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Press Room



Images of music director Patricia Kopatchinskaja are available for download from the Cal Performances [press room](#).

CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS
OJAI AT BERKELEY 2018
FOUR CONCERTS PROGRAMMED BY AND
FEATURING MUSIC DIRECTOR AND VIOLINIST
PATRICIA KOPATCHINSKAJA
THURSDAY–SATURDAY, JUNE 14–16, 2018

CONCERTS HIGHLIGHT KOPATCHINSKAJA’S CATALYZING ROLE AS A
NEW-MUSIC CHAMPION, IMAGINATIVE PROGRAMMER, AND VERSATILE
INSTRUMENTALIST

BAY AREA PREMIERE OF KOPATCHINSKAJA’S SEMI-STAGED
BYE BYE BEETHOVEN

BAY AREA PREMIERE OF A NEW DRAMATIC NARRATIVE
BY MICHAEL HERSCH,
A CAL PERFORMANCES CO-COMMISSION

PERFORMERS INCLUDE THE MAHLER CHAMBER ORCHESTRA IN ITS BAY AREA DEBUT, SOPRANOS KIERA DUFFY AND AH YOUNG HONG, AND PIANIST AMY YANG, AMONG OTHERS

KOPATCHINSKAJA JOINED BY HER PARENTS FOR AN AFTERNOON OF MOLDOVAN FOLK MUSIC

**OJAI AT BERKELEY FOLLOWS THE 72ND OJAI MUSIC FESTIVAL
JUNE 7–10, 2018, OJAI, CALIFORNIA**

**OJAI MUSIC FESTIVAL'S NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH GREAT BRITAIN'S
ALDEBURGH FESTIVAL LAUNCHES JUNE 20-23, 2018**

Berkeley, March 28, 2018 — Cal Performances at UC Berkeley presents *Ojai at Berkeley 2018*, a weekend of concerts of contemporary music from June 14–16, marking the eighth year of artistic partnership with Southern California's esteemed Ojai Music Festival. Each year, a different music director re-imagines the festival anew connecting Ojai's formidable history with their own musical community and unique artistic vision. *Ojai at Berkeley 2018* features four concerts curated by and featuring this year's festival music director, the dynamic and versatile violinist **Patricia Kopatchinskaja** (pronounced Ko-pat-chin-sky-yah.) The Moldovan-Austrian violinist, a 2018 Grammy winner, is known for imaginative programs that connect early and classical music with contemporary works; for her *Ojai at Berkeley* series she figures as soloist, collaborator, and new-music advocate. Highlights include the Bay Area debut of Kopatchinskaja's semi-staged *Bye Bye Beethoven* program; and a new dramatic narrative by composer Michael Hersch, a Cal Performances co-commission. The festival features a diverse range of contemporary performers, including the Berlin-based **Mahler Chamber Orchestra** in its Bay Area debut; sopranos **Kiera Duffy** and **Ah Young Hong**; pianist **Amy Yang**; saxophonist **Gary Louie**; sound designer **Jorge Sanchez-Chiong**; and Kopatchinskaja's own parents, **Viktor and Emilia Kopatchinsky**, who join her for a concert of Moldovan folk music.

“Patricia Kopatchinskaja is, quite simply, a force of nature,” said Thomas W. Morris, artistic director of the Ojai Music Festival. “Her unstoppable energy, blazing virtuosity, and relentless curiosity are irresistible. The 2018 Festival will showcase her wildly diverse artistic talents as a violinist, a collaborator, a director, an advocate, and as a creative force.”

Ojai and Berkeley, two distinct communities with similar values, are both known for a spirit of intrepid artistic discovery, spirited intellect, and enduring engagement in the arts. Inaugurated in 2011, the *Ojai at Berkeley* collaboration enables co-commissions and co-productions, and allows artists to achieve more than could be imagined by each organization on its own. The programs of *Ojai at Berkeley 2018* have been created by Kopatchinskaja, in collaboration with Thomas W. Morris, artistic director of the Ojai Music Festival, and Matías Tarnopolsky, artistic and executive director of Cal Performances.

Ojai at Berkeley 2018 opens on Thursday, June 14 at 8pm in Zellerbach Hall with the Bay Area premiere of *Bye Bye Beethoven*, a program Kopatchinskaja describes as a commentary on “the irrelevance of the classic concert routine for our present life.” The semi-staged performance features a mash-up of music by Ives, Cage, Haydn, Kurtág, Bach, and Beethoven, and explores the relationships between sound, space, and imagery in live performance. A collaboration of Kopatchinskaja and the Mahler Chamber Orchestra, a collective of international musicians with flexible instrumentation, the production first premiered at the Hamburg International Music Festival in 2016 and was later staged in Berlin. *Bye Bye Beethoven* involves musicians in both conventional and unconventional roles, as well as encounters with different musical genres, including a collaboration with sound designer Jorge Sanchez-Chiong.

Friday evening’s concert on June 15 at 8pm in Zellerbach Hall is devoted to the music of American composer Michael Hersch, whose work Kopatchinskaja has championed. Hersch’s newest work, titled *I hope we get a chance to visit soon*, is a dramatic narrative for two sopranos and eight instrumentalists. It receives its Bay Area premiere, sung by Ah Young Hong and Kiera Duffy, with pianist Amy Yang and members of the Mahler Chamber Orchestra. Hersch, who wrote a violin concerto for Kopatchinskaja several years ago, serves on the composition faculty at the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University and is a formidable pianist as well as an acclaimed composer. The concert also includes additional compositions by Hersch for solo alto saxophone, performed by Gary Louie; and solo piano, with Hersch himself at the keyboard.

For the Saturday afternoon concert on June 16 at 2pm in Zellerbach Hall, Kopatchinskaja will be joined by her parents, Viktor and Emilia Kopatchinsky, on cimbalom (Hungarian dulcimer) and violin, as well as pianist Amy Yang, for a performance of music from Eastern Europe. Both parents

performed and toured as members of the Moldovan state folk music ensemble before the family emigrated to Vienna, when Kopatchinskaja was 12 years old. Complementing traditional Moldovan and Romanian folk music and dance forms of *calusarii*, *doina*, *hora*, and *ciocarlia* is music by the Hungarian composer György Kurtág, the Romanian-French spectralist Horațiu Rădulescu, and Romanian composer George Enescu.

The *Ojai at Berkeley 2018* finale on Saturday, June 16 at 8pm in Zellerbach Hall includes seminal 20th-century chamber works by Bartók, Stravinsky, and Ligeti, performed by Kopatchinskaja and the Mahler Chamber Orchestra. The concert includes Kopatchinskaja in Ligeti's layered and complex Concerto for Violin and Orchestra, Bartók's Divertimento for Strings, and a suite from Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du soldat*, a work current celebrating its centennial year.

About Patricia Kopatchinskaja

Violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja performs diverse repertoire, ranging from Baroque and Classical music often played on gut strings, to new commissions and re-interpretations of modern masterworks. A celebrated collaborator, guest artist, and chamber musician, Kopatchinskaja's 2017–18 season began with the world premiere of her *Dies Irae* project at the Lucerne Festival. *Dies Irae* is her second staged program following the success of *Bye Bye Beethoven* with the Mahler Chamber Orchestra in 2016, and uses the theme from the Latin Requiem Mass as a starting point for her new concept featuring music from Gregorian chant and the early Baroque to Giacinto Scelsi and Galina Ustvol'skaja.

Kopatchinskaja was awarded the prestigious Swiss Grand Award for Music in September 2017 and her current recording, *Death and the Maiden* with The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, was awarded a 2018 Grammy award for Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble performance. Concert highlights in her 2017-18 season include performances of Stravinsky's concerto with Currentzis and the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich and with the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra. She performs Berg's violin concerto with Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale della RAI and Geneva Camerata.

Kopatchinskaja has been an artist in residence at four major European venues and festivals: the Berlin Konzerthaus; the Lucerne Festival; the Wigmore Hall in London; and the Kissinger Sommer

Festival. She is also Artistic Partner with The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, performing regularly with the ensemble both in Saint Paul and internationally.

A prolific recording artist, the last few seasons have seen a number of major releases by Kopatchinskaja. Her recording featuring concertos by Bartók, Ligeti and Peter Eötvös won *Gramophone's* Recording of the Year Award in 2013, an ECHO Klassik Award, and a 2014 Grammy nomination. With pianist, Polina Leschenko she has recorded and released '*Deux*'. Together the duo reimagine the sonatas of Ravel, Poulenc, Bartok and Dohnányi.

New Partnership with the Aldeburgh Festival

Following *Ojai at Berkeley 2018* the Ojai Music Festival launches a new partnership with the Aldeburgh Festival at the acclaimed Maltings Concert Hall and in the town of Snape near Aldeburgh, England June 20–23. The Aldeburgh Festival was founded in 1948 by composer Benjamin Britten, and is centered in a collection of renovated mid-19th century maltings in England's East Anglia, northwest of London along the coast in the village of Snape, a few miles inland from the town of Aldeburgh. Celebrating its 70th Festival in 2017, the two-week Aldeburgh Festival emphasizes the presentation of new and distinctive repertoire and performances, and features the music of Britten. Music-theater and opera form part of the program, as does the presentation of a visual arts program. Ojai Music Festival's collaboration with the Aldeburgh Festival follows the example of *Ojai at Berkeley* as a partnership of co-productions and co-commissions that affords the Ojai Music Festival, the Aldeburgh Festival, and Cal Performances the ability to present more complex and creative artistic projects than could be conceived by each partner separately. The Aldeburgh Festival begins its initial four-year commitment to presenting Ojai Music Festival events beginning in June 2018.

About the Ojai Music Festival

From its founding in 1947, the Ojai Music Festival has created a place for groundbreaking musical experiences, bringing together innovative artists and curious audiences in an intimate, idyllic setting 80 miles northwest of Los Angeles. The festival presents broad-ranging programs in unusual ways with an eclectic mix of rarely performed music, refreshing juxtapositions of musical styles, and

works by today's composers. The four-day festival is an immersive experience with concerts, free community events, symposia, and gatherings. Considered a highlight of the international music summer season, Ojai has remained a leader in the classical music landscape for seven decades. Through its unique structure of the artistic director appointing an annual music director, Ojai has presented a "who's who" of music including: Aaron Copland, Igor Stravinsky, Olivier Messiaen, Michael Tilson Thomas, Kent Nagano, Pierre Boulez, John Adams, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Robert Spano, Dawn Upshaw, Mark Morris, Jeremy Denk, Steven Schick, Peter Sellars, and Vijay Iyer. Following Patricia Kopatchinskaja in 2018, Ojai will welcome Barbara Hannigan as music director in 2019. The 2018 Ojai Music Festival takes place June 7-10. Visit OjaiFestival.org for a complete listing of events and performances.

About Cal Performances

Cal Performances is the performing arts presenter and producer of the University of California, Berkeley, fulfilling its mission by presenting, producing, and commissioning renowned and emerging artists in music, dance, and theater. Cal Performances reaches more than 150,000 people annually through concerts and campus and community events, including talks, symposia, lecture demonstrations, and academic courses based on Cal Performances' season. Under the leadership of Matías Tarnopolsky, the organization launched Berkeley RADICAL (Research and Development Initiative in Creativity Arts and Learning) to cultivate the artistic literacy of future audiences and connect some of the most innovative artists in the world with the intellectual capital of UC Berkeley. For more information on Berkeley RADICAL, visit calperformances.org/berkeley-radical.

Ticket Information

Tickets for *Ojai at Berkeley 2018* on Thursday–Friday, June 14–15 at 8pm, and Saturday, June 16 at 2pm and 8pm in Zellerbach Hall are \$20 each, and a festival pass good for all four *Ojai at Berkeley* concerts is available for \$60 (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, and at the door.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Thursday, June 14, 8pm

Friday, June 15, 8pm

Saturday, June 16, 2pm

Saturday, June 16, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall
Bancroft Way at Dana Street
UC Berkeley campus

Special Event

Ojai at Berkeley 2018

Patricia Kopatchinskaja, music director

Programs:

Thursday, June 14, 8pm

Patricia Kopatchinskaja, violin and director

Mahler Chamber Orchestra

Maria Ursprung, stage director

Bye Bye Beethoven (Bay Area premiere)

Semi-staged concert conceptualized by Patricia Kopatchinskaja

Kopatchinskaja's first staged concert, already a hit in Europe, weaves together works by Bach, Haydn, Beethoven, Ives, Cage, and Kurtág and features the Bay Area debut of the Mahler Chamber Orchestra.

Friday, June 15, 8pm

Ah Young Hong and Kiera Duffy, sopranos

Michael Hersch and Amy Yang, piano

Gary Louie, alto saxophone

Members of the Mahler Chamber Orchestra

Tito Muñoz, conductor

Michael Hersch/Music for solo saxophone and solo piano

Michael Hersch/*I hope we get a chance to visit soon* (Bay Area premiere, Cal Performances Co-commission)

Saturday, June 16, 2pm

Patricia Kopatchinskaja, violin

Viktor Kopatchinsky, cimbalom

Emilia Kopatchinsky, violin

Maria Krykov, double bass

Amy Yang, piano

Calusarii/Moldovan Folk Music

Horațiu Rădulescu/*Doina* for Piano

Doina and *Hora*/Moldovan Folk Music

György Kurtág/Eight Duos for Violin and Cimbalom, Op. 4

Enescu/Sonata No. 3 in A minor for Violin and Piano
Ciocarlia/Moldovan Folk Music

Saturday, June 16, 8pm

Patricia Kopatchinskaja, violin

Mahler Chamber Orchestra

Philipp von Steinaecker, conductor

Bartók/Divertimento for String Orchestra, Sz.113, BB.118

Stravinsky/Suite from *L'Histoire du soldat* suite (*The Soldier's Tale*)

Machaut/Kyrie

Ligeti/Concerto for Violin and Orchestra

Tickets: \$20 each and a festival pass good for all four *Ojai at Berkeley* concerts can be purchased for \$60 (prices subject to change)
