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[Cal Performances Press Room](#)

CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY OFFERS LIVE AUDIO DESCRIPTIONS FOR BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED PATRONS AT 10 PERFORMANCES IN THE 2025–26 SEASON

Berkeley, CA, September 23, 2025—For the third season in a row, Cal Performances at UC Berkeley is making live audio descriptions available to blind and visually impaired patrons at select dance and theater performances held in Zellerbach Hall throughout the year. This live audio track—delivered by a professional describer to audience members through a wireless headset system—is intended to provide clear and engaging descriptions of the meaningful visual details of a performance. Through a partnership with [Gravity Access Services](#), these live audio descriptions are offered at the 10 performances listed below. The descriptions employ headsets that can be reserved at no additional charge, either at the time of ticket purchase or by contacting the Cal Performances Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 or tickets@calperformances.org. Additional information about services available for patrons with disabilities can be found at calperformances.org/accessibility.

2025–26 Performances with Live Audio Description

Saturday, October 4, 2pm
Zellerbach Hall, Bancroft Way at Dana Street, UC Berkeley campus

Dance with live music

Paris Opera Ballet

Red Carpet, A North American Premiere by Hofesh Shechter

Program:

Hofesh Shechter/*Red Carpet* (North American Premiere)

Steeped in a ballet tradition that dates to the court of Louis XIV, the 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 full-length work. Shechter creates vivid, urgent cinematic tableaux in his works, and his new creation—which will be danced to live music provided by a quartet of cello, double bass, drums, and a brass instrument—has been envisioned especially for the Paris Opera Ballet, whose tour includes only two US cities, with Berkeley as the only one on the West Coast.

Note: There may be limited parking available close to the UC Berkeley campus on the afternoon of the performance due to it being Homecoming Weekend.

To learn more, visit the [Paris Opera Ballet's event detail page](#).

Sunday, November 9, 3pm
Zellerbach Hall, Bancroft Way at Dana Street, UC Berkeley campus

Dance with live music / Family

Sadler's Wells and Shaolin Temple present

Sutra

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

Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, *choreographer*

Antony Gormley, *visual creation and design*

Szymon Brzóska, *composer*

Program:

Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui / *Sutra* (Bay Area Premiere)

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. The chamber music score by Brzóska is performed live.

To learn more, visit the [Sadler's Wells and Shaolin Temple event detail page](#).

Sunday, November 30, 3pm
Zellerbach Hall, Bancroft Way at Dana Street, UC Berkeley campus

Dance/Family

MOMIX

Alice

Moses Pendleton, *artistic director*

Program:

Moses Pendleton / *Alice*

Blending illusion and acrobatics with a sense of whimsy and wonder, *Alice*, choreographed by the company's artistic director Moses Pendleton, features the athleticism and theatrical flair of MOMIX's celebrated dancers as they traverse a series of absurdist vignettes inspired by Lewis Carroll's iconic storybook characters from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

To learn more, visit the [MOMIX presents *Alice* event detail page](#).

Sunday, January 25, 3pm

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

Dance with live music

Mark Morris Dance Group

MOON

Wendall K. Harrington, *projections*

Isaac Mizrahi, *costumes*

Program:

Mark Morris/*MOON* (West Coast Premiere, Cal Performances Co-commission)

Choreographer Mark Morris looks upward at the Moon as his next source of inspiration, exploring humankind's fascination with the constant celestial companion. This new multimedia work danced before a backdrop featuring video, animation, and photo stills of the Moon is set to live and recorded music that includes popular American songbook tunes, as well as excerpts from NASA's Golden Record—a gold-plated copper phonograph record that was launched into space on the Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 spacecrafts in 1977, carrying sounds and images of Earth as a message to any potential extraterrestrial life. The live music features selections from Marcel Dupré's *24 Inventions*, Op. 50 and György Ligeti's *Musica ricercata*, performed on piano, organ, and double bass. Morris says of earthlings' attempts to understand their enigmatic neighbor, "I'm interested in how the Moon came to be our fall-in-love token, and the mystery and glamour of it."

To learn more, visit the [Mark Morris Dance Group *MOON* event detail page](#).

Sunday, February 15, 3pm

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

Dance

Martha Graham Dance Company

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

Janet Eilber, artistic director

Program:

Graham/*Appalachian Spring* (music: Aaron Copland)

Immediate Tragedy (music: Henry Cowell)

Jamar Roberts/*We the People* (music: Rhiannon Giddens)

Hope Boykin/*En Masse* (Bay Area Premiere; music: Bernstein and Christopher Rountree)

As early as the 1930s, the members of Martha Graham's 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 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* featuring Isamu Noguchi's original sets—alongside newly commissioned dances by contemporary choreographers. Sunday's matinee includes the Bay Area premiere of *En Masse* by Ailey alum Hope Boykin as well as Jamar Roberts' *We the People*, a collaboration with roots musician Rhiannon Giddens that explores rage and resistance.

To learn more, visit the [Martha Graham Dance Company GRAHAM100 event detail page](#).

Sunday February 22, 3pm

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

Dance with live music

A.I.M by Kyle Abraham

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

Program:

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)

Choreographer Kyle Abraham brings A.I.M company to Berkeley for its 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 new *2 X 4* is a collaboration with composer and saxophonist Shelley Washington fueled by contrasts and oppositions.

To learn more, visit the [A.I.M by Kyle Abraham event detail page](#).

Saturday, March 14, 8pm

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

Theater

Opera Parallèle

La Belle et la Bête

Nicole Paiement, *artistic director and conductor*

Brian Staufenbiel, *director and scenic designer*
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

Program:
Philip Glass/*La Belle et la Bête*

This 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 story on screen with Philip Glass' 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 onscreen and the singers on stage.

Performed in French with English subtitles

To learn more, visit the [Opera Parallèle *La Belle et la Bête* event detail page](#).

Sunday, March 22, 3pm
Zellerbach Hall, Bancroft Way at Dana Street, UC Berkeley campus

Family / Percussion
Drum Tao
The Best

Program:
Drum Tao/*The Best*

Masters of spectacle and athleticism, the *taiko* drummers of Drum Tao conjure “a visual cornucopia” (*Broadway World*) in their high-energy productions. The company's newest show, *The Best*, blends contemporary stagecraft with centuries-old drumming traditions and new choreography for audiences worldwide.

To learn more, visit the [Drum Tao *The Best* event detail page](#).

Saturday, April 11, 2pm
Zellerbach Hall, Bancroft Way at Dana Street, UC Berkeley campus

Dance
Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
Alicia Graf Mack, *artistic director*

Matthew Rushing, *associate artistic director*

Program:

From its first public performances in 1958, to the premiere of the masterpiece *Revelations* in 1960, through the struggles of touring during the Civil Rights Movement, to the tragic loss of its founder in 1989—across much social upheaval and cultural change, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has thrived as a model of Black resilience and unparalleled artistic excellence. The company now welcomes new leadership, with this residency marking its first Berkeley performances under incoming artistic director Alicia Graf Mack.

Note: The repertoire for this performance will be announced in late 2025 or early 2026.

To learn more, visit the [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater event detail page](#).

Sunday, April 19, 3pm
Zellerbach Hall, Bancroft Way at Dana Street, UC Berkeley campus

Dance with live music
The Joffrey Ballet
Midsummer Night's Dream

Alexander Ekman, *choreographer*
Mikael Karlsson, *composer*
Anna von Hausswolff, *vocalist*

Program:

The Joffrey Ballet continues its association with Cal Performances with a signature work, Alexander Ekman's celebration of the traditional Scandinavian summer solstice festival. A trip to a surreal realm of earthly and supernatural delights, *Midsummer Night's Dream* features a musical score by composer Mikael Karlsson to be performed live by Swedish indie rock sensation Anna von Hausswolff and an on-stage band. Dancers cavort in pastoral revelry as reality and fantasy blur in a joyous ode to the arrival of the summer season.

Note: This is not related to the Shakespeare work with the same name.

To learn more, visit the [The Joffrey Ballet Midsummer Night's Dream event detail page](#).

Tickets for all performances are available at calperformances.org, by phone at (510) 642-9988, or in person at the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, Tuesday–Friday, noon–5:30pm and Saturday–Sunday, 1–5pm. For Ticket Office holiday closures, visit <https://calperformances.org/buy/contact-ticket-office>.

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

calperformances.org/discounts.

PRESS CONTACT

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