

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 6, 2025

[Press Room](#)

[2025–26 Season Calendar](#)



Photos of countertenor Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen (left), pianist Daniil Trifonov (right) are available for download from the Cal Performances [Press Room](#).

A video of Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen and John Churchwell performing *Gefäßter Abschied* from Korngold's *Lieder des Abschieds*, part of their *Uncharted* project together, can be viewed on [YouTube](#).

Daniil Trifonov's NPR Music Tiny Desk Concert is also available on [YouTube](#).

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY
LAUNCHES ITS 2025-26 RECITAL SERIES WITH**

**COUNTERTENOR
ARYEH NUSSBAUM COHEN
AND PIANIST
JOHN CHURCHWELL
IN *UNCHARTED*
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 AT HERTZ HALL**

**PIANIST
DANIIL TRIFONOV
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 AT ZELLERBACH HALL**

Berkeley, August 6, 2025—Cal Performances launches its ambitious 2025–26 recital series this September with performances by two Grammy-winning artists over the course of one weekend. The first concert showcases countertenor **Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen** venturing beyond the traditional countertenor repertoire in an adventurous program entitled *Uncharted* with pianist **John Churchwell**,

at Hertz Hall on Saturday, September 27 at 8pm. Pianist **Daniil Trifonov** then performs a recital, recently revised, of an early piano sonata by Robert Schumann and underperformed works by Prokofiev, Myaskovsky, and Taneyev at Zellerbach Hall on Sunday, September 28 at 3pm.

The first of the two performers, Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen makes his Cal Performances headlining debut in his recital with pianist John Churchwell inspired by their most recent recording together, *Uncharted*. The acclaimed vocalist professes a particular affinity for Austro-Germanic lieder, and thus has programmed works by Erich Wolfgang Korngold, Clara and Robert Schumann, and Johannes Brahms—music that resonates profoundly with his family’s German and Jewish heritage. The performance also features the West Coast premiere of a Cal Performances co-commission from composer **Jake Heggie**, *Oh Children: Three Poems by Margaret Atwood*. Nussbaum Cohen’s talent is heightened by the deeply sensitive playing of Churchwell, head of music for San Francisco Opera and co-director of the Lehrer Vocal Institute at Music Academy of the West, who makes his Cal Performances debut with this recital. Nussbaum Cohen, who calls the Bay Area home, has graced the stages of some of the world’s most renowned opera houses, including Glyndebourne and the Metropolitan Opera. His competition successes include winning the Grand Prize at the 2017 Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition and top prizes in Houston Grand Opera’s Eleanor McCollum Competition and the Dallas Opera Guild Competition. A graduate of the San Francisco Opera’s prestigious Merola and Adler Fellowship Programs, he previously performed at Zellerbach Hall in the English Concert’s 2023 performance of Handel’s *Rodelinda*, singing the role of Unolfo.

The weekend of notable recitalists continues with a performance by pianist Daniil Trifonov the following day, Sunday, September 28. Trifonov is renowned as a solo artist, a champion of the concerto repertoire, a chamber music and vocal collaborator, and as a composer. He is known for constructing narrative arcs across the length of his concerts, and for delivering delicate moments in almost a whisper, while building layers of sound to conjure power and emotion from the keyboard. He was named *Gramophone’s* 2016 Artist of the Year and *Musical America’s* 2019 Artist of the Year, and was made a “Chevalier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres” by the French government in 2021. He has performed on all the world’s major stages and with the most renowned international orchestras, including serving as 2024–25 artist in residence with both the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Czech Philharmonic. He recently announced that his next recording, *Tchaikovsky*, will feature a selection of the composer’s solo works that reflects the composer at his most intimate and private; the recording is due to be released on October 4. The *Times* of London calls Trifonov

“without question the most astounding pianist of our age.” Cal Performances presented him previously in a solo performance in 2022 and with violinist Gidon Kremer in 2015.

Other performers, both established and emerging, who are featured in Cal Performances 2025–26 recital series are **Anne Sofie von Otter**, mezzo-soprano and **Kristian Bezuidenhout**, fortepiano in *Schwanengesang*, October 5, 2025; **Nobuyuki Tsujii**, piano, October 30, 2025; **Jeremy Denk**, piano, November 14, 2025; **Samantha Hankey**, mezzo-soprano with **Myra Huang**, piano, January 18, 2026; **Steven Banks**, baritone saxophone with **Xak Bjerken**, piano in *Golden Silhouettes*, February 1, 2026; **Bruce Liu**, piano, February 10, 2026; **Chris Thile**, mandolin and vocals, February 27, 2026; **Geneva Lewis**, violin; **Evren Ozel**, piano, March 1, 2026; **Alexandre Kantorow**, piano, April 23, 2026; **Víkingur Ólafsson**, piano in a program entitled *Opus 109*, April 29, 2026; and **Renée Fleming**, soprano with **Inon Barnatan**, piano, May 3, 2026

Details about the full recital series can be found at calperformances.org/performances/recital. Cal Performances entire 2025–26 season of presentations is available at calperformances.org.

Saturday, September 27, 8pm

Hertz Hall

Classical Recital

[Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen, countertenor](#)

John Churchwell, piano

Uncharted

Program:

Korngold/Selections from *Lieder des Abschieds*, Op. 14

H. L. Adams/“Prayer” from *Nightsongs*

Price/Sunset

Handel/“O Lord, whose Mercies numberless” from *Saul*

C. Schumann/“Ich stand in dunklen Träumen,” Op. 13, No. 1

Brahms/“In meiner Nächte Sehnen,” Op. 57, No. 5

“Unbewegte laue Luft,” Op. 57, No. 8

Janowski/Avinu Malkenu

Ravel/“Kaddish” from *Deux mélodies hébraïques*

Jake Heggie/*Oh Children: Three Poems by Margaret Atwood* (West Coast Premiere, Cal Performances Co-commission)

R. Schumann/*Liederkreis*, Op. 39

Countertenor Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen ventures beyond the traditional countertenor repertoire, performing lieder in the Austro-Germanic tradition by Brahms, Clara and Robert Schumann, and Erich Wolfgang Korngold. This program also features works by Black American composers H. Leslie Adams and Florence Price, music inspired by Cohen’s Jewish heritage, and the West Coast premiere of a recent piece co-commissioned by Cal Performances from composer Jake Heggie.

Tickets: \$78 (prices subject to change) Tickets are available at calperformances.org, by phone at (510) 642-9988, or in person at the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, Tuesday–Friday, 12–5:30pm and Saturday–Sunday, 1–5pm. There is a \$15 per order service charge on ticket purchases made by phone or online that are not part of a subscription package. There is no fee for tickets purchased in person at the Zellerbach Hall Ticket Office unless they are part of a subscription. There is a \$20 service charge on all subscription orders.

UC Berkeley students can access exclusive discounts, including half-price tickets in all sections of the theater. Information about UC Berkeley student tickets and discounts is available at calperformances.org/ucb-students; information about other discounts can be found at calperformances.org/discounts.

Sunday, September 28, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall

Classical Recital with Newly Announced Repertoire

Daniil Trifonov, piano

Program:

Taneyev/Prelude and Fugue in G-sharp minor, Op. 29

Prokofiev/*Visions Fugitives*, Op. 22

Myaskovsky/Piano Sonata No. 2 in F-sharp minor, Op. 13

R. Schumann/Piano Sonata No. 1 in F-sharp minor, Op. 11

Pianist Daniil Trifonov is known for constructing gripping narrative arcs across the length of his concerts, and for delivering delicate moments in almost a whisper, while building layers of sound to conjure power and emotion from the keyboard. The repertoire for this recital features an early piano sonata by Robert Schumann as well as underperformed works by Prokofiev, Mayaskovsky, and Taneyev.

Tickets: \$48–\$125 (prices subject to change) Tickets are available at calperformances.org, by phone at (510) 642-9988, or in person at the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, Tuesday–Friday, 12–5:30pm and Saturday–Sunday, 1–5pm. There is a \$15 per order service charge on ticket purchases made by phone or online that are not part of a subscription package. There is no fee for tickets purchased in person at the Zellerbach Hall Ticket Office unless they are part of a subscription. There is a \$20 service charge on all subscription orders.

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