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[Press Room](#)



Images of Sheku and Isata Kanneh-Mason are available for download from the Cal Performances [press room](#).

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS
RISING-STAR BRITISH CELLIST
SHEKU KANNEH-MASON
AND HIS SISTER, PIANIST ISATA KANNEH-MASON
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4 IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

Berkeley, October 24, 2019 — Cal Performances at UC Berkeley presents the brother/sister duo of cellist **Sheku Kanneh-Mason** and pianist **Isata Kanneh-Mason** in their Berkeley debut on Wednesday, December 4 at 8pm in Zellerbach Hall. Sheku Kanneh-Mason was launched into the international spotlight in May 2018 after performing at the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex at Windsor Castle.

In addition to guest appearances as a soloist with many of the world's finest orchestras, Kanneh-Mason has become an internet sensation through viral videos of his impassioned solo performances

of pop songs by Bob Marley and Leonard Cohen. He was the winner of the 2016 BBC Young Musician competition (the first musician of color to win in 38 years), has served as “Young Artist in Residence” at the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic for the past two seasons, and is currently a student at the Royal Academy of Music.

Pianist Isata Kanneh-Mason, the elder of the two siblings, is a postgraduate student at the Royal Academy of Music, where she held the prestigious Elton John Scholarship during her undergraduate studies, performing with Sir Elton John in Los Angeles in 2013. A decorated pianist, she has won the Royal Academy Iris Dyer Piano Prize four times, the Royal Academy Christian Carpenter Recital Prize (2018), the Harold Craxton Chamber Music Prize (2018), and the Wilfred Parry (Brahms) Prize (2018) at the Royal Academy. She has performed around the UK and abroad, in concerto appearances, solo recitals, and with chamber ensembles. In July 2019, she released her debut album, *Romance*, which features the music of composer Clara Schumann.

The two musicians perform a diverse program in Berkeley highlighting the cello’s vast expressive range. Beethoven’s 12 Variations on Mozart’s “Ein Mädchen oder Weibchen” is a playful, melodically inventive instrumental setting of Papageno’s aria from from *Die Zauberflöte*, in which the bird-catcher communicates his eagerness for female companionship. An elegiac and meditative work, Witold Lutosławski’s *Grave*, subtitled “Metamorphoses for Cello and Piano,” explores vastly different emotional terrain, and was composed in memory of Polish musicologist Stefan Jarociński. Samuel Barber’s dynamic and lyrical Cello Sonata in C minor became one of the most prominent cello sonatas composed by an American after its premiere in 1933, but is rarely heard today. And Rachmaninoff’s Cello Sonata in G minor, known for its serene central movement, is striking in its volatility and contrasting sonorities.

Ticket Information

Tickets for *Sheku Kanneh-Mason, cello, and Isata Kanneh-Mason, piano* on Wednesday, December 4 at 8pm in Zellerbach Hall range from \$42–\$68 (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, December 4, 8pm

**Zellerbach Hall
Bancroft Way at Dana Street
UC Berkeley Campus**

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

Lutosławski/*Grave*

Barber/Cello Sonata in C minor, Op. 6

Rachmaninoff/Cello Sonata in G minor, Op. 19

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

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