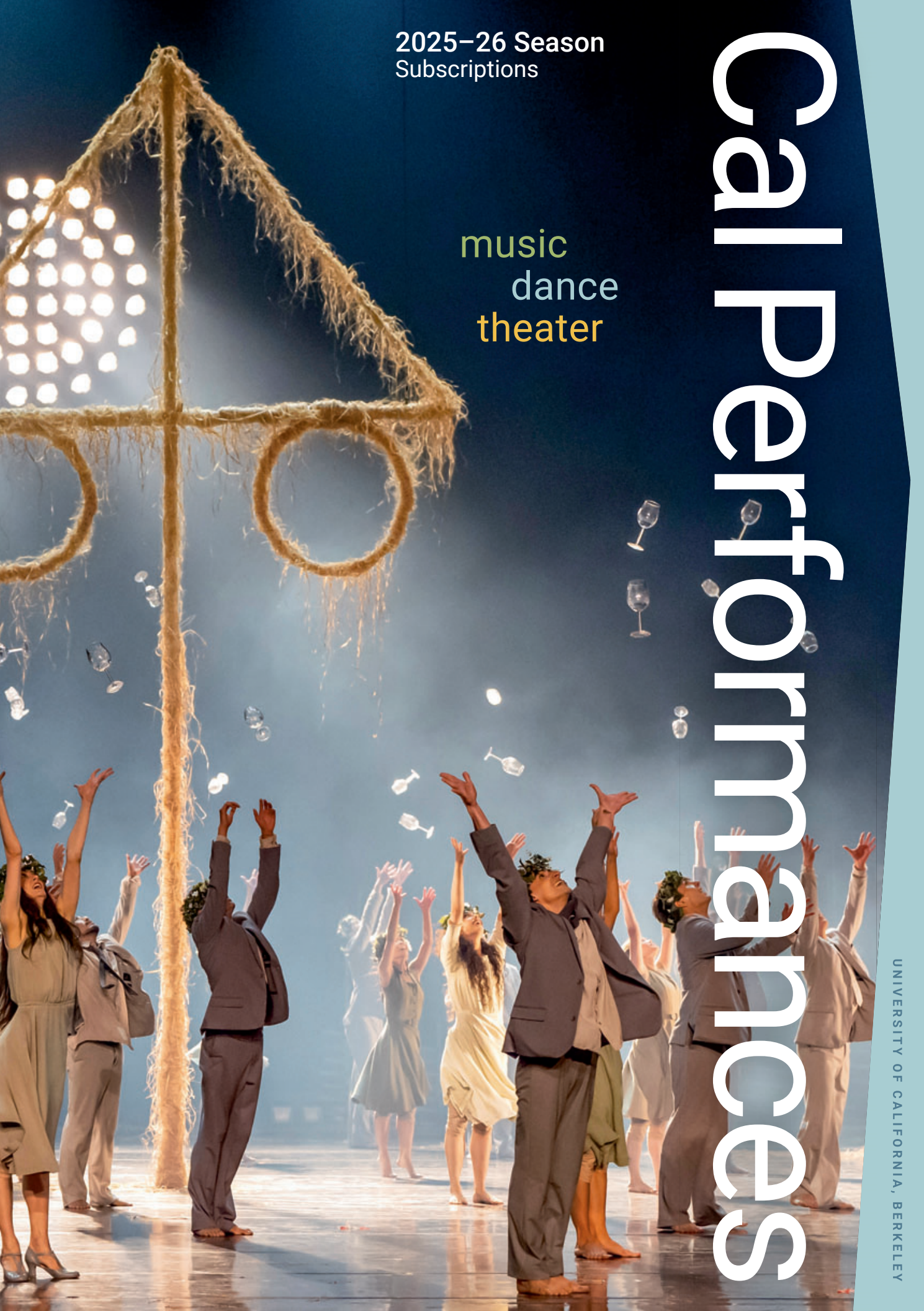


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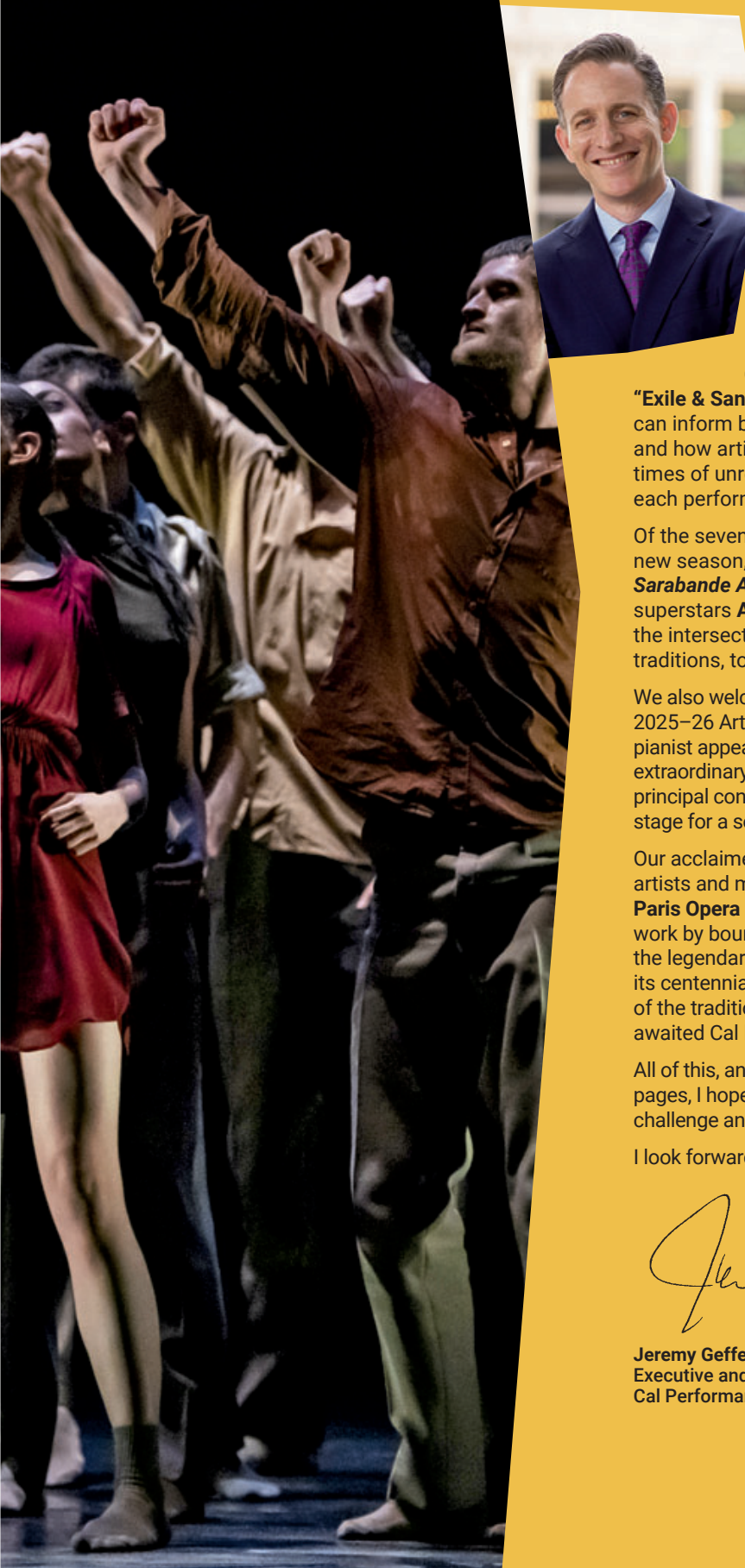
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ON THE COVER:
THE JOFFREY BALLET
MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Letter from the Director



Welcome to Cal Performances' 2025–26 season, the Bay Area's most wide-ranging selection of music, dance, and theater.

In the following pages, you'll find more than 80 thrilling events featuring some of the world's most acclaimed performers—a reflection of the adventurous spirit that Berkeley audiences are famous for.

Our ambitious *Illuminations* theme of “**Exile & Sanctuary**” focuses on how issues of displacement can inform bold new explorations of identity and community; and how artistic expression can offer safe harbor during times of unrest or upheaval—an idea I hope will ring true for each performance you experience this season.

Of the seven distinct *Illuminations* programs in our new season, I'd like to draw particular attention to ***Sarabande Africaine***, a thrilling collaboration between superstars **Angélique Kidjo** and **Yo-Yo Ma** that explores the intersections between African and European music traditions, to be performed at the Greek Theatre.

We also welcome the return of **Víkingur Ólafsson** as our 2025–26 Artist in Residence. This masterful and ever-insightful pianist appears this fall as soloist in two concerts with London's extraordinary **Philharmonia Orchestra** under the baton of principal conductor **Santtu-Matias Rouvali**, and returns to our stage for a solo recital in the spring.

Our acclaimed dance series is distinguished by genre-defining artists and major new productions, including the renowned **Paris Opera Ballet** in the North American premiere of a new work by boundary-breaking choreographer **Hofesh Shechter**; the legendary **Martha Graham Dance Company** celebrating its centennial; **The Joffrey Ballet** in an otherworldly celebration of the traditional Scandinavian solstice festival; and the long-awaited Cal Performances debut of **A.I.M** by **Kyle Abraham**.

All of this, and so much more! As you explore the following pages, I hope you discover events that offer fresh perspectives, challenge and reward your spirit, and bring you joy.

I look forward to seeing you in the audience!

Jeremy Geffen
Executive and Artistic Director
Cal Performances

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Venue Key

- GT Greek Theatre
- ZH Zellerbach Hall
- ZP Zellerbach Playhouse
- HH Hertz Hall
- FCC First Congregational Church, Berkeley
(also known as First Church)



MOMIX
ALICE

2025–26 Season Illuminations

Exile is more than physical displacement—it is a rupture of identity, a stripping away of the familiar, leaving an individual or community without a sense of belonging.

Sanctuary, in turn, can be both a refuge and a creative space where new connections are forged. This season's *Illuminations* theme, "Exile & Sanctuary," invites us to explore how people who have experienced exile have found comfort in building new identities and narratives, and how the arts can give voice to these important stories. Through performances and public programs, our *Illuminations* events will consider how exile reshapes culture, how sanctuary helps imagine new communities, and how artistic expression offers a vital space for resistance, healing, and reinvention.

Lead support for *Illuminations* is provided by the Koret Foundation.



YO-YO MA AND ANGÉLIQUE KIDJO

Angélique Kidjo and Yo-Yo Ma *Sarabande Africaine*

Sat, Aug 30, 8pm, GT

See page 9 for full listing.

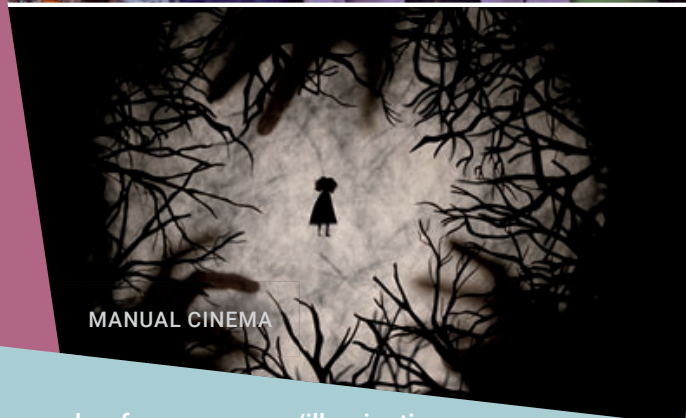


KRONOS QUARTET

Kronos Quartet *Beyond the Golden Gate*

Sat, Oct 11, 8pm, ZH

See page 23 for full listing.



MANUAL CINEMA

Manual Cinema *The 4th Witch*

Inspired by Macbeth

A Cal Performances Co-commission

Sat, Nov 22, 8pm, ZH

See page 33 for full listing.

Exile & Sanctuary

Julia Keefe Indigenous Big Band

Fri, Mar 6, 8pm, ZP

See page 35 for full listing.



JULIA KEEFE INDIGENOUS BIG BAND

Silkroad Ensemble with Rhiannon Giddens *Sanctuary: The Power of Resonance and Ritual*

Thu, Mar 19, 7:30pm

Fri, Mar 20, 8pm, ZH

See page 24 for full listing.

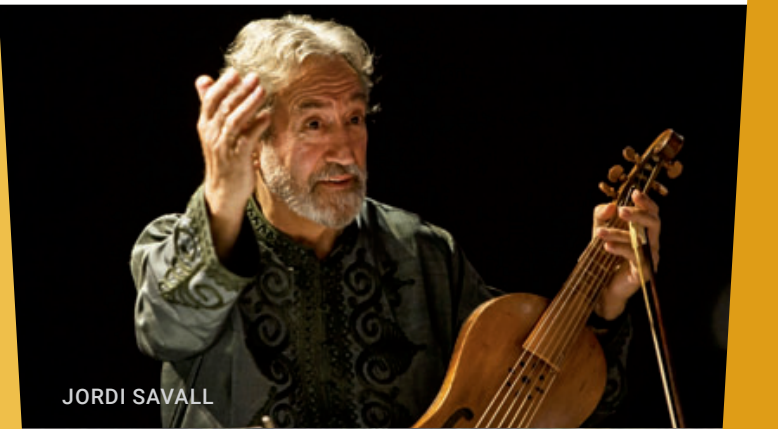


RHIANNON GIDDENS

Jordi Savall, Hespèrion XXI, La Capella Reial de Catalunya, Tembembe Ensemble Continuo *Un Mar de Músicas (A Sea of Music)*

Tue, Apr 21, 7:30pm, ZH

See page 21 for full listing.



JORDI SAVALL

Lara Downes and Friends *This Land: Reflections on America* Featuring Judy Collins, Tarriona "Tank" Ball, and the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir

Sat, May 9, 8pm, ZH


See page 39 for full listing.



LARA DOWNES



Artist in Residence Víkingur Ólafsson

A portrait of pianist Víkingur Ólafsson. He is wearing a white shirt and dark-rimmed glasses. His hands are raised in front of him, with thick, colorful paint streaks (purple, orange, blue, green, red) smeared across his fingers and palms. Similar paint streaks are also visible on his face, particularly around his eyes and forehead. The background is a plain, light color.

"Ólafsson... combines a ferocious keyboard technique with a razor-sharp intellect that puts those gifts to powerful interpretive use. (Most virtuosos can boast one or the other of these abilities; few can lay claim to both.)"

—Joshua Kosman, *On a Pacific Aisle*

Cal Performances is thrilled to welcome back Icelandic pianist Víkingur Ólafsson as 2025–26 Artist in Residence, with three opportunities this season to experience his boundless creativity and keen interpretive prowess at the keyboard. Over the course of his celebrated career, Ólafsson has distinguished himself as that rare musician who both values the history and tradition of the canon, and seeks out opportunities to question orthodoxy in the pursuit of his own artistic truth. He is closely associated with the music of Bach, Rameau, Mozart, Chopin, and Debussy, but is also praised for his renditions of Philip Glass’ music and is a committed champion of works by other living composers. Ólafsson’s direct style and uncompromising integrity have captivated classical music aficionados and newcomers alike, and all listeners will welcome his return to the UC Berkeley campus, where his May 2024 recital was hailed as “an astonishing triumph of keyboard virtuosity and sparkling personality” (*San Francisco Classical Voice*).

Leadership support for the 2025–26 Víkingur Ólafsson residency at Cal Performances is provided by Michael P. N. A. Hormel.

Philharmonia Orchestra
Santtu-Matias Rouvali,
principal conductor*

Víkingur Ólafsson, piano

Sat, Oct 18, 8pm, ZH

GABRIELA ORTIZ	New Work (Bay Area Premiere)
BEETHOVEN	Piano Concerto No. 5, <i>Emperor</i>
SIBELIUS	Symphony No. 5

Sun, Oct 19, 3pm, ZH

SIBELIUS	<i>Finlandia</i>
RAVEL	Piano Concerto in G major
SHOSTAKOVICH	Symphony No. 5

London’s stellar Philharmonia Orchestra returns to Berkeley with Finnish maestro Santtu-Matias Rouvali—one of the most sought-after conductors of his generation—making his Berkeley debut! In two programs featuring 2025–26 season Artist in Residence Víkingur Ólafsson, orchestra, conductor, and soloist take us on a spectacular journey through a sublime collection of works, from Romantic masterpieces to an exciting new commission.

The first concert features Ólafsson as soloist in Beethoven’s iconic *Emperor* concerto, as well as the orchestra performing Sibelius’ Fifth Symphony, a majestic work evoking a vast, unfolding Nordic landscape. The program also includes the Bay Area premiere of a new commission by Mexican composer Gabriela Ortiz, a truly original voice in concert music who won three 2025 Grammy Awards for a recording of her most recent orchestral works.

The second concert matches Ravel’s frolicking, jazz-inflected Piano Concerto in G major with Shostakovich’s emotionally turbulent and engrossing Fifth Symphony.

Visit calperformances.org/artist-in-residence-vikingur-olafsson for information about campus events and activities as they are announced.

*Cal Performances debut

Víkingur Ólafsson, piano
Opus 109

Wed, Apr 29, 7:30pm, ZH

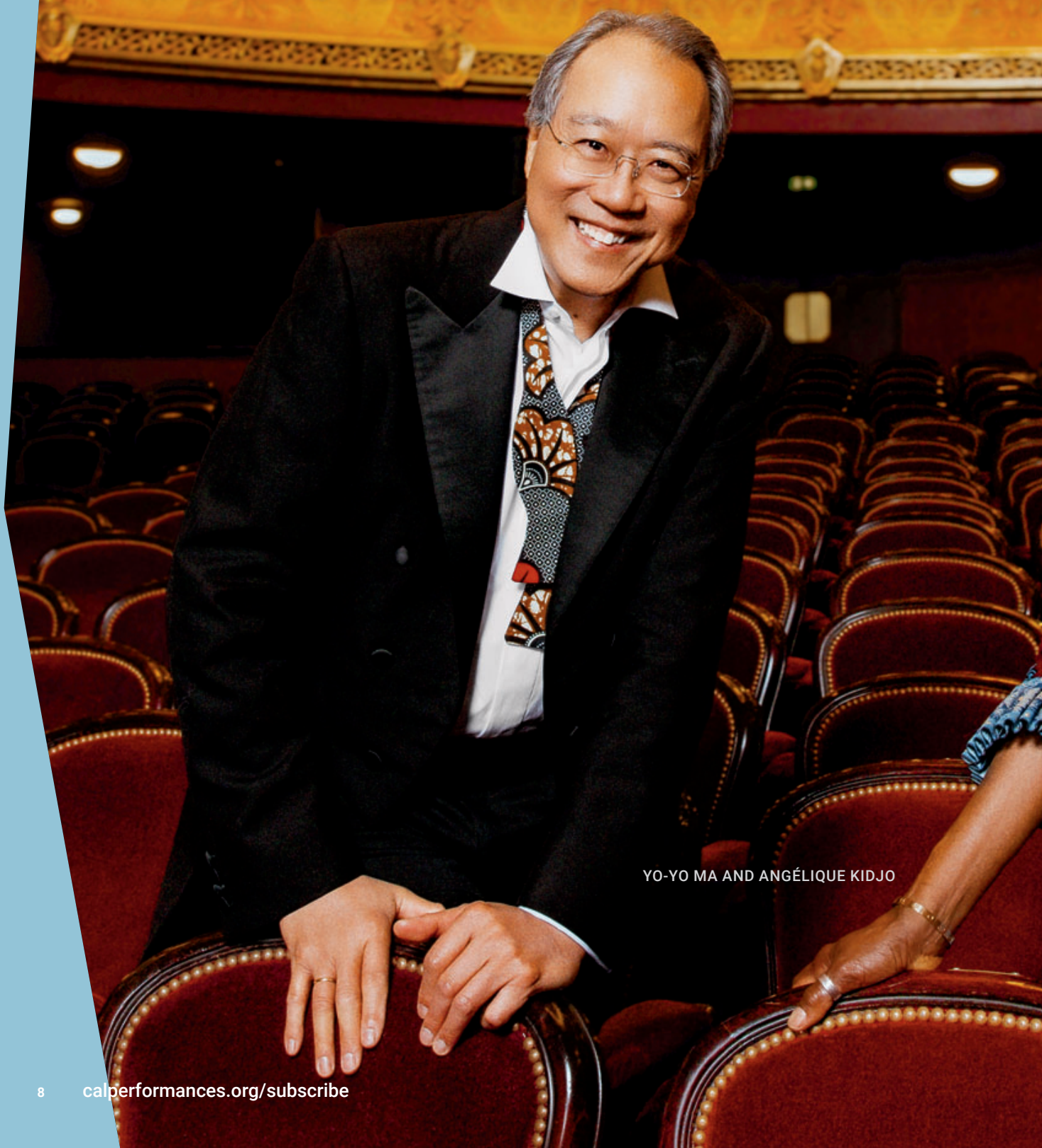
BACH	Prelude in E major from <i>The Well Tempered Clavier, Book I</i>
BEETHOVEN	Piano Sonata No. 9 in E major, Op. 14, No. 1
BACH	Partita No. 6 in E minor
BEETHOVEN	Piano Sonata No. 27 in E minor, Op. 90
SCHUBERT	Piano Sonata in E minor
BEETHOVEN	Piano Sonata No. 30 in E major, Op. 109

It will not surprise Ólafsson’s many fans that his newest project goes deep. Previously, he devoted an entire season of performances to Bach’s *Goldberg Variations*—playing the cycle for 88 concerts in total, including at Cal Performances in May 2024—because, in his words, “I wanted to know how deeply I can dive into a composition and how many different facets I can discover in it.” He won a Grammy this year for his sterling recording of that work. Here, Ólafsson turns his attention to Beethoven’s innovative and emotive Opus 109 piano sonata, taking us on a journey of musical inspiration and influence that includes side trips through the keyboard music of Bach and Schubert, interspersed between movements.

Patron Sponsors: Jeffrey MacKie-Mason and Janet Netz

Special Event

Angélique Kidjo and Yo-Yo Ma *Sarabande Africaine* at the Greek Theatre



YO-YO MA AND ANGÉLIQUE KIDJO



Sat, Aug 30, 8pm, GT **LABOR DAY WEEKEND**

Two endlessly curious musicians come together to search beyond the edges of their musical backgrounds, exposing the ways we have all been connected for a very long time; it's a collaboration that asks us to joyfully question the tenets of genre and tradition that underpin our cultural thinking.

Lead Sponsor: Nadine Tang

An *Illuminations*: "Exile & Sanctuary" event.
Visit calperformances.org/illuminations for details.

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Orchestra & Chamber Music

*"Rouvali was always alive
to the pictorial detail,
matched by the Philharmonia's
alert playing...vivid music-making
is one of [his] strengths."*

—The Times, London

PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA
SANTTU-MATIAS ROUVALI, PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR

Isidore Quartet

Sun, Oct 12, 3pm, HH

HAYDN	String Quartet in B-flat major, <i>Sunrise</i>
GABRIELLA SMITH	<i>Carrot Revolution</i>
DVOŘÁK	String Quartet in G major

Praised for its "total commitment" (*The Strad*) as an ensemble and for "exquisitely unified playing" (*Washington Classical Review*), the fabulous Isidore Quartet returns with a program that combines familiar repertoire with an exciting recent discovery. Gabriella Smith's *Carrot Revolution* mines contrasting musical influences to explore, in her words, "new ways of looking at old things." Haydn's burnished and brilliant *Sunrise* quartet represents the height of his mastery, and Dvořák's joyful penultimate quartet in G major is bursting with color and lyricism.

Patron Sponsor: Anonymous

Philharmonia Orchestra

Santtu-Matias Rouvali, *principal conductor**
Víkingur Ólafsson, *piano*

Sat, Oct 18, 8pm
Sun, Oct 19, 3pm, ZH

See page 7 for full listing.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Riccardo Muti, *conductor*

Sat, Jan 17, 8pm, ZH

BRAHMS	Symphony No. 4
STRAVINSKY	<i>The Fairy's Kiss</i>
RAVEL	<i>Boléro</i>

It's a match made in heaven: revered conductor Riccardo Muti and his beloved Chicago Symphony Orchestra, reconvening in Berkeley for a program of orchestral gems for one night only. Muti, who turns 84 this year, stepped down as the esteemed ensemble's music director to assume the role of Music Director Emeritus for Life in 2023, but his close rapport with this group of remarkable musicians continues to enchant. Muti excels at Brahms and here conducts the composer's majestic Fourth Symphony; Stravinsky's delightful suite from the ballet *The Fairy's Kiss*; and Ravel's ever-popular *Boléro*, which, with its sensuously hypnotic theme, builds the concert to a volcanic climax. "Under Muti, the Chicago Symphony is all power and finesse....He barely had to move for the players to unleash torrents of stupendous, beautifully balanced sound" (*The New York Times*).

Major Support: Diana Cohen and Bill Falik; Greg Lutz



* Cal Performances debut

Orchestra & Chamber Music

CAL PERFORMANCES ENSEMBLE DEBUT

JACK Quartet

Sun, Mar 15, 3pm, HH

JURI SEO	<i>Three Imaginary Chansons</i> (California Premiere)
HANS ABRAHAMSEN	String Quartet No. 4
ANTHONY CHEUNG	<i>Twice Removed</i> (California Premiere)
HELMUT LACHENMANN	String Quartet No. 3, <i>Grido</i>

Among the most nimble ensembles in contemporary music today, the adventurous JACK Quartet visits with a kaleidoscopic program of new and recent works by living composers. The group is known for the fierce commitment and virtuosity it brings to a range of innovative and idiosyncratic repertoire—in a landscape where each piece and each composer challenges the players with novel techniques, sounds, and approaches to their music making. JACK performs commissioned works by American composers Juri Seo and Anthony Cheung, and landmark contemporary music by European luminaries Hans Abrahamsen and Helmut Lachenmann. A rare opportunity to hear these influential works played by true modern masters! “One of the most eye-opening and exhilarating concerts I’ve heard all season” (*The New York Times*).



JACK QUARTET

Takács Quartet with Jordan Bak, *viola**

Sun, Jan 25, 3pm, HH

SCHUBERT	String Quartet in C minor, <i>Quartettsatz</i>
MOZART	String Quintet in G minor String Quintet in C major

Takács Quartet

Sun, Feb 22, 3pm, HH

HAYDN	String Quartet in G minor, <i>Rider</i>
CLARICE ASSAD	String Quartet (Bay Area Premiere, Cal Performances Co-commission)
DEBUSSY	String Quartet

As it enters its 51st season, the renowned Takács Quartet continues to deepen its connections to timeless masterworks and enliven the string quartet repertoire through fresh artistic collaborations. For its first concert this season, the group is joined by award-winning Jamaican American violist Jordan Bak in his Cal Performances debut for a rare performance of Mozart's revelatory viola quintets in C major (K. 515) and G minor (K. 516). Bak adds his "haunting lyrical grace" (*Gramophone*) to the Takács' telepathic ensemble blend in these works of exceptional melodic beauty and textural clarity. Schubert's dramatic single-movement *Quartettsatz* opens the program.

The season's second Takács visit features the Bay Area premiere of a new work co-commissioned by Cal Performances from polyglot composer and pianist Clarice Assad, one of the most popular Brazilian American concert-music composers of her generation. As the ensemble says about the collaboration, "Clarice's music inspires interactive spirit and theatrical energy—we feel liberated by her limitless imagination." The program also includes Haydn's bold and exuberant *Rider* quartet and Debussy's kinetic, colorful sole quartet.

Lead Sponsor: Nadine Tang (1/25)

David Finckel, *cello* Wu Han, *piano*

Sun, Mar 29, 3pm, HH

BACH	Cello Sonata in D major
DEBUSSY	Cello Sonata
BRITTEN	Cello Sonata
JOHN CORIGLIANO	<i>Fancy on a Bach Air</i> for solo cello
CHOPIN	Cello Sonata in G minor

Chamber music visionaries, ambassadors, impresarios, and virtuosos—as co-directors of both Music@Menlo and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, cellist David Finckel and pianist Wu Han are a ubiquitous presence on both coasts. The energy they bring to their leadership in the arts is matched only by the powerful synergy of their duo performances. Here, the Cal Performances favorites offer a program spanning more than two-and-a-half centuries, from Bach to John Corigliano, and featuring Debussy's masterful sonata, Chopin's last major work, and a rarely performed Britten sonata composed for Mstislav Rostropovich. "A terrific chamber music experience...exhibiting clarity of vision and tremendous character" (*The Strad*).

Patron Sponsors: Michael A. Harrison and Susan Graham Harrison



TAKÁCS QUARTET



JORDAN BAK



WU HAN AND DAVID FINCKEL

* Cal Performances debut

Classical Recital

Daniil Trifonov, piano

Sun, Sep 28, 3pm, ZH

HANDEL Suite in G minor

BRAHMS *Variations and Fugue on a Theme by Handel*

Variations on a Theme by Robert Schumann

R. SCHUMANN *Davidsbündlertänze*

Fluent, fleet, fearless, and full of fire, Daniil Trifonov's thrilling performances are known to bring listeners to the very edge of their seats. The renowned pianist constructs a gripping narrative arc across the length of a concert, delivering the most serene, delicate moments in an almost conspiratorial whisper, while building rippling layers of sound to conjure power and emotion from the keyboard. His Berkeley recital centers on two dazzlingly inventive and virtuosic sets of variations by Brahms.

"This pianist is such a wizard at his instrument, he makes even the gnarliest pieces sound easy" (*New York Classical Review*).

DANIIL TRIFONOV

Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen, *countertenor*
John Churchwell, *piano**
Uncharted

Sat, Sep 27, 8pm, HH

Songs by Handel, Clara and Robert Schumann, Brahms, Korngold, Heggie, and others†

In this sweeping program centered on the beauty of the natural world, Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen lends his "ravishing, otherworldly" (*Opera News*) voice to an exciting collection of familiar and fresh songs. Nussbaum Cohen enjoys venturing beyond the usual countertenor repertoire, and has carved out a unique path by being the only artist of his voice type to record lieder in the Austro-Germanic tradition by Brahms, Clara and Robert Schumann, and Erich Wolfgang Korngold. He complements those moody works with songs by Black American composers H. Leslie Adams and Florence Price, music inspired by his Jewish heritage, and the West Coast premiere of *Oh Children!*, a Cal Performances co-commissioned work by Jake Heggie.

Patron Sponsor: Bernice E. Greene

Anne Sofie von Otter, *mezzo-soprano*
Kristian Bezuidenhout, *fortepiano*

Sun, Oct 5, 3pm, HH

SCHUBERT *Schwanengesang*
and selected works for solo keyboard†

The magisterial mezzo-soprano Anne Sofie von Otter has shown that her formidable powers know no bounds—from her diva status as the superlative Octavian (*Der Rosenkavalier*) of her generation; to long associations with Carlos Kleiber, Claudio Abbado, and Sir Colin Davis, and genre-crossing collaborations with Elvis Costello, Brad Mehldau, and Rufus Wainwright. With acclaimed keyboardist Kristian Bezuidenhout, von Otter brings "strikingly imaginative intensity" (*Gramophone*) to Schubert's *Schwanengesang* song cycle, a collection first published after the composer's death that mines complex emotional terrain, from love and despair to sorrow and serenity. A selection of Schubert keyboard interludes showcases Bezuidenhout's supreme poetry.

Major Support: Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation

Nobuyuki Tsujii, *piano**

Thu, Oct 30, 7:30pm, ZH

BEETHOVEN, *An die ferne Geliebte*
arr. LISZT

BEETHOVEN Piano Sonata in F minor, *Appassionata*

TCHAIKOVSKY, *The Nutcracker Suite*
arr. PLETNEV

PROKOFIEV Piano Sonata No. 7

Japanese pianist Nobuyuki Tsujii—known to his legion of fans simply as Nobu—is that rare classical musician with a pop star's following. Since winning the gold medal at the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, he has gone on to a stellar international career, filling concert halls with his emotionally direct, charismatic interpretations. Here he plays Beethoven's timeless *Appassionata* sonata, Mikhail Pletnev's piano adaptation of music from Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*, and Prokofiev's tumultuous seventh sonata. "[Nobu] brings quite an unusual gift to the performances he gives—interpretations which are entirely focused on the possibilities of sound and feeling; he almost reinvents the music he is playing" (*Seen and Heard International*).

* Cal Performances debut

† For complete program, please visit the Cal Performances website.



ARYEH NUSSBAUM COHEN



ANNE SOFIE VON OTTER



NOBUYUKI TSUJII

Classical Recital

Samantha Hankey, mezzo-soprano*

Myra Huang, piano

Sun, Jan 18, 3pm, HH

Program to include Robert Schumann's *Dichterliebe* and songs by Satie, Weill, Porter, and others†

American mezzo-soprano Samantha Hankey makes her Cal Performances debut with an inviting program of lieder, cabaret songs, and popular favorites sung in English, French, and German. Hankey made a big splash in the opera world when she appeared in a last-minute cast change as Octavian in the Metropolitan Opera's *Der Rosenkavalier* in 2023, where the *New York Times* praised her "mighty yet smooth sound... tireless energy and dramatic skill." In demand internationally for her compelling stage presence and lustrous tone, Hankey opts for more intimate fare in recital, including songs by Kurt Weill and Cole Porter, Poulenc and Satie, as well as Robert Schumann's much-loved *Dichterliebe*.

Patron Sponsors: S. Shariq Yosufzai and Brian James

SAMANTHA HANKEY

Jeremy Denk, *piano*

Bach's Six Partitas for Solo Keyboard

Fri, Nov 14, 8pm, ZH

Pianist Jeremy Denk has secured his place in the pantheon of great American performers—and in the hearts of Berkeley audiences—through keen interpretive insight and captivating virtuosity. This season, the MacArthur Fellow, author, and noted musical commentator returns to Cal Performances with Bach's six keyboard partitas, compositions known for being as technically intricate as they are sublime. "A pianist and Bach interpreter of world-class stature...his readings...abound with intelligence, character, immaculate technical control, and ravishing tonal resources" (*Classics Today*).

Steven Banks, *baritone saxophone**

Xak Bjerken, *piano**

Golden Silhouettes

Sun, Feb 1, 3pm, HH

SAINT-SAËNS	Bassoon Sonata
CARLOS SIMON	<i>hear them</i>
JOHN MUSTO	<i>Shadow of the Blues</i>
BEETHOVEN	7 Variations on "Bei Männern, welche Liebe fühlen"
BARBER	Cello Sonata

It is not every day you get to hear a saxophone virtuoso reimagine seminal works composed for bassoon, cello, and voice on his deeply expressive instrument of choice. In his Cal Performances debut, Steven Banks, "the saxophone's best friend, fiercest advocate, and primary virtuoso in the classical realm" (*Washington Post*) and the first saxophonist to win the coveted Avery Fisher Career Grant, offers a whirlwind musical tour on the mighty baritone saxophone. His recital features works by two celebrated American composers—a duet commissioned from Carlos Simon and a blues-inflected song cycle by John Musto—and cello showpieces by Beethoven and Barber. Banks reveals the dramatic layers in these works in his inspired interpretations, fueled by a burnished, glimmering tone.

Bruce Liu, *piano**

Tue, Feb 10, 7:30pm, ZH

LIGETI	<i>Fanfares</i>
BEETHOVEN	Sonata in C-sharp minor, <i>Moonlight</i>
CHOPIN	Nocturnes, Op. 27 Selected Impromptus Fantaisie-Impromptu
RAVEL	<i>Alborada del gracioso</i>
ALBÉNIZ	<i>El Puerto</i>
LISZT	<i>Rhapsodie espagnole</i>

The young Chinese Canadian pianist Bruce Liu has caught the attention of listeners worldwide, praised for "playing of breathtaking beauty" (*BBC Music Magazine*) and an "effortless virtuosity [that] consistently oozes charisma" (*Classics Today*). Ever since taking first prize at the International Chopin Piano Competition in 2021, Liu's star has been on the rise, with warmly received recitals on many of the world's most prestigious concert stages. His Cal Performances debut program features a pleasing selection of that award-winning Chopin, Beethoven's ever-popular *Moonlight* sonata, and a trio of pieces inspired by Spanish themes.



JEREMY DENK



STEVEN BANKS



BRUCE LIU

* Cal Performances debut

† For complete program, please visit the Cal Performances website.

Classical Recital

Alexandre Kantorow, *piano**

Thu, Apr 23, 7:30pm, ZH

BACH arr. LISZT Variations on "Weinen, Klagen,
Sorgen, Zagen"

MEDTNER Piano Sonata in F minor

BEETHOVEN arr. LISZT Symphony No. 6, *Pastorale*

French pianist Alexandre Kantorow, admired for his "assured, eloquent playing" (*The New York Times*), makes his Berkeley debut in a wide-ranging program of brilliant keyboard music. The recital features two of Franz Liszt's piano transcriptions of massive choral and orchestral works: his haunting variations on themes from Bach's twelfth cantata, and his highly virtuosic arrangement of Beethoven's evocative *Pastorale* symphony. Complementing these familiar gems, Nikolai Medtner's rarely performed first sonata is all lyricism and logic.

Patron Sponsors: Art Berliner and Marian Lever

ALEXANDRE KANTOROW

Chris Thile, mandolin and vocals

Fri, Feb 27, 8pm, ZH

A dazzling virtuoso and musical shapeshifter, the “extroverted, stellar, and spectacular mandolinist” (*Los Angeles Times*) Chris Thile brings the full range of emotions to his eclectic recital performances. Thile is always compelling, whether shredding on the mandolin, singing a ballad, or telling charming stories that recall his time as host of the public radio program *Live from Here*. Drawing on selections from *Laysongs*, his first-ever solo recording from 2024, the MacArthur Fellow and four-time Grammy winner is just as likely to play his highly personal take on a Bach partita as he is a classic bluegrass tune or one of his introspective original songs. Be prepared for surprises!



CHRIS THILE

Geneva Lewis, violin*

Evren Ozel, piano

Sun, Mar 1, 3pm, HH

BACH	Violin Sonata in E major
R. SCHUMANN	Piano Sonata in F minor, <i>Concerto for piano without orchestra</i>
SCHOENBERG	Phantasy
SCHUBERT	Fantasy in C major

Praised for her lustrous tone and deft, dancing energy in a wide range of repertoire, New Zealand-born, US-raised violinist Geneva Lewis has been garnering attention on the international recital circuit since winning both the Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award and an Avery Fisher Career Grant. In her Cal Performances debut, she plays a lean late-period masterpiece by Schoenberg, Bach’s E major violin sonata, and Schubert’s deeply conversational Fantasy in C major. Pianist Evren Ozel returns to campus for this dynamite recital pairing following his impressive March 2025 Berkeley debut. “Lewis’ tone was rich and full-bodied, her intonation precise and technique impressive” (*San Francisco Classical Voice*).



GENEVA LEWIS

Víkingur Ólafsson, piano

Wed, Apr 29, 7:30pm, ZH

See page 7 for full listing.

Renée Fleming, soprano

Inon Barnatan, piano

Sun, May 3, 3pm, ZH

Among the most celebrated singers of our time, 2023 Kennedy Center Honoree and five-time Grammy winner Renée Fleming captivates with her sumptuous voice, consummate artistry, and riveting stage presence. A restless and innately collaborative creative spirit, Fleming’s recent work has found her on stage for the world premiere of Kevin Puts’ *The Hours* at the Metropolitan Opera, and on screen in a new series of IMAX films, *Renée Fleming’s Cities That Sing*. In this special recital, Fleming joins with star pianist Inon Barnatan for a program of beloved songs, arias, and piano showpieces. “Each part [of her range] has its own distinctive colour, like a river that gleams differently when the sun catches different parts of it” (*Sydney Morning Herald*).

Patron Sponsors: Michael A. Harrison and Susan Graham Harrison

Major Support: The Sir Jack Lyons Charitable Trust



RENÉE FLEMING

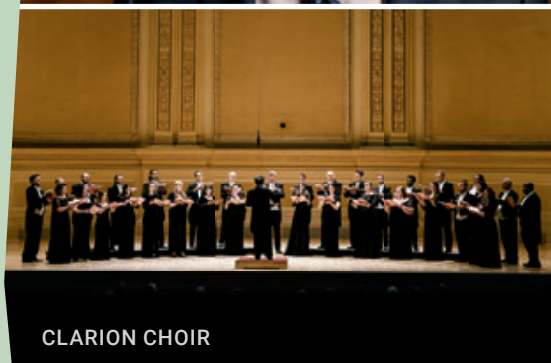
* Cal Performances debut

Early Music

THE ENGLISH CONCERT



STEVEN FOX



CLARION CHOIR



ANN HALLENBERG

The English Concert

Handel's *Hercules*

Harry Bicket, *conductor*

Sun, Mar 8, 3pm, ZH

The Clarion Choir

Steven Fox, *artistic director*

Ann Hallenberg, *mezzo-soprano* (Dejanira)

William Guanbo Su, *bass* (Hercules)*

Hilary Cronin, *soprano* (Iole)*

Alexander Chance, *countertenor* (Lichas)*

Britain's extraordinary early-music ensemble visits with another exquisite concert performance of a Handel masterwork in what has become an eagerly anticipated highlight of each Cal Performances season. *Hercules* is a fine showcase for the richly expressive mezzo-soprano Ann Hallenberg, who sings the demanding role of the hero's wife Dejanira, evolving from impatience to rage to despair as her jealousy leads her to murder and madness. Sung in English, *Hercules* also features some of Handel's most gorgeous choral writing, showcasing the crystalline voices of New York City's Clarion Choir. "A certain magic occurs when Bicket gives the down beat: the players unleash gleaming rays of sound" (*The New York Times*).

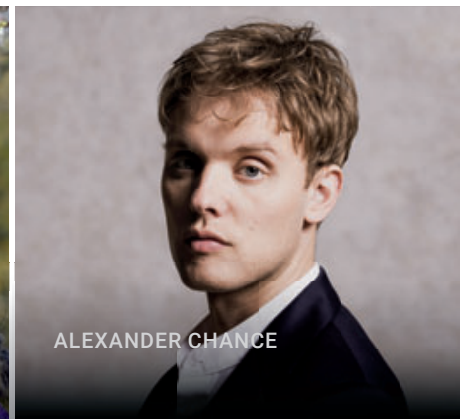
Patron Sponsors: The Lynne LaMarca Heinrich and Dwight M. Jaffee Fund, The Estate of Ross E. Armstrong, Anonymous



WILLIAM GUANBO SU



HILARY CRONIN



ALEXANDER CHANCE

CAL PERFORMANCES ENSEMBLE DEBUT

Twelfth Night

Handel's *Aminta e Fillide*

Sun, Nov 9, 3pm, HH

David Belkovski and Rachell Ellen Wong, *direction*

Nicoletta Berry, *soprano (Aminta)**

Megan Moore, *mezzo-soprano (Fillide)**

The exciting next-generation period-instrument ensemble Twelfth Night makes its Berkeley debut with a lively concert performance of Handel's romantic comedy *Aminta e Fillide*. Founded by violinist Rachell Ellen Wong and harpsichordist David Belkovski (who made their explosive Cal Performances debuts with cellist Coleman Itzkoff in the 2022–23 season), the group has been praised for its "sensitivity and virtuosity" and "impeccable playing" (*New York Classical Review*). As the shepherd Aminta, soprano Nicoletta Berry sings the beloved aria "Se vago rio fra sassi"; and as the nymph Fillide, mezzo-soprano Megan Moore gives us "Fiamma bella ch'al ciel s'invia." Excerpts from Vivaldi's opera *Il Giustino* showcase the ensemble's fiery instrumentalists.

Théotime Langlois de Swarte, *violin*

Justin Taylor, *harpsichord*

Sun, Mar 22, 3pm, HH

Works by Vivaldi, Bach, Biber, and Vitali†

Charismatic and accomplished violinist Théotime Langlois de Swarte returns to Berkeley with harpsichordist Justin Taylor, for a thrilling program of Baroque showpieces. In Bach's sonatas, the keyboard rises to equal partner with the violin, as the two parts swirl and spar in buoyant counterpoint. The duo also performs an arrangement of Vivaldi's Op. 3 violin concerto in D major and programs Bach's solo keyboard arrangement of that work as a fascinating complement. "They move as one breathing, feeling body, and it's spellbinding..." (*The Guardian*).

Jordi Savall, Hespèrion XXI, La Capella Reial de Catalunya, Tembembe Ensamble Continuo

Un Mar de Músicas (A Sea of Music)

Tue, Apr 21, 7:30pm, ZH

Catalan viol virtuoso Jordi Savall returns with the follow-up to his compelling *Routes of Slavery* program honoring the more than 25 million people enslaved by Western nations over close to four centuries. Savall is joined by nearly three dozen musicians, including his celebrated ensembles Hespèrion XXI and La Capella Reial de Catalunya, the Mexican group Tembembe Ensamble Continuo, and special guest performers from Canada, Guinea, Guadeloupe, Mali, Brazil, Cuba, Haiti, and Venezuela who place their rich musical traditions in dialogue with Spanish and European forms. "[Savall] illustrates with striking detail the way that music served as an unbroken thread that traversed the Atlantic, a cultural fabric that flourishes to this day" (*San Francisco Chronicle*).

An *Illuminations*: "Exile & Sanctuary" event.

Visit calperformances.org/illuminations for details.

The Tallis Scholars

Mysteries and Miracles

Fri, Apr 24, 8pm, FCC

Works by Tallis, de Wert, Gallus, Victoria, Gabrieli, and Pärt†

The exquisite singers of the Tallis Scholars visit with an Easter season program featuring works inspired by miraculous events in the biblical story of Jesus' life. Victoria's *Missa O magnum mysterium*, celebrating the miracle of the virgin birth, is the concert's centerpiece, amplified by motets by Tallis, de Wert, and Slovenian composer Jacobus Gallus exploring Christian themes of wonder and awe. Contemporary Estonian composer Arvo Pärt illuminates Christ's teachings in his *Tribute to Caesar*, and marvels at the appearance of the Virgin of Guadalupe in *Virgencita*. "These ten singers displayed the floating silkiness, light without seeming insubstantial, that has been Tallis's trademark over its remarkable career" (*The New York Times*).

* Cal Performances debut

† For complete program, please visit the Cal Performances website.



RACHELL ELLEN WONG AND
DAVID BELKOVSKI



THÉOTIME LANGLOIS DE SWARTE
AND JUSTIN TAYLOR



JORDI SAVALL



THE TALLIS SCHOLARS

New Music

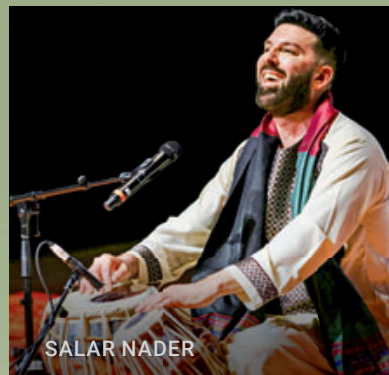
Third Coast Percussion & Salar Nader, *tabla**

Murmurs in Time

Sat, Nov 1, 8pm, ZH

HUSSAIN	<i>Murmurs in Time</i>
JESSIE MONTGOMERY	<i>Lady Justice/Black Justice, The Song</i>
JLIN	<i>Please Be Still</i>
TIGRAN HAMASYAN	<i>Sonata for Percussion</i>

In a poignant tribute to the late *tabla* master and longtime Cal Performances friend Zakir Hussain, Chicago's Third Coast Percussion continues a collaboration initiated with the music legend before his passing. The Grammy-winning ensemble, praised for performances that "push percussion in new directions, blurring musical boundaries and beguiling new listeners" (NPR), had commissioned Hussain to compose *Murmurs in Time*—a major work that combines the beauty and complexity of Hindustani classical music with the group's new-music ethos. In this Berkeley performance, Salar Nader, a *tabla* virtuoso and disciple of Hussain since age seven, performs his teacher's part in the ensemble. The program also includes newly commissioned works from in-demand composer/performers Jessie Montgomery, Tigran Hamasyan, and Jlin, and a solo performance by Nader.



THIRD COAST PERCUSSION

Kronos Quartet

Beyond the Golden Gate

Sat, Oct 11, 8pm, ZH

Music by Dai Wei, Wu Man, Lu Yun, Tan Dun,
Nicole Lizée, Victoria Shen, and Angélica Negrón†

Featuring Wu Man, *pipa* in conversation with David Lei
Windy Chien, *visuals*

Since its founding 50 years ago, the peerless Kronos Quartet has revolutionized what a string quartet can be. Through collaborations with musicians and composers across the globe, robust commissioning initiatives, pace-setting educational programs, and just plain stellar musicianship, Kronos has made concert music relevant and responsive to the people and issues of our time. Joined by the next generation of Kronos musicians in the quartet's current lineup, founder David Harrington has doubled down on the ensemble's mission. Its two-part Berkeley program features new and recent works by an international cohort of strikingly original women composers, including world premieres by Dai Wei and Victoria Shen; plus a special presentation of *Beyond the Golden Gate*, a hybrid performance-discussion-screening with Bay Area community activist David Lei that explores the impact of Chinese Americans on American culture.

An *Illuminations*: "Exile & Sanctuary" event.
Visit calperformances.org/illuminations for details.



KRONOS QUARTET



JOYCE DIDONATO

Joyce DiDonato, mezzo-soprano

Time for Three*

Emily – No Prisoner Be

Sat, Feb 7, 8pm, ZH

A Cal Performances Co-commission

Nicolas Kendall, *violin and vocals*
Charles Yang, *violin and vocals*
Ranaan Meyer, *bass and vocals*

Superstar mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato's latest immersive program is an all-star collaboration with Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Kevin Puts and Grammy-winning chamber ensemble Time for Three. In a series of 24 intimate songs, DiDonato traverses the bold, mysterious, provocative, and deeply touching poetry of Emily Dickinson, accompanied by the eclectic singing instrumentalists of Time for Three. "Leave it to DiDonato to open the deepest wells of human feeling and experience, of shimmering aspiration and shattering despair...grippingly and magnificently performed music" (*San Francisco Classical Voice*).



TIME FOR THREE

Eco Ensemble

David Milnes, *director*

Sat, Feb 7, 8pm, HH

UC Berkeley's acclaimed new-music ensemble in residence does not need to look far to access some of the world's most compelling and innovative chamber music. The university's much-admired music department boasts some of contemporary music's leading lights, as both celebrated faculty and alumni with international careers. This season's concert is a deep dive into the music of two exciting recent additions to the composition faculty. Matthew Evan Taylor centers the human breath as a primary organizational structure of his music, and Mu-Xuan Lin's work is influenced by her experience in the visual arts, creative writing, cinema, and theater. "The New German School, the Second Viennese School, the New York School...I imagined a future musicologist writing of the Berkeley School. The central feature? A focus on timbre and time" (*San Francisco Classical Voice*).



ECO ENSEMBLE

* Cal Performances debut

† For complete program, please visit the Cal Performances website.

New Music



Silkroad Ensemble with Rhiannon Giddens *Sanctuary: The Power of Resonance and Ritual*

Thu, Mar 19, 7:30pm
Fri, Mar 20, 8pm, ZH

In its latest program, the pace-setting Silkroad Ensemble explores music as a powerful medium for healing and connection across cultures. Visionary musician Rhiannon Giddens leads a marvelously eclectic collection of performers steeped in American, South Asian, West African, and southern European musical traditions, in an interactive presentation that welcomes audience participation and reflection. Italian *tarantella*, Congolese string music, Indian *tabla*, American roots music, and Syrian *taarab* converse across ethnic and national boundaries, with the signature organicism and collaborative ethos that has defined Silkroad's performances since its founding 25 years ago. "Surprising and beautiful...you can hear divisions of genre and style wash away in real time like the ramparts of a crumbling sandcastle" (*San Francisco Chronicle*).

Lead Sponsor: Nadine Tang

An *Illuminations*: "Exile & Sanctuary" event.

Visit calperformances.org/illuminations for details.

SILKROAD ENSEMBLE
WITH RHIANNON GIDDENS

Canto Ostinato An AMOC* & Sandbox Percussion* Co-Production

A work by Simeon ten Holt

Sun, Feb 22, 3pm, ZP

Jonathan Allen, Victor Caccese,
Ian Rosenbaum, Terry Sweeney, *percussion*

Conor Hanick, *piano*

Matthew Aucoin, *piano**

A dream collaboration for new-music enthusiasts! The "blindingly impressive...preternaturally talented" (*The New York Times*) American Modern Opera Company (AMOC*) and the "virtuosic and utterly mesmerizing" (*The Guardian*) Sandbox Percussion join forces to present an epic, rarely performed opus by Dutch composer Simeon ten Holt. *Canto Ostinato* is a layered, shimmering minimalist work from the 1970s that has earned a dedicated following in ten Holt's native Netherlands, and is realized here by the four mallet percussionists of Sandbox, joined by AMOC* members Conor Hanick and Matthew Aucoin on piano. As envisioned by these sterling interpreters, ten Holt's hypnotic instrumental score unfurls in an emotional dramatic arc during an afternoon-length sonic journey. AMOC*'s previous production of Messiaen's *Harawi* was a 2024–25 season highlight, so don't miss out!

JACK Quartet

Sun, Mar 15, 3pm, HH

See page 12 for full listing.

Theatre of Voices

Sun, Apr 26, 3pm, ZH

JULIA WOLFE *Italian Lesson* (West Coast Premiere,
Cal Performances Co-commission)

MICHAEL GORDON *A Western* (West Coast Premiere)

Among the world's most distinctive and respected vocal ensembles, Paul Hillier's Theatre of Voices—praised for "fearlessness, verve, and beauty" (*The Times*, London)—makes a rare US visit with the West Coast premieres of two substantial recent works by luminaries of American contemporary music. Julia Wolfe's *Italian Lesson*, a Cal Performances co-commission composed specially for these remarkable singers, is a charming bilingual romp. The music is a setting of Cynthia Zarin's poem of the same name, the English and Italian text suggesting rhythms, tempos, and colors in the score. Michael Gordon's *A Western* is inspired by the 1950s Hollywood western *High Noon*, starring Gary Cooper and Grace Kelly.



SANDBOX PERCUSSION




JACK QUARTET



THEATRE OF VOICES

* Cal Performances debut

Dance



PARIS OPERA BALLET/
HOFESH SHECHTER

CAL PERFORMANCES COMPANY DEBUT

Paris Opera Ballet

A North American Premiere by Hofesh Shechter

Thu, Oct 2, 7:30pm

Fri, Oct 3, 8pm

Sat, Oct 4, 2pm, ZH

HOFESH SHECHTER New Work

A sensational and daring artistic collaboration! Steeped in a revered ballet tradition that dates to the court of Louis XIV, the stunning dancers of the Paris Opera Ballet meet the visceral and emotive choreography of London-based choreographer Hofesh Shechter in the North American premiere of a new evening-length work. Shechter, "London's most vital choreographer" (*Time Out London*), creates vivid, urgent cinematic tableaux in his acclaimed works, and his bold new creation has been envisioned especially for this exquisite French company. This special tour includes only two US cities, and just this single West Coast engagement—book your seats now! "Every dance looked fabulous...amorous sensuality and irresistible virtuosity" (*Los Angeles Times*).

Lead Sponsor: Anonymous

Patron Sponsor: Rockridge Market Hall

Major Patron of the Paris Opera: CHANEL

Sponsor of the Paris Opera outreach: Crédit Agricole Corporate Investment Bank

CAL PERFORMANCES COMPANY DEBUT

Sadler's Wells and Shaolin Temple present

Sutra

Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui / Antony Gormley /
Szymon Brzóska
with the Monks of Shaolin Temple

Sat, Nov 8, 8pm

Sun, Nov 9, 3pm, ZH

Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, choreographer

Antony Gormley, visual creation and design

Szymon Brzóska, composer

Contemporary dance and ancient martial arts combine in this award-winning collaboration between Belgian choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, sculptor Antony Gormley, composer Szymon Brzóska, and 20 Buddhist monks from the Shaolin Temple in China's Henan Province. *Sutra* explores the Shaolin *kung fu* tradition in the context of contemporary culture, inviting a cadre of modern-day practitioners to lend their skills—the flying kicks, backflips, and shadow-boxing practiced as part of their spiritual discipline—to a humorous fable about a European outsider learning about their monastery. With clever set design by Gormley and a chamber music score by Brzóska performed live, the production has earned rave reviews across the globe. "A brave, thrilling, elliptical piece...[an] odyssey into the mind of a Zen Buddhist" (*The Telegraph*, UK).

Co-produced with Athens Festival, Festival de Barcelona Grec, Grand Théâtre de Luxembourg, La Monnaie Brussels, Festival d'Avignon, Fondazione Musica per Roma, and Shaolin Cultural Communications Company

BAY AREA PREMIERE

MOMIX

Alice

Sat, Nov 29, 2pm & 8pm **THANKSGIVING WEEKEND**

Sun, Nov 30, 3pm, ZH

Moses Pendleton, artistic director

Follow the mesmerizing dancer-illusionists of MOMIX down the rabbit hole in *Alice*, a wild and fantastical take on Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* by company founder Moses Pendleton. Blending illusion and acrobatics with whimsy and wonder, *Alice* features the bold athleticism and theatrical flair of MOMIX's celebrated dancers as they traverse a series of absurdist vignettes inspired by Carroll's characters that just get curiously and curiously! "Freakishly funny...an eccentric, magical journey" (*Santa Barbara Independent*).



SIDI LARBI CHERKAOUI / ANTONY GORMLEY /
SZYMON BRZÓSKA
SUTRA



MOMIX
ALICE

Dance

Martha Graham Dance Company

GRAHAM100: A Three-Season Celebration of the Company's 100th Anniversary

Sat, Feb 14, 8pm
Sun, Feb 15, 3pm, ZH

Janet Eilber, artistic director

Sat, Feb 14

GRAHAM	<i>Night Journey</i> (music: William Schuman) <i>Chronicle</i> (music: Wallingford Riegger)
BAYE & ASA	<i>Cortege</i> (music: Jack Grabow)

Sun, Feb 15

GRAHAM	<i>Appalachian Spring</i> (music: Aaron Copland) <i>Immediate Tragedy</i> (music: Henry Cowell)
JAMAR ROBERTS	<i>We the People</i> (music: Rhiannon Giddens)
HOPE BOYKIN	<i>New Work</i> (Bay Area Premiere)

It is impossible to overstate Martha Graham's influence on dance in the past century. Her distinctive, groundbreaking movement technique has been carried in dancers' bodies for generations; the dance and music works she commissioned have grown and multiplied over hundreds of performances; and her contributions to the art of stage design and dance production are countless. Since the 1930s, members of her company reflected diverse cultural backgrounds, and Graham's commitment to experimentation and attention to contemporary social, political, psychological, and gender issues has forever altered the scope and direction of the art form.

The extraordinary Graham company returns to Cal Performances for the first time in more than a decade to celebrate its 100th anniversary with classic Graham works such as the iconic *Appalachian Spring*, the psychological thriller *Night Journey*, and the anti-war protest *Chronicle*—all featuring Isamu Noguchi's original sets—alongside newly commissioned dances by some of today's most compelling choreographers. Jamar Roberts' *We the People*, a collaboration with roots musician Rhiannon Giddens, explores rage and resistance; and in-demand choreography team Baye & Asa creates a new work in response to Graham's seminal war protest, *Cortege of Eagles*. Hope Boykin, Ailey alumna and respected choreographer for dance, theater, and film, also premieres a new work.

Patron Sponsor: Beth DeAtley (2/15)

*"I wanted to begin not with characters
or ideas, but with movements...
I wanted significant movement.
I did not want it to be beautiful or fluid.
I wanted it to be fraught with inner
meaning, with excitement and surge."
—Martha Graham*



MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY

BAY AREA PREMIERE

Mark Morris Dance Group

MOON

A Cal Performances Co-commission

Fri–Sat, Jan 23–24, 8pm

Sun, Jan 25, 3pm, ZH

Wendall K. Harrington, *projections*

Isaac Mizrahi, *costumes*

It's hard to predict the next source of inspiration for the dizzyingly prolific and singularly creative choreographer Mark Morris—will it be an iconic Beatles album, a Baroque masterpiece, a biblical story? This time, Morris looks upward—at the Moon!—to explore our fascination with our constant celestial companion. Live and recorded music, from folk song to pop hits to concert works, provide the backdrop for Morris' latest creation, a poetic and playful reflection on our attempts as earthlings to understand our enigmatic neighbor. As Morris says, "I'm interested in how the Moon came to be our fall-in-love token, and the mystery and glamour of it."

MOON is commissioned by Cal Performances, UC Berkeley; the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in partnership with Arizona Arts Live, University of Arizona; Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; and Mark Morris Dance Group.

CAL PERFORMANCES COMPANY DEBUT

A.I.M by Kyle Abraham

Sat, Feb 21, 8pm

Sun, Feb 22, 3pm, ZH

Charanee Wade, *vocals**

Crystal Monee Hall, *vocals**

Liany Mateo, *bass**

Luther Allison, *piano**

Otis Brown III, *drums**

Guy Dellacave, *saxophone**

Other musicians to be announced

KYLE ABRAHAM *The Gettin'* (music: Max Roach, with arrangements and original compositions by Robert Glasper)
If We Were a Love Song (music: Nina Simone)
2 X 4 (music: Shelley Washington)

Visionary choreographer Kyle Abraham brings his accomplished A.I.M (Abraham.In.Motion) company to Berkeley for its eagerly anticipated Cal Performances debut, featuring three works danced to live performances of the music that inspired them. Abraham tells stories at the intersection of Black and queer culture, reflecting on themes of love, isolation, and personal and social change. Max Roach's track "The Gettin'" from his *Freedom Now Suite* infuses the movement on stage with a taut, edgy energy. *If We Were a Love Song* features moody music by Nina Simone sung by Crystal Monee Hall, setting the stage for a series of intimate solos and duets exploring different aspects of love. And the kinetic new *2 X 4* is a collaboration with composer and saxophonist Shelley Washington fueled by contrasts and oppositions. "[Abraham] likes to spread the love with his company, A.I.M, and, in doing so, broaden the viewer's experience of what a dance concert...can be" (*The New York Times*).

Lead Sponsor: Nadine Tang

* Cal Performances debut



MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP



A.I.M BY KYLE ABRAHAM

Dance

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Tue–Thu, Apr 7–9, 7:30pm

Fri, Apr 10, 8pm

Sat, Apr 11, 2pm & 8pm

Sun, Apr 12, 3pm, ZH

Alicia Graf Mack, *artistic director*

Matthew Rushing, *associate artistic director*

From its first public performances in 1958, to the premiere of the masterpiece *Revelations* in 1960, through the struggles of touring in the Civil Rights Movement, to the tragic loss of its founder in 1989—across so much social upheaval and cultural change, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has thrived as a model of Black resilience and unparalleled artistic excellence. More change lies ahead as the company welcomes exciting new leadership and its first Berkeley performances under incoming artistic director Alicia Graf Mack. With brand-new commissions from next-generation creators and beloved works by Ailey himself, this revered institution continues to embody the values and vision of its founder through performances of exceptional power, beauty, and grace.

Patron Sponsors: Janice and Nicholas E. Brathwaite (4/7)



ALVIN AILEY
AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

The Joffrey Ballet *Midsummer Night's Dream*

Fri, Apr 17, 7pm

Sat, Apr 18, 8pm

Sun, Apr 19, 3pm, ZH

Alexander Ekman, *choreographer*

Mikael Karlsson, *composer*

Anna von Hauswolff, *vocalist*

Straying far from Shakespeare's familiar path, the peerless Joffrey Ballet returns to Berkeley with Alexander Ekman's daring and exuberant *Midsummer Night's Dream*, a mind-bending trip to a surreal realm of unearthly delights. This "odd, wonderful, provocative and utterly original work" (*Chicago Sun Times*) begins during the traditional Scandinavian summer solstice festival—the dancers celebrating a day of revelry and romance under the maypole—but soon blossoms into a sensual, otherworldly fantasy. Featuring Swedish indie rock sensation Anna von Hauswolff and performed to a score by composer Mikael Karlsson, *Midsummer* is a bold fusion of classical and contemporary ballet that artfully blurs the line between the real and the imagined, and makes us wonder, is it all a dream?

This brilliant work always packs the house in the Joffrey's hometown of Chicago, so order your tickets now!

Lead Sponsor: Anonymous

Major Support: Anonymous (4/17), Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation (4/18), Beth DeAtley (4/19)

THE JOFFREY BALLET
MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Cal Performances' 2026 Gala with The Joffrey Ballet

SAVE THE DATE: FRI, APR 17, 2026

5:30pm Cocktail Reception

7pm Performance

9pm Gala Dinner

Cal Performances invites you to join us on Friday, April 17, 2026, for an unforgettable evening with The Joffrey Ballet. All proceeds from this event will support Cal Performances' artistic initiatives and education programs.

The best seats for the performance will be reserved for Gala guests. Seating will be limited, so we encourage you to save the date and plan to be part of this festive high-profile event. More information will be available soon. In the meantime, contact Cal Performances' Development Office at 510.642.8653 or donate@calperformances.org with any questions.

Theater



YAA SAMARI DANCE THEATRE
GATHERING

BAY AREA PREMIERE

Manual Cinema

The 4th Witch

Inspired by *Macbeth*

A Cal Performances Co-commission

Sat, Nov 22, 8pm, ZH

The amazingly inventive visual storytellers of Manual Cinema return to Cal Performances with another meticulously crafted, gloriously handmade production. *The 4th Witch* follows a young girl, orphaned during wartime, who becomes unwittingly apprenticed to the three witches from Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. As the truth of her family's fate is revealed, she must choose between paths of reconciliation and vengeance. Told without text—like a silent film coming to life on stage—the story explores themes of war and generational conflict through shadow puppetry, actors in silhouette, immersive sound design, and live music. "Manual Cinema has created a whole new art form. In a digital world, this beguiling analog throwback...has proved enormously popular" (*Chicago Tribune*).

An *Illuminations*: "Exile & Sanctuary" event.

Visit calperformances.org/illuminations for details.

CAL PERFORMANCES COMPANY DEBUT

Yaa Samar! Dance Theatre

Gathering

Fri, Feb 27, 8pm

Sat, Feb 28, 2pm & 8pm

Sun, Mar 1, 3pm, ZP

Conceived, written, and directed by choreographer Samar Haddad King, *Gathering* explores themes of love, loss, trauma, and dislocation. Through movement, text, song, and puppetry, an international cohort of collaborating artists tells a fictional story of a village under siege, and one woman's struggle to reconcile her fragmented memories. Part staged work, part interactive experience, *Gathering* invites audiences to join as participants and witnesses in the collective action. "An uncommonly deft combination of dance and verbal theater" (*The New York Times*).

CAL PERFORMANCES COMPANY DEBUT

Opera Parallèle

La Belle et la Bête

Nicole Paiement, artistic director and conductor

Brian Staufenbiel, director and scenic designer

Fri–Sat, Mar 13–14, 8pm, ZH

by Philip Glass

Libretto by the composer

Based on the film by Jean Cocteau

Featuring Hadleigh Adams, baritone (La Bête/Avenant)

Full cast to be announced

This astonishingly original presentation of the fairy tale *Beauty and the Beast* blurs the distinctions between film and live opera, merging Jean Cocteau's classic 1946 romantic fantasy with Philip Glass' mesmerizing 1994 score. Glass composed the music as a new soundtrack to the film, transforming the original spoken French dialogue into sung libretto. Now Opera Parallèle has responded to the dreamlike, subconscious elements of the story with its own new film and stage direction, further blurring the barriers between the characters on screen and the singers on stage. The work asks, What is true beauty? What is good and evil? Can we go beyond appearances and discover the beauty that lies inside the soul? "A multi-veined phantasmagoria of sights and sounds, drama and pathos and humor" (*San Francisco Chronicle*).

Performed in French with English subtitles

Patron Sponsor: Robert Ellis



Jazz

Somi*

Sat, Feb 21, 8pm, ZP

Riveting vocalist and composer Somi Kakoma, known simply as "Somi," is truly a jazz artist for our globally connected times. The Midwestern daughter of parents who emigrated from Rwanda and Uganda, she found her musical voice traversing cultural bridges between Africa and the US, weaving Afropop, soul, and jazz into her sumptuous, elegant, deeply grooving body of work. A return to her singer-songwriter roots, the music on her latest release was composed in Lagos, Dakar, Paris, and New York, offering a sonic travelogue that weaves deeply personal storytelling with modern jazz and African sensibilities. "[Her music is] a party and a history lesson, it's a manifesto and a poem, it's a call to dance and think at once" (*PopMatters*).



SOMI

Cécile McLorin Salvant

Thu, Feb 5, 7:30pm, ZH

Hailed as “her generation’s most imaginative and thrilling jazz interpreter” (*Spin*), vocalist and composer Cécile McLorin Salvant is much admired for beguiling projects that bring fresh perspectives to jazz performance through dramatic storytelling, vivid historical context, and daring original composition. A MacArthur Fellow and three-time Grammy winner, Salvant is classically trained and steeped in jazz, blues, and Caribbean music, as well as Baroque repertoire and musical theater—an extraordinary musician who also surrounds herself with many of the best and brightest artists on today’s scene.



CÉCILE MCLORIN SALVANT

Julia Keefe Indigenous Big Band*

Fri, Mar 6, 8pm, ZP

A truly one-of-a-kind ensemble, the Julia Keefe Indigenous Big Band celebrates and extends the contributions of Native American musicians, composers, and bandleaders throughout the rich history of jazz. Indigenous artists like Russell “Big Chief” Moore, Mildred Bailey, Oscar Pettiford, and Jim Pepper ascended into the limelight as star performers, but many other players were never recognized. Today Keefe’s dynamic ensemble shines a light on that legacy, featuring a “who’s who” of Indigenous musicians from a range of tribal affiliations across North and South America.

An *Illuminations*: “Exile & Sanctuary” event.

Visit calperformances.org/illuminations for details.



JULIA KEEFE INDIGENOUS BIG BAND

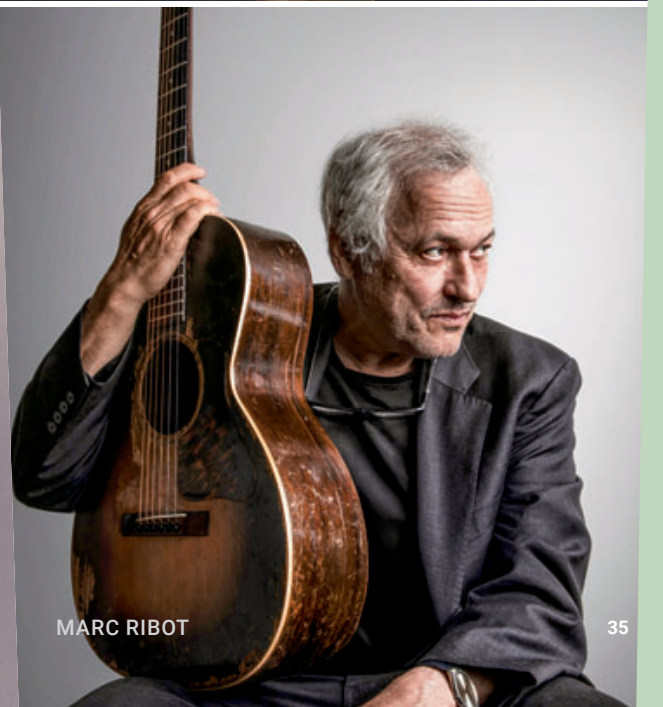
Charlie Chaplin’s *The Kid*

Marc Ribot, *guitar**

Film screening with live music

Sat, Mar 7, 8pm, ZP

An iconoclast guitarist and fixture of New York’s downtown music scene for decades, Marc Ribot lends his distinctive musical personality to a live score for a special screening of Charlie Chaplin’s 1921 silent masterpiece, *The Kid*. Ribot’s bluesy avant-roots guitar playing defined the sound of Tom Waits’ acclaimed albums of the 1980s and ‘90s, and in his own work he has explored the legacy of free jazz hero Albert Ayler, Cuban bandleader Arsenio Rodríguez, and Haitian classical composer Frantz Casseus. Ribot channels all these influences as a counterpoint to Chaplin’s slapstick and sentimental story of an abandoned child and his adoptive father. “[Ribot’s] presence meshed so seamlessly with the film that it seemed almost not to exist on its own... a tour de force” (*The Wall Street Journal*).



MARC RIBOT

Vocal Celebration



LILA DOWNS

Lila Downs

Día de los Muertos

Sat, Oct 25, 8pm, ZH

Celebrate Día de los Muertos, the Day of the Dead, with Grammy- and Latin Grammy-winning Mexican American singer Lila Downs. With "a stunning voice [and] a confident multicultural vision grounded in her Mixtec Indian roots" (*Los Angeles Times*), Downs is admired for organically bridging cultures and languages as both a musician and activist. Backed by an all-star band, this Berkeley favorite brings her powerful voice and vibrant stage presence to a festive set of original and traditional songs in Spanish and English, as well as indigenous languages from her native Oaxaca.

Patron Sponsors: Dr. Rupali Das-Melnyk and Dr. Ostap Melnyk

Vienna Boys Choir

Strauss For Ever

Sun, Nov 16, 3pm, ZH

Universally adored for its "pure and pristine sound" (*San Francisco Chronicle*), the legendary Vienna Boys Choir returns to Berkeley with a lively program celebrating the 200th birthday of one of Vienna's most cherished native sons. Johann Strauss Jr. was the grandfather of the Viennese waltz and polka styles that defined that city's music for generations, and this choir has been singing his music since the 1920s! Come hear choral renditions of classics like the *Blue Danube* waltz, *Tales from the Vienna Woods*, and a selection of rollicking polkas, all sung with spirit and finesse by these angelic young voices.

Patron Sponsor: Beth DeAtley

Soweto Gospel Choir

Peace

Sun, Dec 14, 3pm, ZH

There is possibly no sound on earth more stirring, more uplifting than the voices of the storied Soweto Gospel Choir raised in song. In this special holiday season concert, the multi-Grammy-winning South African cultural ambassadors return to Berkeley singing of love and peace, from gospel classics and spirituals to feel-good pop songs by Peter Gabriel, Kate Bush, Leonard Cohen, and others, delivered with their superhuman vocal blend and dazzling showmanship. "Listening to the glorious harmonies and watching the inspired faces of the performers...even the coldest hearts would struggle to resist" (*Limelight Magazine*).



VIENNA BOYS CHOIR



SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR

Vocal Celebration



KELLI O'HARA

San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus *Holiday Spectacular 2025!*

Sat, Dec 20, 2pm & 8pm, ZH

Revel in the warm sonic embrace of a couple hundred talented tenors, baritones, and basses dressed in ugly Christmas sweaters and elf outfits at this year's *Holiday Spectacular!* A little naughty, but mostly very nice, the much-adored San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus returns for its annual—and wildly popular—Christmas pageant at Zellerbach Hall. The hilarious and heartwarming spectacle is different each year, as the chorus offers clever sendups of pop culture and political personalities, and chart-topping music hits are mixed in with classic holiday carols. Due to overwhelming demand, a second performance has been added this season, so now is the perfect time to start a new holiday tradition in the company of friends and family!



SAN FRANCISCO GAY MEN'S CHORUS

An Evening with Kelli O'Hara*

Sat, Jan 31, 8pm, ZH

Marquee Broadway star, opera diva, acclaimed television actor—what can't Kelli O'Hara do? From her Tony-winning performance in *The King and I*, to a starring role in Kevin Puts' *The Hours* at the Metropolitan Opera, to the Emmy-nominated *The Gilded Age* on HBO, she dazzles at every turn. In her eagerly anticipated Cal Performances debut, O'Hara sings favorite show tunes and classics from the Great American Songbook, plus some surprises. Don't miss a chance to hear her radiant voice in this rare cabaret setting! "True theater royalty, one of a handful of go-to leading ladies that has amassed a rabid, fanatic following" (*Broadway World*).



LARA DOWNES

Lara Downes and Friends *This Land: Reflections on America* Featuring Judy Collins*, Tarriona "Tank" Ball*, and the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir

Sat, May 9, 8pm, ZH

In the stirring and eclectic presentation *This Land*, celebrated pianist, NPR host, and California native Lara Downes welcomes an all-star cast of collaborators for a program of classical and popular music that explores the richness and complexity of the American experience. Folk legend Judy Collins, Grammy-winning singer and poet Tarriona "Tank" Ball (of Tank and the Bangas fame), and the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir join Downes in an inspiring selection of music spanning more than a century, reflecting on our capacity for empathy and community as we approach our nation's 250th anniversary.

An *Illuminations*: "Exile & Sanctuary" event.

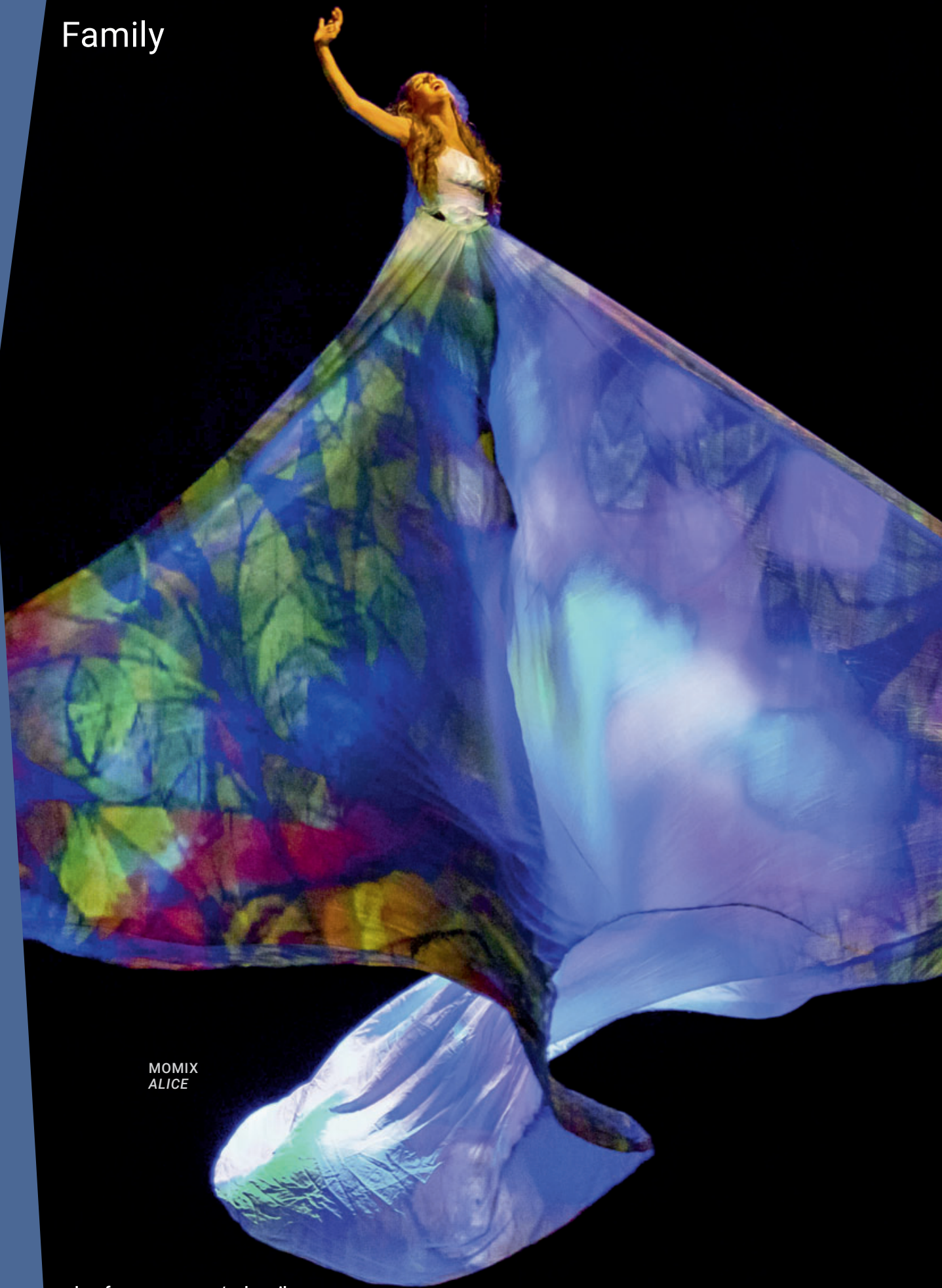
Visit calperformances.org/illuminations for details.



JUDY COLLINS

* Cal Performances debut

Family



MOMIX
ALICE

Vienna Boys Choir

Strauss For Ever

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Patron Sponsor: Beth DeAtley

BAY AREA PREMIERE

MOMIX

Alice

Sat Nov 29 2pm & 8pm **THANKSGIVING WEEKEND**

Sun Nov 30 3pm, ZH

Moses Pendleton, artistic director

Follow the mesmerizing dancer-illusionists of MOMIX down the rabbit hole in *Alice*, a wild and fantastical take on Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* by company founder Moses Pendleton. Blending illusion and acrobatics with whimsy and wonder, *Alice* features the bold athleticism and theatrical flair of MOMIX's celebrated dancers as they traverse a series of absurdist vignettes inspired by Carroll's characters that just get curiously and curiously! "Freakishly funny... an eccentric, magical journey" (*Santa Barbara Independent*).

Drum Tao

Sat, Mar 21, 8pm

Sun, Mar 22, 3pm, ZH

Masters of thunderous spectacle and jaw-dropping athleticism, the *taiko* drummers of Drum Tao conjure "a visual cornucopia" (*Broadway World*) in their high-energy productions. The Japanese troupe blends cutting-edge stagecraft with centuries-old drumming traditions and breathtaking choreography to dazzle audiences worldwide. Contemporary music fuses with traditional instruments, vibrant costumes, and dramatic lighting for an unforgettable experience!



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