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[Press Room](#)

CAL PERFORMANCES
2019–20 SEASON CALENDAR

Calendar of Events

Ticket Information: Cal Performances Ticket Office, (510) 642-9988
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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

Subscription packages for Cal Performances' 2019–20 season go on sale Tuesday, April 23 at noon.
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
Saturday, September 21, 2pm
Saturday, September 21, 8pm
Sunday, September 22, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall

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
Sunday, October 13, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall

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’a*’ 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
Sunday, October 27, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall

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

Conductor to be announced

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
Alsarah and the Nubatones and Natu Camara

Program: A double bill of Nubian electro-pop from Africa. 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, songwriter, and guitarist Natu Camara has been heralded as “the Tina Turner of Guinea” and in the 1990s led The Ideal Black Girls, West Africa’s first all-female hip-hop group. (Due to difficulties obtaining a visa singer and guitarist Sidi Touré has cancelled his US tour and will not appear as part of this performance.)**

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

Zellerbach Hall

Saturday, November 30, 2pm

Sunday, December 1, 3pm

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

Wednesday, 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
Sunday, December 8, 3pm

Hertz Hall

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)

Fjólá 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)

JANUARY 2020

Thursday, January 23, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Speaker Series

Jemele Hill

Program: The Emmy-winning sports journalist, former *ESPN SportsCenter* co-anchor, and current *Atlantic* staff writer opens up about her career at the controversial intersection of sports and race in the United States.

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

Sunday, January 26, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall

Orchestra

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Pinchas Zukerman, *conductor and violin*

Program:

Beethoven/*Overture to Egmont*

Mozart/Violin Concerto No. 5, *Turkish*
Tchaikovsky/Symphony No. 5

Tickets: \$38–\$125 (prices subject to change)

FEBRUARY 2020

Saturday, February 1, 8pm

First Congregational Church

Early Music

**Jordi Savall with
La Capella Reial de Catalunya
and Hespèrion XXI
*Splendor of the Iberian Baroque***

Program: Gamba virtuoso and musical polymath Jordi Savall returns with a performance celebrating the rich cultural melting pot of the Iberian Peninsula of the 16th and 17th centuries. Savall is joined by the Grammy-winning choir La Capella Reial de Catalunya, and his septet of virtuoso instrumentalists Hespèrion XXI, for a tour through the ornamented melodies and modal harmonies of the Arab-Andalusian tradition, plus dancing songs and romantic and pastoral themes woven together with colorful improvisation.

Tickets: \$56–\$92 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, February 9, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Recital

**Susan Graham, mezzo-soprano
Malcolm Martineau, piano**

Program to include:

Mahler/*Rückert Lieder*
Hahn/Selected songs
Jake Heggie/*Iconic Legacies: First Ladies at the Smithsonian*

Tickets: \$68 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, February 9, 7pm

Zellerbach Hall

***Myra Melford's Jazz Platform*
An Evening of Duos Onstage
Tim Berne, saxophone
and Matt Mitchell, piano**

**Ingrid Laubrock, saxophone
Kris Davis, piano**

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, “This concert—with the audience right onstage with the players—showcases the wide range of expression and interaction possible with the same instrumentation.”

Tickets: \$24 (prices subject to change)

Thursday, February 13, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

New Music

An Evening with Kronos Quartet

A Thousand Thoughts

A documentary with live music, written and directed by Sam Green and Joe Bini

plus

Terry Riley, solo piano

Rebecca Solnit, panel moderator

Panelists: Kronos members, Sam Green, Terry Riley

Program: Sound, image, history, storytelling, and live performance merge in Kronos Quartet’s collaboration with documentary filmmakers Sam Green (UC Berkeley alumnus) and Joe Bini. Onscreen, the quartet’s 45-year history at the vanguard of contemporary music unfolds through archival footage and interviews with Philip Glass, Terry Riley, Tanya Tagaq, and Steve Reich. Onstage, Kronos revisits works from its expansive catalog, performing music by George Crumb, Laurie Anderson, John Zorn, Aleksandra Vrebalov, and many others—while Green narrates in real time. The performance includes a solo piano set by minimalism pioneer Terry Riley (Kronos’ great friend and collaborator), and a panel conversation with the artists, moderated by Berkeley alumna Rebecca Solnit.

Tickets: \$48–\$68 (prices subject to change)

Thursday, February 20, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Vocal Celebration

We Shall Overcome

**A Celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.,
featuring Damien Sneed**

Program: Composer and pianist Damien Sneed’s tribute to the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebrates a living lineage of African-American music and culture that ranges from gospel, spirituals, and classical music to jazz and Broadway. Sneed, who has collaborated with Wynton Marsalis, the Clark Sisters, Aretha Franklin, and Jessye Norman, is joined by five singers, the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, and a live band for a performance of iconic songs by Aretha Franklin, Duke

Ellington, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, and Nina Simone, as well as traditional spirituals that evoke the struggles and triumphs of the civil rights movement. The music is interwoven with excerpts of Dr. King’s recorded speeches.

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

Friday, February 21, 8pm

First Congregational Church

Recital

MILOŠ and Friends

The Voice of the Guitar

Program: MILOŠ returns to Berkeley for a concert of virtuosic solo works by Bach, Granados, and de Falla, and is joined by an ensemble of gifted collaborators for arrangements of classical music by Rodrigo, Boccherini, and Piazzolla; popular standards from Brazil and Mexico; and intimate renditions of songs by John Lennon and Paul McCartney, of the Beatles.

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

Saturday, February 22, 2pm

Zellerbach Hall

Saturday, February 22, 8pm

Sunday, February 23, 3pm

Theater

Cirque Éloize

Hotel

Program: A pioneer of contemporary circus arts, Cirque Éloize delivers uproarious comedy through a mix of acrobatics, aerial routines, and live music. In their newest show, *Hotel*, set in an elegant Art Deco lobby, a cast of captivating characters—from a juggling janitor to a hapless tightrope-walking bellhop to a starlet flying through the air on a trapeze swing—takes viewers through the unexpected encounters that fuel every memorable traveler’s tale.

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

Sunday, February 23, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Early Music

Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin

Secrets of the Baroque

Program:

Veracini/Overture No. 6 in G minor

Van Wassenaer/*Concerto Armonico* No. 5 in F minor

C.P.E. Bach/Oboe Concerto in B-flat major

Telemann/*Sinfonia Melodica*
A. Scarlatti/Concerto Grosso No. 5 in D minor
Vivaldi/Violin Concerto in D minor, Op. 4, No. 8, RV 249
Handel/Concerto Grosso in D minor, Op. 3, No. 5

Tickets: \$68 (prices subject to change)

Thursday, February 27, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Speaker Series
David Pogue

Program: The *New York Times* columnist, *CBS Sunday Morning* tech correspondent, and prolific “how-to” author leads a journey through the pleasures and pitfalls of our technological world—from subjects as serious as smartphone-driven medicine to topics as fun and frivolous as e-mail etiquette.

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

Friday, February 28, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

World Stage
The Chieftains
The Irish Goodbye

Program: The Chieftains cap 57 years of music making with a tour for the ages. Beloved by fans for bringing the elegant simplicity and fiery virtuosity of Irish folk music into a wide array of musical contexts—including collaborations with Ry Cooder, Mick Jagger, Bon Iver, and traditional musicians from Mexico—the six-time Grammy winners are equally at home in a grand concert hall or an after-hours pub jam session.

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

Saturday, February 29, 8pm

Hertz Hall

New Music
Eco Ensemble

Program: UC Berkeley’s new-music ensemble-in-residence comprises contemporary music specialists from throughout the Bay Area, directed by UC Berkeley Music Department faculty member David Milnes. Eco Ensemble was founded in 2011 and in recent seasons has performed works by Esa-Pekka Salonen, Kaija Saariaho, and Martin Matalon. This performance features works by music department faculty composers Franck Bedrossian, Edmund Campion, Carmine Cella, Cindy Cox, Myra Melford, and Ken Ueno.

Tickets: \$24 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, February 29, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Theater

John Cameron Mitchell

The Origin of Love Tour

Featuring the songs of *Hedwig*

by Stephen Trask

with special guest Amber Martin

Program: The Tony Award-winning co-creators of the cult rock musical *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* take the stage for an evening of songs and stories. Stephen Trask wrote the music and lyrics, and John Cameron Mitchell created the title role when the show premiered off-Broadway more than 20 years ago, portraying the “internationally ignored” East German transgender singer fronting a struggling rock band. The program draws in both “Hedheads” and newcomers alike, as Mitchell and Trask connect stories in their own lives to Hedwig’s search for self-awareness and acceptance.

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

MARCH 2020

Sunday, March 1, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Recital

Louis Lortie, piano

Program:

Liszt/ *Années de pèlerinage*

Tickets: \$52 (prices subject to change)

Friday, March 6, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Saturday, March 7, 8pm

Sunday, March 8, 3pm

Dance

The Joffrey Ballet

Program:

Liam Scarlett/ *Vespertine* (music: Bjarte Eike, Dowland, Corelli, Geminiani) (California Premiere)

Stephanie Martinez/ *Bliss!* (music: Stravinsky) (California Premiere)

Nicholas Blanc/ *Beyond the Shore* (music: Mason Bates) (Bay Area Premiere, Cal Performances Co-commission)

Justin Peck/ *The Times Are Racing* (music: Dan Deacon)

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

Saturday, March 7, 8pm

Hertz Hall

Sunday, March 8, 3pm

Recital

Jonathan Biss, piano

The Complete Piano Sonatas of Ludwig van Beethoven

Programs:

Saturday, March 7 (concert 6 of 7)

Piano Sonata No. 19 in G minor, Op. 49, No. 1

Piano Sonata No. 16 in G major, Op. 31, No. 1

Piano Sonata No. 7 in D major, Op. 10, No. 3

Piano Sonata No. 2 in A major, Op. 2, No. 2

Piano Sonata No. 31 in A-flat major, Op. 110

Sunday, March 8 (concert 7 of 7)

Piano Sonata No. 8 in C minor, Op. 13, *Pathétique*

Piano Sonata No. 22 in F major, Op. 54

Piano Sonata No. 26 in E-flat major, Op. 81a, *Les adieux*

Piano Sonata No. 32 in C minor, Op. 111

Tickets: \$68 (prices subject to change)

Friday, March 13, 8pm

Zellerbach Playhouse

Saturday, March 14, 8pm

Sunday, March 15, 3pm

Dance

Dorrance Dance

SOUNDspace

Program: With 13 tap dancers and one acoustic bass player, Michelle Dorrance's *SOUNDspace* strips tap dance down to its most raw basics—movement as pure music. Without the trappings of ornate set pieces or flashy costumes, the award-winning choreographer and her expert company, along with musician Gregory Richardson, explore the unique setting and acoustics of Zellerbach Playhouse in a collective celebration of rhythm, sound, and energy.

Tickets: \$68 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, March 14, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Sunday, March 15, 3pm

Dance

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo

Program: The ever-popular Les Ballets Trockadero, which made its Berkeley debut in 1976, returns to Berkeley for more savagely funny satire married with seriously stunning ballet. Statuesque, glamorous male dancers in the iconic, fictional roles of prima ballerinas, the “Trocks” are an internationally adored cultural phenomenon and have performed their sophisticated form of ballet parody, *en travesti*, for more than 40 years.

Tickets: \$38–\$98 (prices subject to change)

Thursday, March 12, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Speaker Series **Laverne Cox**

Program: The Emmy Award-winning transgender actress and advocate, known for her groundbreaking role on *Orange is the New Black*, shares her views on race, class, and gender, communicating a powerful message of inner strength and self-acceptance.

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

Friday, March 20, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Vocal Celebration **The Summit: The Manhattan Transfer Meets Take 6** **A Celebration of the Manhattan Transfer’s 45th Anniversary**

Program: With 10 voices and 20 Grammy Awards between them, the Manhattan Transfer and male gospel ensemble Take 6 come together for a program that features the groups singing separately and together—both *a cappella* and backed by a live band. The program includes favorites like “Operator,” “Birdland,” “Boy From New York City,” and “Route 66,” plus music by Ray Charles and Stevie Wonder, songs from the Great American Songbook, and new arrangements prepared specially for this tour. The two groups previously performed together to celebrate the Manhattan Transfer’s 45th anniversary on a PBS special called *The Summit*.

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

Saturday, March 21, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

World Stage **Mnozil Brass** **Cirque**

Program: Austria’s Mnozil Brass combines antics with artistry in *Cirque*, its latest rowdy music-meets-slapstick mashup. The seven musicians play a mix of party songs, folk music, jazz, pop, and

classical arrangements on an assortment of trumpets, trombones, and tubas—creating an environment of controlled chaos where music is mixed with skits, dance numbers, and horseplay.

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

Sunday, March 22, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall

Orchestra

Rotterdam Philharmonic

Lahav Shani, *conductor*

Nelson Freire, *piano*

Program:

Beethoven/Piano Concerto No. 5, *Emperor*

Bartók/Concerto for Orchestra

Tickets: \$38–\$110 (prices subject to change)

Tuesday, March 31, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Wednesday, April 1, 8pm

Thursday, April 2, 8pm

Friday, April 3, 8pm

Saturday, April 4, 2pm

Saturday, April 4, 8pm

Sunday, April 5, 3pm

Dance

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Robert Battle, *artistic director*

Masazumi Chaya, *associate artistic director*

Program: Now in its seventh decade, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater stands tall as an enduring cultural touchstone, especially when it comes to work that speaks directly to the times. With artistic director Robert Battle at the helm, the Ailey company has cultivated the best and brightest choreographers working today—gifted artists exploring themes of hope, sorrow, joy, and resilience. Performances will include classics from the Ailey repertoire, and new works that extend and honor the legacy of Ailey himself, whose masterwork *Revelations* “becomes brighter, its brilliance more memorable, every year” (*The New York Times*).

Tickets: \$40–\$145 (prices subject to change)

APRIL 2020

Sunday, April 5, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Chamber Music

Spektral Quartet

Program:

Philip Glass/String Quartet No. 2, *Company*

Schubert/String Quartet No. 13 in A minor, D. 804, *Rosamunde*

Samuel Adams/String Quartet No. 2, *Current* (World Premiere, Cal Performances Co-commission)

Tickets: \$48 (prices subject to change)

Tuesday, April 7, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

World Stage

Yamato: The Drummers of Japan

Passion

Program: From Nara Prefecture in Japan, the Yamato Drummers visit with their newest production, a performance that celebrates the passion and energy of traditional Japanese drumming. With their spiky neon hairstyles and psychedelic punk-meets-samurai costumes, the youthful drummers perform with infectious spirit and masterful coordination on massive drums built from ancient tree trunks.

Tickets: \$32–\$74 (prices subject to change)

Thursday, April 9, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

World Stage

Bollywood Boulevard

A Journey Through Hindi Cinema Live

Program: The lush visual spectacle and exuberance of Hindi cinema come to life onstage in this colorful theatrical tribute. With live music from scores by R.D. Burman and A.R. Rahman; choreography inspired by the dance moves of superstars like Amitabh Bachchan and Priyanka Chopra; and romantic leads based on classic heartthrobs like Raj Kapoor, this fully staged production takes us on a journey from the birth of India's famous film industry to Bollywood's present-day blockbusters.

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

Tuesday, April 14, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Jazz

Amir ElSaffar's Rivers of Sound Orchestra

Rivers of Sound

Program: Trumpet player and composer Amir ElSaffar has long explored the connections between Iraqi *maqam* and jazz improvisation in his expansive compositions. His score was featured in Ragamala Dance Company’s visit to Cal Performances two seasons ago, and here he brings together 17 musicians from Middle Eastern, South Asian, and Western jazz traditions in a kaleidoscopic new program. ElSaffar’s layered, trancelike music combines microtonal melodies floating over a richly textured bed of strings and winds, and a bubbling, ever-shifting rhythmic backdrop.

Tickets: \$28–\$48 (prices subject to change)

Friday, April 24, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Saturday, April 25, 8pm

Sunday, April 26, 3pm

Dance

Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch

Palermo Palermo

Program: A towering wall crashes to rubble on the stage. Dancers make their way through the remains of a crumbling city in stiletto high heels. Six pianists hammer out Tchaikovsky on upright pianos while men and women exploit and are exploited. In *Palermo Palermo*, the late Pina Bausch’s 1989 work, the acclaimed dance-theater pioneer observed—through a series of vignettes by turns somber and surreal—the daily rituals of a people capable of both resonant beauty and chilling brutality. Bausch’s influential Tanztheater Wuppertal, which first appeared at Cal Performances in the US premiere of her *Nur Du (Only You)* in 1996, returns to Berkeley for the first time since 2011.

Tickets: \$38–\$110 (prices subject to change)

MAY 2020

Wednesday, May 1, 8pm

First Congregational Church

Early Music

The Tallis Scholars

The Field of the Cloth of Gold: Music of Jean Mouton and William Cornysh

Program: In the 16th century, the retinues of King Henry VIII of England and King Francis I of France met on a field near Calais for a friendly show of mutual power, an extravagant display of food, wine, wrestling, jousting, and of course, singing. Rival choirs squared off, with the French led by composer Jean Mouton and the English by William Cornysh. The Tallis Scholars pay tribute to this Renaissance “sing-off” in a program of works by both composers, culminating in Cornysh’s *Magnificat*.

Tickets: \$42–\$76 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, May 2, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Sunday, May 3, 3pm

Theater

Scott Joplin's *Treemonisha*
Volcano Theatre Company
with the Moveable Beast Collective
Weyni Mengesha, *stage director*

Program: In his masterwork *Treemonisha*, famed ragtime composer Scott Joplin created a story of black female empowerment that explored the aspirations of African Americans, telling the tale of an abandoned ex-slave girl who grows up to lead her community. The landmark work, written more than 100 years ago, never reached the stage during Joplin's lifetime, but the Toronto-based Volcano Theatre Company is resurrecting the opera and bringing Joplin's fictional African-American town in the post-Reconstruction South to vivid life in this reimagined, partially staged production. The company has enlisted Leah-Simone Bowen to create a new libretto honoring the politics of Joplin's original, set to new orchestrations of the composer's vibrant and eclectic score, in which he fuses classical and folk sounds with gospel and ragtime.

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

Saturday, May 9, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Speaker Series
Jad Abumrad

Program: The host and creator of public radio's wildly popular *Radiolab* program and podcast digs deep into some his favorite topics— including sound, science, history, storytelling—with his signature wit and infectious sense of curiosity.

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