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[Cal Performances Press Room](#)



From top left to lower right: photos of [Antonio Sánchez](#), [Samara Joy](#), [Sullivan Fortner](#), and [Martha Redbone and American Patchwork Quartet](#) are available for download from the [Cal Performances Press Room](#).

Videos of the performers can be found on their [Cal Performances event pages](#).

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS
AMBITIOUS LINE-UP OF
JAZZ AND ROOTS MUSICIANS JANUARY-MARCH**

**PERCUSSIONIST ANTONIO SÁNCHEZ
PERFORMING HIS SOUNDTRACK LIVE TO
A SCREENING OF THE FILM *BIRDMAN*
SATURDAY, JANUARY 18 AT ZELLERBACH HALL**

**VOCALIST SAMARA JOY
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5 AT ZELLERBACH HALL**

THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND
**MARTHA REDBONE ROOTS PROJECT AND
AMERICAN PATCHWORK QUARTET**
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28 AT ZELLERBACH HALL

SULLIVAN FORTNER TRIO
THURSDAY, MARCH 13 AT ZELLERBACH PLAYHOUSE

Berkeley, CA, January 3, 2025—Cal Performances at UC Berkeley announces an ambitious slate of jazz and roots music concerts this winter, featuring emerging and established artists presenting deeply personal takes on a wide range of vernacular and popular music. All of the headline artists in this series are making their Cal Performances debuts as leaders this season.

Starting off the new year, percussionist/composer **Antonio Sánchez** performs his Grammy-winning soundtrack to *Birdman* to a live screening of the film on Saturday, January 18 at 8pm at Zellerbach Hall. Award-winning next-generation vocalist **Samara Joy** leads a jazz octet on Wednesday, February 5 at 7:30pm at Zellerbach Hall. And hard-swinging pianist **Sullivan Fortner** brings his trio for a concert of original jazz and new arrangements on Thursday, March 13 at 7:30pm at Zellerbach Playhouse. Finally, roots music singer and songwriter **Martha Redbone** leads a collaboration between her **Martha Redbone Roots Project** and **American Patchwork Quartet** that explores the United States' rich cultural tapestry on Friday, February 28 at 8pm at Zellerbach Hall. The performance by Redbone and company is part of Cal Performances' *Illuminations*: "Fractured History" programming for the 2024–25 season [more below].

Antonio Sánchez, *Birdman* LIVE

In Alejandro Iñárritu's 2014 film *Birdman*, Antonio Sánchez's drumming acts as a visceral foil for the psychological turmoil of Michael Keaton's character, a washed-up Hollywood actor struggling to make a comeback by writing, directing, and acting on Broadway. Sánchez's largely improvised solo drumming won a Grammy for Best Score Soundtrack, and the film won that year's Oscar for Best Picture. On Saturday, January 18 at 8pm at Zellerbach Hall, Sánchez returns to Cal Performances (having previously appeared with guitarists Pat Metheny and Paco de Lucía) to celebrate the film's 10th anniversary with a live solo drum concert and film screening for Berkeley audiences.

Samara Joy

Three-time Grammy-winning vocalist Samara Joy is among the biggest names in jazz today, known for her gospel-inflected, easy swinging renditions of classic jazz repertoire. This year she has been nominated for two additional Grammys—Best Jazz Vocal Album for *A Joyful Holiday*, and Best Jazz Performance for a duet with pianist Sullivan Fortner [see below]. Joy is joined by **David Mason** and **Kendric McCallister**, woodwinds; **Jason Charos**, trumpet; **Donavan Austin**, trombone; **Connor Rohrer**, piano; **Paul Sikivie**, bass; and **Evan Sherman**, drums. She performs on Wednesday, February 5 at 7:30pm at Zellerbach Hall.

This Land is Our Land

Featuring Martha Redbone Roots Project and American Patchwork Quartet

Roots music singer and songwriter Martha Redbone leads *This Land Is Our Land*, a new collaboration between her Martha Redbone Roots Project and the genre-defying American Patchwork Quartet on Friday, February 28 at 8pm at Zellerbach Hall. Redbone draws on her heritage as a southeastern Cherokee/Choctaw and Black American woman to craft songs that celebrate the human spirit, infused with the folk and blues sounds of her childhood in the Appalachian Mountains of Kentucky. Led by Grammy-winning guitarist and vocalist **Clay Ross**, American Patchwork Quartet is on a self-professed “mission to reclaim the immigrant soul of American roots music.” The ensemble’s repertoire merges folk songs with jazz, country music, and sounds from West Africa and Asia, and features members **Falguni Shah (Falu)**, vocals; **Yasushi Nakamura**, bass; and **Clarence Penn**, drums. The Martha Redbone Roots Project consists of Redbone, vocals and percussion; **Aaron Whitby**, piano and vocals; **Charlie Burnham**, violin and vocals; and **Fred Cash**, bass and vocals.

The performance continues this season’s *Illuminations* programming, which explores the idea of “Fractured History” through eight performances and a series of related public and classroom programs created with visiting artists and university partners. Through this series, Cal Performances investigates collective memory and the complex evolution of historical narratives to consider what role the performing arts might play in restoring nuance to our understanding of the past, and how that understanding shapes our present and future. Visit calperformances.org/illuminations-2024-25 for more information.

Martha Redbone and band member Aaron Whitby will lead a songwriting workshop for UC Berkeley students on Thursday, February 27 from 4–6pm in Room 250 at Morrison Hall, on the UC Berkeley campus. Participation is by application, and more information is available at <https://arts.berkeley.edu/news/fractured-history-martha-redbone-songwriting-workshop>. The workshop is presented in collaboration with UC Berkeley’s Department of Music and the Arts Research Center.

Sullivan Fortner Trio

Pianist Sullivan Fortner, who appeared as a sideman with Cécile McLorin Salvant at her January 2024 Zellerbach Hall concert, makes his Cal Performances debut as a bandleader with bassist **Tyrone Allen** and drummer **Kayvon Gordon** on Thursday, March 13 at 7:30pm at Zellerbach Playhouse. Sullivan has developed a distinctive approach to jazz that combines his New Orleans heritage with the hard bop sounds of New York and a cosmopolitan flair born from years touring with luminaries like Roy Hargrove and Salvant. He was nominated for a 2025 Grammy for his most recent release, a solo recording that features original compositions alongside classics by Stevie Wonder, Antônio Carlos Jobim, Kurt Weill, and Duke Ellington.

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CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, January 18, 8pm

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

Jazz / Percussion

[Antonio Sánchez](#)

[Birdman LIVE](#)

The Academy Award-winning Best Picture *Birdman*, screened to a live soundtrack

Program:

In Alejandro Iñárritu's 2014 film *Birdman*, Antonio Sánchez's drumming serves as a companion, counterweight, and commentary on the psychological turmoil of Michael Keaton's character, a washed-up Hollywood actor struggling to make a comeback on Broadway. Sánchez's largely improvised solo drumming won a Grammy for Best Score Soundtrack (as well as a BAFTA and a Critic's Choice Award), and the film won that year's Oscar for Best Picture. Sánchez celebrates *Birdman*'s 10th anniversary with a live solo performance accompanying a screening of the film.

Tickets: \$36–\$86 (prices subject to change). Half price for UC Berkeley students. 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, 12–5:30pm 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.

Information about UC Berkeley student tickets and discounts is available at calperformances.org/ucb-students; information about other discounts can be found at calperformances.org/discounts.

Wednesday, February 5, 7:30pm

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

Jazz

[Samara Joy](#)

Samara Joy, *vocals*

Connor Rohrer, *piano*

David Mason, *alto saxophone, flute*

Kendric McCallister, *tenor saxophone*

Jason Charos, *trumpet*

Donavan Austin, *trombone*

Paul Sikivie, *bass*

Evan Sherman, *drums*

Program:

Only 25 years of age, and with a deep foundation in jazz and gospel music, talented vocalist Samara Joy won Best Jazz Vocal Album and Best New Artist at the 2023 Grammy Awards for her debut release, an old-school affair that explores classic tunes associated with Carmen McRae, Nat King Cole, and Billie Holiday, and followed it with a third Grammy, for Best Jazz Performance in 2024. This year, she has been nominated for two additional Grammys—Best Jazz Vocal Album for *A Joyful Holiday*, and Best Jazz Performance for a duet with pianist Sullivan Fortner.

Tickets: \$45–\$110 (prices subject to change). Half price for UC Berkeley students. Through Cal Performances' [Golden Bear Circle](#) program, UC Berkeley students are eligible to purchase a limited

number of \$10 tickets for the best seats in the house beginning at noon on Wednesday, January 22. Information about UC Berkeley student tickets and discounts is available at calperformances.org/ucb-students; information about other discounts can be found at calperformances.org/discounts.

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, 12–5:30pm 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.

Friday, February 28, 8pm

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

Vocal Celebration

[This Land Is Our Land](#)

Featuring Martha Redbone Roots Project and American Patchwork Quartet

Martha Redbone Roots Project

Martha Redbone, *vocals and percussion*

Aaron Whitby, *piano and vocals*

Charlie Burnham, *violin and vocals*

Fred Cash, *bass and vocals*

American Patchwork Quartet

Clay Ross, *guitar and vocals*

Falguni Shah (Falu), *vocals*

Yasushi Nakamura, *bass*

Clarence Penn, *drums*

Program:

Roots music singer and songwriter Martha Redbone lends her voice to a new collaboration with the genre-defying American Patchwork Quartet for a performance exploring the United States' rich cultural tapestry. Redbone draws on her southeastern Cherokee/Choctaw and African American heritage to craft uplifting songs that celebrate the human spirit, infused with the folk and blues sounds of her childhood in the Appalachian Mountains of Kentucky.

An *Illuminations*: “Fractured History” event. Visit calperformances.org/illuminations for details.

Tickets: \$36–\$86 (prices subject to change). Half price for UC Berkeley students. Through Cal Performances’ [Golden Bear Circle](#) program, UC Berkeley students are eligible to purchase a limited number of \$10 tickets for the best seats in the house for this performance beginning at noon on Friday, February 14. Information about UC Berkeley student tickets and discounts is available at [calperformances.org/ucb-students](#); information about other discounts can be found at [calperformances.org/discounts](#).

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, 12–5:30pm 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.

Thursday, March 13, 7:30pm

**Zellerbach Playhouse
Bancroft Way at Dana Street,
UC Berkeley campus**

Jazz

[Sullivan Fortner Trio](#)

Sullivan Fortner, *piano*

Tyrone Allen, *bass*

Kayvon Gordon, *drums*

Program:

Over the past decade, pianist Sullivan Fortner has developed a distinctive approach to jazz that combines his New Orleans heritage with the hard bop sounds of New York and a cosmopolitan flair born from years touring the world with luminaries like Roy Hargrove and Cécile McLorin Salvant. Fortner’s most recent release is a solo recording that showcases the breadth of his artistry, featuring original compositions alongside classics by Stevie Wonder, Antônio Carlos Jobim, Kurt Weill, and Duke Ellington. Cal Performances audiences will recall his role as a sideman with Salvant at her January 2024 Zellerbach Hall concert; with this performance, he makes his Cal Performances debut as a bandleader with a hard-swinging trio of like-minded talents.

Tickets: \$68 (prices subject to change). Half price for UC Berkeley Students. 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, 12–5:30pm 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.

UC Berkeley students can access exclusive discounts, including half-price tickets in all sections of the theater. Information about UC Berkeley student tickets and discounts is available at

calperformances.org/ucb-students; information about other discounts can be found at calperformances.org/discounts.

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PRESS CONTACT

Louisa Spier

Cal Performances

(510) 643-6714

lspier@calperformances.org