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[Press Room](#)



Images of Kronos Quartet and Mahsa Vahdat are available for download from the Cal Performances [press room](#).

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS  
KRONOS QUARTET  
WITH SPECIAL GUEST MAHSA VAHDAT  
IN A PROGRAM OF NEW AND RECENT WORKS—  
PART OF CAL PERFORMANCES' SEASON-LONG  
ILLUMINATIONS: "PLACE AND DISPLACEMENT" SERIES  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2**

The concert also features the world premiere of a new work by Angélique Kidjo, Cal Performances 2021-22 artist-in-residence, and by Terry Riley and Peni Candra Rini, all written for Kronos' *50 for the Future* project

**Berkeley, November 10, 2021** — Cal Performances at UC Berkeley welcomes back **Kronos Quartet** in a two-part concert that features new and recent works from the ensemble's *50 for the Future* project, and *Placeless*, a selection of works performed with special guest **Mahsa Vahdat**, on Thursday, December 2 at 7:30pm at Zellerbach Hall. The concert is part of Cal Performance's *Illuminations: "Place and Displacement"* programming this season, which explores effects of

migration and gentrification on individuals and communities through a wide variety of performances, public programs, and academic encounters.

The first half of the performance features four recent works composed for Kronos' *50 for the Future: The Kronos Learning Repertoire* (50FTF), a multi-year commissioning, performance, and education project. Cal Performances is a Legacy Partner for the ambitious initiative, which will ultimately commission 50 new works devoted to contemporary approaches to the string quartet, and designed for the training of students and emerging professionals. Earlier this year, the ensemble released recordings and scores for five more works, for a total of 40 compositions commissioned and disseminated to date; the initiative is expected to conclude later this season. Since the project's launch, scores have been downloaded nearly 23,600 times by musicians in more than 100 countries and territories around the globe. For this Berkeley concert, Kronos performs the world premiere of *YanYanKiYan Senamido* by Cal Performances' 2021–22 artist-in-residence **Angélique Kidjo**, as well as the third movement from a new composition by iconic California composer and longtime Kronos collaborator **Terry Riley** titled *This Assortment of Atoms – One Time Only!*. The program also includes a new work by Javanese composer **Peni Candra Rini** titled *Maduswara*, and **Missy Mazzoli**'s recently composed *Enthusiasm Strategies*.

For the second half of the concert, Kronos is joined by Mahsa Vahdat, a prominent performer of Persian vocal music, who collaborated with the quartet on the 2019 recording *Placeless*. [Vahdat also performs at Cal Performances with Vân-Ánh Võ on December 4.] In their collaboration, Kronos and Vahdat explore the tensions between the idea of home as a birthplace and the embrace of an adopted home—the title “Placeless” is derived from a poem by Rumi that questions and resists the idea of separating and isolating people based on where they are from.

Vahdat was born in Tehran but is barred from performing in her country of birth because of Iranian restrictions on female vocal performance. She is now based in the Bay Area, where she advocates internationally for the creative freedom of artists. Vahdat is also a celebrated composer and a recipient last month of a prestigious Hewlett 50 Arts Commissions for her work. For this program, Vahdat has composed melodies to texts spanning 800 years, from classical poems by Hafez and Rumi, which she describes as conveying “resonant, timeless, placeless” messages, to contemporary writings by Iranian poet Forough Farrokhzad. The ensemble performs arrangements of four of

Vahdat's compositions, arranged by Sahba Aminikia and Atabak Elyasi: *The Sun Rises*; *Placeless*; *I Was Dead*; and *Vaya, Vaya*, a new piece recently recorded and released by Kronos and Vahdat that is based on her original text exploring love of homeland.

A video of Kronos Quartet's violinist and founder David Harrington and Mahsa Vahdat in conversation with Cal Performances Executive and Artistic Director Jeremy Geffen will be available on the [Beyond the Stage web page](#) at least one week before the performance.

### **Ticket Information**

Tickets for *Kronos Quartet with special guest Mahsa Vahdat* on Thursday, December 2 at 7:30pm at Zellerbach Hall range from \$48–\$72 (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](http://calperformances.org), and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to [calperformances.org/discounts](http://calperformances.org/discounts).

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### **CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**Thursday, December 2, 7:30pm**

*New Music*

**Zellerbach Hall**  
Bancroft Way at Dana Street,  
UC Berkeley campus

**Kronos Quartet**  
**with special guest Mahsa Vahdat**

#### **Program:**

##### Kronos Quartet

Peni Candra Rini (arr. Jacob Garchik)/*Maduswara*

Terry Riley/Third movement from *This Assortment of Atoms – One Time Only!*

Missy Mazzoli/*Enthusiasm Strategies*

Angélique Kidjo (arr. Jacob Garchik)/*YanYanKiYan Senamido* (World Premiere)

##### Kronos Quartet & Mahsa Vahdat

Mahsa Vahdat (arr. Sahba Aminikia)/*The Sun Rises*

Mahsa Vahdat (arr. Atabak Elyasi)/*Vaya, Vaya*

Mahsa Vahdat (arr. Sahba Aminikia)/*Placeless*

Mahsa Vahdat (arr. Atabak Elyasi)/*I Was Dead*

Kronos Quartet returns to Cal Performances with the newest edition of its *50 for the Future* project. With 40 compositions commissioned, premiered, and shared to date, the ongoing multiyear project

features new works by an international and diverse group of composers, made available online with the goal of training students and emerging professionals in contemporary approaches to string quartet music. This concert features a world premiere of a composition by Cal Performances' 2021–22 artist-in-residence, Angélique Kidjo, and the third movement from a new work by Terry Riley. For the second half of this concert, Kronos is joined by Mahsa Vahdat, a prominent performer of Persian vocal music, who collaborated with the quartet on the 2019 recording *Placeless*. This project features melodies Vahdat has composed to classical poems by Hafez and Rumi, as well as contemporary texts by Iranian poets.

**Tickets:** \$48–\$72 (prices subject to change)

**This performance is part of Cal Performances' *Illuminations: “Place and Displacement”* series**

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