*, Op. 35

Tchaikovsky/Symphony No. 5 in E minor, Op. 64

Nearly 20 years ago, Israeli conductor Daniel Barenboim and Palestinian scholar Edward Said founded this orchestra of Israeli, Palestinian, and other Arab musicians as a model for cooperation across the brutal divides of the Middle East. In doing so, they hoped to replace ignorance with education, knowledge, and understanding; to humanize the “other”; and to imagine a more hopeful future.

Berkeley RADICAL: This performance is part of the *Citizenship* thematic strand, which spotlights the human side of the current debate on immigration and nationalism. By sharing unique perspectives on the threats to—and responsibilities of—citizenship, the artists included here illustrate the universal need for belonging and home, and invoke the very real sense of urgency and peril that pervades the world today. More information about *Citizenship* programming can be found at calperformances.org/berkeley-radical and in the article [“Within and Without: Addressing Citizenship Through Artistic Engagement.”](#)

Tickets: \$50–\$275 (prices subject to change)

Residency

Post-performance Talk

Zellerbach Hall

Saturday, November 10

Former director of Cal Performances and current CEO and president of the Philadelphia Orchestra Matías Tarnopolsky returns to lead a post-performance conversation with conductor Daniel Barenboim. Free to concert ticketholders.