CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY
2020–21 SEASON
by Genre

Special Events

● The 2020–21 season opens at the Greek Theatre on Thursday, August 20, with Not Our First Goat Rodeo, a reunion of the all-star ensemble of cellist Yo-Yo Ma, violinist/fiddler Stuart Duncan, double bassist Edgar Meyer, and mandolinist Chris Thile, with guest vocalist Aoife O’Donovan.

● The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra returns to Cal Performances for an exclusive West Coast engagement under the baton of Gustavo Dudamel in three orchestral concerts at Zellerbach Hall on Tuesday–Thursday, March 2–4. A Grand Gala, a fundraiser in support of Cal Performances’ artistic initiatives and education programs, accompanies the March 4 concert, with cocktails and a pre-concert dinner in Pauley Ballroom and desserts and waltzing afterwards.

Chamber Music and Orchestra

● In its first Cal Performances engagement, the Dover Quartet performs music by Haydn, Ligeti, and Dvořák in a matinee concert at Hertz Hall on Sunday, October 11.

● The Tetzlaff Quartet, also appearing for the first time with Cal Performances, performs Beethoven’s String Quartet in C-sharp minor, Op. 131; String Quartet in A minor, Op. 132; String Quartet in B-flat major, Op. 130 with Grosse Fuge in B-flat major, Op. 133, on Saturday and Sunday, December 5–6, at Hertz Hall. (Part of Cal Performances’ Illuminations: Music and the Mind series.)

● A Cal Performances favorite, the Takács Quartet returns for two concerts at Hertz Hall on Sundays, January 17 and 24, performing music by Mozart, Brahms, Dutilleux, Haydn, Britten, and Debussy.

● Mitsuko Uchida leads the Mahler Chamber Orchestra from the keyboard in a concert featuring Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 18 in B-flat major, K. 456, and Piano Concerto No. 21 in C major, K. 467, as well as Janáček’s Mládí on Sunday, March 28, at Zellerbach Hall.

Recitals

● Violinist Tessa Lark and pianist Andrew Armstrong appear at Cal Performances for the first time in a concert of Bartók’s (arr. Székely) Romanian Folk Dances; Ysaye's Sonata No. 5 for Solo Violin; Schubert’s Fantasie in C major, D. 934; Grieg’s Violin Sonata No. 3 in C minor; and Ravel’s Tzigane on Sunday, November 8, at Hertz Hall.

● Cellist David Finckel and pianist Wu Han perform Beethoven’s complete sonatas for cello and piano on Sunday, November 15, at Zellerbach Hall.

● Korean pianist Seong-Jin Cho appears at Cal Performances for the first time in an evening recital at Zellerbach Hall on Friday, December 11. His concert will feature Brahms’ Six Pieces for Piano, Op. 118; Schumann’s Humoresque in B-flat major, Op. 20; Berg’s Piano Sonata, Op. 1; and Liszt’s Piano Sonata in B minor.

● Violinist Maxim Vengerov and pianist Roustem Saïtkoulov perform Mozart’s Violin Sonata No. 26 in B-flat major, K. 378; Mendelssohn’s Violin Sonata in F major; Prokofiev’s
Violin Sonata No. 1 in F minor, Op. 80; and Tchaikovsky’s Mélodie and Scherzo from Souvenir d’un lieu cher and Valse-Scherzo on Sunday, January 31, at Zellerbach Hall.

- On Sunday, February 21, at Hertz Hall, soprano Christine Goerke appears at Cal Performances for the first time, accompanied by pianist Malcolm Martineau in a recital of R. Strauss’ Eight Songs from the Last Pages, Op. 10; Berg’s Seven Early Songs; Wagner’s Wesendonck Lieder; and selected songs by Brahms.

- Pianist Jeremy Denk performs Book 1 of J.S. Bach’s The Well-Tempered Clavier on Sunday, March 7, at Hertz Hall.

- Pianist Beatrice Rana appears at Cal Performances for the first time in a recital of Scriabin’s Piano Sonata No. 10 and Waltz in A-flat major, Op. 38; Ravel’s La valse; and Chopin’s four scherzos (No. 1 in B minor, Op. 20; No. 2 in B-flat minor, Op. 31; No. 3 in C-sharp minor, Op. 39; and No. 4 in E major, Op. 54) on Sunday, April 11, at Hertz Hall.

- Mezzo-soprano Jamie Barton joins pianist, and composer Jake Heggie, her longtime friend and collaborator, for a program including the West Coast premiere of a new work by Heggie on Sunday, May 2, at Hertz Hall.

**Music and Discussion**

- Soprano Renée Fleming appears as both performer in song recital selections and host of several discussions at Zellerbach Hall on Sunday, April 18, as part of a multiple-day residency on the UC Berkeley campus, collaborating with researchers, scholars, and scientists on the topic of Music and the Mind, a featured theme of Cal Performances’ 2020–21 Illuminations series.

**Early Music**

- Early-music polymath Jordi Savall joins two of his ensembles, La Capella Reial de Catalunya and Le Concert des Nations, for selections from Monteverdi’s Madrigals, Book 8, the Madrigals of Love and War, at Zellerbach Hall on Thursday, November 12.

- Harpsichordist Mahan Esfahani makes his Cal Performances debut in a performance to include J.S. Bach’s Goldberg Variations on Sunday, February 14, at Hertz Hall.

- The English Concert launches its multi-season project in collaboration with Cal Performances with a concert performance of George Frideric Handel’s Tamerlano on Wednesday, April 28, at Zellerbach Hall. (Part of Cal Performances’ Illuminations: Fact or Fiction series.)

**New Music**

- New York’s iconoclastic contemporary music ensemble Bang on a Can All-Stars returns on Saturday, January 23, to perform Steel Hammer, an oratorio by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Julia Wolfe, at Zellerbach Hall. (Part of Cal Performances’ Illuminations: Fact or Fiction series.)

- UC Berkeley’s Eco Ensemble performs music by Toshio Hosokawa, guest of the Dept. of Music and the 2021 Bloch Lecturer, on Saturday, February 13, at Hertz Hall.

- Spotlighting the unique instrumentation of string trio, flute, clarinet, and trumpet/French horn, the sextet yMusic—each musician a member of Generation Y—makes its first UC Berkeley appearance in a program to include Difference, a Cal Performances co-commissioned work by Andrew Norman, Saturday, March 13, at Zellerbach Playhouse.
Composer/pianist Nico Muhly is joined by a Who’s Who of the new-music world, including violist and Meet the Composer and Living Music podcast host Nadia Sirota, in a performance of lesser-known works by Philip Glass on Friday, April 16, at Zellerbach Hall.

Dance

Miami City Ballet returns to Berkeley for the first time since the 2007–08 season to perform works by Balanchine, Justin Peck, and Alexei Ratmansky, Friday–Sunday, October 2–4, at Zellerbach Hall.

Ballet Hispánico makes its Cal Performances debut in a performance of works by women choreographers: Annabelle Lopez Ochoa’s Tiburones, Michelle Manzanales’ Con Brazos Abiertos, and Andrea Miller’s Naci, Saturday and Sunday, November 21–22, at Zellerbach Hall.

Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan returns to Cal Performances with Dust by founding director Lin Hwai-Min, and 13 Tongues by incoming artistic director Cheng Tsung-Lung, Saturday and Sunday, December 5–6 at Zellerbach Hall.

Founding member of Dorrance Dance and two-time “Bessie” Award winner, tap dancer Caleb Teicher and his company make their Cal Performances debut in More Forever, a collaboration with pianist/composer Conrad Tao, who will perform his score from the piano and other keyboard instruments, Saturday and Sunday, December 12–13, at Zellerbach Playhouse.

East London hip-hop company Boy Blue performs Blak Whyte Gray: A Hip-Hop Dance Triple Bill, which traces a path from oppression to freedom through dance on Friday–Sunday, March 5–7, at Zellerbach Playhouse.

The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater under artistic director Robert Battle and associate artistic director Matthew Rushing returns to Cal Performances for the company’s popular annual residency at Zellerbach Hall, Tuesday–Sunday, April 6–11.

Eifman Ballet returns for performances of Russian Hamlet in a refreshed production created to mark the Saint Petersburg company’s 40th anniversary in 2017, Friday–Sunday, June 4–6, at Zellerbach Hall.

Opera

Mark Morris Dance Group unites with Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra & Chorale for the Cal Performances co-commissioned revival of Jean-Philippe Rameau’s comic opera Platée, Friday–Sunday, May 7–9, at Zellerbach Hall.

Theater

Manual Cinema, a Chicago-based collective of musicians, composers, theater artists, and filmmakers, returns to Berkeley to perform Frankenstein, a Cal Performances co-commission, on Saturday and Sunday, October 24–25 at Zellerbach Hall. The production weaves together the plot of Mary Shelley’s gothic tale with themes of desire, birth, and loss from the author’s own biography. (Part of Cal Performances’ Illuminations: Fact or Fiction series.)

In The White Album, director Lars Jan mines new lessons from Joan Didion’s seminal essay of insightful observations of California in the 1960s. Early Morning Opera’s participatory, multimedia production was created with and is performed by Mia Barron. Friday and Saturday, December 4–5, at Zellerbach Playhouse. (Part of Cal Performances’ Illuminations: Fact or Fiction series.)
Jazz

- Composer and bandleader Darcy James Argue leads his Secret Society, an 18-piece big band from New York, in Real Enemies, a multimedia production that considers the role of conspiracy theories in American culture, on Friday and Saturday, October 9–10, at Zellerbach Hall. (Part of Cal Performances’ Illuminations: Fact or Fiction series.)

- Trumpeter and vocalist Bria Skonberg, who last appeared in Berkeley as part of the Monterey Jazz Festival on Tour in April 2019, returns to perform with her own group on Wednesday, December 9, at Zellerbach Playhouse.

- 18-year-old Matthew Whitaker holds court on the piano and Hammond B3 organ, leading his quartet (including guitar, bass, and drums) on Saturday, December 19, at Zellerbach Playhouse. (Part of Cal Performances’ Illuminations: Music and the Mind series.)

- The brainchild of pianist and composer Renee Rosnes, Artemis is an international ensemble of modern jazz masters that includes Rosnes, music director and piano; Ingrid Jensen, trumpet; Nicole Glover, tenor saxophone; Noriko Ueda, bass; and Allison Miller, percussion. The ensemble performs at Cal Performances for the first time on Saturday, February 27, at Zellerbach Hall.

- Jazz vocalist Jazzmeia Horn brings her dazzling vocals and impeccable sense of swing to Zellerbach Playhouse on Thursday, March 11.

World Stage

- Grammy- and Latin Grammy-winning singer and activist Lila Downs returns to campus on Friday, September 25, at Zellerbach Hall with music from her latest cumbia-infused release, Al Chile, expressing themes of pleasure and pain, suffering and redemption, through the metaphor of Mexico’s ubiquitous chili pepper.

- From Jaipur, The Dhamaal Dancers and Musicians of India visit with a tribute to Holi, the Hindu festival of colors, on Friday, November 13, at Zellerbach Hall.

- Grammy Award winner Angélique Kidjo reconnects the Talking Heads’ landmark 1980 Remain in Light album with the music’s original Afropop underpinnings and filters its American new-wave sensibility through her own musical influences from across the African continent, performing Thursday, November 19, at Zellerbach Hall.

- The 15 drummers of Kodo, Japan’s renowned multigenerational taiko troupe, invoke centuries of history and culture with each blow to their massive drums on Saturday and Sunday, February 6–7, at Zellerbach Hall.

- Vân-Ánh Vŏ, the award-winning performer of the 16-string dan tranh (zither), and her Blood Moon Orchestra perform the world premiere of music from her new Songs of Strength project, with texts in English, Persian, and Vietnamese, on Sunday, March 14, at Zellerbach Playhouse.

-Tabla virtuoso Zakir Hussain brings his Masters of Percussion to Zellerbach Hall on Saturday, March 20.

Vocal Celebration

- Madeleine Peyroux and Paula Cole come together for a double bill, performing music from their hit recordings, on Friday, October 16, at Zellerbach Hall.
• **The Summit: Manhattan Transfer Meets Take 6** on Saturday, January 30, at Zellerbach Hall (rescheduled from the 2019–20 season).

• **Damien Sneed** returns with four-time Grammy winner and gospel star Karen Clark Sheard, as well as a selection of jazz, gospel, and soul musicians and vocalists, to pay tribute to Sneed’s former mentor, Aretha Franklin, on Saturday, March 6, at Zellerbach Hall.

• **Sol3 Mio**, the trio of two tenor brothers, Pene and Amitai Pati, and their baritone cousin, Moses Mackay, performs timeless opera arias and popular hits, accompanying themselves on piano and guitar, with orchestral backing tracks, on Friday, March 12 at Zellerbach Hall.

**Speakers**

• Speaker, author, and *New Yorker* music critic **Alex Ross** shares insights from his new book, *Wagnerism: Art and Politics in the Shadow of Music*, exploring the controversial composer’s influence on the artistic, intellectual, and political life of both his time and ours on Thursday, September 24, at Zellerbach Hall.

**Holidays and Year-Round Favorites**

• **Vienna Boys Choir** returns to Zellerbach Hall on Thanksgiving weekend with a program of Austrian folk songs, classical masterpieces, and Christmas hymns and carols on Saturday, November 28.

• The **Canadian Brass** performs original works and holiday classics, as well as classical, choral, and popular music arranged for brass instruments, in their *Making Spirits Bright for 50 Years and Counting!* program on Friday, December 18 at Zellerbach Hall.

• Montreal’s creative modern circus group **The 7 Fingers** returns to Berkeley with its new *Passengers* production, Thursday–Saturday, February 11–13, at Zellerbach Hall.

• The dancers and acrobats of **Pilobolus** celebrate their 50th anniversary with the vintage classic *Untitled*, the high-voltage *Megawatt*, and more of the company’s signature shadow works at Zellerbach Hall on Thursday and Friday, April 22–23.

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