

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 10, 2025  
[Press Room](#)



Photos of Carol T. Christ, left, and Jeffrey MacKie-Mason, right, are available for download from the Cal Performances [press room](#).

## **CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY ANNOUNCES CAROL T. CHRIST TO JOIN JEFFREY MACKIE-MASON AS BOARD OF TRUSTEES CO-CHAIRS**

**Christ and MacKie-Mason bring distinctive expertise in the performing arts, public education, information and technology, community leadership, and cultural philanthropy**

**Christ's appointment follows the four-year tenure of Co-Chair Lance Nagel**

**Berkeley, June 10, 2025**—Cal Performances announces the appointment of UC Berkeley Chancellor Emerita **Carol T. Christ** as Board of Trustees Co-Chair, where she joins current Co-Chair **Jeffrey MacKie-Mason** for a two-year term beginning on July 1. Christ and MacKie-Mason are highly regarded for their leadership in the fields of higher education, information and technology, and cultural philanthropy, and both individuals have made substantial impacts on the UC Berkeley campus, specifically, having served most recently as Chancellor and University Librarian, respectively. Their appointment by the full Board of Trustees reflects their keen understanding of the intersection of the arts and academia, an understanding that will be critical in guiding Cal Performances in the coming years as it works to realize an ambitious strategic plan for the organization, benefitting both the campus and broader San Francisco Bay Area community.

A lifelong enthusiast of the arts, Carol Christ has been attending Cal Performances events since her arrival to the UC Berkeley campus in 1970. She has an avid interest in music having studied the piano since childhood and learning to play the viola as an adult. As Chancellor, she provided valuable feedback for and ultimately approved the organization's strategic plan (later approved, as

well, by her successor, Chancellor Richard K. Lyons), which will continue to be implemented in large part during her tenure as Co-Chair. Following her retirement from UC Berkeley in 2024, Christ joined the Cal Performances Board of Trustees as a Trustee-at-Large. Since that time, she has served on the Executive Committee, Committee on Trustees, and the Strategic Planning Oversight Committee.

A classical pianist and arts aficionado, Jeffrey MacKie-Mason retired from UC Berkeley in 2024 as the University Librarian and Chief Digital Scholarship Officer, Professor in the School of Information, and Professor of Economics. He has been a member of the Cal Performances Board of Trustees since 2016, and has served as Co-Chair since 2021. He was also an active member of Cal Performances' Artistic Advisory and Artistic Literacy Committees 2016–18, and the Finance Committee and Ad-Hoc Online Streaming Platform Committee (which guided the production of *Cal Performances at Home* digital streaming services during the COVID-19 pandemic years) in 2020–21. This will be his final term as Co-Chair.

Christ's appointment follows four years of board leadership by Co-Chair **Lance Nagel**, who will step down from the Board of Trustees at the end of June, having completed 13 years of total service this year. Nagel has been a member of the Board of Trustees 2012–2025, serving as Co-Chair 2021–2025, Treasurer /Secretary 2016–2021, and Chair of the Finance Committee 2013–2021. Prior to that, he served on the Leadership Gifts Committee 2012–14, the Events and Projects Committee 2015–16, and on the Ad-Hoc Online Streaming Platform Committee 2020–2021.

Cal Performances Executive and Artistic Director **Jeremy Geffen** shared, “Under Lance Nagel and Jeff MacKie-Mason's leadership as Board of Trustees Co-Chairs, Cal Performances was successfully able to navigate the often-bumpy road back to in-person performance following a season of lockdown, over the course of four years returning us to Cal Performances' current strong attendance and financial position. Lance and Jeff were critical in uniting the board, audiences, donors, the campus and the community in generating new philanthropy, including instituting an annual spring gala, and new engagement initiatives for this organization, growing Cal Performances' influence at UC Berkeley and beyond. And they deftly steered Cal Performances' strategic planning process, leading us to the plan that was approved in June 2024, and that will guide this organization through the 2028–29 season, leaving a legacy for the next generations of board leadership. I am deeply grateful to Lance for the many hours of guidance, counsel, support, and effort he provided to every board committee, and feel fortunate that Jeff has agreed to extend two years in another term, where he will be joined by Co-chair Chancellor Emerita Carol T. Christ.”

### **Carol T. Christ**

Carol T. Christ served as UC Berkeley's 11th chancellor from 2017 through 2024. A celebrated scholar of Victorian literature, she is also known as an advocate for high-caliber, accessible public higher education, and a champion of women's issues and diversity on college campuses. As chancellor, she worked to foster community, improve the campus climate for people of all backgrounds, celebrate the institution's long-standing commitment to free speech, strengthen UC

Berkeley's financial position, address a housing shortage, and develop a ten-year strategic plan for the campus. Prior to serving as Chancellor of UC Berkeley, Christ was the 10th President of Smith College from 2002 until 2017. In 1970, Christ joined the English faculty at UC Berkeley. As Chair of the department from 1985 to 1988, she built and maintained one of the top-ranked English departments in the country. Christ entered UC Berkeley's administration in 1988, serving first as dean of the Division of Humanities and later as provost and dean of the College of Letters and Science. In 1994, she was appointed vice chancellor and provost and later became executive vice chancellor. During her six years as Berkeley's top academic officer, she was credited with sharpening the institution's intellectual focus and building top-rated departments in the humanities and sciences.

Christ also chairs the boards of the Central European University and the Simons Laufer Mathematical Sciences Institute (SLMath) and serves on the boards of the Marlboro Music School and Festival, the Left Coast Chamber Ensemble, and Rutgers University.

### **Jeffrey MacKie-Mason**

Jeff MacKie-Mason is UC Berkeley's University Librarian Emeritus, and Professor Emeritus of Information and Economics. In June 2024, Jeff MacKie-Mason retired from his positions as University Librarian and Chief Digital Scholarship Officer, Professor in the School of Information, and Professor of Economics at UC Berkeley and received the Chancellor's Distinguished Service Award. MacKie-Mason came to Berkeley after 29 years on the faculty of the University of Michigan, where he served as Dean of the School of Information 2010–2015. He received the Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award from Michigan in 2010. During his time at the helm at the Berkeley Library, he was a leader in the UC drive to flip the scholarly publishing industry to open access, co-chairing the systemwide publisher negotiation team 2018–2024. He also led the successful \$150 million fundraising campaign for the Library. MacKie-Mason earned his PhD in economics from MIT. He has been a pioneering scholar in the economics of the Internet, online behavior, and digital information creation and distribution. His more than 85 scientific publications appear in scholarly journals in the areas of economics, computer science, law, public policy, and information and library science.

MacKie-Mason is a concert pianist with a life-long love of the arts, and has served on the boards of the University Musical Society at the University of Michigan and the Kerrytown Concert House. In addition to his leadership of Cal Performances' Board of Trustees he also currently serves on the board of Authors Alliance, which advances the interests of authors choosing to share their creations broadly in order to serve the public good.

The other Cal Performances Board of Trustees Officers for the 2025-2027 term are Vice Chairs **Janice Brathwaite**, **Susan L. Graham Harrison**, and **Lynne LaMarca Heinrich**, and Secretary/Treasurer **Cary Koh**.

An interview with Christ and MacKie-Mason about their leadership and connection to the performing arts can be found on Cal Performances' [Beyond the Stage blog](#).

## **Cal Performances**

Cal Performances' mission is to unite exceptional artists, ideas, and audiences through live performance to enlighten and enrich lives. As the performing arts presenter at the University of California, Berkeley, Cal Performances offers San Francisco Bay Area audiences approximately 80 world-class performances of live music, dance, and theater each season. It develops unique educational programming that connects the most innovative and accomplished artists in the world with the intellectual capital of UC Berkeley. Cal Performances reaches more than 120,000 people each year through its artistic programming and education and community outreach efforts.

[Jeremy Geffen](#) has served as Cal Performances Executive and Artistic Director since 2019.

More information can be found at [calperformances.org](http://calperformances.org).

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