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[Cal Performances Press Room](#)



Pictured from left to right: Marc Ribot, Cécile McLorin Salvant, Julia Keeffe Indigenous Big Band, and Somi. Images associated with these performances are available for download from the Cal Performances [Press Room](#) under the Jazz heading.

CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS UPCOMING JAZZ PERFORMANCES

Vocalist and composer
CÉCILE MCLORIN SALVANT
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5 AT 7:30PM
AT ZELLERBACH HALL

Vocalist and composer
SOMI
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21 AT 8PM
AT ZELLERBACH PLAYHOUSE

JULIA KEEFE INDIGENOUS BIG BAND
FRIDAY, MARCH 6 AT 8PM
AT ZELLERBACH PLAYHOUSE

CHARLIE CHAPLIN'S *THE KID*
MARC RIBOT, GUITAR
FILM SCREENING WITH LIVE MUSIC
SATURDAY, MARCH 7 AT 8PM
AT ZELLERBACH PLAYHOUSE

Berkeley, CA, January 8, 2026—Cal Performances welcomes audiences to Zellerbach Hall and Zellerbach Playhouse for an eclectic series of jazz programming this February and March. The presentations offer a diverse set of performances spanning from vocals to bluesy live guitar accompanying a vintage silent film. Performances include the return of three-time Grammy-winning singer and composer **Cécile McLorin Salvant** and her trio (Feb 5); the Afropop and soul influenced jazz vocals of **Somi** (Feb 21); a celebration of Indigenous and Native contributions to jazz by **Julia Keefe Indigenous Big Band** (Mar 6); and a special screening of Charlie Chaplin's 1921 silent film, ***The Kid***, accompanied live by guitarist **Marc Ribot** (Mar 7).

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS THE FOLLOWING PERFORMANCES ON THE UC BERKELEY CAMPUS:

Thursday, February 5, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Hall

Bancroft Way at Dana Street,
UC Berkeley campus

Jazz

Cécile McLorin Salvant

Cécile McLorin Salvant, *vocals*

Sullivan Fortner, *piano*

Yasushi Nakamura, *bass*

Kyle Poole, *drums*

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. And she's a musician who surrounds herself with many of the best and brightest artists on today's scene. Expect to hear selections from her September 2025 recording *Oh Snap* alongside an eclectic mix of standards from her repertoire.

Following the performance, UC Berkeley students in attendance are invited to a post-concert

reception especially for them. Free light refreshments will be served on the Zellerbach Hall Mezzanine (second floor) for all student ticket holders and their guests.

Tickets: \$42–\$98

In addition to half-price and other discounts (see more below), UC Berkeley students are eligible to purchase a limited number of \$10 tickets for the best seats in the house for Cecile McLorin Salvant's performance through the [Golden Bear Circle](#) seating program beginning at 12pm on Thursday, January 22, online only. Information about all UC Berkeley student tickets and discounts is available at calperformances.org/ucb-students.

Saturday, February 21, 8pm

Zellerbach Playhouse

Bancroft Way at Dana Street,
UC Berkeley campus

Jazz
Somi

Vocalist and composer Somi Kakoma, known simply as “Somi,” is a jazz artist for the 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 body of work. The music on her latest release was composed in Lagos, Dakar, Paris, and New York, offering a musical travelogue that weaves deeply personal storytelling with modern jazz and African sensibilities.

Tickets: \$60 (prices subject to change)

Friday, March 6, 8pm

Zellerbach Playhouse

Bancroft Way at Dana Street,
UC Berkeley campus

Jazz
Julia Keefe Indigenous Big Band

Musician and educator Julia Keefe makes her Cal Performances debut leading the Julia Keefe Indigenous Big Band, a group that celebrates and extends the contributions of Indigenous and Native musicians, composers, and bandleaders throughout the rich history of jazz. 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. Audiences are likely to hear works from the 16-person ensemble’s studio recording *The Mildred Bailey Project* that pays homage to Native American jazz vocalist Mildred Bailey who, in the 1930s, was the first woman to sing in front of a big band.

A close partner of the UC Berkeley campus, in 2025, Keefe gave a talk at the Arts Research Center speaking about her own career and highlighting the contributions of Indigenous people to jazz. A video of her presentation is available to stream on [YouTube](#).

This is a Cal Performances *Illuminations: “Exile & Sanctuary”* event. Visit [calperformances.org/illuminations](#) to learn more.

Tickets: \$74 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, March 7, 8pm

Zellerbach Playhouse
Bancroft Way at Dana Street,
UC Berkeley campus

Jazz

[Charlie Chaplin's *The Kid*](#)

Marc Ribot, guitar

Film screening with live music

Iconoclast guitarist and fixture of New York's downtown music scene, Marc Ribot lends his distinctive musical personality to an original live score for a special screening of Charlie Chaplin's 1921 silent masterpiece, *The Kid*. Ribot's bluesy avant-roots guitar playing is instantly recognizable as the sound of Tom Waits' albums of the 1980s and '90s. 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 score, commissioned and premiered in Jan 2010 by the NY Guitar Festival at Merkin Hall, was conceived as a contemporary reflection of economic hardship, partially inspired by the housing market crash of 2008.

Tickets: \$74 (prices subject to change)

Tickets for these and 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.

There is a \$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. There is a \$20 service charge on all subscription orders.

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

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