

[Press Room](#)

CAL PERFORMANCES

2020–21 SEASON CALENDAR

Calendar of Events

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

Performance Venues

Zellerbach Hall – Bancroft Way at Dana Street, UC Berkeley campus
Zellerbach Playhouse – Bancroft Way at Dana Street, UC Berkeley campus
Hearst Greek Theatre – 2001 Gayley Road, UC Berkeley campus
Hertz Hall – Bancroft Way at College Avenue, UC Berkeley campus

Ticket Information

Subscription packages for Cal Performances' 2020–21 season go on sale Tuesday, May 5, at noon. Single tickets for *Not Our First Goat Rodeo* go on sale to the general public Friday, June 12, at noon. Single tickets for the rest of the 2020–21 season go on sale on Tuesday, August 4, at noon. Tickets to Cal Performances are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, and at calperformances.org.

AUGUST 2020

Thursday, August 20, 8pm

Greek Theatre

Special Event

Not Our First Goat Rodeo

Yo-Yo Ma, *cello*

Stuart Duncan, *fiddle*

Edgar Meyer, *double bass*

Chris Thile, *mandolin*

With guest Aoife O'Donovan, *vocals*

Program: Reuniting this summer for the first time in nearly a decade, virtuosos Yo-Yo Ma on cello, Stuart Duncan on fiddle, Edgar Meyer on double bass, and Chris Thile on mandolin will perform live at UC Berkeley's Greek Theatre. The original *Goat Rodeo Sessions*, a 2011 double-Grammy winner, was the first step in this collaboration. The Greek Theatre concert, with guest vocalist Aoife O'Donovan, will feature all-new music from an eagerly anticipated release, out this spring.

Tickets: \$50–250 (prices subject to change)

SEPTEMBER 2020

Thursday, September 24, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Hall

Speaker

Alex Ross on Wagner

Program: 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. In his talk, inspired by more than 10 years of research and reflection, Ross discusses the resonance of Wagner's mythic storytelling on fantasy fiction by J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis, and films and TV shows such as *Star Wars*, *The Matrix*, and *Game of Thrones*. Ross has been the music critic at the *New Yorker* for nearly 25 years, and has received both MacArthur and Guggenheim fellowships. His first book, *The Rest Is Noise: Listening to the Twentieth Century*, was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and won a National Book Critics Circle Award; and his second book, the collection *Listen to This*, received an ASCAP Deems Taylor Award.

Tickets: \$26–42 (prices subject to change)

Friday, September 25, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

World Stage

Lila Downs

Program: Grammy- and Latin Grammy-winning singer and activist Lila Downs has built a career connecting the folk and indigenous music of Mexico to both contemporary music genres and modern social movements. Her latest *cumbia*-infused release, *Al Chile*, explores themes of pleasure and pain, suffering and redemption, through the metaphor of Mexico’s ubiquitous chili pepper.

Tickets: \$36–86 (prices subject to change)

OCTOBER 2020

Friday, October 2, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Saturday, October 3, 8pm

Sunday, October 4, 3pm

Dance

Miami City Ballet

Lourdes Lopez, *artistic director*

Berkeley Symphony Orchestra

Gary Sheldon, *conductor*

Program:

Balanchine/*The Four Temperaments* (music: Hindemith)

Justin Peck/*Heatscape* (music: Martinů) (West Coast Premiere)

Alexei Ratmansky/*Symphonic Dances* (music: Rachmaninoff) (West Coast Premiere)

Tickets: \$36–126 (prices subject to change)

Friday, October 9, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Saturday, October 10, 8pm

Theater and Jazz

Darcy James Argue’s Secret Society

Real Enemies (West Coast Premiere)

Darcy James Argue, *music*

Isaac Butler, *writer and director*

Peter Nigrini, *film design*

Produced by Beth Morrison Projects

Program: Composer and bandleader Darcy James Argue arrives in Berkeley with his Secret Society, an 18-piece big band from New York, for a performance of video, text, and music exploring the American fascination with conspiracy theories. Taking his title from a 2009 book by Kathryn Olmsted (*Real Enemies: Conspiracy Theories and American Democracy, World War I to 9/11*), Argue has created a multimovement suite packed with plots and paranoia. Argue’s eclectic music combines traditional jazz with postwar serialism, Latin rhythms, film noir orchestrations, and rock sonorities,

deploying a mix of distinctly American musical styles to explore everything from the Red Scare to the surveillance state, mind control to fake moon landings, FBI schemes to alien sightings.

Tickets: \$34–86 (prices subject to change)

This performance is part of Cal Performances' 2020–21 Illuminations: Fact or Fiction series.

Sunday, October 11, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Chamber Music and Orchestra

Dover Quartet

Program:

Haydn/String Quartet in D minor, Op. 76, No. 2, *The Fifth*
Ligeti/String Quartet No. 1, *Métamorphoses nocturnes*
Dvořák/String Quartet in G major, Op. 106

Tickets: \$68 (prices subject to change)

Friday, October 16, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Vocal Celebration

Madeleine Peyroux and Paula Cole

Program: Madeleine Peyroux and Paula Cole join together for a double bill of two vocalists performing music from their hit records. Madeleine Peyroux's breakout 2004 recording *Careless Love* features new versions of songs by Bob Dylan, Elliott Smith, Leonard Cohen, and Hank Williams. Paula Cole's 1996 album *This Fire* went double platinum, hit #20 on the *Billboard* charts, and earned seven Grammy nominations, with hits like "Where Have All the Cowboys Gone?" and "I Don't Want to Wait."

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

Saturday, October 24, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Sunday, October 25, 3pm

Theater

Manual Cinema

Frankenstein (Cal Performances Co-commission)

Program: Back in Berkeley following their 2018 performance of *Ada/Ava*, Chicago's collective of musicians, composers, theater artists, and filmmakers captivates with its handmade creations.

Frankenstein, co-commissioned by Cal Performances, weaves together the plot of Mary Shelley’s gothic tale with themes of desire, birth, and loss from the author’s own biography—asking us to consider our responsibility to, and for, our modern-day creations. The company’s performers manipulate hundreds of paper puppets to create a silent animated film in real time, featuring live actors and a score performed onstage by four musicians.

Tickets: \$48–78 (prices subject to change)

This performance is part of Cal Performances’ 2020–21 Illuminations: Fact or Fiction series.

NOVEMBER 2020

Sunday, November 8, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Recital

Tessa Lark, violin

Andrew Armstrong, piano

Program:

Bartók (arr. Székely)/*Romanian Folk Dances*

Ysaÿe/Sonata No. 5 for Solo Violin

Schubert/Fantasy in C major, D. 934

Grieg/Violin Sonata No. 3 in C minor

Ravel/*Tzigane*

Tickets: \$56 (prices subject to change)

Thursday, November 12, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Hall

Early Music

Jordi Savall

La Capella Reial de Catalunya

Le Concert des Nations

Program:

Monteverdi/Madrigals, Selections from Book 8, *Madrigals of Love and War*

Tickets: \$36–98 (prices subject to change)

Friday, November 13, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

World Stage

The Dhamaal Dancers and Musicians of India

Program: From Jaipur, India, the Dhamaal Dancers and Musicians of India visit with a tribute to Holi, the Hindu festival of colors. The troupe of traditional musicians, dancers, acrobats, and singers revels in the holiday's spirit of merriment and release, with a program of devotional music, lighthearted songs, and ballads about the romance of the gods Lord Krishna and Radha. The ensemble is led by *tabla* player Rahis Bharti, who descends from a long line of court musicians and last year was named a UNESCO Cultural Ambassador. Bharti last visited Cal Performances with his Bollywood Masala Orchestra and Dancers of India in 2015.

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

Sunday, November 15, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall

Recital

David Finckel, *cello*
Wu Han, *piano*

Program:
Beethoven/The Five Sonatas for Cello and Piano

Tickets: \$56–\$78 (prices subject to change)

Thursday, November 19, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Hall

World Stage

Angélique Kidjo
Remain in Light

Program: 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.

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

Saturday, November 21, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Sunday, November 22, 3pm

Dance

Ballet Hispánico

Program:
Annabelle Lopez Ochoa/*Tiburones*

Michelle Manzanales/*Con Brazos Abiertos* (Bay Area Premiere)
Andrea Miller/*Nací*

Tickets: \$30–78 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, November 28, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Holidays and Year-Round Favorites

Vienna Boys Choir
Christmas in Vienna

Program: The Vienna Boys Choir returns on Thanksgiving weekend with a program of Austrian folk songs, classical masterpieces, and Christmas hymns and carols. The choir’s young cultural ambassadors hail from dozens of countries and are the products of rigorous musical training—part of an illustrious choral tradition that extends back for six centuries.

Tickets: \$40–108 (prices subject to change)

DECEMBER 2020

Friday, December 4, 8pm

Zellerbach Playhouse

Saturday, December 5, 8pm

Theater

The White Album (Bay Area Premiere)

By Joan Didion

Created by Lars Jan/Early Morning Opera

Performed by and created with Mia Barron

Program: When Joan Didion wrote her essay “The White Album” 50 years ago, she was struggling to navigate the moral torpor, violence, and alienation of the 1960s counterculture. Now, director Lars Jan is mining new lessons from Didion’s searing observations with a participatory, multimedia performance that uses a modern-day house party as a visual score to Didion’s seminal work. In Jan’s adaptation, Obie-winning actor Mia Barron performs Didion’s text in its entirety as a monologue, inhabiting the author’s voice as she reports on the Huey Newton trial, a memorable hangout with the Doors, the San Francisco State student protests, and the Manson Family murders. A cast of performers enacts scenes from the essay, and a second audience joins the performers onstage—acting as both witnesses and accomplices to the action.

Tickets: \$68 (prices subject to change)

This performance is part of Cal Performances’ 2020–21 Illuminations: Fact or Fiction series.

Saturday, December 5, 8pm

Hertz Hall

Sunday, December 6, 3pm

Chamber Music and Orchestra

Tetzlaff Quartet

Programs:

Saturday, December 5

Beethoven/String Quartet in C-sharp minor, Op. 131

Beethoven/String Quartet in A minor, Op. 132

Sunday, December 6

Beethoven/String Quartet in B-flat major, Op. 130,

with *Grosse Fuge* in B-flat major, Op. 133

Beethoven/String Quartet in F major, Op. 135

Tickets: \$86 (prices subject to change)

This performance is part of Cal Performances' 2020–21 Illuminations: Music and the Mind series.

Wednesday, December 9, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Playhouse

Jazz

Bria Skonberg

Program: In performances that combine the energy of New Orleans swing with the dreamy vocals of radio crooners past, trumpeter and vocalist Bria Skonberg recalls a time when jazz was our nation's popular music. Skonberg last performed at Cal Performances in April 2019, as part of the Monterey Jazz Festival on Tour. Now, she returns with her quintet in support of her latest album, *Nothing Never Happens*, leading a set of hot jazz classics, vintage vocal tunes, original compositions, and fresh new takes on pop songs by the likes of the Beatles, Queen, and Sonny Bono.

Tickets: \$36 (prices subject to change)

Friday, December 11, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Recital

Seong-Jin Cho, piano

Program:

Brahms/Six Pieces for Piano, Op. 118

Schumann/*Humoresque* in B-flat major, Op. 20

Berg/Piano Sonata, Op. 1

Liszt/Piano Sonata in B minor

Tickets: \$30–86 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, December 12, 8pm

Zellerbach Playhouse

Sunday, December 13, 3pm

Dance

Caleb Teicher & Company

Conrad Tao, *piano*

More Forever (Bay Area Premiere)

Program: Caleb Teicher was a founding member of Dorrance Dance and is a two-time New York Dance and Performance (“Bessie”) Award winner. *More Forever*, which combines tap and Lindy Hop and is danced in a 24-foot-square sandbox, reflects on, in Teicher’s words, “the passage of time and the relationships we make with other people, the sadness and beauty of watching people come and go in our lives.” The work features an electroacoustic score by composer Conrad Tao, which he performs live on the piano.

Tickets: \$78 (prices subject to change)

Friday, December 18, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Holidays and Year-Round Favorites

Canadian Brass

Making Spirits Bright for 50 Years and Counting!

Program: For half a century, Canadian Brass has performed programs from Moscow and Beijing to Boston and Tokyo, including appearances on *Sesame Street*, *The Tonight Show*, and numerous movie soundtracks—with more than 100 recordings to their name, selling more than two million albums. This holiday program features originals like “Bach’s Bells”; songs such as “White Christmas,” “The Most Wonderful Time of the Year,” and “Christmas Time is Here”; and familiar classical, choral, and popular music arranged for brass instruments.

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

Saturday, December 19, 8pm

Zellerbach Playhouse

Jazz

Matthew Whitaker Quartet

Matthew Whitaker, *piano and Hammond B3 organ*

Marcos Robinson, *guitar*

Karim Hutton, *bass*
Isaiah Johnson, *drums*

Program: Blind since infancy, Matthew Whitaker holds court on piano and Hammond B3 organ, with a wide-ranging palette that spans straight-ahead jazz and hard bop, R&B, and Latin influences. He has been performing across the globe since age 11—opening for Stevie Wonder at the Apollo Theater—and at 13 became the youngest musician to be endorsed by Hammond in the company’s history. Now 18, he comes to Cal Performances with the release of his first recording.

Tickets: \$68 (prices subject to change)

This performance is part of Cal Performances’ 2020–21 Illuminations: Music and the Mind series.

JANUARY 2021

Sunday, January 17, 3pm
Sunday, January 24, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Chamber Music and Orchestra

Takács Quartet

Programs:

Sunday, January 17

Mozart/String Quartet No. 15 in D minor, K. 421/417b
Dutilleux/*Ainsi la nuit*
Brahms/String Quartet No. 3 in B-flat major, Op. 67

Sunday, January 24

Haydn/String Quartet in G major, Op. 77, No. 1
Britten/String Quartet No. 3 in G major, Op. 94
Debussy/String Quartet in G minor, Op. 10

Tickets: \$92 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, January 23, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

New Music

Steel Hammer (Bay Area Premiere)

Bang on a Can All-Stars

Program: New York’s iconoclastic contemporary music ensemble returns with an acclaimed oratorio by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Julia Wolfe, a fascinating work that mines the sounds and stories of Appalachia. With *Steel Hammer*, Wolfe creates a musical amalgamation of every version of the folk ballad “John Henry” that she could get her hands on—more than 200—and weaves

these often contradictory tales into an expansive allegory about the human cost of industrialization. The music marries folk cadences with driving rhythms in Wolfe’s densely layered compositional style, and is performed by three female vocalists and a chamber ensemble that features hammered dulcimer, mouth harp, bones, clogs, banjo, and metal percussion.

Tickets: \$38–68 (prices subject to change)

This performance is part of Cal Performances’ 2020–21 Illuminations: Fact or Fiction series.

Saturday, January 30, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Popular Voices

***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. In a concert that was rescheduled from the 2019-20 season, 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)

Sunday, January 31, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall

Recital

Maxim Vengerov, violin
Roustem Saïtkoulov, piano

Program:
Mozart/Violin Sonata in B-flat major, K. 378
Mendelssohn/Violin Sonata in F major
Prokofiev/Violin Sonata No. 1 in F minor, Op. 80
Tchaikovsky/Mélodie and Scherzo from *Souvenir d’un lieu cher*
Valse-Scherzo

Tickets: \$36–110 (prices subject to change)

FEBRUARY 2021

Saturday, February 6, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Sunday, February 7, 3pm

World Stage

Kodo
Legacy

Program: Multigenerational Japanese taiko troupe Kodo's 15 drummers invoke centuries of history and culture with each blow to their massive drums. The group's newest production, *Legacy*, looks back at seminal creations from the ensemble's 40-year history, and brings early works into the present through stunning visuals, lighting effects, and sleek new choreography.

Tickets: \$30–86 (prices subject to change)

Thursday, February 11, 7:30pm
Friday, February 12, 8pm
Saturday, February 13, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Holidays & Attractions

The 7 Fingers
Passengers

Program: Montreal's imaginative circus troupe The 7 Fingers returns to Berkeley with a new production. A hybrid of contemporary dance, circus arts, acrobatics, and theater, *Passengers* follows a host of agile performers as they travel by train and contemplate the connections between their lives. Acrobatic feats such as aerial routines, juggling, tightrope walking, and hula hoop spinning emerge from the drama as each person drifts off and succumbs to their own traveler's reverie.

Tickets: \$30–68 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, February 13, 8pm

Hertz Hall

New Music

Eco Ensemble

Program:

Toshio Hosokawa/*Koto-Uta*

Vertical Song 1

Spell

Sen VI

Singing Trees (Requiem for Toru Takemitsu) (Bay Area Premiere)

Somon-ka (United States Premiere)

Tickets: \$28 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, February 14, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Early Music

Mahan Esfahani, *harpsichord*

Program to include:

J.S. Bach/*Goldberg Variations*, BWV 988

Tickets: \$68 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, February 21, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Recital

Christine Goerke, *soprano*

Malcolm Martineau, *piano*

Program:

R. Strauss/*Eight Songs from the Last Pages*, Op. 10

Berg/*Seven Early Songs*

Wagner/*Wesendonck Lieder*

Brahms/*Selected songs*

Tickets: \$68 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, February 27, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Jazz

Artemis

Renee Rosnes, *music director and piano*

Ingrid Jensen, *trumpet*

Nicole Glover, *tenor saxophone*

Noriko Ueda, *bass*

Allison Miller, *percussion*

Program: The brainchild of pianist and composer Renee Rosnes, Artemis is an international ensemble of modern jazz masters. Named for the ancient Greek goddess of the hunt, the multinational and multigenerational group was founded in 2017 under the banner of International Women's Day, and soon afterward, made a memorable splash at the 2018 Newport Jazz Festival. As a collective, Artemis draws on the musical personalities of each member, with performances typically

including arrangements of songs by the Beatles, classics by Thelonious Monk and Wayne Shorter, and new compositions written expressly for the ensemble.

Tickets: \$36–92 (prices subject to change)

MARCH 2021

Tuesday, March 2, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Hall

Wednesday, March 3, 7:30pm

Thursday, March 4, 8pm

Special Event

Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra
Gustavo Dudamel, conductor

Programs:

Tuesday, March 2

Schubert/Symphony No. 5

Ravel/*Rapsodie espagnole*

Ma mère l'Oye Suite

Stravinsky/*The Firebird* Suite (1919 version)

Wednesday, March 3

Haydn/Symphony No. 59, *Fire*

Prokofiev/Symphony No. 1, *Classical*

Prokofiev/Symphony No. 5

Thursday, March 4

Rimsky-Korsakov/*Scheherazade*, Op. 35

Tchaikovsky/Symphony No. 5

Tickets: \$45–250 (prices subject to change)

Friday, March 5, 8pm

Zellerbach Playhouse

Saturday, March 6, 8pm

Sunday, March 7, 3pm

Dance

Boy Blue

Blak Whyte Gray: A Hip-Hop Dance Triple Bill (West Coast Premiere)

Program: East London hip-hop company Boy Blue presents *Blak Whyte Gray*, a trilogy that traces a path from oppression to freedom through dance. Created by choreographer Kenrick Sandy and composer Michael Asante, the production has been a hit in the UK, resonating with audiences for its

political bite, lean storytelling, and inspiring message of transformation and renewal. The movement—a hybrid that combines popping, krump, and African dance—is set to a multilayered electronic score.

Tickets: \$68 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, March 6, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Vocal Celebration

A Tribute to Aretha Franklin: The Queen of Soul
with Damien Sneed and Karen Clark Sheard

Program: Damien Sneed returns following his homage to the life and times of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in February 2020—now with four-time Grammy winner and gospel star Karen Clark Sheard. Joined by jazz, gospel, and soul musicians and vocalists, Sneed and Clark Sheard offer a tribute to Sneed’s former mentor, the Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin. Sneed toured with Franklin on keyboard and organ in the later part of her career, and here offers fresh renditions of some of her most beloved hits, including “Respect,” “Bridge Over Troubled Water,” “Think,” “Until You Come Back to Me,” “Freeway,” and “Natural Woman.”

Tickets: \$30–68 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, March 7, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Recital

Jeremy Denk, piano

Program:
J.S. Bach/*The Well-Tempered Clavier*, Book 1

Tickets: \$78 (prices subject to change)

Thursday, March 11, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Playhouse

Jazz

Jazzmeia Horn

Program: Jazz vocalist Jazzmeia Horn dazzles with her fleet scat singing and impeccable sense of swing, and is part of an exciting new generation bridging jazz’s illustrious past with today’s popular music. She took first place in the 2013 Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition, and then won the 2015 Thelonious Monk Institute International Jazz Competition, the highest accolade available to a young jazz musician. Horn’s 2017 debut, *A Social Call*, landed in *Billboard*’s jazz Top 10

and her follow-up release, *Love and Liberation*, features original compositions as well as standards from the Great American Songbook, spirituals, and modern R&B.

Tickets: \$68 (prices subject to change)

Friday, March 12, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Vocal Celebration

Sol3 Mio

Program: Sol3 Mio is the trio of two tenor brothers, Pene and Amitai Pati, and their baritone cousin, Moses Mackay, all born in Samoa and raised in New Zealand. Pene Pati stepped in as understudy in the lead role for the opening night of Gounod’s *Romeo and Juliet* at San Francisco Opera in September 2019. The trio sings timeless opera arias like “Nessun Dorma” as well as popular hits like “Blue Bayou,” “That’s Amore,” and “Volare,” accompanying themselves on piano and guitar, with orchestral backing tracks.

Tickets: \$40–96 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, March 13, 8pm

Zellerbach Playhouse

New Music

yMusic

Program: yMusic boasts a star-studded string of collaborators and admirers from across the musical spectrum, from Paul Simon and Bill T. Jones to Regina Spektor and Ben Folds. With the instrumentation of string trio, flute, clarinet, and trumpet/horn, the sextet—all members of Generation Y—is sought out for its ability to bridge contemporary concert music with pop and indie rock sensibilities, moving between Carnegie Hall concerts and massive arena shows. The centerpiece of this UC Berkeley debut is the Bay Area premiere of *Difference*, a new Cal Performances co-commissioned work by Andrew Norman.

Tickets: \$46 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, March 14, 7pm

Zellerbach Playhouse

World Stage and New Music

Vân-Ánh Võ and Blood Moon Orchestra
Songs of Strength (World Premiere)

Program: Vân-Ánh Võ is an award-winning performer of the 16-string *dan tranh* (zither), and an Emmy Award-winning composer who has collaborated with Kronos Quartet, Alonzo King LINES

Ballet, and Yo-Yo-Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble. An immigrant from Vietnam based in Northern California for nearly 20 years, in her latest project *Võ* celebrates the voices and struggles of women and immigrants by placing the musical conventions of her native culture in conversation with contemporary music from across the world. *Võ's Songs of Strength* features Iranian singer/songwriter Mahsa Vahdat, rapper DemOne, and breakdancer TUNJI, plus her multicultural Blood Moon Orchestra—with texts in English, Persian, and Vietnamese.

Tickets: \$36 (prices subject to change)

Saturday, March 20, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

World Stage

Zakir Hussain and the Masters of Percussion

Program: *Tabla* virtuoso Zakir Hussain began touring nearly 25 years ago as a duo with his late father and mentor, the legendary Ustad Allarakha. Hussain's collaborators—musicians he is eager to introduce to international audiences—are family members, longtime partners, and dear friends. "I don't choose instruments, I choose people," Hussain has said, "and my main objective in the whole evening is to find spots where all these great masters will be highlighted, be let loose."

Tickets: \$30–86 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, March 28, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall

Chamber Music and Orchestra

Mahler Chamber Orchestra

Mitsuko Uchida, piano and director

Program:

Mozart/Piano Concerto No. 18 in B-flat major, K. 456

Janáček/*Mládí*

Mozart/Piano Concerto No. 21 in C major, K. 467

Tickets: \$40–175 (prices subject to change)

APRIL 2021

Tuesday, April 6, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Hall

Wednesday, April 7, 7:30pm

Thursday, April 8, 7:30pm

Friday, April 9, 8pm

Saturday, April 10, 2pm

Saturday, April 10, 8pm

Sunday, April 11, 3pm

Dance

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Robert Battle, *artistic director*

Matthew Rushing, *associate artistic director*

Program: Under the leadership of Robert Battle, the Ailey company continues to stage timely new works by established choreographers like Rennie Harris, Ronald K. Brown, Judith Jamison, and Donald Byrd, and rising stars like Jamar Roberts. These new creations resonate with Ailey's own works, including his 1960 classic, *Revelations*.

Tickets: \$38–150 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, April 11, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Recital

Beatrice Rana, *piano*

Program:

Scriabin/Piano Sonata No. 10

Waltz in A-flat major, Op. 38

Ravel/*La valse*

Chopin/Scherzo No. 1 in B minor, Op. 20

Scherzo No. 2 in B-flat minor, Op. 31

Scherzo No. 3 in C-sharp minor, Op. 39

Scherzo No. 4 in E major, Op. 54

Tickets: \$56 (prices subject to change)

Friday, April 16, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

New Music

Nico Muhly and Friends Investigate the Glass Archive

Lesser Known

Program: Beginning as a student, the composer Nico Muhly worked for eight years as an intern, archivist, and editor for veteran minimalist composer Philip Glass. *Lesser Known* is the product of Muhly's discoveries during that formative experience: his own new arrangements and reinterpretations of the elder composer's chamber works, film scores, operas, and theater pieces. Muhly performs on keyboards and is joined by a cohort of his esteemed new-music peers, including flutist Alex Sopp and violist and podcast host Nadia Sirota.

Tickets: \$26–42 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, April 18, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall

Music and Discussion

Renée Fleming and Special Guests

Program: In a hybrid musical event and symposium, soprano Renée Fleming visits 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. Fleming has made the relationship between music and the human brain the subject of recent work, and as part of her visit, she hosts a special afternoon of music and discussion programmed with a host of campus partners, including faculty from the Berkeley Brain Initiative and the UC Berkeley faculties of Molecular & Cell Biology and Psychology. Off-campus partners include UCSF's Weill Institute for Neurosciences and the Weill Neurohub, a partnership between UCSF, UC Berkeley, and University of Washington Weill.

Tickets: \$36–92 (prices subject to change)

This performance is part of Cal Performances' 2020–21 Illuminations: Music and the Mind series.

Thursday, April 22, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Hall

Friday, April 23, 8pm

Holidays and Year-Round Favorites

Pilobolus

Big Five-Oh!

Program: For five decades, the dancers and acrobats of Pilobolus have been telling otherworldly stories through the strength and precision of their bodies, enhanced by magical stage effects. This 50th anniversary celebration includes the vintage classic *Untitled*, the high-voltage *Megawatt*, and signature shadow works.

Tickets: \$30–78 (prices subject to change)

Wednesday, April 28, 7pm

Zellerbach Hall

Early Music

The English Concert

Harry Bicket, *artistic director*

Program:

Handel/*Tamerlano*, HWV 18

Tickets: \$36–98 (prices subject to change)

This performance is part of Cal Performances' 2020–21 Illuminations: Fact or Fiction series.

MAY 2021

Sunday, May 2, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Recital

Jamie Barton, *mezzo-soprano*
Jake Heggie, *piano*

Program: American mezzo-soprano Jamie Barton is increasingly recognized for how she uses her powerful voice offstage—lifting up women, LGBTQ+ people, and marginalized communities through her social media presence and addressing topics such as body positivity, diet culture, and social justice issues. Here she joins with longtime friend and collaborator Jake Heggie for the West Coast premiere of a new work by the acclaimed composer and pianist.

Tickets: \$68 (prices subject to change)

Friday, May 7, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Saturday, May 8, 8pm

Sunday, May 9, 3pm

Opera, Dance, and Early Music

Platée (Cal Performances Co-commissioned Revival)

by **Jean-Philippe Rameau**

Mark Morris Dance Group

Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra & Chorale

Nicholas McGegan, *conductor*

Mark Morris, *choreographer*

Comédie Lyrique in a Prologue and Three Acts

Libretto by Adrien-Joseph Le Valois d'Orville

Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra & Chorale

Nicholas McGegan, *music director laureate*

Bruce Lamott, *chorale director*

Mathias Vidal, *haute-contre (Platée)*

Chantal Santon Jeffery, *soprano (L'Amour/La Folie)*

Jennifer Zetlan, *soprano (Thalie/Clarine)*

Sara Couden, *mezzo-soprano (Junon)*

Aaron Sheehan, *haute-contre (Thespis/Mercure)*

Philippe-Nicolas Martin, *baritone (Satyr/Cithéron)*
Douglas Williams, *baritone (Momus/Jupiter)*
Isaac Mizrahi, *costume designer*
Adrienne Lobel, *set designer*
James F. Ingalls, *lighting designer*

Program: Mark Morris Dance Group and Philharmonia Baroque join forces once again in a revival of Jean-Philippe Rameau’s masterpiece *Platée*, the story of a homely yet vain nymph who falls prey to a prank set by the gods. This production, with costumes by Isaac Mizrahi, premiered at Zellerbach Hall in 1998. *Platée* was among the most highly regarded of Rameau’s operas during his lifetime, and it was even well received by the royal family who commissioned it—for the nuptials of the son of King Louis XV of France and Maria Theresa of Spain. In an act of comic genius, Rameau created the role of *Platée* to be sung by a (male) high tenor, here played by the French tenor Mathias Vidal. Morris’ choreography mixes high camp with supreme craft, the movement always sensitive to the richness of the effervescent Baroque score.

Sung in French with English supertitles.

Tickets: \$40–175 (prices subject to change)

JUNE 2021

Friday, June 4, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Saturday, June 5, 2pm

Saturday, June 5, 8pm

Sunday, June 6, 3pm

Dance

Eifman Ballet
Russian Hamlet

Program: Boris Eifman revives his *Russian Hamlet* in a refreshed production created to mark his Saint Petersburg company’s 40th anniversary in 2017. The choreographer tells the story of the House of Romanov in the 18th century, drawing parallels between the plight of Russia’s Prince Paul and the ill-fated Danish prince of Shakespeare’s play, set to music by Beethoven and Mahler.

Tickets: \$40–160 (prices subject to change)

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