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[Press Room](#)



Images of Lila Downs are available for download from the Cal Performances [press room](#).

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS  
MEXICAN-AMERICAN SINGER AND SONGWRITER  
LILA DOWNS  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**

**Berkeley, August 15, 2017**—Cal Performances at UC Berkeley welcomes Grammy-winning vocalist and songwriter **Lila Downs** to launch the 2017/18 season’s World Stage programming on Saturday, September 30 in Zellerbach Hall. Downs, who was raised in Minnesota and Oaxaca, Mexico, sings in English and Spanish, and her repertoire combines politically charged original compositions with familiar standards from the Latin songbook. She is accompanied by a 12-piece ensemble of guitar, bass, keyboard, and percussion augmented by violins, horns, and Mexican folkloric instruments including accordion, *zapateado*, and *jarana*.

The music on Down’s latest release, *Salón Lágrimas y Deseo*, traverses a wide range of musical aesthetics, from lush and mournful Mexican *boleros* such as Agustín Lara’s “Piensa en Mí” and José

Alfredo Jiménez's "Un Mundo Raro," to new compositions steeped in raucous *banda sinaloense* music, bouncy *cumbia* beats, and Cuban *son*. Downs' lyrics reflect her frustrations at the current political climate in Mexico and the US, and project a message of female empowerment and social consciousness.

Cal Performances' 17/18 World Stage programming continues with the **Korean National Gugak Center Creative Traditional Orchestra** on Saturday, October 28 at 3pm and 8pm in Zellerbach Hall; **Tango Buenos Aires**, *The Spirit of Argentina*, on Saturday, November 11 at 8pm in Zellerbach Hall; **Festival of South African Dance**, featuring The Gumboots and Pantsula Dance Companies, on Sunday, November 12 at 7pm in Zellerbach Hall; **Ragamala Dance Company**, *Written in Water*, on Saturday, December 2 at 8pm and Sunday, December 3 at 3pm in Zellerbach Playhouse; **Peking Acrobats** on Saturday, January 27 at 2pm and 8pm and Sunday, January 28 at 3pm in Zellerbach Hall; **Eva Yerbabuena Company**, *¡Ay!*, on Wednesday, March 7 at 8pm in Zellerbach Hall; **Wu Man and the Huayin Shadow Puppet Band** on Sunday, March 11 at 3pm in Hertz Hall; and **TAO Drum Heart** on Sunday, May 6 at 7pm in Zellerbach Hall.

Tickets for *Lila Downs* on Saturday, September 30 at 8pm in Zellerbach Hall range from \$32–\$78 (prices subject to change). Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at [calperformances.org](http://calperformances.org), and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to [calperformances.org/discounts](http://calperformances.org/discounts).

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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Saturday, September 30, 8pm**

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

*World Stage*

**Lila Downs**

**Program:** Raised in Minnesota and Oaxaca, Mexico, classically trained vocalist Lila Downs sings of a Pan-American social consciousness, drawing on folk and *ranchera* music of Mexico and South America, and American folk, jazz, blues, and hip-hop—blending irreverent and fun themes with serious social and political concerns. In this concert, she will be accompanied by a 12-piece

ensemble of guitar, bass, keyboard, and percussion augmented by violins, horns, and Mexican folkloric instruments including accordion, *zapateado*, and *jarana*.

**Tickets:** \$32–\$78 (prices subject to change).

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