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[Press Room](#)



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

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS
JOYCE DIDONATO, *MEZZO-SOPRANO*
PERFORMING MUSIC FROM HER NEW ALBUM, *SONGPLAY*
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2019 IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

Berkeley, January 9, 2019 — Cal Performances at UC Berkeley welcomes back mezzo-soprano **Joyce DiDonato** for *Songplay*, an eclectic recital program that mixes Italian Baroque arias with jazz ballads and favorites from the Great American Songbook, on Wednesday, February 20 at 8pm in Zellerbach Hall. The performance comes on the heels of the February 1 release of the singer's *Songplay* album (Warner Classics). DiDonato is joined by the ensemble of Craig Terry, keyboards; Chuck Israels, double bass; Jimmy Madison, drums; Lautaro Greco, bandoneon; and Charlie Porter, trumpet.

DiDonato's most recent Cal Performances appearance was in 2016, when she performed the semi-staged theatrical program *In War and Peace*, a selection of Baroque arias exploring the discord of war and the harmony of peace. Here, she showcases the lighter side of her artistic temperament, connecting the improvisational spirit of Baroque ornamentation with the playfulness of American popular music.

DiDonato's *Songplay* album features Baroque arias by composers including Vivaldi, Caccini, and Giordani, as well as classic songs by Duke Ellington (*Solitude*), George Shearing (*Lullaby of Birdland*), and Rodgers and Hart (*With a Song in my Heart*). The arrangements have been created to highlight the similarities of affect shared by these musical styles that are separated by centuries, and to blur the distinctions between art song and jazz ballad, between popular and classical sensibilities. DiDonato's ensemble also adds energy and dynamism to the Baroque vocal repertoire by mixing in Latin, samba, bossa nova, and tango rhythms, and playing with the common ways that jazz and Baroque musicians use improvisation to realize works in the repertoire. DiDonato's last recording that explored a similarly broad range of material, *Joyce & Tony: Live from Wigmore Hall*, featuring Antonio Pappano at the piano, included selections from the Great American Songbook alongside Haydn and Rossini, and won a Grammy award.

Ticket Information

Tickets for *Joyce DiDonato, Songplay* on Wednesday February 20 at 8pm in Zellerbach Hall are \$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, and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to calperformances.org/discounts.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Wednesday, February 20, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall
Bancroft Way at Dana St.
UC Berkeley campus

Recital
Joyce DiDonato, mezzo-soprano
Songplay

Craig Terry, *keyboards*

Chuck Israels, *double bass*

Jimmy Madison, *drums*

Lautaro Greco, *bandoneon*

Charlie Porter, *trumpet*

Program: Returning after her theatrical *In War and Peace* program in 2016, mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato enjoys playing with the classics in her new *Songplay* program. The lighthearted recital, comprised of music from DiDonato's latest album, mixes Italian Baroque arias with jazz ballads and selections from the Great American Songbook, and features a versatile ensemble of piano, drums, bass, bandoneon, and trumpet seamlessly connecting the improvisational spirit of Baroque ornamentation with the free-spirited charm of American popular music.

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

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