



CONTACT: Louisa Spier
Cal Performances
(510) 643-6714
lspier@calperformances.org

Jeanette Peach
Cal Performances
(510) 642-9121
jpeach@calperformances.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 25, 2019 **updated in red*
[Press Room](#)

CAL PERFORMANCES

2019–20 FALL CALENDAR

Performance Venues

Zellerbach Hall – Bancroft Way at Dana Street, UC Berkeley campus
Zellerbach Playhouse – Bancroft Way at Dana Street, UC Berkeley campus
Hertz Hall – Bancroft Way at College Avenue, UC Berkeley campus
First Congregational Church – 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley
Grace Street Showroom – 4629 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland

Ticket Information

Single tickets go on sale Tuesday, August 6 at noon. Tickets to Cal Performances are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall at (510) 642-9988, and at calperformances.org.

JULY 2019

Tuesday, July 16 – Sunday, August 4
Tuesday–Thursday, 7pm
Friday–Saturday, 5pm & 8:30pm
Sunday, 7pm

Grace Street Showroom
4629 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
Oakland

Exclusive Engagement *At the Illusionist’s Table*

Pick a number. Think of a word. Draw a picture. Beginning with a series of seemingly innocuous questions and simple tasks, the brilliant mentalist, performer, and storyteller Scott Silven conjures up a world of mystery and illusion in his intimate dinner-theater performance. Silven’s “guests” at this elegant candlelit dinner party—only 28 people per seating—will be treated to a three-course meal, including whiskey, and a jaw-dropping glimpse into the unknown. The show comes to Berkeley after a smash-hit Off-Broadway run and sold-out world tour.

Please note: No one under the age of 15 will be admitted.

Tickets: \$350 (prices subject to change)

SEPTEMBER 2019

Friday, September 20, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Saturday, September 21, 2pm
Saturday, September 21, 8pm
Sunday, September 22, 3pm

Dance

Mark Morris Dance Group

Mozart Dances

Berkeley Symphony

Colin Fowler, *conductor and piano*

Inon Barnatan, *piano*

Program: More than a decade after its West Coast premiere in Cal Performances' 2007–08 season Mark Morris' *Mozart Dances* returns to Zellerbach Hall. Morris' choreography is set to three Mozart piano works—the Piano Concerto No. 11 in F major, K. 413; the Sonata for Two Pianos in D major, K. 448; and the Piano Concerto No. 27 in B-flat major, K. 595. The music is performed by the Berkeley Symphony conducted by Colin Fowler and joined by celebrated pianist Inon Barnatan as soloist.

Tickets: \$42–\$148 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, September 21, 8pm
Sunday, September 22, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Recital

Jonathan Biss, *piano*

The Complete Piano Sonatas of Ludwig van Beethoven

Programs:

Saturday, September 21 (concert 1 of 7)

Piano Sonata No. 1 in F minor, Op. 2, No. 1

Piano Sonata No. 9 in E major, Op. 14, No. 1

Piano Sonata No. 13 in E-flat major, Op. 27, No. 1, *Quasi una fantasia*

Piano Sonata No. 12 in A-flat major, Op. 26, *Funeral March*

Piano Sonata No. 21 in C major, Op. 53, *Waldstein*

Sunday, September 22 (concert 2 of 7)

Piano Sonata No. 4 in E-flat major, Op. 7

Piano Sonata No. 17 in D minor, Op. 31, No. 2, *Tempest*

Piano Sonata No. 5 in C minor, Op. 10, No. 1

Piano Sonata No. 23 in F minor, Op. 57, *Appassionata*

Tickets: \$68 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, September 28, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Theater

Triptych (Eyes of One on Another) (Cal Performances Co-commission)

Composed by Bryce Dessner

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

Featuring Roomful of Teeth, special guests Alicia Hall Moran and Isaiah Robinson, and the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players

Kaneza Schaal, *stage director*

Brad Wells, *music director and conductor*

Program: The cool classical symmetry and bold eroticism of Robert Mapplethorpe’s photography meet sound and text in a hybrid theatrical experience that invites the viewer 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 the transgressive beauty of Mapplethorpe’s work, and now collaborates 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. Dessner’s new score is performed by the Grammy-winning vocal ensemble Roomful of Teeth, joined by special guests Alicia Hall Moran and Isaiah Robinson, and the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players.

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)

OCTOBER 2019

Thursday, October 3, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Vocal Celebration

Trey McLaughlin & The Sounds of Zamar

Program: Atlanta gospel sensation Trey McLaughlin & the Sounds of Zamar, his 20-voice choir, cut across cultural differences and religious beliefs with fresh takes on familiar hits. The youthful singers cite influences as diverse as Shania Twain, Stevie Wonder, Erykah Badu, and Prince, and have a cult online following for videos showcasing their impeccable vocal blend and group chemistry. A group on the rise, they have twice broken onto the *Billboard* gospel chart and have already been featured on VaShawn Mitchell’s Grammy-nominated hit single “Chasing After You.”

Tickets: \$28–\$68 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, October 5, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Recital

Renée Fleming, *soprano*
Richard Bado, *piano*

Program: Having conquered the world of opera, in recent years the astonishingly versatile Renée Fleming has appeared on two award-winning film soundtracks and captivated audiences in the acclaimed Broadway revival of Rodgers & Hammerstein’s *Carousel*. Her recital appearances are intimate and rare, with repertoire spanning German art song, operatic arias, Broadway hits, classical masterworks, and new music by gifted contemporary composers.

Tickets: \$48–\$174 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, October 6, 7pm

Zellerbach Hall

Speaker Series
Maggie Haberman

Program: The Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, *New York Times* White House correspondent, and CNN political analyst discusses lessons learned in her long experience covering Donald Trump—from his decades in the New York City tabloid headlines to his presidency and its contentious relationship to the press.

Tickets: \$28–\$58 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, October 12, 8pm
Sunday, October 13, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Recital
Jonathan Biss, *piano*
The Complete Piano Sonatas of Ludwig van Beethoven

Programs:

Saturday, October 12 (concert 3 of 7)

Piano Sonata No. 15 in D major, Op. 28, *Pastoral*
Piano Sonata No. 20 in G major, Op. 49, No. 2
Piano Sonata No. 3 in C major, Op. 2, No. 3
Piano Sonata No. 27 in E minor, Op. 90
Piano Sonata No. 28 in A major, Op. 101

Sunday, October 13 (concert 4 of 7)

Piano Sonata No. 6 in F major, Op. 10, No. 2
Piano Sonata No. 10 in G major, Op. 14, No. 2
Piano Sonata No. 18 in E-flat major, Op. 31, No. 3, *The Hunt*
Piano Sonata No. 29 in B-flat major, Op. 106, *Hammerklavier*

Tickets: \$68 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, October 12, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Sunday, October 13, 3pm

World Stage

Sankai Juku

Meguri: Teeming Sea, Tranquil Land

Directed, choreographed, and designed by Ushio Amagatsu

Program: A stone wall carved with fossils of sea lilies overlooks a sand-dusted stage, where eight dancers from this internationally renowned *butoh* company enter into a sublime dialogue with gravity. *Meguri* is a meditative visual poem by Ushio Amagatsu, Sankai Juku’s artistic director, that reflects on the passage of time through imagery and movement inspired by the ebb and flow of water, and the cycle of the earth’s seasons.

Tickets: \$30–\$78 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, October 20, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall

World Stage

Hālau O Kekuhi

Program: This Hawaiian classical dance ensemble specializes in the vigorous and kinetic ‘*aiba*’ style of hula and chant, handed down from woman to woman for more than eight generations of the Kanaka’ole family in Hilo, on the Big Island. The members of this acclaimed troupe sing and dance in honor of Pele, the goddess of fire and the creator of their native islands.

Tickets: \$36–\$58 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, October 26, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Sunday, October 27, 3pm

Family

MOMIX

Viva MOMIX!

Program: The acrobatic troupe MOMIX, established more than three decades ago by Pilobolus founding member Moses Pendleton, returns after a long Berkeley hiatus. *Viva MOMIX!* features a collection of acts from the company’s most visually spectacular shows, including *Botanica* (about the seasons), *Lunar Sea* (the moon), and *Opus Cactus* (the landscape of the American Southwest).

Tickets: \$30–\$76 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, October 27, 7pm

Hertz Hall

Myra Melford's Jazz Platform

David Virelles Trio

David Virelles, *piano*
Rashaan Carter, *bass*
Eric McPherson, *drums*

Spider Web

by Nicole Mitchell and Josh Kun

Nicole Mitchell, *flute, voice, electronics*
Josh Kun, *spoken word*
JoVia Armstrong, *percussion*
Damon Locks, *voice, electronics*
Joshua White, *keyboards*
S. Ama Wrey, *movement, spoken word*

Program: Cal Performances has invited pianist and composer Myra Melford to co-curate the jazz programming this season, with concerts that will introduce Bay Area jazz aficionados to artists who are household names in New York and abroad, but may be less well known on the West Coast. Melford says of David Virelles, “I was struck by how thoroughly his piano playing embodies the traditions of Cuban music, while at the same time drawing in very modern influences from contemporary classical music and the avant-garde.” Of Nicole Mitchell, Melford says, “Her fascinating new *Spider Web* is a collaboration with UC Berkeley alumnus and scholar Josh Kun that explores race and politics in Southern California in the context of Afrofuturism, black experimental music, and her own family history.”

Tickets: \$28 (prices subject to change)

Wednesday, October 30, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Thursday, October 31, 8pm

Friday, November 1, 8pm

Saturday, November 2, 1pm

Saturday, November 2, 8pm

Sunday, November 3, 3pm

Special Event

Mariinsky Ballet and Orchestra

La Bayadère

Alexei Repnikov, *conductor*

Music by Ludwig Minkus

Choreography by Marius Petipa (1877)

Revised choreography by Vladimir Ponomarev and Vakhtang Chabukiani (1941)

With dances by Konstantin Sergeev and Nikolai Zubkovsky

Libretto by Marius Petipa and Sergei Khudekov
Set design by Mikhail Sishliannikov after set designs by Adolf Kvapp, Konstantin Ivanov, Pyotr Lambin, and Orest Allegri
Costumes by Yevgeny Ponomarev
Lighting design by Mikhail Sishliannikov

Program: *La Bayadère*'s story of love and betrayal, complete with a spectral voyage to the afterlife, radiates with colorful characters, opulent sets, and vibrant costumes, performed with the refinement, poise, and flawless technique that defines this iconic 150-year-old cultural institution. Marius Petipa created *La Bayadère* for the Mariinsky Ballet more than 140 years ago, and the Romantic work—with a score by Ludwig Minkus performed by the company's grand orchestra—continues to be one of its most beloved showpieces well into the 21st century.

Tickets: \$50–\$225 (prices subject to change)

NOVEMBER 2019

Sunday, November 3, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Recital

Fretwork with Iestyn Davies, *countertenor*

Program:

Michael Nyman/*No Time in Eternity*

Music After a While

Balancing the Books

If

Why

The Self-Laudatory Hymn of Inanna and Her Omnipotence

Purcell/*Fantasia No. 7 in C minor*

Fantasia No. 11 in G major

Music for a while

Fantasia No. 6 in F major

The Evening Hymn

Fantasia upon one note

Tickets: \$42 (prices subject to change)

Monday, November 4, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

World Stage

Farruquito

Program: Part of the legendary Farruco dynasty in Andalusia, Spain, Farruquito has been perfecting his fleet footwork since he was a toddler and is the undisputed heir to that region's rich cultural

legacy of “puro” Gypsy flamenco. His muscular, explosive style balances bold dramatic shifts with graceful fluidity and finesse, in a breathless exchange with the dynamic musicians in his ensemble.

Tickets: \$36–\$96 (prices subject to change)

Friday, November 8, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Vocal Celebration

Afropop Spectacular

***Sahara Soul* with AlSarah and the Nubatones and Sidi Touré**

Program: A double bill of Nubian electro-pop and electrified desert blues from Mali. Born in Sudan and based in Brooklyn, vocalist AlSarah weaves classic East African pop sounds with subtle electronics, Middle Eastern *oud*, driving percussion, and lilting vocal harmonies. Singer and guitarist Sidi Touré updates the hypnotic Malian guitar music first popularized by Ali Farka Touré through the sounds of his new electric band.

Tickets: \$28–\$56 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, November 9, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Speaker Series

David Sedaris

Program: A master of satire and hilarious commentator on topics both mundane and profound, Sedaris brings his beloved stories and essays to vivid life onstage. As the *New York Times* remarked, “He loves audiences, audiences love him, and his readings attract hundreds and even thousands of people.”

Tickets: \$36–\$92 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, November 10, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Chamber Music

Danish String Quartet

Program:

Bach/Fugue No. 24 in B minor, from *The Well-Tempered Clavier*, Book 1

Schnittke/String Quartet No. 3

Beethoven/String Quartet No. 13 in B-flat major, Op. 130, with *Grosse Fuge*, Op. 133

Tickets: \$68 (prices subject to change)

Friday, November 15, 8pm

First Congregational Church

Early Music
Ensemble Basiani

Program: Ensemble Basiani returns to Cal Performances with a performance of ancient Georgian vocal polyphony, featuring the religious hymns, monastic chants, ballads, and folk songs of their Eastern European homeland.

Tickets: \$42–\$70 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, November 17, 7pm

Zellerbach Hall

Orchestra and 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: Created by game music composer Tommy Tallarico, this interactive show 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.

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

Sunday, November 24, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Recital

David Finckel, *cello*

Wu Han, *piano*

Program:

Beethoven/Cello Sonata in A major, Op. 69

Brahms/Cello Sonata No. 2 in F major, Op. 99

Debussy/Nocturne and Scherzo

Franck/Violin Sonata in A major (trans. cello)

Tickets: \$68 (prices subject to change)

Friday, November 29, 2pm

Saturday, November 30, 2pm

Sunday, December 1, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall

World Stage

Peking Acrobats

Program: The perennially popular troupe of China’s most gifted tumblers, contortionists, jugglers, and gymnasts returns to Cal Performances on Thanksgiving weekend (note special Friday matinee) with a performance steeped in 2,000 years of folk tradition. In vibrant costumes and accompanied by live musicians on an array of Chinese folk instruments, the Peking Acrobats perform signature routines including trick cycling, precision tumbling, and awe-inspiring balancing acts.

Tickets: \$30–\$72 (prices subject to change)

DECEMBER 2019

Sunday, December 4, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Recital

Sheku Kanneh-Mason, cello

Isata Kanneh-Mason, piano

Program:

Beethoven/12 Variations on Mozart’s “Ein Mädchen oder Weibchen” (from *Die Zauberflöte*), Op. 66

Lutoslawski/*Grave*

Barber/Cello Sonata in C minor, Op. 6

Rachmaninoff/Cello Sonata in G minor, Op. 19

Tickets: \$42–\$68 (prices subject to change)

Thursday, December 5, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Speaker Series

Dan Pfeiffer

Program: The former White House communications director, noted political strategist and commentator, and *Pod Save America* co-host combines wry wit, spot-on political instincts, and formidable storytelling chops in an optimistic exploration of how politics and digital media interact in modern-day America.

Tickets: \$28–\$58 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, December 7, 8pm

Hertz Hall

Sunday, December 8, 3pm

Chamber Music

Takács Quartet

The Complete String Quartets of Béla Bartók

Programs:

Saturday, December 7

String Quartet No. 1
String Quartet No. 3
String Quartet No. 5

Sunday, December 8
String Quartet No. 2
String Quartet No. 4
String Quartet No. 6

Tickets: \$86 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, December 14, 8pm

Zellerbach Playhouse

**Note venue change*

New Music
Eighth Blackbird

Program:

Nina Shekhar/*ice 'n' SPICE* (Bay Area Premiere)
Viet Cuong/*Electric Aroma* (Bay Area Premiere)
Fjóra Evans/*Eroding* (Bay Area Premiere)
Holly Harrison/*Lobster Tales and Turtle Soup* (Bay Area Premiere)
Andy Akiho/*Karakurenai*
Jonathan Bailey Holland/*The Clarity of Cold Air*
Pamela Z./*Ways of Looking* (Bay Area Premiere)

Tickets: \$26–\$42 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, December 15, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Recital

Jonathan Biss, *piano*
The Complete Piano Sonatas of Ludwig van Beethoven

Program:

Sunday, December 15 (concert 5 of 7)

Piano Sonata No. 25 in G major, Op. 79, *Cuckoo*
Piano Sonata No. 11 in B-flat major, Op. 22
Piano Sonata No. 14 in C-sharp minor, Op. 27, No. 2, *Moonlight*
Piano Sonata No. 24 in F-sharp major, Op. 78, *À Thérèse*
Piano Sonata No. 30 in E major, Op. 109

Tickets: \$68 (prices subject to change)
