

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

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

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[Press Room](#)



Images of the Mariinsky Ballet and Orchestra are available for download from the Cal Performances [press room](#).

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS
THE MARIINSKY BALLET AND ORCHESTRA IN
LA BAYADÈRE
WEDNESDAY–SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30 – NOVEMBER 3**

Berkeley, October 1, 2019 — Cal Performances at UC Berkeley presents Saint Petersburg’s world-renowned **Mariinsky Ballet and Orchestra** in Marius Petipa’s opulent *La Bayadère*, on Wednesday, October 30 at 8pm; Thursday, October 31 at 8pm; Friday, November 1 at 8pm; Saturday, November 2 at 1pm and 8pm; and Sunday, November 3 at 3pm in Zellerbach Hall. **Alexei Repnikov** conducts the orchestra in Ludwig Minkus’ score. A signature work of the company for more than 140 years, the story ballet *La Bayadère* is best known for the iconic “Kingdom of the Shades” scene in Act III, in which two dozen ghost-like ballerinas in white tutus and veils descend single file down a mountain slope in slow, hypnotic unison.

La Bayadère was originally performed by the Imperial Ballet at the Imperial Bolshoi Kamenny Theater in Saint Petersburg in 1877, and was regularly performed within the Soviet Union

throughout the 20th century. Today, the Mariinsky tours the work in its most well-known staging, the 1941 version that features revised choreography by Vladimir Ponomarev and Vakhtang Chabukiani. *La Bayadère* was first introduced in the West when the Mariinsky (then known as the Kirov Ballet) toured with the “Kingdom of the Shades” scene in 1961.

The story is set in the royal courts of ancient India, and revolves around Nikiya, a temple dancer, who is in love with the warrior Solor. The High Brahmin also desires Nikiya, and when she rejects him, he plans to take revenge on Solor. When the High Brahmin tells the Rajah about Solor’s secret love, the Rajah decides that Nikiya, not Solor, should be killed. Princess Gamzatti is to be married to Solor, and tries to bribe Nikiya to give him up, but Nikiya refuses. The Rajah and Gamzatti arrange for Nikiya to be killed by a snake bite during the engagement festivities. Despondent, Solor is filled with remorse and haunted by visions of Nikiya, and the wedding cannot go on. The gods are angered and destroy the temple with all inside it. In the afterlife, Solor and Nikiya are finally united.

With these performances, Cal Performances continues its long association with the Mariinsky Ballet and Orchestra, which have previously appeared on the Zellerbach Hall stage for productions of *Swan Lake* (2012–13 season); the West Coast premiere of Alexei Ratmansky’s *Cinderella* (2015–16); and, under its former name, the Kirov Ballet and Orchestra of the Mariinsky Theater, for performances of *Chopiniana*, *The Firebird*, *Scheherazade*, and *Jewels* (2003–04); *Sleeping Beauty* (2005–06); and selections from *Raymonda*, *La Bayadère*, and *Paquita*, plus *Don Quixote* (2008–09).

Casting information is available [here](#).

Dance scholar Carrie Gaiser Casey will present a pre-performance talk on Saturday, November 2 at 7pm in the Durham Studio Theater, Dwinelle Hall; the program is free and open to the public.

Ticket Information

Tickets for the *Mariinsky Ballet and Orchestra*, *La Bayadère* on Wednesday, October 30 at 8pm; Thursday, October 31 at 8pm; Friday, November 1 at 8pm; Saturday, November 2 at 1pm and 8pm; and Sunday, November 3 at 3pm in Zellerbach Hall range from \$50–\$225 (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, October 30, 8pm
Thursday, October 31, 8pm
Friday, November 1, 8pm
Saturday, November 2, 1pm
Saturday, November 2, 8pm
Sunday, November 3, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall
Bancroft Way at Dana Street
UC Berkeley campus

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 Sergeyev 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* 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 the Mariinsky's most beloved showpieces well into the 21st century.

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

Residency Activities

Pre-performance Talk

Durham Studio Theater, Dwinelle Hall

Saturday, November 2 at 7pm

Dance scholar Carrie Gaiser Casey presents a pre-performance talk; the event is free and open to the public.

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