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Press Room

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY ANNOUNCES
TWO EVENTS ADDED TO 2019–20 SEASON:**

Triptych (Eyes of One on Another)
A Cal Performances Co-Commission
Composed by Bryce Dessner
Saturday, September 28 at 8pm in Zellerbach Hall

Video Games Live
with the UC Berkeley Symphony Orchestra
Hosted by Tommy Tallarico
Featuring Jason Paige, the original *Pokémon* TV show theme song singer
Sunday, November 17 at 7pm in Zellerbach Hall

Berkeley, June 3, 2019 — Cal Performances at UC Berkeley announces two events added to the 2019–20 season. *Triptych (Eyes of One on Another)*, composed by Bryce Dessner, will be performed by vocal ensemble Roomful of Teeth, a guest chamber orchestra, and special guest vocalists Alicia Hall Moran and Isaiah Robinson on Saturday, September 28 at 8pm. Video Games Live will be performed by the UC Berkeley Symphony Orchestra—hosted by Tommy Tallarico and featuring Jason Paige, the original *Pokémon* TV show theme song singer—on Sunday, November 17 at 7pm. Both performances take place in Zellerbach Hall.

The classical symmetry and bold eroticism of Robert Mapplethorpe’s photography meet sound and text in *Triptych (Eyes of One on Another)*, a hybrid theatrical experience that invites audiences to reflect on the intimate acts of looking and being looked at. Composer Bryce Dessner, well known for his other musical role as a member of the rock band The National, has had a lifelong fascination with Robert Mapplethorpe’s work. For *Triptych*, co-commissioned by Cal Performances, Dessner collaborated with librettist Korde Arrington Tuttle, designer Carlos Soto, and director Kaneza

Schaal to revisit the photographer's oeuvre nearly 30 years after it instigated a now-infamous obscenity trial and controversy at the National Endowment for the Arts. The libretto draws on the poetry of Patti Smith and the writings of Essex Hemphill, who chronicled the African-American gay community during the AIDS epidemic and directly addressed the contradictions at the core of Mapplethorpe's work. The music will be performed under the direction of Brad Wells. *Triptych* features sexually explicit images from the Robert Mapplethorpe collection that may be inappropriate for some audience members.

Later in the season, Cal Performances will present another additional performance also focused on new music, albeit written for a different purpose. Video Games Live is a concert and interactive show created by game music composer Tommy Tallarico that combines the excitement of video gaming with the visceral power of a live symphony orchestra. Video footage, light displays, and theatrical special effects will be synchronized to orchestral arrangements of some of the most memorable and inventive music written for video game hits, performed by the UC Berkeley Symphony Orchestra. The performance draws from music written for titles including Final Fantasy, Zelda, *Pokémon*, Overwatch, Kingdom Hearts, Undertale, Okami, MegaMan, Metroid, and Earthworm Jim. The evening will include pre- and post-show events offering audiences a chance to interact with others in the gaming community, including a costume contest and meet-and-greets with top industry game composers and designers.

Ticket Information

Tickets for *Triptych (Eyes of One Another)* on Saturday, September 28 at 8pm in Zellerbach Hall range from \$30–\$68. Tickets for *Video Games Live* on Sunday, November 17 at 7pm in Zellerbach Hall range from \$30–\$75. Prices are subject to change and are currently available as part of subscription packages until single tickets go on sale on Tuesday, August 6. Half-price tickets will be available for UC Berkeley students. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at calperformances.org. For more information about discounts, go to calperformances.org/discounts.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, September 28, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall
Bancroft Way at Dana St.
UC Berkeley campus

Theater

Triptych (Eyes of One on Another)

Composed by Bryce Dessner

Libretto by Korde Arrington Tuttle, featuring words by Essex Hemphill and Patti Smith

Kaneza Schaal, *stage director*

Alicia Hall Moran, *vocalist*

Isaiah Robinson, *vocalist*

Roomful of Teeth

Brad Wells, *music director and conductor*

A Cal Performances Co-Commission

Program: Robert Mapplethorpe's photography meets sound and text in a hybrid theatrical experience that invites the viewer to reflect on the intimate acts of looking and being looked at. The work revisits the photographer's oeuvre nearly 30 years after it instigated a now-infamous obscenity trial and controversy at the National Endowment for the Arts. The libretto draws on the poetry of Patti Smith and the writings of Essex Hemphill, who chronicled the African-American gay community during the AIDS epidemic.

This production features sexually explicit images from the Robert Mapplethorpe collection that may be inappropriate for some audience members. Discretion is advised.

Tickets: \$30-68 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, November 17, 7pm

Zellerbach Hall
Bancroft Way at Dana St.
UC Berkeley campus

Orchestra & Chamber Music

Video Games Live

with the UC Berkeley Symphony Orchestra

Tommy Tallarico, *composer and host*

featuring Jason Paige, the original *Pokémon* TV show theme song singer

Program: An interactive show created by game music composer Tommy Tallarico features the UC Berkeley Symphony Orchestra performing live arrangements of video game music hits, synchronized to video footage, light displays, and theatrical special effects. Pre- and post-concert events offer a chance to interact with others in the gaming community, and include a costume contest, and meet-and-greets with top industry game composers and designers.

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Tickets: \$30–75 (prices subject to change)

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