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[Press Room](#)

## CAL PERFORMANCES 2019–20 SPRING 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

### Ticket Information

Tickets to Cal Performances are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall,  
at (510) 642-9988, and at [calperformances.org](http://calperformances.org).

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### JANUARY 2020

**Thursday, January 23, 8pm**

**Zellerbach Playhouse**

***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)

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**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)

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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)

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**Sunday, February 9, 3pm**

**Hertz Hall**

***Recital***

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

**Program to include:**

Handel/“Ombra mai fu” from *Serse*  
Mozart/“Deh, per questo instante solo” from *La Clemenza di Tito*  
Mahler/*Rückert Lieder*  
Berlioz/*Les nuits d'été*  
Hahn/Selected songs

**Tickets:** \$68 (prices subject to change)

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**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*  
and **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)

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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)

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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 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)

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**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 Albeniz, Villa Lobos, Granados, and de Falla, and is joined by an ensemble of gifted collaborators for arrangements of classical music by Bach, Boccherini, and Piazzolla; popular standards from Brazil and Mexico; intimate renditions of songs by John Lennon and Paul McCartney, of the Beatles; and even Radiohead’s “Street Spirit (Fade Out).”

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

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**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. The company’s newest show, *Hotel*, is set in an elegant Art Deco lobby and features 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—that take viewers through the unexpected encounters fueling every memorable traveler’s tale.

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

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**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  
Handel/Concerto Grosso in D minor, Op. 3, No. 5

**Tickets:** \$68 (prices subject to change)

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**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—covering subjects as serious as smartphone-driven medicine and as fun and frivolous as e-mail etiquette.

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

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**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)

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**Saturday, February 29, 8pm**

**Hertz Hall**

***New Music***  
**Eco Ensemble**

**Program:**  
*Myra Melford/Homogenous Infiltration*  
*Ken Ueno/Zetsu*  
*Cindy Cox/Lift-up-over sounding*

Keeril Makan/*After Forgetting*  
Edmund Campion/*Late Bloomer*

**Tickets:** \$24 (prices subject to change)

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**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:** John Cameron Mitchell takes the stage for an evening of songs and stories from—and inspired by—the Tony-winning, groundbreaking cult-rock musical *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. The now-classic show premiered off-Broadway more than 20 years ago with Mitchell portraying the “internationally ignored” East German transgender singer fronting a struggling rock band, but its inclusive message remains relevant today. Featuring music and lyrics by *Hedwig* co-creator Stephen Trask, the program draws in both “Hedheads” and newcomers alike, as Mitchell and guest artist Amber Martin connect stories from their own lives to Hedwig’s search for self-awareness and acceptance.

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

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MARCH 2020

**Sunday, March 1, 3pm**

**Hertz Hall**

***Recital***

**Louis Lortie, *piano***

**Program:**

*Liszt/Années de pèlerinage*

**Tickets:** \$52 (prices subject to change)

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**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)

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**Saturday, March 7, 8pm**  
**Sunday, March 8, 3pm**

**Hertz Hall**

***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)

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**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)

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**Friday, March 13, 8pm**  
**Saturday, March 14, 2pm**  
**Saturday, March 14, 8pm**  
**Sunday, March 15, 3pm**

**Zellerbach Playhouse**

*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)

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**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 for more savagely funny satire married with seriously stunning ballet. Statuesque, glamorous male dancers in the iconic (if 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)

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**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)

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**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 combined with skits, dance numbers, and horseplay.

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

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**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)

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**Tuesday, March 31, 8pm**  
**Wednesday, April 1, 8pm**  
**Thursday, April 2, 8pm**  
**Friday, April 3, 8pm**  
**Saturday, April 4, 2pm**  
**Saturday, April 4, 8pm**  
**Sunday, April 5, 3pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**

**Dance**  
**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**  
**Robert Battle, artistic director**  
**Matthew Rushing, 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)

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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)

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**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)

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**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)

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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)

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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)

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MAY 2020

Friday, 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)

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**Saturday, May 2, 8pm**  
**Sunday, May 3, 3pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**

*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 and fully 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 (by Jessie Montgomery and Jannina Norpoth) of the composer’s vibrant and eclectic score that fuse classical and folk sounds with gospel and ragtime.

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

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**Saturday, May 9, 8pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**

*Speaker Series*  
**Jad Abumrad**

**Program:** The host and creator of public radio’s wildly popular *Radiolab* program and the hit *Dolly Parton’s America* 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)

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JUNE 2020

**Friday, June 5, 8pm**  
**Saturday, June 6, 8pm**

**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). *\*These performances are rescheduled from October 26 & 27, 2019, which were cancelled due to a PG&E power shut off.*

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

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