

For Immediate Release: April 16, 2024, updated as of February 5, 2025

[2024–2025 Season Announcement Press Kit](#)

[2024–2025 Season Video](#)

[2024–2025 Season Brochure](#)

CAL PERFORMANCES 2024–25 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Performance Venues

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

Zellerbach Playhouse – Bancroft Way at Dana Street, UC Berkeley campus

Hertz Hall – Bancroft Way at College Avenue, UC Berkeley campus

First Congregational Church (also known as First Church) – 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

Ticket Information

Tickets to Cal Performances are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at calperformances.org, and (510) 642-9988

SEPTEMBER 2024

Friday, September 27, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

New Music

[**Olivier Messiaen's *Harawi***](#)

An American Modern Opera Company Production (US Premiere)

Zack Winokur, *director*

Julia Bullock, *soprano*

Conor Hanick, *piano*

Bobbi Jene Smith, *choreographer and dancer*

Or Schraiber, *choreographer and dancer*

Program:

Harawi, an American Modern Opera Company production, realizes Olivier Messiaen's deeply affecting hour-long song cycle for voice and piano in a newly physicalized and dramatized dimension featuring company members soprano Julia Bullock, pianist Conor Hanick, and choreographers/dancers Bobbi Jene Smith and Or Schraiber, with direction by Zack Winokur. Moving from duet to quartet, the production breaks open Messiaen's cycle, connects the relationship between movement and music, and grapples with the intensity of love and loss in the human experience.

An *Illuminations*: "Fractured History" event. Visit calperformances.org/illuminations for details.

Tickets: \$36–\$78 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, September 29, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Recital

[Njioma Chinyere Grevious, violin](#)

Andrew Goodridge, piano

Influences

Program:

Perkinson/*Blue/s Forms for Solo Violin*

Mozart/Violin Sonata No. 21 in E minor, K. 2304

Beethoven/Violin Sonata No. 9 in A major, Op. 47, *Kreutzer*

Dynamic violinist Njioma Chinyere Grevious performs her Cal Performances debut in a recital that showcases her technique and versatility. A 2024 winner of the Avery Fisher Career Grant, the up-and-coming artist is a featured performer in the Sphinx Soloist Program, which showcases top Black and Latinx string players who are laureates of the prestigious Sphinx Competition. The solo work *Blue/s Forms* is a rarely performed work by Black American composer Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson, who was active in New York’s classical and jazz music worlds from the 1950s through the ’90s. Beethoven’s brilliant *Kreutzer* sonata and Mozart’s elegiac E minor sonata round out the program.

Tickets: \$74 (prices subject to change)

OCTOBER 2024

Saturday, October 5, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Sunday, October 6, 3pm

Theater

Ex Machina/Robert LePage & Cirque FLIP Fabrique

[SLAM!](#) (Bay Area Premiere)

When theater and cirque meet the mat

Robert Lepage, director

Program:

In this new adrenaline-infused collaboration, Québécois troupe Cirque FLIP Fabrique partners with opera and theater director Robert Lepage to bring the spectacle and physicality of pro wrestling to the stage. *SLAM!* explores wrestling cultures from around the world through the circus arts, lighting and sets, choreography, and plot twists and turns.

Live audio descriptions for blind and visually impaired audience members are available for the Sunday, October 6, 3pm, performance of *SLAM!*. Headsets may be reserved by contacting the Cal Performances Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 or tickets@calperformances.org.

Tickets: \$36–\$82 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, October 12, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Early Music

Jordi Savall, La Capella Reial de Catalunya, and Hespèrion XXI

The Tears and the Fire of the Muses

Program:

Scheidt/Paduan & Courant *Dolorosa* Cantus V-IX

Monteverdi/*Lamento d'Arianna* a 5 (Book 6, 1614)

Holborne/[Pavin] *Paradizo*

The teares of the Muses [Galliard]

Monteverdi/*Sestina "Lagrima d'Amante al Sepolcro dell'Amata"* a 5 (VI Libro, 1614)

Dowland/*Lacrimæ tristes* [Pavan]

M. Nicholas Gryffith his Galiard

Monteverdi/*Qui rise Tirsi*

Madrigal Concertato à 5 (VI Libro, 1614)

Dowland/ *Semper Dowland semper dolens*

de Gorzanis/[Gallarda] *La Barca d'Amore*

Monteverdi/*Tirsi e Clori*. Ballo Concertato con voci e istrumenti a 5

In his latest program, the musical polymath and virtuoso viol player Jordi Savall traces the influence of Claudio Monteverdi—innovative composer, opera pioneer, and music theorist—through his sacred and secular works, as well as those of John Dowland, Anthony Holborne, Samuel Scheidt, and Giacomo de Gorzanis in England, Germany, and Italy. This season marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of Savall's early-music ensemble Hespèrion XXI, joined in this performance by the vocalists of La Capella Reial de Catalunya.

Tickets: \$48–\$98 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, October 13, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Recital

[Lester Lynch](#), *baritone*

Kevin Korth, *piano*

Program:

Beach/“The Year’s at the Spring,” from *Four Browning Songs*, Op. 44, No. 1

Brahms/*Vier ernste Gesänge (Four Serious Songs)*, Op. 121

Schubert/*An Sylvia*, Op. 106, No. 4, D. 891

“Das Fischermädchen” from *Schwanengesang*, No. 10, D. 957

Nacht und Träume, D. 827

Der Erlkönig, Op. 1, D. 328

Mussorgsky/*Pesni i pljaski smerti (Songs and Dances of Death)*

Traditional/Getty/Danny Boy

Traditional/Getty/Shenandoah

Traditional/Brown/Sweet Home

Traditional/Simonson–Lynch/Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho

A presence on stages the world over, dramatic baritone Lester Lynch has recently sung many of the most iconic opera roles: Crown in *Porgy and Bess*; Wotan in *Das Rheingold*; Conte di Luna in *Il Trovatore*; and the title roles in *Macbeth* and *Rigoletto*. Lynch can sing with great power and subtlety, and brings dramatic flair and gravitas to his rare recital performances. In his Cal Performances debut he presents songs by Schubert, Brahms, and Mussorgsky exploring the profound themes of love, loss, and mortality, as well as works by American composers Charles Ives and Gordon Getty.

Tickets: \$74 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, October 20, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Chamber Music

[Tessa Lark](#), *violin*

[Joshua Roman](#), *cello*

[Edgar Meyer](#), *double bass*

Program:

J.S. Bach/Sonata for Viola da Gamba in G major, BWV 1027

Edgar Meyer/*Trio 1986*

Trio 1988

New Work (Bay Area Premiere, Cal Performances Co-commission)

A new collaboration brings together three singular figures in American concert music—virtuoso instrumentalists with classical chops, deep connections to roots and fiddle music, and wide-open artistic sensibilities. Recent Grammy winning bass player Edgar Meyer is joined by genre-crossing Kentucky-born violinist Tessa Lark and eclectic cellist Joshua Roman for a performance of selections by Bach, trio music by Meyer, and a brand-new work co-commissioned by Cal Performances, composed especially for these players.

Tickets: \$68 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, October 26, 2pm

Zellerbach Hall

Saturday, October 26, 8pm

Sunday, October 27, 3pm

Theater / Family

Mummenschanz

50 Years

Program:

The Swiss mime troupe Mummenschanz performs a retrospective program celebrating 50 years of their inventive storytelling. The company resurrects larger-than-life creatures and creations from its favorite repertoire, such as the Clay Masks and the Toilet Paper Faces, the delicate air-filled Giants and the Pipe Creature, bringing them all to life.

Tickets: \$36–\$86 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, October 27, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Recital

Eric Lu, piano

Program:

Handel/Suite in E major, HWV 430

Schubert/Impromptus, Op. 142

Chopin/Waltz in C-sharp minor, Op. 64, No. 2

 Barcarolle in F-sharp major, Op. 60

 Piano Sonata No. 2 in B-flat minor, Op. 35

Eric Lu is known for patience, restraint, and a refined, delicate touch at the keyboard. He returns to Cal Performances after his debut in the 2021–22 season with a recital centered on works by Chopin, a composer with whom he has been closely associated since he won the Chopin International Competition in Warsaw at age 17.

Live audio descriptions for blind and visually impaired audience members are available for the Sunday, October 27 performance. Headsets may be reserved by contacting the Cal Performances Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 or tickets@calperformances.org.

Tickets: \$74 (prices subject to change)

Tuesday, October 29, 7pm

Zellerbach Hall

Speakers

[The Future of American Democracy: The 2024 Election and Beyond](#)

A panel discussion with Janet Napolitano, Robert Reich, Maria Echaveste, and Angela Glover Blackwell

Program:

As voters prepare to head to the polls on November 5, join UC Berkeley’s Goldman School of Public Policy and Cal Performances for a critical look at the current moment, the issues that have shaped and led to this year’s tumultuous election, and the future of American democracy. Featured on stage together are UC Berkeley experts from former presidential administrations—**Janet Napolitano**, former Secretary of Homeland Security under the Obama administration (2009-2013); **Robert Reich**, former Secretary of Labor under the Clinton administration (1993-1997); and **Maria Echaveste**, former Assistant to the President and Deputy White House Chief of Staff under the Clinton Administration (1998-2001)—as well as PolicyLink founder-in-residence and Chief Vision Officer for the Goldman School of Public Policy’s new Democracy Policy Initiative, **Angela Glover Blackwell**.

Tickets: \$20 general public, \$15 UC Berkeley faculty and staff, \$5 UC Berkeley students. All tickets are general admission. 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.

NOVEMBER 2024

Saturday, November 2, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Sunday, November 3, 3pm

Dance

[Step Afrika!](#)

The Migration: Reflections on Jacob Lawrence

Program:

Washington DC's celebrated step dance company celebrates its 30th anniversary with a production that tells the story of the Great Migration through Black dance forms, bold visual art, and vivid theatricality. *The Migration* is based on Jacob Lawrence's famous series of paintings from the early 1940s that explored the Black American migration experience in a modernist style with a distinctive earth-tone color palette. Set to a soundtrack that includes music by Nina Simone and John Coltrane, gospel music, and West African drumming, the movement traces a historical arc from Africa to the post-Civil War South to a new life in the North, the choreography a mix of stepping, tap, body percussion, and modern dance.

A pre-show haptic access tour and live audio description headsets are available for the Sunday, Nov 3 performance. These services can be reserved when [purchasing tickets online](#) or by [contacting the Ticket Office](#) at 510.642.9988. [Learn more on our Accessibility page.](#)

Saturday night ticket holders are invited to a pre-performance Q&A at 7–7:45pm on the Zellerbach Hall Mezzanine.

An *Illuminations*: “Fractured History” event. Visit calperformances.org/illuminations for details.

Tickets: \$42-98 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, November 3, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Chamber Music

[Dover Quartet](#)

Program:

Jessie Montgomery / *Strum*

Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate / *Abokkoli' Taloowa' (Woodland Songs)* (West Coast Premiere, Cal Performances Co-Commission)

Pura Fé orch. Tate / *Rattle Songs* (West Coast Premiere, Cal Performances Co-Commission)

Dvořák / Quartet in F major, Op. 96, *American*

The Grammy-nominated Dover Quartet returns to Berkeley to perform music that connects new work by Emmy-winning American Indian composer Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate with Dvořák's *American* Quartet. His co-commissioned work is paired with his orchestration of Pura Fé's layered and rhythmic work *Rattle Songs* in a program that explores the notion of American sound.

Ticket holders are invited to a pre-performance Q&A at 2:15–2:45pm in Hertz Hall.

An *Illuminations*: “Fractured History” event. Visit calperformances.org/illuminations for details.

Tickets: \$74 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, November 10, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Recital

[Behzod Abduraimov, piano](#)

Program:

Franck arr. Bauer/Prélude, Fugue, and Variations, Op. 18

Mussorgsky/*Pictures at an Exhibition*

Price/*Fantasia nègre* No. 1 in E minor

Prokofiev/10 Pieces from *Romeo and Juliet*, Op. 75

Pianist Behzod Abduraimov is best known as a powerhouse soloist with the world’s great orchestras, but his recital appearances harness all the same musical force on a more intimate scale. His eclectic Cal Performances debut program foregrounds story and image, including Prokofiev’s piano adaptation of music from his ballet *Romeo and Juliet*, and Mussorgsky’s *Pictures at an Exhibition*. Florence Price’s *Fantasia nègre* No. 1, a rarely performed work enjoying newfound popularity due to revived interest in Price’s body of work, showcases Black American folk melodies and idioms.

Tickets: \$78 (prices subject to change)

Friday, November 15, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Saturday, November 16, 8pm

Recital

[Leonidas Kavakos, violin](#)

Programs:

Friday, November 15:

JS Bach/Sonata No. 2 in A minor, BWV 1003

Partita No. 3 in E major, BWV 1006

Sonata No. 3 in C major, BWV 1005

Saturday, November 16:

JS Bach/Sonata No. 1 in G minor, BWV 1001

Partita No. 1 in B minor, BWV 1002

Partita No. 2 in D minor, BWV 1004

Violinist Leonidas Kavakos, admired for balancing clarity and expressive power in his lyrical playing, performs towering works in the repertoire, Bach’s Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin. The pieces conjure vast sonic landscapes with just four gut strings and a horsehair bow. Considered both an invitation and a challenge to violinists since they were first published more than 220 years ago, these touchstones of European music come with a title—“Sei Solo”—that in Italian both describes the work itself (“Six Solos”) and acts as a sobering reminder to the player (“You are alone”).

Tickets: \$65–125 (prices subject to change)

Tuesday, November 19, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Hall

Recital

[Igor Levit, piano](#)

Program:

JS Bach/Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue in D minor, BWV 903

Brahms/Ballades, Op. 10

Beethoven arr. Liszt/Symphony No. 7 in A major, Op. 92

Pianist Igor Levit’s bold recital programs place masterworks of the canon alongside lesser-known gems. Praised for his extraordinary technique and musicianship, Levit also stands out in the world of classical music as a cultural omnivore who has cited Thelonious Monk and hip-hop among his influences. His artistry revels in extremes—in this performance, he matches Brahms’ sensual Ballades with Liszt’s challenging transcription of Beethoven’s Seventh Symphony.

Tickets: \$40–125 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, November 23, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Recital

[Maxim Vengerov, violin](#)

Polina Osetinskaya, piano

Program:

Prokofiev/Five Melodies, Op. 35

Violin Sonata No. 2 in D major, Op. 94a

Franck/Sonata in A major for Violin and Piano

Ravel/*Tzigane*

Virtuosity and expressiveness have been the hallmarks of violinist Maxim Vengerov’s sound for decades. The multiple Grammy and *Gramophone* Award winner has taken a fascinating path from his formative years as a child prodigy in Siberia, through studies with mentor Mstislav Rostropovich, to an international career that has included prestigious posts as a conductor and educator. Vengerov returns to Cal Performances with his frequent collaborator pianist Polina Osetinskaya.

Tickets: \$40–\$125 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, November 24, 1pm

Zellerbach Hall

Family

Disney Concerts Presents

[Encanto: The Sing-Along Film Concert](#)

Program:

Disney’s animated feature *Encanto* comes to life in an interactive performance and screening featuring live music by Banda de la Casita. The film tells the tale of an extraordinary family, the Madrigals, who live in a charmed town in the mountains of Colombia. The Madrigal children all have magical powers, with the exception of Mirabel—who discovers her own talents as she sets out to save her village from danger. The Academy Award- and Grammy-winning soundtrack features eight original songs by Tony- and Grammy-winning composer Lin-Manuel Miranda, with an original score by Grammy winner Germaine Franco. Audiences are invited to dress up as their favorite characters and sing along with chart-topping hits like “We Don’t Talk About Bruno” and “Surface Pressure.”

Tickets: \$40–\$92 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, November 30, 2pm

Zellerbach Hall

Saturday, November 30, 8pm

Sunday, December 1, 3pm

Dance / Family

[Pilobolus](#)

re:CREATION

Program:

For over five decades, the dancers and acrobats of Pilobolus have entranced audiences with their unique version of dance theater. Contorting, bending, and partnering to transform themselves into a phantasmagoria of animals, spirits, and monsters, the Pilobolus dancers tell otherworldly stories through the strength and precision of their bodies, enhanced by magical stage effects

In this retrospective production, the boundaries of gravity and creativity blur, offering an intimate window into the essence of the creative process.

Live audio descriptions for blind and visually impaired audience members are available for the Sunday, December 1 performance. Headsets may be reserved by contacting the Cal Performances Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 or tickets@calperformances.org.

Tickets: \$36–\$86 (prices subject to change)

DECEMBER 2024

Saturday, December 14, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Sunday, December 15, 3pm

Dance / Family

Dorrance Dance

Michelle Dorrance, Hannah Heller, Josette Wiggan/ *The Nutcracker Suite* (Bay Area Premiere) (music: Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn’s interpretation of the Tchaikovsky score)

Program:

Tap dance meets jazz rhythms in Dorrance Dance’s production of this holiday classic. Danced to Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn’s jazz interpretation of the classic Tchaikovsky score, *The Nutcracker Suite* boogies, slides, struts, and dives through the magical story of a young girl and her fantastical Christmas adventure. Along with collaborators Hannah Heller and Josette Wiggan, artistic director Michelle Dorrance gives the ballet’s pageant of national dances a 21st-century twist as the Sugar Plum Fairy transforms into a slinky Sugar Rum Cherry and the “March of the Toy Soldiers” becomes a swinging brass “Peanut Brittle Brigade” romp, among other creative inventions.

For blind and visually impaired patrons a pre-show haptic access tour and live audio description headsets are available for the Sunday, Dec 15 performance. These services can be reserved when [purchasing tickets online](#) or by [contacting the Ticket Office](#) at 510.642.9988. Learn more on Cal Performances’ [accessibility web page](#).

Tickets: \$35–\$105 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, December 15, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Recital

[Asmik Grigorian](#), *soprano*

Lukas Geniušas, *piano*

Program:

Tchaikovsky/Sred' shumnogo bala (Amid the Din of the Ball), Op. 38, No. 3
Snova, kak prezde (Again, As Before, Alone), Op. 73, No. 6
Nyet tolko tot kto znal (None but the Lonely Heart), Op. 6, No. 6
Sleza drozit (A Tear Trembles), Op. 6, No. 4
Blagoslovlyayu vas, lesa (I Bless You, Forests), Op. 47, No. 5
Ne sprashivay (Do Not Ask), Op. 57, No. 3
Romance in F minor, Op. 5
Scherzo humoristique, Op. 19, No. 2

Rachmaninoff/V molchan'i nochi taynoy (In the Silence of the Secret Night), Op. 4, No. 3
Ne poy, krasavitsa, pri mne (Do Not Sing, My Beauty), Op. 4, No. 4
Ditya! kak tsvetok ty prekrasna (Child! Thou Art as Beautiful as a Flower), Op. 8, No. 2
Son (The Dream), Op. 8, No. 5
Vesenniye vody (Spring Waters), Op. 14, No. 11
O ne grusti! (Oh, Do Not Grieve!), Op. 14, No. 8
Ya zhdu tebya (I Wait for Thee), Op. 14, No. 1
Preludes, Op. 32, Nos. 12 & 13
Sumerki (Twilight), Op. 21, No. 3
Zdes' khorosho (How Fair this Spot), Op. 21, No. 7
My otdokhnyom (Let Us Rest), Op. 26, No. 3
Dissonans (Dissonance), Op. 34, No. 13

Having sung lead roles in *Madama Butterfly*, *Jenůfa*, and *Salome* in recent seasons, soprano Asmik Grigorian makes her West Coast debut at Cal Performances in an all-Russian-language recital, performing rarely heard songs—“small pieces of opera in a few minutes,” she calls them—by Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff. She is joined by her frequent collaborator, pianist Lukas Geniušas.

Tickets: \$78 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, December 21, 5pm

Zellerbach Hall

Vocal Celebration

[San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus](#)

Holiday Spectacular!

Program:

The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus invites audiences to celebrate the Christmas season with *Holiday Spectacular!* The ensemble pulls out all the stops in this annual tradition, complete with holiday carols, satirical sketches, ugly Christmas sweaters, Santa outfits, and guest dancers and drag

artists. Expect nostalgic classics like “Little Drummer Boy,” “Sleigh Ride,” and “Deck the Halls”; holiday pop songs by the likes of George Michael, the Jackson 5, and the Manhattan Transfer; as well as humorous parodies.

Tickets: \$40–92 (prices subject to change)

JANUARY 2025

Saturday, January 18, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Jazz / Percussion

[Antonio Sánchez](#)

[Birdman LIVE](#)

The Academy Award-winning Best Picture, *Birdman*, screened to a live soundtrack

Program:

In Alejandro Iñárritu’s 2014 film *Birdman*, Antonio Sánchez’ drumming served as a companion, counterweight, and commentary on the psychological turmoil of Michael Keaton’s character. Sánchez’ largely improvised solo drumming won a Grammy for Best Score Soundtrack (as well as a BAFTA and a Critic’s Choice Award), and the film won the Oscar for Best Picture. In this special screening and concert, Sánchez celebrates the film’s 10th anniversary with a live solo performance.

Tickets: \$36–\$86 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, January 19, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall

Early Music

[Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment](#)

[Julia Bullock, soprano](#)

Program:

Handel/“The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba” from *Solomon*, HWV 67

“Verdi prati” from *Alcina*

Vivaldi/Concerto in E major, Op. 8, No. 1, “Spring” from *The Four Seasons*

J.S. Bach/Air from Orchestral Suite No. 3 in D major

Purcell/Suite from *The Fairy Queen*

Pachelbel/Canon in D major

Handel/“Da tempeste il legno infranto” from *Giulio Cesare in Egitto*, HWV 17

Rameau/“Les sauvages” from *Les Indes galantes*

Purcell/Trumpet Sonata in D major

“If Love’s a Sweet Passion” from *The Fairy Queen*

J.S. Bach/Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G Major, BWV 1048

Strozzi/Che si può fare?, Op. 8
Telemann/Suite from *Water Music*
Lully/"Marche pour la cérémonie des Turcs" from *Le Bourgeois gentilhomme*
Handel/"Let the Bright Seraphim" from *Samson*, HWV 57

For this performance, her second engagement of the season, artist in residence Julia Bullock is joined by the famed period-instrument ensemble the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. The collective brings a fresh approach and a spirit of inquisitiveness to Baroque music performance—and is known for making historic instruments sing in the repertoire originally composed for them. The program highlights Bullock's soprano in arias from operas by Handel, Lully, Rameau, and Purcell in Italian, French, and English, as well as instrumental showpieces by Vivaldi, Bach, Pachelbel, and Handel.

Tickets: \$56–\$86 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, January 25, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Sunday, January 26, 3pm

Family / Percussion

KODO

One Earth Tour 2025: *Warabe*

Program:

In its latest creation, *Warabe*, famed *taiko* troupe Kodo goes back to the roots of the artform, exploring the most basic and authentic of musical impulses: the "desire to play the drums with the simple heart of a child." The living bearers of a centuries-old Japanese folk tradition, the ensemble's athletic drummers create a universe of sound and emotion through thunderous percussion and polished theatricality.

Tickets: \$42–\$106 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, January 25, 8pm

Hertz Hall

Sunday, January 26, 3pm

Orchestra/Chamber Music

Takács Quartet with Jeremy Denk, piano

Program:

Beethoven/String Quartet in F major, Op. 18, No. 1
Janáček/String Quartet No.1, *The Kreutzer Sonata*
Brahms/Piano Quintet in F minor, Op. 34

The Takács Quartet performs two riveting concert programs in Berkeley this season. (The second one takes place on Sunday, February 16.) For this first performance, the group is joined by pianist Jeremy Denk for Brahms' Piano Quintet in F minor—among the towering creations in the composer's catalog in its skilled mingling of moods, from majesty, serenity, and joy to tension, foreboding, and despair. Denk, a MacArthur "Genius" award winner and well-regarded author, is a popular favorite among Berkeley audiences.

Tickets: \$110 (prices subject to change)

FEBRUARY 2025

Saturday, February 1, 8pm

Hertz Hall

New Music

[Eco Ensemble](#)

Best of Berkeley

David Milnes, director

Sivan Eldar/*L'eau la colonne le fer* for fixed multi-channel electronics (2023)

Didem Coskunseven/*Dawn Chorus* for vibraphone, marimba, bass drums, and electronics (2023)

Maija Hynninen/*...sicut aurora procedit* for solo violin and electronics (2015)

Jimmy López/*Warped Symmetry* for solo flute (2011)

Oren Boneh/*Her Majesty the Fool* for solo accordion, and electronics (2020)

Mason Bates/*Digital Loom* for organ and electronica (2015)

Keeril Makan/*Mercury Songbirds* for alto flute, clarinet, percussion, piano, violin, and cello (2008)

Edmund Campion/*Le Sillage (WAKE)* for improvising cellist, ensemble, and live electronics (2024)

Program:

The UC Berkeley Department of Music's ensemble in residence devotes its winter concert to works by alumni of the university's prestigious composition program. In recent seasons, the adventurous ensemble has performed the music of visiting composers Kaija Saariaho and Toshio Hosokawa, as well as faculty members Ken Ueno, Edmund Campion, and Cindy Cox. In this performance, director David Milnes leads the group through acoustic and electroacoustic works by recent and distant graduates, including Jimmy López and Mason Bates, among others.

Tickets: \$36 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, February 2, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Orchestra/Chamber Music

[Danish String Quartet](#)

Program:

Caroline Shaw/*Entr'acte*

Haydn/Andante from String Quartet in F major, Op.77, No.2
Stravinsky/Three Pieces for String Quartet
O'Carolan/Three Melodies:

Mabel Kelly

Planxty Kelly

Carolan's Quarrel with the Landlady

Shostakovich/String Quartet No. 15, Op. 144

The Danish String Quartet returns to Berkeley with a program of Caroline Shaw's *Entr'acte* paired with a selection from the Haydn quartet that inspired it. Additionally, Stravinsky's folk-infused miniatures converse with songs by Baroque era Irish harpist Turlough O'Carolan. Shostakovich's intense, brooding final quartet provides emotional counterballast in a kaleidoscopic musical journey.

Tickets: \$92 (prices subject to change)

Tuesday, February 4, 7:30pm,

Zellerbach Hall

Recital

[Lise Davidsen](#), *soprano*

Malcom Martineau, *piano*

Program:

Grieg/Dereinst, Gedanke mein, Op. 48, No. 2

Zur Rosenzeit, Op. 48, No. 5

Ein Traum, Op. 48, No. 6

Purcell/"Thy Hand, Belinda... Dido's Lament," from *Dido and Aeneas*

Verdi/"Tu che le vanità," from *Don Carlo*

R. Strauss/"Es gibt ein Reich," from *Ariadne auf Naxos*

Befreit, Op. 39, No. 5

Schubert/Der Tod und das Mädchen, D. 531

Der Zwerg, D. 771

Du bist die Ruh, D. 776

Ellens Gesang III (Ave Maria), D. 839

Wagner/"Allmächt'ge Jungfrau," from *Tannhäuser*

from *Wesendonck Lieder*

Der Engel

Träume

"Mild und leise" ("Liebestod"), from *Tristan und Isolde*

Norwegian soprano Lise Davidsen makes her Bay Area debut with a recital in Zellerbach Hall. Having won first prize and audience prize at the Operalia competition in 2015, Davidsen has come to be globally recognized for her impressive tone and warmth of expression. Since her Metropolitan

Opera debut in 2019, the *Gramophone*-, *Opera News*-, and International Opera Award-winner has left her mark on opera stages including the Metropolitan Opera; Royal Ballet and Opera, Covent Garden; Wiener Staatsoper; Deutsche Oper Berlin; Staatsoper Berlin; and the Bayreuth Festival. Here, Davidsen offers the opportunity to experience her artistry in the intimate recital format alongside one of the world's most renowned collaborators on piano, Malcolm Martineau.

Tickets: \$75-\$199 (prices subject to change)

Wednesday, February 5, 7:30pm,

Zellerbach Hall

Jazz

[Samara Joy](#)

Samara Joy, *vocals*

Connor Rohrer, *piano*

David Mason, *alto saxophone, flute*

Kendric McCallister, *tenor saxophone*

Jason Charos, *trumpet*

Donavan Austin, *trombone*

Paul Sikivie, *bass*

Evan Sherman, *drums*

Program:

Fresh out of music school but with a deep foundation in gospel music, the wildly talented vocalist Samara Joy has won Best Jazz Vocal Album and Best New Artist at the 2023 Grammy Awards for her debut release, an old-school affair that explores classic tunes associated with Carmen McRae, Nat King Cole, and Billie Holiday, and followed it with a third Grammy, for Best Jazz Performance in 2024. In this engagement, her Cal Performances debut, she performs accompanied by piano, bass, and drums, and a full horn section.

Tickets: \$45-\$110 (prices subject to change)

Friday, February 7, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Saturday, February 8, 8pm

Sunday, February 9, 3pm

Dance / Percussion

[Twyla Tharp Dance](#)

Diamond Jubilee

Featuring Third Coast Percussion

With Constance Volk, *flute*

Vladimir Romyantsev, *piano*

Program:

Twyla Tharp/*Diabelli* (1998, music: Beethoven's *Diabelli Variations*; performed live by Vladimir Romyantsev, *piano*)
SLACKTIDE (2025 West Coast Premiere, music: new arrangements of music from Philip Glass' *Aguas da Amazonia*; performed live by Third Coast Percussion and Constance Volk, flute)

Choreographer Twyla Tharp celebrates 60 years of crafting strikingly original, accessible, and uncategorizable works with a new collaboration with composer Philip Glass, the artists' first partnership in nearly 40 years. In close collaboration with Tharp, Third Coast Percussion has arranged Glass' hypnotic 1993–99 score *Aguas da Amazonia*, which they perform live on a collection of custom-designed percussion instruments. Flutist Constance Volk joins them performing Glass' music that reflects on the crisis of climate change. Tharp also revives *Diabelli*, her 1998 triumph that challenges 11 dancers and live pianist Vladimir Romyantsev to embody Beethoven's *Diabelli Variations*.

For blind and visually impaired audience members, live audio descriptions are available for the Sunday, February 9 performance. Headsets may be reserved by contacting the Cal Performances Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 or tickets@calperformances.org.

Tickets: \$42–\$120 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, February 9, 3 pm

Hertz Hall

Orchestra/Chamber Music

[Wu Han](#), *piano*

[Arnaud Sussmann](#), *violin*

[David Finckel](#), *cello*

Program:

Haydn/Piano Trio in E major, Hob. XV:28
Shostakovich/Piano Trio No. 2 in E minor, Op. 67
Mendelssohn/Piano Trio No. 2 in C minor, Op. 66

Cellist David Finckel and pianist Wu Han expand their acclaimed duo for this special recital of piano trio masterworks by Haydn, Shostakovich, and Mendelssohn. French-born violinist Arnaud Sussmann is a frequent collaborator with the bicoastal musical couple, which has no shortage of virtuosic potential ensemble partners, thanks to Han and Finckel's posts as co-directors of both Music@Menlo and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center.

Tickets: \$86 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, February 16, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Orchestra/Chamber Music

Takács Quartet

Program:

Haydn/String Quartet in C major, Op. 54, No. 2, *Tost*

Britten/String Quartet No. 2 in C major, Op. 36

Beethoven/String Quartet in F major, Op. 59, No. 1, *Razumovsky*

This, the second Takács Quartet concert at Cal Performances this season, features an epic work from Beethoven’s “heroic” middle period; Haydn’s effervescent, well-loved string quartet Op. 54, No. 2; and Britten’s rarely performed second quartet. (The previous performance takes place on January 26.)

Tickets: \$98 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, February 22, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Sunday, February 23, 3pm

Dance

Batsheva Dance Company

MOMO

Program:

Ohad Naharin/*MOMO* (Bay Area Premiere) (music: Laurie Anderson and Kronos Quartet, from the album *Landfall*; *Metamorphosis II* by Philip Glass; *Madre Acapella* by Arca; Maxim Waratt)

Choreographer Ohad Naharin and powerhouse dance company Batsheva come to Berkeley for the Bay Area premiere of a new work. In the company’s words, “*MOMO* has two souls. One sends long roots to the depths of the earth—a soul that embodies archetypes and myths of hardened, raw masculinity, and the other is in a constant search for an individual and distinct DNA; one moves within its own autonomous and independent force field, and the other is a constellation of elements that spin around the same nucleus—alternately drifting away and towards it, making room for necessary tenderness and catharsis.” Recordings of Laurie Anderson and Kronos Quartet’s *Landfall* and Philip Glass’ *Metamorphosis II* provide the slow simmering musical backdrop, alongside *Madre Acapella*, a song/prayer by Venezuelan musician Arca, and additional music by Naharin himself under the moniker Maxim Waratt.

Tickets: \$42–\$108 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, February 23, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Orchestra/Chamber Music

Hagen Quartet

Program:

Haydn/String Quartet in G major, Op. 54, No. 1

String Quartet in E major, Op. 54, No. 3

R. Schumann/String Quartet in A major, Op. 41, No. 3

Among Europe's most enduring and admired string quartets, the Hagen Quartet returns to Cal Performances for the first time in more than a quarter of a century with a formidable program of works by Haydn and Schumann. In its 40-year history, the Hagen has earned a reputation for performances of exceptional refinement and ensemble cohesion.

Tickets: \$86 (prices subject to change)

Wednesday, February 26, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Hall

Speakers

Forging a New Political System, 2024 and Beyond

Heather Cox Richardson

In Conversation With Dylan Penningroth

Program:

Historian and political commentator Heather Cox Richardson joins UC Berkeley professor of law and history Dylan Penningroth in a timely conversation about the reshaping of the United States' two major political parties. A professor of 19th century American history at Boston College, Richardson provides an incisive perspective on current politics to the more than three million readers of her nightly newsletter, *Letters from an American*. Penningroth serves as Associate Dean of the Program in Jurisprudence and Social Policy at the UC Berkeley Law School; his scholarship focuses on African American and legal history.

This event is part of the Charles M. and Martha Hitchcock Lectures series, from the Graduate Council and the Graduate Division.

Tickets: \$26–\$59 (prices subject to change).

Friday, February 28, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Vocal Celebration

[This Land Is Our Land](#)

Featuring Martha Redbone Roots Project and American Patchwork Quartet

Martha Redbone Roots Project

Martha Redbone, *vocals and percussion*

Aaron Whitby, *piano and vocals*

Charlie Burnham, *violin and vocals*

Fred Cash, *bass and vocals*

American Patchwork Quartet

Clay Ross, *guitar and vocals*

Falguni Shah (Falu), *vocals*

Yasushi Nakamura, *bass*

Clarence Penn, *drums*

Program:

Roots music singer and songwriter Martha Redbone lends her voice to a new collaboration with the genre-defying American Patchwork Quartet for a performance exploring the United States' rich cultural tapestry. Redbone draws on her southeastern Cherokee/Choctaw and African American heritage to craft uplifting songs that celebrate the human spirit, infused with the folk and blues sounds of her childhood in the Appalachian Mountains of Kentucky.

An *Illuminations*: "Fractured History" event. Visit calperformances.org/illuminations for details.

Tickets: \$36–\$86 (prices subject to change)

MARCH 2025

Saturday, March 1, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Vocal Celebration

[Ladysmith Black Mambazo](#)

Program:

Beloved South African vocal group Ladysmith Black Mambazo returns to Zellerbach Hall to perform its iconic harmonies and inspiring message. Since its launch to global stardom on Paul Simon's *Graceland* album in 1986, the group has won five Grammys and sung for millions across continents. Born from struggle under its country's apartheid regime, Ladysmith sings songs of freedom, love, and peace. Nelson Mandela famously cited the group's music as a source of strength and inspiration during his imprisonment.

Tickets: \$36–\$86 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, March 2, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Orchestra/Chamber Music

[Brentano String Quartet](#)

Program:

Beethoven/String Quartet in B-flat major, Op. 18, No. 6

Lei Liang/New Work (Bay Area Premiere)

Brahms/String Quartet No. 3 in B-flat major, Op. 67

Returning to Berkeley after a long absence, the Brentano String Quartet has been at the vanguard of American chamber music for more than 30 years. Their concert program includes Beethoven's early Quartet in B-flat major, with its fourth movement (*La Malinconia*), and Brahms' lighthearted third quartet. The centerpiece is a new work by esteemed Chinese-born American composer and UC San Diego professor Lei Liang.

Tickets: \$74 (prices subject to change)

Wednesday, March 5, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Hall

Thursday, March 6, 7:30pm

Friday, March 7, 7pm

Orchestra/Chamber Music

[Maria Manetti Shrem and Elizabeth Segerstrom California Orchestra Residency](#)

Vienna Philharmonic

Yannick Nézet-Séguin, *conductor*

Program:

Wed, Mar 5

Mozart/Symphony No. 41 in C major, K. 551, *Jupiter*

Mahler/Symphony No. 1 in D major

Thu, Mar 6

Schubert/Symphony No. 4 in C minor, D. 417, *Tragic*

Dvořák/Symphony No. 9 in E minor, Op. 95, *From the New World*

Fri, Mar 7

with Yefim Bronfman, *piano*

Beethoven/Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor, Op. 37

R. Strauss/*Ein Heldenleben*, Op. 40

The Vienna Philharmonic returns to Berkeley for three concerts of symphonic masterworks with maestro Yannick Nézet-Séguin at the podium. With his signature energy and dramatic flair, Nézet-Séguin leads the Philharmonic through repertoire at the very core of the ensemble's more than 180-year history. One of the most in-demand conductors in the world, the Grammy-winning Nézet-Séguin also leads the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, and was musical advisor for the Leonard Bernstein biopic *Maestro*, for which he additionally recorded the soundtrack.

Tickets: \$50–\$225 (prices subject to change)

Friday, March 7, 5:30 pm

UC Berkeley Campus

Gala Celebration

[Cal Performances' 2025 Gala with the Vienna Philharmonic](#)

with Yefim Bronfman, *piano*

Beethoven/*Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor, Op. 37*

R. Strauss/*Ein Heldenleben*, Op. 40

Program:

5:30pm Cocktail Reception, Lower Sproul Plaza

7pm Performance, Zellerbach Hall

9pm Reception and Dinner, Zellerbach Playhouse

Cal Performances hosts a gala evening with the Vienna Philharmonic with all proceeds supporting Cal Performances' artistic initiatives and education programs. Tickets available at calperformances.org/gala or by contacting the development staff at 510.642.8653 or donate@calperformances.org.

Saturday, March 8, 8pm

Zellerbach Playhouse

New Music

[yMusic Performs a World Premiere by Gabriella Smith](#)

Ryan Lott/*Eleven* (2016)

yMusic/*Three Elephants* (2020)

Whosay (2020)

Cloud (2020)

The Wolf (2020)

Gabriella Smith/*Aquatic Ecology* (World Premiere, Cal Performances Co-commission, 2025)

yMusic:

Alex Sopp, *flutes/voice*

Yasmina Spiegelberg, *clarinets*

CJ Camerieri, *trumpet/horn*

Rob Moose, *violin*

Nadia Sirota, *viola*

Gabriel Cabezas, *cello*

Program:

yMusic continues its long collaborative relationship with composer and Berkeley native, Gabriella Smith, with an ambitious new project co-commissioned by Cal Performances. A composer with an ecologist's soul, Smith traveled the world recording underwater environments, from coral reefs to tidepools, freshwater marshes to the open ocean, to create her latest work for the adventurous ensemble. The score for her *Aquatic Ecology*, which will be given its world premiere in Berkeley, is a blend of acoustic performance with raw and processed field recordings, is Smith's invitation to the listener to commune and connect with the fragile beauty of the natural world threatened by climate change.

Tickets: \$48 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, March 9, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Recital

[Benjamin Beilman, violin](#)

Steven Osborne, piano

Program:

C. Schumann/Three Romances for Violin and Piano, Op. 22

Brahms/Violin Sonata in G major, Op. 78, *Regensong*

L. Boulanger/Two Pieces for Violin and Piano

Franck/Violin Sonata in A major

Critically acclaimed violinist Benjamin Beilman made his debut in the Berkeley Symphony's 2018 season opening concert performing Jennifer Higdon's Violin Concerto. He returns to Zellerbach Hall for his Cal Performances debut with a recital that explores influence and inspiration between the composers Clara Schumann and Brahms, as well as performs works by French composers Lili Boulanger and César Franck.

Tickets: \$68 (prices subject to change)

Thursday, March 13, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Playhouse

Jazz

Sullivan Fortner Trio

Sullivan Fortner, *piano*

Tyrone Allen, *bass*

Kayvon Gordon, *drums*

Program:

Over the past decade, pianist Sullivan Fortner has developed a distinctive approach to jazz that combines his New Orleans heritage with the hard bop sounds of New York and a cosmopolitan flair born from years touring the world with luminaries like Roy Hargrove and Cécile McLorin Salvant. Fortner's most recent release is a solo record that showcases the breadth of his artistry, featuring original compositions alongside classics by Stevie Wonder, Antonio Carlos Jobim, Kurt Weill, and Duke Ellington. Cal Performances audiences will recall his role as a sideman with Salvant at her January 2024 Zellerbach Hall concert, and with this performance he makes his Cal Performances debut as a bandleader with a hard-swinging trio of like-minded talents.

Tickets: \$68 (prices subject to change)

Friday, March 14, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Saturday, March 15, 8pm

Sunday, March 16, 3pm

Theater

William Kentridge's *The Great Yes, The Great No* (Bay Area Premiere; Cal Performances Co-commission)

William Kentridge, *concept and director*

Nhlanhla Mahlangu, *associate director and choral composer*

Phala O. Phala, *associate director*

Greta Goiris, *costume designer*

Sabine Theunissen, *set designer*

Tlale Makhene, *music director*

Mwenya Kabwe, *dramaturg*

Urs Schönebaum and **Elena Gui**, *lighting designers*

Žana Marović, **Janus Fouché**, and **Joshua Trappler**, *projection editing and compositing*

Duško Marović, *cinematographer*

Kim Gunning, *video control*

Gavan Eckhart, *sound designer*

Performers

Xolisile Bongwana, **Hamilton Dhlamini**, **William Harding**, **Neil McCarthy**, **Tony Miyambo**, and **Nancy Nkusi**

Chorus

Anathi Conjwa, Asanda Hanabe, Zandile Hlatshwayo, Khokho Madlala, Nokuthula Magubane, Mapule Moloji, and Nomathamsanqa Ngoma

Dancers

Thulani Chauke, Teresa Phuti Mojela

Musicians

Marika Hughes, *cello*

Nathan Koci, *accordion/banjo*

Tlale Makhene, *percussion*

Thandi Ntuli, *piano*

Program:

Internationally acclaimed for his visual art and theater productions, South African artist William Kentridge returns to UC Berkeley with his latest creation for the stage, a chamber opera set on a 1941 sea voyage from Marseille to Martinique. Conceived in collaboration with theater maker Phala Ookeditse Phala and choral conductor and dancer Nhlanhla Mahlangu, *The Great Yes, The Great No* fictionalizes the historic wartime escape from Vichy France by, among others, the surrealist André Breton, the anthropologist Claude Lévi-Strauss, and the Cuban artist Wifredo Lam—and imaginatively adds a distinguished and colorful cast of characters to the passenger list, like Aimé Césaire, Josephine Baker, Leon Trotsky, and Joseph Stalin.

In Kentridge’s hands, the ship becomes a fantastical menagerie of thinkers, makers, and revolutionaries in a production that merges real-life events with lush South African choral music, dance, poetry, and anti-rational approaches to language and image. Kentridge’s visual inventiveness combines animated drawings, video projection, masks, shadow play, and bold sculptural costumes with spoken and projected text that explores the relationship between surrealism and the anticolonial Négritude movement.

An *Illuminations*: “Fractured History” event. Visit calperformances.org/illuminations for details.

Tickets: \$48–\$120 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, March 16, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Recital

Evren Ozel, *piano*

Music of the Night

Program:

Beethoven/Piano Sonata in C-sharp minor, Op. 27, No. 2, *Moonlight*

Debussy/*Images*, Book 2
Bartók/*Out of Doors*
R. Schumann/*Fantasiestücke*, Op. 12
Ravel/*Gaspard de la nuit*

Since making his debut with the Minnesota Orchestra at age 11, the dynamic pianist Evren Ozel's star has been steadily on the rise. Ozel is a member of the Bowers Program at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, where he is performing, touring, and teaching alongside its esteemed veteran artists. His artfully crafted Berkeley debut program features an evocative and poetic collection of works by Debussy, Bartók, Robert Schumann, and Ravel, plus Beethoven's famous *Moonlight* Sonata.

For blind and visually impaired audience members, live audio descriptions are available for the Sunday, March 16 performance. Headsets may be reserved by contacting the Cal Performances Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 or tickets@calperformances.org.

Tickets: \$68 (prices subject to change)

Wednesday, March 19, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Hall

Early Music

Les Arts Florissants

with Théotime Langlois de Swarte, violin

Vivaldi's The Four Seasons at 300

Program:

Monteverdi/*Adoramus te, Christe*, SV 289 (transcription)

Vivaldi/Concerto for Strings in D minor, *Madrigalesco*, RV 129

Uccellini/*Aria sopra la Bergamasca*, Op. 3

Vivaldi/Concerto in D minor, RV 813

Geminiani/Concerto Grosso No. 12 in D minor, *La Follia* (after Corelli)

Vivaldi/ Violin Concertos, Op. 8, Nos. 1–4, *The Four Seasons*

Overture to *La fida ninfa*, RV 714

Grave from Violin Concerto in B-flat major, RV 370

Vivaldi was a trailblazer in the new format of the violin concerto during his time, and is best remembered for his Opus 8 collection of concertos, *The Four Seasons*. The spirited violinist Théotime Langlois de Swarte joins period instrument ensemble Les Arts Florissants for a concert honoring Vivaldi's enduring work in its 300th birthday year, alongside gems by his peers and predecessors Monteverdi, Uccellini, and Geminiani.

Tickets: \$76–\$106 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, March 23, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall

Orchestra/Chamber Music

[Mahler Chamber Orchestra](#)

Mitsuko Uchida, *piano and director*

José Maria Blumenschein, *concertmaster and leader*

Program:

Mozart/Piano Concerto in B-flat major, K. 456

Janáček/*Mládí*

Mozart/ Piano Concerto in C major, K. 467

The Mahler Chamber Orchestra returns with pianist Mitsuko Uchida, continuing a multiyear collaboration to bring Mozart’s piano concertos to Berkeley audiences. These original compositions are a boundless playground where Mozart explored new ideas of musical drama, form, and ensemble interplay. A revered Mozartean, Uchida has lived with these works for decades, performing and recording them to great acclaim, and she has spoken about the merits and pleasures of returning to familiar repertoire throughout her career. The composer’s music, she has said, “is about conversation and happiness and joy and sorrow and life. Mozart wrote so many wonderful pieces, but for me his concerti are infinitely deeper and varied, and each is an instrumental opera.”

Tickets: \$50–\$175 (prices subject to change)

APRIL 2025

Tuesday, April 1, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Hall

Recital

[Leif Ove Andsnes](#), *piano*

Program:

Grieg/Piano Sonata in E minor, Op. 7

Tveitt/Piano Sonata, Op. 129, *Sonata Etere*

Chopin/24 Preludes, Op. 28

Known for his commanding technique and searching interpretations, the Norwegian virtuoso pianist Leif Ove Andsnes has a special affinity for the music of his homeland. In this performance, he pairs Edvard Grieg’s sole piano sonata with Geirr Tveitt’s *Sonata Etere*, a colorful work from the 1950s that reflects the composer’s deep immersion in Norwegian folk music.

Tickets: \$68–\$96 (prices subject to change)

Friday, April 4, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Theater

[Story Boldly's *Defining Courage*](#)

An Immersive Live Event

Program:

Defining Courage commemorates the struggles and sacrifices of the Nisei soldiers of World War II through vivid cinematography, live music, eyewitness interviews, and storytelling. Serving in segregated units, these Americans of Japanese ancestry were among the war's most decorated soldiers, unsung heroes fighting for the US while many of their families were in incarceration camps back at home. The production is a creation of Story Boldly, a nonprofit initiative devoted to journalistic storytelling founded by Emmy Award-winning creators David Ono (an anchor on KABC-TV in Los Angeles) and television producer Jeff MacIntyre. Ono has described the project as a work of historic reclamation: "They're truly some of America's greatest heroes, some of the toughest guys we've ever created."

An *Illuminations*: "Fractured History" event. Visit calperformances.org/illuminations for details.

Tickets: \$36–\$86 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, April 5, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Vocal Celebration

[Patti LuPone](#)

Joseph Thalken, *piano*

Songs from a Hat

Program:

In a showcase of her wit and virtuosity, Broadway star Patti LuPone sings an intimate cabaret-style evening of songs, with the titles randomly chosen from an onstage hat. Over the course of her career, LuPone has earned three Tony Awards, two Olivier Awards, and two Grammys, all confirming her uncommon talent and popularity. The program will feature songs from the musicals that made her a household name, such as *Evita*, *Gypsy*, *Company*, and *Les Misérables*, woven together with stories from her life in the limelight.

Tickets: \$52–\$185 (prices subject to change)

Tuesday, April 8, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Hall

Wednesday, April 9, 7:30pm
Thursday, April 10, 7:30pm
Friday, April 11, 8pm
Saturday, April 12, 2pm
Saturday, April 12, 8pm
Sunday, April 13, 3pm

Dance

[Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#)

Program:

Strength, precision, and passion remain the hallmarks of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater more than 65 years after its inception. The company's legendary dancers return to Berkeley with vibrant programs of new and classic works that showcase and synthesize a dazzling range of cultural influences, from spirituals and church hymns, jazz, R&B, and hip-hop, to African dance and classical ballet. Many of the earliest Ailey works and the newest company creations share a common focus: illuminating the rich panorama of Black American experience.

For blind and visually impaired audience members, live audio descriptions are available for the Saturday, April 12 performance. Headsets may be reserved by contacting the Cal Performances Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 or tickets@calperformances.org.

Tickets: \$45–\$158 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, April 13, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Orchestra/Chamber Music

[Owls](#)

Alexi Kenney, *violin*

Ayane Kozasa, *viola*

Gabriel Cabezas, *cello*

Paul Wiancko, *cello*

Program:

Corea/*Children's Song No. 12*

Paul Wiancko/*Vox Petra*

When the Night

Franghiz Ali-Zadeh/*Raqs*

Couperin/*Les Barricades Mystérieuses*

Trollstilt/*Ricercar*

Terry Riley/“Good Medicine” (from *Salome Dances for Peace*)

Owls is a new string quartet collective featuring some of chamber music’s most creative voices. All of the ensemble’s repertoire is arranged specially for the group’s unusual instrumentation of two cellos, one violin, and one viola. The program features two pieces by cellist Paul Wiancko (also of Kronos Quartet), alongside works by Azerbaijani composer Franghiz Ali-Zadeh, minimalism pioneer Terry Riley, jazz legend Chick Corea, indie rock duo Trollstilt (Monica Muga and Dan Trueman), and French Baroque composer François Couperin.

Tickets: \$74 (prices subject to change)

Friday, April 25, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Saturday, April 26, 8pm

Dance

Grupo Corpo

21 and Gira

Program:

Rodrigo Pederneiras/*21* (Bay Area Premiere; music: Marco Antônio Guimarães & Uakti)

Gira (Bay Area Premiere; music: Metá Metá)

Brazil’s Grupo Corpo performs its Cal Performances debut with two works that showcase the dance company’s distinctive style, rooted in classical ballet but enriched by folk and popular dance. Under the artistic direction of choreographer Rodrigo Pederneiras’ brother Paulo Pederneiras, the troupe’s dancers are celebrated for their athleticism, versatility, and deep respect for the connections between music and movement. The choreography in *21* is derived from the rhythmic sequences in the score by Marco Antônio Guimarães and Brazilian instrumental group Uakti. *Gira* (“*Spin*”) is inspired by the Afro-Brazilian religion Umbanda and features music by São Paulo band Metá Metá that combines ritual chanting with animal cries, bird calls, and saxophone. *Note: This performance contains nudity.*

For blind and visually impaired audience members, live audio descriptions are available for the Saturday, April 26 performance. Headsets may be reserved by contacting the Cal Performances Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 or tickets@calperformances.org.

An *Illuminations*: “Fractured History” event. Visit calperformances.org/illuminations for details.

Tickets: \$38–\$98 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, April 27, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall

Early Music

The English Concert

Handel's *Giulio Cesare in Egitto*

Harry Bicket, conductor

Christophe Dumaux, countertenor (Giulio Cesare)

Louise Alder, soprano (Cleopatra)

Paula Murrhly, mezzo-soprano (Sesto)

Beth Taylor, contralto (Cornelia)

John Holiday, countertenor (Tolomeo)

Morgan Pearse, baritone (Achilla)

Meili Li, countertenor (Nireno)

Thomas Chenhall, baritone (Curio)

Program:

Love, betrayal, family drama, and political intrigue—Handel's blockbuster heroic opera recounts the historic meeting of Julius Caesar and Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt, through a series of unforgettable arias, vivid characterizations, and sumptuous orchestration. British soprano Louise Alder sings the seductive central role of Cleopatra, opposite French countertenor Christophe Dumaux as her Caesar.

An *Illuminations*: "Fractured History" event. Visit calperformances.org/illuminations for details.

Tickets: \$44–\$132 (prices subject to change)

MAY 2025

Friday, May 2, 8pm

First Congregational Church

(Also known as First Church)

Early Music

The Tallis Scholars

Palestrina 500

Peter Phillips, director

Program:

Palestrina/*Missa Ut re mi fa sol la*

Laudate pueri

Tribulationes civitatum

Tu es Petrus

di Lasso/*Media vita*

Timor et tremor

A master of counterpoint and prolific composer of more than 105 masses and 250 motets, Palestrina is recognized as one of the most influential figures in all of music history. His spiritual works represent the peak of Italian polyphony. The Tallis Scholars celebrate Palestrina's 500th birthday with a program that includes one of his lesser-known mass settings, two of his greatest motets, and works by his contemporary, Orlando di Lasso. The Tallis Scholars have sung Palestrina's music more than that of any other composer, in the process winning a *Gramophone* Award for their now-classic Palestrina recording.

Tickets: \$68–\$96 (prices subject to change)

Friday, May 9, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Saturday, May 10, 8pm

Sunday, May 11, 3pm

Dance

Mark Morris Dance Group

Pepperland (Cal Performances Co-commission)

Program:

Mark Morris, choreography

Ethan Iverson, composer

Mark Morris Dance Group presents its romp through the Beatles' groundbreaking concept album, *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*. Bursting with energy and creativity, neon costumes, and ensemble numbers, the playful and often poignant production features a score of Beatles arrangements plus originals by longtime Morris musical collaborator Ethan Iverson for an ensemble of voice, theremin, soprano sax, trombone, and keyboards.

For blind and visually impaired audience members, live audio descriptions are available for the Sunday, May 11 performance. Headsets may be reserved by contacting the Cal Performances Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 or tickets@calperformances.org.

Tickets: \$42–\$148 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, June 21, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Vocal Celebration

Rhiannon Giddens and the Old-Time Revue

Rhiannon Giddens, *vocals, minstrel banjo, modern banjo, viola*

Justin Robinson, *vocals, fiddle, banjo*

Dirk Powell, *vocals, acoustic guitar, banjo, fiddle, accordion*
Amelia Powell, *vocals, acoustic guitar*
Jason Sypher, *bass*
Demeanor, *vocals, banjo*

Composer, vocalist, and banjo virtuoso Rhiannon Giddens is perhaps the hardest working and most decorated woman in modern roots music—with two Grammys, a Pulitzer Prize, and a MacArthur “Genius” grant to her credit. On the heels of her acclaimed release *You’re the One*, she returns to Berkeley leading a stellar five-piece string band (including fellow Carolina Chocolate Drops member Justin Robinson) in an original romp through Black American music—from the blues, to country, to swing.

Tickets: \$60–\$95 (prices subject to change)

PRESS CONTACT:

Louisa Spier
Cal Performances
Media Relations Manager
(510) 643-6714
lspier@calperformances.org