



For Immediate Release: April 28, 2026

[2026–2027 Season Announcement Press Kit](#)

[2026–2027 Season Brochure \(PDF\)](#)

[2026–2027 Season Video \(YouTube\)](#)

CAL PERFORMANCES 2026–27 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 Church, Berkeley (also known as First Congregational Church) – 2345 Channing Way,
Berkeley

Henry J. Kaiser Center for the Arts – 10 10th Street, Oakland

Ticket Information

Tickets to Cal Performances 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. (Check website for [summer and holiday hours](#).)

There is a \$20 service charge on all subscription orders and \$15 per order service charge on ticket purchases made by phone or online that are not part of a subscription package. There is no fee for tickets purchased in person at the Zellerbach Hall Ticket Office unless they are part of a subscription.

SEPTEMBER 2026

Friday, September 25, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Hall

Saturday, September 26, 1pm

Saturday, September 26, 7:30pm

Sunday, September 27, 3pm

Dance

[The Australian Ballet](#)

Oscar[®] by Christopher Wheeldon

Synopsis by Christopher Wheeldon and Joby Talbot based on an original idea by Alexander Wise and Christopher Wheeldon

Christopher Wheeldon, *choreography*
Berkeley Symphony Orchestra
Joby Talbot, *composer*
Jean-Marc Puissant, *stage and costume design*
Jon Goldman, *lighting design*
David Bergman, *video design*

Program:

Christopher Wheeldon/Oscar® (North American Premiere)

Inspired by the legacy and lore of one of literature’s most extraordinary minds, Christopher Wheeldon’s visionary ballet blends choreography with the story of Oscar Wilde. *Oscar* explores themes of romance, sacrifice, and forbidden love, weaving elements of Wilde’s biography together with references to his timeless stories and characters. Admired for both its artistic vigor and the emotional nuance of its programs, The Australian Ballet returns to Berkeley for the first time since the company’s performances of *Swan Lake* in 2014. Joby Talbot’s orchestral score is performed live by the Berkeley Symphony Orchestra, and designer Jean-Marc Puissant’s set and costume designs complete the production.

An *Illuminations*: “Innocence & Experience” event. Visit calperformances.org/illuminations for details.

Tickets: \$60–\$215 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, September 27, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Recital

Lester Lynch, *baritone*

Kevin Korth, *piano*

René Mandel, *violin*

Wyatt Underhill, *violin*

Kaya Bryla, *viola*

Anne Richardson, *cello*

Program:

Works by Mahler, Schubert, Barber, and Mussorgsky, as well as arrangements of select traditional songs by Gordon P. Getty

Dramatic baritone Lester Lynch has tackled many of the most iconic opera roles to great acclaim: Crown in *Porgy and Bess*, Wotan in *Das Rheingold*, the Conte di Luna in *Il Trovatore*, and the title roles in *Macbeth* and *Rigoletto*. He can sing with both great power and silken subtlety, and brings dramatic flair and gravitas to his recital performances. For his Cal Performances debut, Lynch lends his voice to selections exploring love, loss, and mortality,

including Samuel Barber's brooding *Dover Beach*, written for baritone and string quartet, as well as a selection of traditional songs and spirituals.

Tickets: \$75–\$90 (prices subject to change)

OCTOBER 2026

Sunday, October 4, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Recital

[Tom Borrow, piano](#)

Program:

Mozart/Piano Sonata in A minor, K. 310

Liszt/*Réminiscences de Don Juan*

Piano Sonata in B minor

Named a BBC New Generation Artist by age 22—an honor that has led to performances with all the BBC orchestras, at Wigmore Hall, and on multiple BBC broadcasts—Tom Borrow's star is on the rise. Borrow is a protégé of Murray Perahia, and his debut with the Cleveland Orchestra several seasons ago put him on the international map. In this recital, his Cal Performances' debut, he performs Mozart's Sonata in A minor alongside Liszt's "operatic fantasy" based on Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, plus his notoriously complex and harrowing Sonata in B minor.

Tickets: \$75–\$90 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, October 11, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall

Chamber Music

[Takács Quartet](#)

with Jeremy Denk, piano

Program:

Mendelssohn/String Quartet in F minor, Op. 80

Gabriela Lena Frank/*Quijotadas*

Franck/Piano Quintet in F minor

The Takács Quartet returns to Berkeley in two performances this season, welcoming the ensemble's newest member, cellist Mihai Marica. This first concert features the Grammy-winning quartet performing with pianist Jeremy Denk—winner of a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship and the Avery Fisher Prize. The program features a work by Berkeley native Gabriela Lena Frank—named Composer of the Year in 2026 by *Musical America*—that explores the delusions of Cervantes' Don Quixote. The Romantic composer César Franck's searing and

sensual Piano Quintet in F minor showcases Denk's passionate side. (The second performance takes place on Sunday, January 24, 2027.)

Tickets: \$55–\$125 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, October 18, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall

Vocal Celebration

[Judy Collins](#)

Sweet Judy Blue Eyes: The Farewell Tour

Program:

A living legend of American music, Judy Collins returns to Berkeley with a retrospective concert that looks back on her six-decade-long career and pays tribute to the generations of artists she has influenced. A contemporary of Bob Dylan and Joan Baez, the folksinger, songwriter, and activist became a household name with hit renditions of Joni Mitchell's "Both Sides Now" and Stephen Sondheim's "Send In the Clowns." She has recorded 55 albums and, as a testament to her impact on the music world, artists such as Rufus Wainwright, Shawn Colvin, Dolly Parton, and Leonard Cohen honored her legacy with the album *Born to the Breed: A Tribute to Judy Collins*.

Tickets: \$50–\$115 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, October 18, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Recital

[Ben Bliss, tenor](#)

with Christopher Allen, piano

Program:

Tenor Ben Bliss has performed for audiences at the Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, and grand halls in Vienna and Paris. Recent seasons have found him at the Met in Jeanine Tesori's *Grounded* and singing Don Ottavio in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* conducted by Yannick Nézet-Séguin. Bliss makes his Cal Performances' debut with pianist Christopher Allen for a rare and intimate recital.

Tickets: \$80–\$100 (prices subject to change)

Friday, October 23, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Hall

Seasonal Holidays

[Mariachi Herencia de México](#)

La Nueva Generación Tour

Día de los Muertos

Program:

Cal Performances celebrates Día de los Muertos with Chicago's next-generation *mariachi* ensemble. Mariachi Herencia de México was founded 10 years ago by César Maldonado, a founder of the Mariachi Heritage Foundation, a nonprofit organization that promotes *mariachi* education in Chicago public schools. The band fuses traditional repertoire with influences from other Mexican, Caribbean, and Central and South American genres such as *salsa*, *bolero*, *bossa nova*, *son jarocho*, *huapango*, and *cumbia*—held together with deep emotion and bold storytelling.

Tickets: \$28–\$78 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, October 24, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Hall

New Music

[Steve Reich at 90](#)

A Birthday Celebration

Bang on a Can All-Stars

Ensemble Signal

Brad Lubman, conductor

Program:

Steve Reich/*Electric Counterpoint*

Double Sextet

In All Your Ways (West Coast Premiere, Cal Performances Co-commission)

More than 20 virtuosic Reich specialists join forces in celebration of Steve Reich's 90th birthday in a program of seminal, award-winning works and a new commission. New York's Bang on a Can All-Stars is joined by next-generation Ensemble Signal—among the foremost interpreters of Reich's music and close Reich collaborators—for a one-night mini-festival of Reich classics that includes the Pulitzer-winning Double Sextet, alongside *In All Your Ways* heard here in its West Coast premiere.

Tickets: \$60–\$125 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, October 25, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Recital/Early Music

[lestyn Davies, countertenor](#)

Oliver Wass, Baroque triple lever harp and modern harp

Program:

Works by Monteverdi, Frescobaldi, Purcell, Handel, Schubert, Debussy, Poulenc, Britten, Beach, and Nico Muhly

Countertenor Iestyn Davies is praised for his sensitive musicianship and the beauty and technical dexterity of his voice. An esteemed Handelian, he is a Grammy winner and recipient of multiple *Gramophone* awards, and has collaborated with many of today's leading composers, including Thomas Adès, George Benjamin, and Nico Muhly. At Cal Performances, Davies sang the role of Bertarido in *Rodelinda* with The English Concert in 2023, and now he returns in recital with Oliver Wass, the first harpist ever to win the prestigious Guildhall Gold Medal, for a ride through 400 years of music from the Old and New Worlds.

Tickets: \$75–\$90 (prices subject to change)

NOVEMBER 2026

Sunday, November 1, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Recital

[Ema Nikolovska, mezzo-soprano](#)

Sean Shibe, guitar

Orlando Variations

Program:

Mezzo-soprano Ema Nikolovska returns to Berkeley following her 2024 debut—this time joined by acclaimed guitarist Sean Shibe—in an eclectic concert weaving together acoustic and electric music across genres and centuries. *Orlando* riffs on the character and energy of Virginia Woolf's groundbreaking novel of the same name, with echoes of the medieval *Chanson de Roland* and Ariosto's *Orlando Furioso*. Exploring love, conflict, and identity, the duo performs works by Schubert, Dowland, Bob Dylan, Laurie Anderson, and others alongside new commissions by Sasha Scott, Nahre Sol, and more.

Tickets: \$75–\$90 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, November 8, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Early Music

[Jean Rondeau, harpsichord](#)

All-French Baroque Program

Program:

L. Couperin/Suite in D major

Rameau/Prelude in A minor

Suite in A major

F. Couperin/Prelude in C major, from *L'Art de toucher clavecin*

La Ténébreuse

La Favorite

Royer/*La marche des Scythes*

Returning to Cal Performances following his 2023 recital, French harpsichordist Jean Rondeau performs a characteristically ambitious and insightful program of keyboard works by four leading lights of the French Baroque.

Tickets: \$75–\$90 (prices subject to change)

Thursday, November 12, 7:30pm

Henry J. Kaiser Center for the Arts

Friday, November 13, 7:30pm

Saturday, November 14, 7:30pm

Sunday, November 15, 3pm

Theater

[William Kentridge's *The Head & the Load*](#)

With music composed and conceived by

Philip Miller with Thuthuka Sibisi

William Kentridge, *concept and director*

Philip Miller, *composer*

Gregory Maqoma, *choreography*

Thuthuka Sibisi, *music director and co-composer*

Program:

William Kentridge's *The Head & the Load* (West Coast Premiere)

Visionary South African artist William Kentridge returns to Cal Performances after two previous visits, featuring the US premiere of *SIBYL* in 2023 and the Bay Area premiere of *The Great Yes, The Great No* in 2025. This time, he brings the West Coast premiere of a seminal work that—through dance, projection, speech, song, shadow play, costume, and music—chronicles the untold history of more than two million Africans who labored, fought, and died during the First World War. *The Head & the Load* takes its name from a Ghanaian proverb, “The head and the load are the troubles of the neck,” and continues Kentridge’s exploration of history, language, and artistic and political movements through richly layered and inventive performance works.

Kentridge’s production unfolds on a massive stage, weaving together texts by anticolonial authors and Dada poets in multiple languages, with original music by Philip Miller and Thuthuka Sibisi that intermingles traditional African songs with quotes from WWI-era European music by Satie, Hindemith, and Schoenberg.

An *Illuminations*: “Innocence & Experience” event. Visit calperformances.org/illuminations for details.

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

Thursday, November 19, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Hall

Recital

[Lise Davidsen, soprano](#)

[James Baillieu, piano](#)

Lise Davidsen returns to Cal Performances after her well-received debut recital in February 2025. The performance takes place on the heels of a remarkable year for this singular artist, including her long-awaited role debut as Isolde in Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* at the Metropolitan Opera and at Barcelona's Gran Teatre del Liceu in two stunning productions created expressly for her. In this recital she is joined by James Baillieu—one of the leading song pianists of his generation—for a selection of songs and arias.

Tickets: \$75–\$195 (prices subject to change)

Friday, November 20, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Hall

New Music

[The Complete Philip Glass Piano Etudes](#)

Pianists to include Timo Andres, Aaron Diehl, Daniela Liebman, and Jason Moran

Program:

Philip Glass' Piano Etudes represent the composer's most personal body of work, a self-portrait of a life's practice representing some of his most intimate and inventive music. Cal Performances hosts a tribute to the prolific and hugely influential composer during his 90th birthday year, inviting 10 accomplished pianists from all corners of the music world—both longtime Glass interpreters and special guests—to reflect on this remarkable music.

Please note: Philip Glass will not be present for this performance.

Tickets: \$50–\$125 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, November 21, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Hall

Jazz

[Jason Moran and the Harlem Hellfighters](#)

James Reese Europe and the Absence of Ruin

Program:

The Absence of Ruin is jazz pianist and composer Jason Moran's multidisciplinary meditation on the life and legacy of James Reese Europe, the underrecognized Black American composer and bandleader who landed in France with the Harlem Hellfighters on New Year's Day 1918. The celebrated all-Black unit helped break the stalemate on the Western Front during the First World

War, while composer Europe's finely honed military music ensemble popularized the new spirit of jazz in a war-torn France fascinated with Black culture. Moran's layered work explores the idea of memory in Black culture, augmenting his long-standing Bandwagon bandmates—bassist Tarus Mateen and drummer Nasheet Waits—with a seven-piece horn section and visuals by Oscar-nominated cinematographer Bradford Young.

An *Illuminations*: "Innocence & Experience" event. Visit calperformances.org/illuminations for details.

Tickets: \$50–\$110 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, November 28, 2pm
Sunday, November 29, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall

Family/Seasonal Holidays

[Cirque Kalabanté](#)

WOW (World of Words)

Program:

Led by Yamoussa Bangoura—a multidisciplinary artist of Guinean origin who founded both a school of circus arts and a company specializing in African arts—Cirque Kalabanté brings together traditional African movement and music with the Montreal circus arts tradition in a work that communicates its story almost entirely through dance, acrobatics, contortion, music, and clever staging in place of dialogue. Their new production, *WOW (World of Words)*, explores the transmission of knowledge, the meeting of cultures, and the magic of shared respect.

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

DECEMBER 2026

Friday, December 4, 7:30pm
Saturday, December 5, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Hall

Dance/Jazz

[Ambrose Akinmusire & Aszure Barton](#)

A a | a B : B E N D

Aszure Barton, *choreographer and director*

Ambrose Akinmusire, *composer, electronics, and trumpet*

Program:

Two leading lights in their fields—choreographer Aszure Barton and composer Ambrose Akinmusire—create an urgent, intimate yet wildly provocative world in which dancers and musician come together onstage in a thrilling embrace of human friction, tension, and explosive

beauty, inspired by the concept of “unlearning.” Barton is known for mining complex emotional terrain in her works, as in her *Mere Mortals* at San Francisco Ballet in 2024. Oakland’s own Akinmusire performs his instrumental and electronics score live.

An *Illuminations*: “Innocence & Experience” event. Visit calperformances.org/illuminations for details.

Tickets: \$45–\$105 (prices subject to change)

Friday, December 11, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Hall

Saturday, December 12, 2pm

Sunday, December 13, 3pm

Dance/Family

[Mark Morris Dance Group](#)

Holidayland

Mark Morris, *staging and choreography*

Nico Muhly, *music*

R. L. Stine, *story*

Allen Moyer, *set design*

Elizabeth Kurtzman, *costume design*

Program:

Mark Morris/*Holidayland* (World Premiere; Cal Performances Co-commission)

From classical music-inspired creations like *L’Allegro, Il Penseroso ed il Moderato* (Handel) to pop music-drenched romps like *Pepperland* (The Beatles) and *The Look of Love* (Burt Bacharach and Hal David), choreographer Mark Morris has a broad musical palette. Up next is *Holidayland*, a celebratory, family-friendly work that brings to life the tale of a magic village that bursts into light, music, and dancing for one day each year. Created in collaboration with *Goosebumps* author R. L. Stine, this brand-new production features a score by acclaimed composer Nico Muhly performed live by the MMDG Music Ensemble and an imaginative visual world by Obie Award–winning scenic designer Allen Moyer.

Tickets: \$50–\$155 (prices subject to change)

Thursday, December 17, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Hall

Jazz/Seasonal Holidays

[The Hot Sardines](#)

Holiday Stomp

Program:

Retro jazz band the Hot Sardines brings a sassy, swinging holiday show to Zellerbach Hall in a raucous yuletide extravaganza inspired by beloved holiday films like *White Christmas* and *It's a Wonderful Life*, plus timeless jazz and popular music classics associated with Louis Armstrong, Édith Piaf, Duke Ellington, and more.

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

Saturday, December 19, 1pm

Zellerbach Hall

Saturday, December 19, 5pm

Vocal Celebration/Seasonal Holidays

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

Holiday Spectacular 2026!

Program:

In what has quickly become a Cal Performances holiday tradition, the mischievous singing elves of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus wrap Berkeley in a warm hug at the annual *Holiday Spectacular*. Expect year-end cheer in the form of seasonal earworms and campy sketches, served up with slices of satire and sprinkled with plenty of charm.

Tickets: \$55–\$110 (prices subject to change)

JANUARY 2027

Sunday, January 17, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Recital

[Lukas Sternath, piano](#)

Program:

Schubert/arr. Liszt/Selected song transcriptions

Schubert/*Wanderer* Fantasy

Liszt/*Années de pèlerinage*, “Deuxième année: Italie”

A protégé of both Igor Levit and Paul Lewis, 24-year-old pianist Lukas Sternath has burst onto the international concert stage following a stream of high-profile competition awards. As a boy chorister, Sternath toured the world with the esteemed Vienna Boys Choir; since then, he has gone on to perform with leading European orchestras, making his debut with the Vienna Philharmonic during the 2025–26 season. His Cal Performances debut recital program features the second suite from Liszt's *Années de pèlerinage*, which includes Liszt's famous *Petrarch* Sonnets and his *Dante* Sonata; a beguiling selection of Schubert songs arranged by Liszt; and Schubert's epic, restless *Wanderer* Fantasy.

Tickets: \$75–\$90 (prices subject to change)

Friday, January 22, 7:30pm
Saturday, January 23, 7:30pm
Sunday, January 24, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall

Family

[Kodo](#)

One Earth Tour 2027: *Luminance*

Program:

The drummers of Kodo return to Berkeley showcasing their athleticism, choreography, and earth-shattering sounds drawn from enormous drums that conjure ancient rituals. The new production *Luminance* celebrates both the troupe's 45th anniversary and *taiko's* ability to stir the soul. The performance features highlights from Kodo's most popular tours, including the mighty *o-daiko* drum solo and climactic "Yatai-Bayashi" finale, and a tribute to Maki Ishii's dynamic *taiko* composition "Monochrome," which involves 10 drums and two large, deeply resonant gongs.

Tickets: \$55–\$125 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, January 24, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Chamber Music

[Takács Quartet](#)

Program:

Mozart/String Quartet in F major, K. 590

Carlos Simon/*Warmth from Other Suns*

Beethoven/String Quartet in B-flat major, Op. 130, with Finale

The Takács Quartet returns to Berkeley for its second performance this season. In this concert, the Takács balances Beethoven's innovative and deeply personal Opus 130 quartet—played here including the dance-like finale with which the piece was published—with a recent work by American composer Carlos Simon, whose *Warmth from Other Suns* is inspired by stories of Black Americans' resettlement northward during the Great Migration of the 20th century. The quartet's first performance of the season, joined by pianist Jeremy Denk, takes place on October 11, 2026.

Tickets: \$110 (prices subject to change)

Friday, January 29, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Hall

Recital

[Mitsuko Uchida, piano](#)

Program:

Haydn/Variations in F minor
Schoenberg/*Six Little Piano Pieces*, Op. 19
Mozart/Rondo in A minor, K. 511
Kurtág/*Márta ligatúrája*
Schubert/Piano Sonata in A major, D. 959

Revered for her sensitivity and deep musical insight, pianist Mitsuko Uchida returns to Berkeley in a solo recital of masterworks by composers with whom she has been closely associated over decades of performances and recordings. She was named *Musical America's* Artist of the Year in 2022 and has been a vital part of the leadership of the Marlboro Music Festival for more than 20 years. Additionally, her 2022 recording of Beethoven's *Diabelli Variations* was nominated for a Grammy Award and won the *Gramophone* Piano Award. Uchida's program explores a kaleidoscope of sentiment and character, from Haydn's inventive Variations in F minor, to a playful Mozart rondo, to Schubert's transcendent late-period Sonata in A major.

Tickets: \$55–\$135 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, January 31, 2pm
Sunday, January 31, 7pm

Zellerbach Hall

Family

[Marvel Studios BLACK PANTHER in Concert](#)

Program:

Experience the drama and majesty of Marvel Studios' *Black Panther*, presented with a live music score in Zellerbach Hall. Marvel heroes come to vivid life accompanied by a unique onstage music ensemble of African percussion instruments, flutes, and indigenous instruments performing highlights from Ludwig Göransson's Oscar- and Grammy-winning score.

Presented by Marvel Studios, Disney Concerts, and AMP Worldwide.

Please note: *BLACK PANTHER* is rated PG13.

Tickets: \$45–\$98 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, January 31, 3pm

Hertz Hall

New Music/Chamber Music

[Attacca Quartet](#)

with Caroline Shaw, voice and violin

Program:

In its first appearance this season, the Attacca Quartet shares the fruits of its auspicious

creative partnership with Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Caroline Shaw. The ensemble has won Grammy Awards for both of its recordings of Shaw's music—*Orange* from 2019 and *Evergreen* from 2022—and continues to engage with her rich explorations of the distinction between art song and chamber music. Shaw joins the ensemble on voice and violin.

Cal Performances welcomes the Attacca Quartet as its 2026-27 Ensemble in Residence. The group's residency will include engagement events on the UC Berkeley campus (to be announced) and a second performance on February 28.

Tickets: \$80–\$100 (prices subject to change)

FEBRUARY 2027

Friday, February 5, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Hall

Saturday, February 6, 7:30pm

Dance

[Compagnie Hervé Koubi](#)

Sol Invictus

Program:

Under the direction of French Algerian choreographer Hervé Koubi, 17 dancers from around the world unite to defy gravity in *Sol Invictus*. The dancers blend contemporary dance, hip-hop, and martial arts, creating a visual language like no other. As they hurl themselves through the air in high-flying arcs and spins, the dancers come to embody Koubi's profound message: that despite the fractures of the world, community is humanity's saving grace. *Sol Invictus* is propelled by a driving, cinematic score featuring compositions by Mikael Karlsson and Maxime Bodson, woven together with the iconic minimalism of Steve Reich.

An *Illuminations*: "Innocence & Experience" event. Visit calperformances.org/illuminations for details.

Tickets: \$30–\$88 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, February 6, 7:30pm

Hertz Hall

New Music

[Eco Ensemble](#)

Program:

UC Berkeley's acclaimed new-music ensemble in residence is praised for its nuanced and attentive interpretations of contemporary chamber music. Specialists of timbre and sound with a keen affinity for electroacoustic music, Eco Ensemble has performed works by luminaries such as Kaija Saariaho and Toshio Hosokawa in recent years, and often devotes its programs to new

and recent work by faculty and alumni of the Music Department's distinguished composition program. The ensemble is directed by UC Berkeley faculty member David Milnes.

Tickets: \$38–\$49 (prices subject to change)

Wednesday, February 10, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Hall

Early Music: Opera & Oratorio

A Maria Manetti Shrem Great Artist Performance

[Henry Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*](#)

[Joyce DiDonato, mezzo-soprano](#)

Il Pomo d'Oro Orchestra and Choir

Maxim Emelyanychev, conductor and harpsichord

Joyce DiDonato, mezzo-soprano (Dido)

Nicholas Phan, tenor (Jephte and Aeneas)

Beth Taylor, mezzo-soprano (Sorceress)

Hugh Cutting, countertenor (Spirit)

Song Hee Lee, soprano (Belinda)

Jiayu Jin, soprano (Second Woman and Filia)

Massimo Altieri, tenor (Sailor)

Alena Dantcheva, soprano (First Sorceress)

Anna Piroli, soprano (Second Sorceress)

Program:

Carissimi/Jephte

Purcell/Dido and Aeneas

Mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato returns to Berkeley with the Italian period-music ensemble Il Pomo d'Oro in a program of Baroque music performing Purcell's tragic opera *Dido and Aeneas* and Carissimi's deeply emotive oratorio *Jephte* in concert. DiDonato has triumphed in opera houses worldwide as the tragic Queen of Carthage in Berlioz's *Les Troyens*, but it wasn't until 2024 that she first performed Purcell's opera in its entirety. A highlight of the evening will be her interpretation of Dido's famed lament, "When I am laid in earth," brought to life with these sensitive accompanists.

An *Illuminations*: "Innocence & Experience" event. Visit calperformances.org/illuminations for details.

Tickets: \$60–\$150 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, February 13, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Hall

Sunday, February 14, 3pm

Dance/Seasonal Holidays

Ballet Folklórico de México de Amalia Hernández

75th Anniversary Tour

Salvador López López, *general director*

Viviana Basanta Hernández, *artistic director*

Program:

Culture bearers and global ambassadors, the artists of Ballet Folklórico de México have forged a reputation for excellence by introducing audiences worldwide to the artistry of Mexican folklore from pre-Columbian civilizations to the modern era. The company was founded 75 years ago in Mexico City by choreographer Amalia Hernández, a visionary who revolutionized the concept of Mexican traditional dance through both original works and her research of regional folklore, music, costumes, and movement styles. The company has reached more than 45 million spectators worldwide and has received countless awards and accolades, positioning itself as one of the world's premier folkloric dance ensembles.

Tickets: \$50–\$110 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, February 14, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Recital

Blake Pouliot, *violin*

Henry Kramer, *piano*

Follow the Lieder

Program:

Dvořák/arr. Pouliot/*Zigeunerlieder*

Jimmy López/*Memento Mei* (West Coast Premiere, Cal Performances Co-commission)

Schubert/*Fantasy in C major, D. 934*

Fauré/arr. Pouliot/*Selected song transcriptions from Op. 7 & Op. 23*

Chausson/*Poème*

Hubay/*Carmen Fantasie Brillante*

Rising star Canadian violinist Blake Pouliot and close collaborator, American pianist Henry Kramer (a recipient of an Avery Fisher Career Grant), perform the West Coast premiere of a newly commissioned work from California composer Jimmy López—a graduate of the UC Berkeley music department whose acclaimed *Dreamers* oratorio was commissioned and presented by Cal Performances in 2019. The duo also showcases its remarkable musical interplay in Schubert's *Fantasy in C major*—a monumental opus from the composer's last year—and a series of works devoted to the influence of art song on instrumental music.

Tickets: \$75–\$90 (prices subject to change)

Friday, February 19, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Hall

Jazz

[Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis](#)

Program:

Artistic director, trumpet virtuoso, and Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Wynton Marsalis brings his final tour as managing and artistic director of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra to Berkeley with this performance. Marsalis' efforts over the past 40 years to establish jazz as "America's classical music" have created a framework for its enduring support. Audiences can expect a display of unparalleled versatility in original compositions and arrangements, New Orleans swing and blues, bebop, and Ellingtonia.

Tickets: \$75–\$198 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, February 21, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Chamber Music

[Danish String Quartet](#)

Program:

Gabriella Smith/*Carrot Revolution*

Shostakovich/String Quartet No. 14 in F-sharp major

Beethoven/String Quartet in C-sharp minor, Op. 131

Celebrated for its uncanny ensemble chemistry and profound interpretive insight, this season the Danish String Quartet plays a blend of cherished masterpieces and contemporary chamber works: Berkeley native Gabriella Smith's dynamic *Carrot Revolution*; Shostakovich's fourteenth quartet, which centers the cello as soloist; and Beethoven's dramatic, moving late-period Opus 131 quartet.

Tickets: \$110 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, February 21, 5pm

Zellerbach Hall

Early Music: Opera & Oratorio

J. S. Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*

[Monteverdi Choir](#)

English Baroque Soloists

Masaaki Suzuki, conductor

Cast to include:

Nick Pritchard, tenor (Evangelist)

Florian Störtz, bass (Jesus)

Program:

Bach/*St. Matthew Passion*

Period-music ensembles the English Baroque Soloists and the Monteverdi Choir—the gold standard in Baroque performance for decades—join forces with conductor Masaaki Suzuki for Bach’s crowning masterpiece during its 300th anniversary year. The powerfully dramatic *St. Matthew Passion* sets the 26th and 27th chapters of the Bible’s Gospel of Matthew to music with interspersed chorales and arias, and is scored for massive forces: a double choir, double orchestra, and vocal soloists. Bach’s transcendent oratorio conveys the story’s intense human drama and moral dilemma, as recounted here by featured soloists Nick Pritchard as the Evangelist and Florian Störtz as Jesus.

Tickets: \$60–\$150

Friday, February 26, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Playhouse

New Music

[LUNA LAB@10](#):

Celebrating a Decade of Young Composers

Missy Mazzoli and Ellen Reid, *composers and hosts*

Dutt & Campbell Duo

Hank Dutt, *viola*

Kate Campbell, *piano*

Friction Quartet

Otis Harriel and Kevin Rogers, *violins*

Mitso Floor, *viola*

Doug Machiz, *cello*

The Living Earth Show

Travis Andrews, *guitar*

Andy Meyerson, *percussion*

Program:

Luna Composition Lab—founded in 2016 by composers Missy Mazzoli and Ellen Reid—is reshaping the future by mentoring a wide range of female, nonbinary, and/or gender-nonconforming composers ages 13 to 18. With LUNA LAB@10, the organization launches its most ambitious project yet: a 10th anniversary celebration featuring 75 world premieres by 50 alumni, commissioned and performed by leading ensembles across the United States and abroad. This special performance spotlights three of these world premieres alongside music by Grammy-nominated composer Mazzoli and Pulitzer prize-winner Reid.

Tickets: \$44 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, February 27, 7:30pm
Sunday, February 28, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall

Dance

[Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo](#)

Program:

Few performers can deliver a joke just as perfectly as they land a *grand jeté*—and the talented male performers of Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo do it with style and sass. Beguiling to ballet insiders and dance world newcomers alike, the “Trocks,” as they are affectionately known, have been serving up their *en pointe* satire of classic dance repertoire—pirouetting in lavish costumes and with just a hint of five o’clock shadow—for more than 50 years.

Tickets: \$55–\$125 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, February 28, 3pm

Hertz Hall

New Music/Chamber Music

[Attacca Quartet](#)

Program:

John Adams/*Iron Jig* (Bay Area Premiere, Cal Performances Co-commission)
Selections from *John’s Book of Alleged Dances*
Beethoven/String Quartet in A minor, Op. 132

Early in its history and barely out of conservatory, the Attacca recorded composer John Adams’ complete works for string quartet to great acclaim. Now, as part of a special Cal Performances celebration of Adams’ 80th birthday, the quartet returns for its second performance in Berkeley this season with a program featuring the composer’s new *Iron Jig* and selections from *John’s Book of Alleged Dances*—a sardonic work infused with bluegrass, jazz, and pre-recorded prepared piano loops.

Cal Performances welcomes the Attacca Quartet as its 2026-27 Ensemble in Residence. The group’s residency includes a performance on January 31 and engagement events on the UC Berkeley campus (to be announced).

Tickets: \$80–\$100 (prices subject to change)

MARCH 2027

Tuesday, March 2, 7:30pm
Wednesday, March 3, 7:30pm
Thursday, March 4, 7pm

Zellerbach Hall

Orchestra

**The Maria Manetti Shrem and Elizabeth Segerstrom
California Orchestra Residency**

[Vienna Philharmonic](#)

Yannick Nézet-Séguin, *conductor*

Program:

Tuesday, March 2, 7:30pm

Vienna Philharmonic

Yannick Nézet-Séguin, *conductor*

Mahler/Symphony No. 9

Wednesday, March 3, 7:30pm

Vienna Philharmonic

Yannick Nézet-Séguin, *conductor*

Yuja Wang, *piano*

Christiane Karg, *soprano*

Prokofiev/Piano Concerto No. 3

Mahler/Symphony No. 4

Thursday, March 4, 7pm

Vienna Philharmonic

Yannick Nézet-Séguin, *conductor*

Christiane Karg, *soprano*

Elīna Garanča, *mezzo-soprano*

San Francisco Symphony Chorus

Jenny Wong, *director*

Mahler/Symphony No. 2, *Resurrection*

The Vienna Philharmonic returns to Berkeley for three concerts led by maestro Yannick Nézet-Séguin in the 2027 The Maria Manetti Shrem and Elizabeth Segerstrom California Orchestra Residency. The revered 185-year-old orchestra and star conductor have enjoyed a close partnership over many years, a relationship finely honed through numerous tours and recordings. For these performances the focus is Mahler, a particularly important figure in the Philharmonic's history whose Ninth Symphony received its posthumous premiere by the orchestra in 1912. The composer's music is a perfect match for the towering institution, which will be joined by a selection of internationally acclaimed guest artists throughout the Berkeley residency.

The first performance features Mahler's poignant final completed symphony, one of the most profound and emotionally complex works in the orchestral repertoire. The second night features both Mahler's Fourth Symphony, with Christiane Karg as soprano soloist, and Prokofiev's Concerto in C major, with superstar pianist Yuja Wang joining at the keyboard. In the final program, Mahler's *Resurrection* symphony takes the listener on a journey through earthly trials to ultimate transcendence, and features vocalists Christiane Karg and Elīna Garanča, and the San Francisco Symphony Chorus.

Tickets: \$75–\$325 (prices subject to change)

Thursday, March 4
Campus

UC Berkeley

5:30pm Cocktail Reception
7pm Performance
9pm Gala Dinner

Gala/Orchestra

[Cal Performances' 2027 Gala](#)

Vienna Philharmonic

Yannick Nézet-Séguin, conductor

Christiane Karg, soprano

Elīna Garanča, mezzo-soprano

San Francisco Symphony Chorus

Jenny Wong, director

Mahler/Symphony No. 2, *Resurrection*

Cal Performances hosts a gala evening with all proceeds supporting Cal Performances' artistic initiatives and education programs. Information is available by contacting the Cal Performances Development Office at 510.642.8653 or donate@calperformances.org.

Saturday, March 6, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Hall

Vocal Celebration

[Cheyenne Jackson](#)

That Guy From That Thing

Program:

Actor and vocalist Cheyenne Jackson makes his Cal Performances debut with a show that combines the glamour of cabaret with the intimacy of a musical memoir. Through evocative songs and storytelling, Jackson shares how he found his way to Broadway, television, and a national solo tour as a “a super-tall, super-queer, super-Christian kid from northern Idaho.”

Jackson was an original cast member in *Xanadu* on Broadway; appeared in television shows *American Horror Story*, *Glee*, and *30 Rock*; and earned a Grammy nomination for his collaboration with the San Francisco Symphony as Tony in *West Side Story*.

Tickets: \$55–\$125 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, March 7, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Recital

[Behzod Abduraimov, piano](#)

Program:

Brahms/Four Piano Pieces, Op. 119

Czerny/Variations on a Theme by Rode, Op. 33

Liszt/*Après une lecture du Dante: Fantasia quasi Sonata*

Debussy/*Suite bergamasque*

Stravinsky/Three Movements from *Petrushka*

Pianist Behzod Abduraimov returns following his rousing Cal Performances recital debut during the 2024–25 season. Abduraimov is admired for combining power and delicacy in performances as both an orchestral soloist and recitalist. His program is rich with underperformed gems of the repertoire, including Debussy's *Suite bergamasque*, Brahms' introspective and wistful Opus 119, and Stravinsky's piano arrangement of music from his ballet, *Petrushka*.

Tickets: \$80–\$100 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, March 14, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Chamber Music

[David Finckel, cello](#)

Wu Han, piano

Program:

Myaskovsky/Cello Sonata No. 2

Prokofiev/Cello Sonata

Rachmaninoff/Cello Sonata

The husband and wife duo of cellist David Finckel and pianist Wu Han has had a singular impact on American concert music for more than a quarter century, with the artists recognized as elite performers, committed educators, and respected impresarios. This all-Russian program features Rachmaninoff's rhapsodic Cello Sonata along with Prokofiev's mercurial Cello Sonata and Myaskovsky's Second Cello Sonata, which was inspired by a particularly memorable performance of the Prokofiev work by Finckel's one-time teacher, the great Mstislav Rostropovich.

Tickets: \$86–\$100 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, March 20, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Hall

Vocal Celebration

[An Evening with Audra McDonald](#)

Program:

Winner of a record-breaking six Tony Awards, two Grammy Awards, and an Emmy, soprano Audra McDonald is equally as mesmerizing in the concert hall as she is on Broadway or television. Critics described something akin to a spiritual awakening on experiencing her transformation as the domineering Mama Rose in the most recent revival of *Gypsy*. At Cal Performances, McDonald performs her signature mix of songs from Broadway, the Great American Songbook, and beyond.

Tickets: \$60–\$195 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, March 21, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall

Early Music

[Théotime Langlois de Swarte, Baroque violin](#)

Thomas Dunford, *lute*

The Mad Lover: Works by the Eccles, Purcell, and Matteis Families

Program:

Two of the most exciting young voices in historically informed performance return to Cal Performances to play an expressive recital exploring the 17th-century English notion of melancholy. Violinist Théotime Langlois de Swarte and luteist Thomas Dunford use John Eccles' *Mad Lover Suite* as a springboard to draw connections between works by three musical families—the English brother-composers Daniel and Henry Purcell, John and Henry Eccles, and the Italian father-son composers Nicola Matteis and Nicola Matteis Jr.

Tickets: \$80–\$100 (prices subject to change)

APRIL 2027

Sunday, April 4, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Chamber Music

[Dover Quartet](#)

Program:

Mozart/String Quartet in B-flat major, K. 458, *The Hunt*
Sibelius/String Quartet in D minor, *Voces intimae*
Brahms/String Quartet in C minor, Op. 51, No. 1

The Dover Quartet has been on a wild ride since its sweep of all the prizes at the Banff International String Quartet Competition a little more than a decade ago. In the interim, the group was nominated for two Grammy Awards and named one of the greatest string quartets of the last 100 years by *BBC Music Magazine*. The Dover returns to Berkeley with a program of contrasting temperaments, ranging from Mozart's ebullient Quartet in B-flat major and Sibelius' spare and brooding Quartet in D minor, to Brahms' sumptuous first quartet.

Tickets: \$75–\$90 (prices subject to change)

Tuesday, April 6, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Hall

Wednesday, April 7, 7:30pm

Thursday, April 8, 7:30pm

Friday, April 9, 7:30pm

Saturday, April 10, 2pm

Saturday, April 10, 7:30pm

Sunday, April 11, 3pm

Dance

[Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#)

Alicia Graf Mack, *Daria L. and Eric J. Wallach Artistic Director*

Matthew Rushing, *associate artistic director*

Program:

The esteemed Ailey company returns for its annual residency, with renewed energy and vision under the artistic direction of celebrated former Ailey dancer Alicia Graf Mack. Elegance and strength, abstraction and soulfulness—the Ailey dancers' movement is guided by a spiritual core that makes this company distinct, whether performing canonical Ailey masterworks like *Revelations* or bringing to life brand-new work by some of today's most compelling choreographers.

Tickets: \$60–\$175 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, April 11, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Recital

[Paul Lewis, piano](#)

Program:

Mozart/Piano Sonata in D major, K. 284

Mendelssohn/*Variations sérieuses*
Copland/Piano Variations
Mozart/Piano Sonata in A major, K. 331

Revered for his interpretations of canonical works of the Classical and Romantic periods, Paul Lewis returns to Cal Performances for the first time since 2013 with a pair of timeless Mozart sonatas, matched with Mendelssohn's virtuosic *Variations sérieuses* and Copland's rarely performed, enigmatic Piano Variations.

Tickets: \$86–\$100 (prices subject to change)

Friday, April 16, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Hall

New Music

[**Aga Khan Master Musicians with Vincent Peirani and Vincent Ségal**](#)

Feras Charestan, *qanun*
Abbos Kosimov, *doira*
Wu Man, *pipa*
Vincent Peirani, *accordion*
Basel Rajoub, *duclar, saxophone*
Vincent Ségal, *cello*
Yurdal Tokcan, *oud*

Program:

The Aga Khan Master Musicians is an artist collective performing new music inspired by old traditions. Originally hailing from Central Asia, China, and the Middle East, its five core members—Feras Charestan, Abbos Kosimov, Basel Rajoub, Yurdal Tokcan, and Wu Man—are joined in this performance by two special guests from France, accordionist Vincent Peirani and cellist Vincent Ségal. The septet performs a program of jointly created works inspired by the ancient routes that connected trade and culture between Asia and the Mediterranean.

Tickets: \$35–\$88 (prices subject to change)

Friday, April 16, 7:30pm

First Church

Early Music

[**The Tallis Scholars**](#)

Slings and Arrows...
Peter Phillips, *director*

Program:

des Prez/*Missa Fortuna desperata*
Busnois/*Fortuna desperata*

Mouton/*Nesciens mater*
Lambe/*Nesciens mater*
Gombert/*Magnificat III*
Regina caeli for 10 voices

The Tallis Scholars founder Peter Phillips first gathered a group of fellow undergraduates to sing Renaissance songs at Oxford University more than 50 years ago. Ever since, the ensemble, a pioneer of this century's early-music revival, has been known for its uncanny vocal blend, pristine clarity, and purity of tone in a range of Renaissance polyphony. The Tallis singers return to Berkeley's First Church with a program centered on one of Josquin des Prez's masterpieces, his *Missa Fortuna desperata*, as well as works by Jean Mouton, Walter Lambe, and Nicolas Gombert.

Tickets: \$80–\$110 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, April 17, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Hall

New Music

[Niladri Kumar](#)

The Space Between the Notes

Niladri Kumar, *sitar and zitar (electric sitar)*

Satyajit Talwalkar, *tabla*

Charlie Lindner, *keyboards*

Dèmitrio Albano, *drums*

Program:

Instrumentalist, composer, and gifted sitarist Niladri Kumar was an admired collaborator and longtime protégé of the late tabla virtuoso Zakir Hussain—appearing multiple times with him at Cal Performances—and their special musical relationship is explored in Sumantra Ghosal's documentary film *The Space Between the Notes*. To honor his friend and mentor, Kumar has created a new ensemble of Indian and North American musicians that will perform a program combining his own original compositions with works that he and Hussain used to play together. In this performance, next-generation musician Kumar performs on acoustic sitar and the electric five-string zitar of his own invention.

Tickets: \$35–\$88 (prices subject to change)

Friday, April 23, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Hall

Orchestra

[Le Concert des Nations](#)

Jordi Savall, *director*

Beethoven Symphonies Nos. 3 & 5

Program:Beethoven/Symphony No. 3, *Eroica*

Symphony No. 5

In Jordi Savall's programs, Berkeley audiences have come to expect the unexpected and painstakingly curated works by lesser-known and often anonymous composers that explore history and reveal connections between people and cultures. This season, he puts his personal stamp on iconic works of the early 19th century—Beethoven's third and fifth symphonies. This concert is part of Savall's project (and lifelong dream) to record and perform all nine of the composer's symphonies on period instruments.

Tickets: \$50–\$150 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, April 24, 7:30pm**Zellerbach Hall***Family***[Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain](#)****Program:**

From Motörhead, the Muppets, Paul Simon, and Tchaikovsky, to Nirvana, Shirley Bassey, the Beach Boys, and Johnny Cash—no genre of music, from any era, is safe from the four-string renegades that comprise the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain. Like a cover band in an episode of *Monty Python*, these strummers have been serving up clever arrangements with a side of self-deprecating British humor for 40 years.

Tickets: \$35–\$88 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, April 25, 3pm**Zellerbach Hall***Early Music: Opera & Oratorio***[The English Concert](#)****Handel's *Alessandro*****Harry Bicket, conductor and harpsichord****Christophe Dumaux, countertenor (Alessandro)****Joëlle Harvey, soprano (Lisaura)****Xenia Puskarz Thomas, mezzo-soprano (Rossane)****Ashley Riches, baritone (Clito)****Alexander Chance, countertenor (Cleone)****Anthony Gregory, tenor (Leonato)****Program:**

The musicians of The English Concert return for their annual Berkeley engagement with a

concert presentation of Handel's 1726 opera *Alessandro*. The lively, charming score explores the romantic life of conqueror Alexander the Great, focusing less on Alessandro's acts of war and more on his turbulent love triangle with the two women who vie for his affection. French countertenor and Handel specialist Christophe Dumaux is Alessandro; American soprano Joëlle Harvey plays Lisaura, and Australian mezzo-soprano Xenia Puskarz Thomas is her competitor, Rossane.

Tickets: \$50–\$140 (prices subject to change)

MAY 2027

Friday, May 7, 7:30pm
Saturday, May 8, 2pm
Sunday, May 9, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall

Dance/Family

[**MOMIX**](#)

Botanica

Moses Pendleton, *artistic director*

Program:

A tour of the seasons unfolds in *Botanica*, as the dancers of MOMIX combine acrobatics, extraordinary costumes, giant puppetry, and a dreamy, pulsing score that ranges from birdsong to Vivaldi. The troupe—founded more than three decades ago by Pilobolus co-founder Moses Pendleton—creates a theatrical performance for audiences of all ages.

Tickets: \$55–\$98 (prices subject to change)