

CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY ANNOUNCES 2019–20 SEASON

Highlights:

[A DIVERSE AND EXPANSIVE DANCE SEASON SHOWCASES THE VERSATILITY OF ZELLERBACH HALL](#)

The grandeur of the MARIINSKY BALLET AND ORCHESTRA in *La Bayadère*
TANZTHEATER WUPPERTAL makes its highly anticipated return in PINA BAUSCH's *Palermo Palermo*
MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP opens the season with *Mozart Dances*
Presentations spotlight a wide range of dance traditions—on opulent and intimate scales—
including flamenco, hula, *butoh*, ballet, tap, and contemporary dance

[JOFFREY BALLET'S FIVE-YEAR BERKELEY RESIDENCY CONTINUES](#)

Bay Area premiere and Cal Performances Co-commission of
Beyond the Shore by NICOLAS BLANC,
performed to music by UC Berkeley alumnus MASON BATES,
and California premieres by LIAM SCARLETT and STEPHANIE MARTINEZ
Residency includes open rehearsals, community dance classes, conversations with choreographers,
and other specially designed audience engagement activities

[CONDUCTOR LAHAV SHANI MAKES HIS BAY AREA DEBUT WITH ROTTERDAM PHILHARMONIC](#)

The orchestra's 30-year-old chief conductor leads Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra
and Beethoven's *Emperor* Concerto featuring pianist NELSON FREIRE

[RECITALS BY RENOWNED VOCALISTS RENÉE FLEMING and SUSAN GRAHAM](#)

[BRITISH CELLO SENSATION SHEKU KANNEH-MASON MAKES HIS BAY AREA DEBUT](#)

[CAL PERFORMANCES HONORS BEETHOVEN ANNIVERSARY](#)

Celebrating the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth,
JONATHAN BISS performs the complete cycle of Beethoven piano sonatas
over the course of seven concerts

[IMMERSION IN MAJOR WORKS BY BARTÓK AND LISZT](#)

TAKÁCS QUARTET performs the complete Bartók string quartet cycle
LOUIS LORTIE plays Liszt's epic work for solo piano, *Années de pèlerinage*

**SPOTLIGHT ON BERKELEY CREATIVITY:
SEASON STARS CONTRIBUTIONS BY UC BERKELEY ALUMNI AND FACULTY
AND BERKELEY NATIVES**

Faculty member, pianist, and composer MYRA MELFORD
guest curates jazz concerts featuring exciting new talent

SPEKTRAL QUARTET performs the world premiere of Cal Performances
co-commissioned string quartet by Berkeley native SAMUEL ADAMS

UC Berkeley alumni, composer TERRY RILEY, filmmaker SAM GREEN and writer REBECCA SOLNIT
join KRONOS QUARTET for an evening that includes *A THOUSAND THOUGHTS*,
a film documentary with live music and a panel discussion

UC Berkeley alumnus JOSH KUN collaborates with jazz flutist NICOLE MITCHELL
ECO ENSEMBLE performs contemporary music by UC Berkeley faculty

**IN COLLABORATION WITH LEAD COMMISSIONER STANFORD LIVE
A HEWLETT 50 ARTS COMMISSION**

SCOTT JOPLIN'S 1911 opera *TREEMONISHA*
in a new production staged by Toronto's VOLCANO THEATRE COMPANY
in association with MOVEABLE BEAST COLLECTIVE

**MASTER ARTISTS PRESERVE AND HONOR
PERFORMANCE TRADITIONS FROM WIDE RANGE OF CULTURES**

The newest generation of flamenco dance from Andalusia,
classical Hawaiian hula and chant from the Big Island,
and acclaimed *butoh* artists and *taiko* drummers from Japan

**PERFORMANCES INCLUDE HIGHLY ANTICIPATED VISITS
BY LONGTIME CAL PERFORMANCES COLLABORATORS**

Returning artists with meaningful and enduring ties to Berkeley
include the ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER,
the all-male ballet pioneers LES BALLETS TROCKADERO DE MONTE CARLO,
THE TALLIS SCHOLARS, and JORDI SAVALL

FUN FOR ALL AGES

PEKING ACROBATS perform over Thanksgiving weekend
MNOZIL BRASS combines comedy and brass band music
MOMIX blends magic and movement
CIRQUE ÉLOIZE lends theatrical flair to Montreal circus arts

**PLUS A VARIETY OF INSPIRED PROGRAMS
IN EARLY MUSIC, CHAMBER MUSIC, NEW MUSIC, AND POPULAR VOCAL MUSIC**

View the full 2019–20 season brochure organized by genre at calperformances.org/brochure

Berkeley, CA, April 18, 2019—Cal Performances’ board of trustees co-chairs Helen Meyer and Susan Graham, and executive and artistic director Jeremy Geffen, today announce the 2019–20 season, programmed by associate director Rob Bailis. This season showcases an exhilarating and expansive breadth of dance productions, from grand to intimate in scale, featuring a broad range of international performance traditions and starring renowned companies from the US and abroad in Zellerbach Hall, widely considered the finest concert dance venue on the west coast; virtuoso soloists and conductors making their Cal Performances debuts; and immersion in key bodies of work by Beethoven, Bartók, and Liszt. An interdisciplinary set of projects explores the artistic accomplishments of UC Berkeley faculty and alumni and Berkeley natives—with composers, scholars, writers, filmmakers, and performers bringing new and recent work to campus. Dance and contemporary music ensembles perform Cal Performances co-commissioned works, and the season concludes with a Hewlett 50 Arts Commission project staged in collaboration with lead commissioner Stanford Live. Artists and ensembles with meaningful, decades-long relationships with Cal Performances and Bay Area audiences return, and master performers from across the globe travel to Zellerbach Hall for presentations that revive and refresh traditional and contemporary music and dance practices.

“This season’s programming celebrates what Cal Performances does best,” said Rob Bailis, who from July 2018 through March 2019 was the organization’s interim artistic director. “We’ll experience a robust offering of world cultural practices and programs with superstar performers and up-and-coming talent. We’ll discover some of the distinctive intellectual and artistic capital that exists right here in the East Bay—specifically at our great university—with innovative presentations across multiple genres that invite faculty, alumni, and Berkeley natives to share their creative discoveries. We’ll dive deeply into cornerstone classical music repertoire and enjoy fun and imaginative family programming. And most notably, we’ll take full advantage of the benefits of presenting in Zellerbach Hall, one of America’s most extraordinary dance venues. Audiences will witness dance programming that is remarkably broad and inclusive—with works that range from the most sumptuous to those that are

spare and stark in focus—performed by some of the finest companies in the world, all displayed to their imaginable best on the Zellerbach Hall stage.”

A Wide-Ranging Dance Season

The 2019–20 dance season offers an expansive selection of international and American companies at the height of their powers. Highlights include Saint Petersburg’s **Mariinsky Ballet and Orchestra** in a fully staged production of *La Bayadère*, with choreography by Marius Petipa (in a 1941 revision of his original 1877 production) and a score by Ludwig Minkus (Oct. 30–Nov. 3). Germany’s **Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch** first appeared at Cal Performances in the US premiere of Bausch’s *Nur Du (Only You)* in 1996, and now returns after a nearly nine-year hiatus with Bausch’s searing 1989 dance-theater work, *Palermo Palermo* (Apr. 24–26). **Dorrance Dance**’s stripped-down tap dance showcase *SOUNDspace* (Mar. 13–15) offers a contrast in scale and tone, in the intimate Zellerbach Playhouse.

The season opens with the **Mark Morris Dance Group** performing Morris’ lyrical *Mozart Dances*, set to Mozart piano works (Sept. 20–22). The work had its West Coast premiere at Cal Performances in the 2007–08 season, and is reprised here with music performed live by the **Berkeley Symphony** with conductor **Colin Fowler** and piano soloist **Inon Barnatan**.

The Joffrey Ballet continues its five-year Cal Performances residency featuring the Bay Area premiere of the Cal Performances-commissioned *Beyond the Shore*, a piece by choreographer Nicolas Blanc that was developed on the Berkeley campus two seasons ago. The work is danced to the San Francisco Symphony’s Grammy-nominated recording of UC Berkeley alumnus Mason Bates’ *The B-Sides*. The company also performs the California premieres of Liam Scarlett’s *Vespertine* and Stephanie Martinez’s *Bliss!* (Mar. 6–8). Over the course of the Joffrey’s ongoing five-year residency at Berkeley, campus and community members will continue to experience myriad ways of engaging with the company’s lauded talent. This year’s visit will offer up-close and behind-the-scenes interaction with choreographers and company dancers through artist talks and community dance classes for both seasoned and aspiring dancers.

Star Recitalists and Conductors

The recital and orchestra season is infused with star power. Twenty-one-year-old British cellist **Sheku Kanneh-Mason**—winner of the 2016 BBC Young Musician competition and an artist-in-residence at the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic—was a featured performer at the May 2018 royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. Here in his Bay Area debut is joined here by his elder sister, pianist Isata, in a concert of Beethoven, Rachmaninoff, Barber, and Lutosławski (Dec. 4). Two towering voices of the opera stage, soprano **Renée Fleming** (Oct. 5) and mezzo-soprano **Susan Graham** (Feb. 9), visit for recitals covering a wide range of vocal repertoire. And **Lahav Shani**, a 30-year-old protégé of Daniel Barenboim and chief conductor of the Netherlands' **Rotterdam Philharmonic**, makes a rare US appearance with that orchestra. His Bay Area debut features Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra and Beethoven's *Emperor* Concerto, with pianist **Nelson Freire** as soloist (Mar. 22); while **Pinchas Zukerman** visits as both conductor and violin soloist with London's **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra** (Jan. 26).

Beethoven at 250

and Immersion in the Music of Bartók and Liszt

In the season that marks the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth, pianist **Jonathan Biss** visits with the composer's full cycle of 32 piano sonatas, performed over seven concerts (Sept. 21–22, Oct. 12–13, Dec. 15, Mar. 7–8). Biss returns to Cal Performances after his appearances in the 2017–18 season, when he performed three Beethoven piano concertos with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra.

Classical music programming for 2019–20 also features immersive experiences with the music of Béla Bartók and Franz Liszt. The **Takács Quartet** performs Bartók's complete string quartets over two concerts (Dec. 7–8); and French-Canadian pianist **Louis Lortie**, a lifelong devotee of the music of Liszt, performs the composer's epic *Années de pèlerinage* (Mar. 1).

Spotlight on Berkeley

Many events in the 2019–20 season highlight the artistry and creative vision of UC Berkeley graduates and faculty as well as natives and residents of the city. **Myra Melford**, a UC Berkeley music professor and internationally recognized pianist/composer, has been invited to guest curate the season's jazz offerings with two concerts introducing audiences to some of the most innovative jazz artists working

today. The first performance, in Hertz Hall, features a trio led by pianist **David Virelles** as well as *Spider Web*, a new collaboration between flutist **Nicole Mitchell** and spoken word from scholar/UC Berkeley alumnus **Josh Kun** (Oct. 27). Melford's second curated concert, *An Evening of Duos Onstage*, includes two saxophone-piano ensembles: **Tim Berne** and **Matt Mitchell**, and **Ingrid Laubrock** and **Kris Davis** (Feb. 9), with the audience seated onstage in Zellerbach Hall along with the musicians. **Spektral Quartet** visits to perform the world premiere of Berkeley native **Samuel Adams'** String Quartet No. 2, *Current*, a Cal Performances co-commission (Apr. 5), in addition to works by Webern, Glass, and Schubert; and UC Berkeley's new-music ensemble-in-residence, **Eco Ensemble**, performs a concert of new works by music department faculty composers **Franck Bedrossian**, **Edmund Campion**, **Carmine Cella**, **Cindy Cox**, **Myra Melford**, and **Ken Ueno** (Feb. 29). In a three-part presentation, Cal Performances celebrates both **Kronos Quartet's** 45-year legacy and composer and UC Berkeley graduate **Terry Riley's** 85th birthday. *A Thousand Thoughts: A Live documentary with the Kronos Quartet*, written and directed by **Sam Green** and **Joe Bini**, features the ensemble performing live to a film documentary narrated in-person by UC Berkeley alumnus Green. The evening also includes a solo piano performance by Riley and a panel discussion with the quartet, Riley, and Green, moderated by another UC Berkeley graduate, writer **Rebecca Solnit** (Feb. 13).

Scott Joplin's *Treemonisha*

In collaboration with lead commissioner Stanford Live, Toronto's **Volcano Theatre Company**, in association with **Moveable Beast Collective**, performs Scott Joplin's *Treemonisha*, a production of the composer's 1911 opera, directed for the stage by **Weyni Mengesha** with a new libretto by **Leah-Simone Bowen** (May 2–3). Ragtime composer Scott Joplin composed the opera more than 100 years ago, but it never reached the stage during his lifetime. The story explores the aspirations and struggles of an African-American community in the post-Reconstruction South, with a score that fuses classical and folk sounds with gospel and ragtime. The title role is performed by Canadian soprano **Neema Bickersteth** who wowed audiences and critics alike with her performances of slave songs and "Amazing Grace" as part of Jordi Savall's *Roots of Slavery* at Cal Performances in November 2018. This new production was made possible by the Hewlett 50 Arts Commission initiative, which supported Cal Performances' commission of *Dreamers* from composer Jimmy López and librettist Nilo Cruz during the 2018–19 season.

Global Masters

The 2019–20 season showcases a wide range of international performance traditions, featuring esteemed artists and troupes who honor and preserve generations-old artistic practices. Flamenco dancer **Farruquito**, who makes his Cal Performances debut this season, is part of the legendary Farruco dynasty in Andalusia, Spain, heir to that region’s cultural legacy of “puro” Gypsy flamenco (Nov. 4). The Hawaiian classical dance ensemble **Hālau O Kekuhi** specializes in the kinetic ‘*aiha’a*’ style of hula and chant, handed down from woman to woman for more than eight generations (Oct. 20); the Japanese *butoh* troupe **Sankai Juku** performs *Meguri: Teeming Sea, Tranquil Land*, a poetic meditation on time and the natural world created by artistic director Ushio Amagatsu (Oct. 12–13); **Yamato: The Drummers of Japan** performs the athletic *taiko* spectacle, *Passion* (Apr. 7); and jazz trumpeter and composer **Amir ElSaffar** explores the connections between Iraqi *maqam* and jazz improvisation in his *Rivers of Sound*, which brings together 17 musicians from Middle Eastern, South Asian, and Western jazz traditions (Apr. 14).

Longtime Collaborators Return

The dance season features distinguished and enduring Cal Performances collaborators returning with new and signature works. The **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** returns for its annual residency with Cal Performances, a relationship now in its sixth decade (Mar. 31 – Apr. 5), and **Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo** is back with more of its inspired mix of hilarious satire and seriously accomplished dance (Mar. 14–15). Other long-lived artistic partners returning this season include early-music superstars **The Tallis Scholars** (May 1) and **Jordi Savall**, performing with his steadfast groups **La Capella Reial de Catalunya** and **Hespèrion XXI** in a concert entitled *Splendor of the Iberian Baroque* (Feb. 1).

Fun for all Ages

An international cohort of performance troupes blends movement with theatricality and family-friendly spectacle. **MOMIX** brings its signature blend of magic and movement in *Viva MOMIX!*, a selection of excerpts from the company’s most popular repertoire (Oct. 26–27); the **Peking Acrobats** come to town on Thanksgiving weekend (Nov. 29 – Dec. 1); **Cirque Éloize** takes Montreal’s circus arts

tradition to new theatrical heights in its comedic production *Hotel* (Feb. 22–23); and Austria's **Mnozil Brass** combines comedy, chaos, and brass band music in *Cirque* (Mar. 21).

Inspired Programming across Musical Genres

Early-music and new-music ensembles visit with programs that illuminate connections between contemporary and Baroque works; introduce a new generation of inventive composers; and explore a range of affect and style in both choral and instrumental contexts. Countertenor **Iestyn Davies** is joined by British viol ensemble **Fretwork** for a concert that bridges three centuries of English repertoire, with works by Henry Purcell and contemporary minimalist composer Michael Nyman (Nov. 3). Acclaimed new-music ensemble **Eighth Blackbird** returns with music by eight contemporary composers, including six Bay Area premieres, and is joined by San Francisco vocalist and electronic music pioneer **Pamela Z** for the area premiere of a newly commissioned work built on the cadences in the speech patterns of members of the ensemble (Dec. 14). Classical guitarist **MILOŠ** performs both solo and accompanied by a chamber ensemble in an eclectic concert of classical music, popular standards from Latin America, and hit songs by Lennon and McCartney (Feb. 21).

Audience favorites, the **Danish String Quartet** (Nov. 10) and the duo of cellist **David Finckel** and pianist **Wu Han** (Nov. 24), are part of the season's chamber music offerings. Early-music presentations feature the vocal mastery of Georgia's **Ensemble Basiani** (Nov. 15) and *Secrets of the Baroque* presented by **Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin** (Feb. 23).

Stars of Song and Stage

The season celebrates a wide variety of popular vocal traditions, from African-American gospel and spirituals, to jazz and blues, Broadway and cabaret, and international folk song. The youthful **Trey McLaughlin & The Sounds of Zamar** sing contemporary gospel (Oct. 3); the popular Afropop Spectacular returns with *Sahara Soul*, featuring the Nubian electro-pop of **Alsarah and the Nubatones** and the electrified desert blues of Malian singer and guitarist **Sidi Touré** (Nov. 8); and composer and pianist **Damien Sneed** leads a tribute to the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in *We Shall Overcome* (Feb. 20). Irish traditional band **The Chieftains** caps 57 years of music making with its *Irish Goodbye* performance (Feb. 28); **John Cameron Mitchell** and **Stephen Trask**, the Tony Award-winning co-

creators of the cult rock musical *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, perform their cabaret-style *The Origin of Love Tour* concert. (Feb. 29); and the **Manhattan Transfer** celebrates its 45th anniversary with vocal ensemble **Take 6** in *The Summit* (Mar. 20). Featuring song, dance, and visuals, **Bollywood Boulevard: A Journey Through Hindi Cinema Live** brings the spectacle and exuberance of India's Hindi cinema to life onstage (Apr. 9).

Berkeley RADICAL and Cal Performances Academic Partnerships

Cal Performances' Berkeley RADICAL initiative continues in its fifth year in 2019–20 with programming and related events that will be announced in August. Events this season promise to bring to the fore the creative vision and artistic leadership that have arisen from the campus and city that Cal Performances calls home. Berkeley RADICAL brings together artists, curators, UC Berkeley faculty, and a diverse array of campus programming partners to create imaginative, immersive programs that enhance the creation, commissioning, and presentation mission of Cal Performances. A key goal of Berkeley RADICAL is to increase artistic literacy for the next generation and beyond.

Embracing its role on campus, and supported by funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Cal Performances partners with faculty members to offer courses that integrate its season with the curriculum for both graduate and undergraduate students. Four Cal Performances-based courses at UC Berkeley have been announced for the 2019–20 academic year. In the fall semester, scholar Aurelia Cojocaru in the **Comparative Literature** department will teach "Between Direct Speech and Sensory Excess: A Poetry Workshop" and Natalia Duong will teach "Performing Ecologies: Race and Gender in the Human/Nonhuman World" through the **Gender and Women Studies** department. During the spring semester, **History** scholar Peiting C. Li will teach "Rethinking Community in 20th-Century Diasporas, Social Movements, and Art" and **Psychology** professor Sonia Bishop will teach "The Cognitive Neuroscience of Identity: Individual, Cultural, and Beyond. Freshman and Sophomore Seminars." Each of these academic classes are customized to the instructors' research and teaching focus and are inspired by up to five Cal Performances presentations. Students receive free tickets to the performances included in their curriculum, as well as complimentary *Join Me!* tickets that enable them to bring friends.

This season, Cal Performances' artistic literacy department continues to cultivate its rich partnerships with academic units and institutes at UC Berkeley, including **Arts + Design**, **Comparative Literature**, the **Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society**, the **Departments of Music and Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies**, and—new this season—the **Global Institute for Urban Studies**. The artistic literacy department is also fostering a flourishing new relationship with the nearby **Graduate Theological Union**.

On Sale Dates

Subscription packages for Cal Performances' 2019–20 season go on sale Tuesday, April 23 at noon. Single tickets go on sale on 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.

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