

For Immediate Release: January 14, 2026
[Cal Performances Press Room](#)



Photos of the Martha Graham Dance Company are available for download from the Cal Performances [Press Room](#).

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS
MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY
IN
*GRAHAM100***

**A CELEBRATION OF THE DANCE COMPANY'S 100th ANNIVERSARY
SATURDAY–SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14–15, 2026
AT ZELLERBACH HALL**

Performances feature iconic Graham works such as *Appalachian Spring* and *Night Journey*, plus the Bay Area premiere of a new work by Hope Boykin, and recent pieces by Jamar Roberts and Baye & Asa

Berkeley, CA, January 14, 2026—Cal Performances at UC Berkeley presents the trailblazing **Martha Graham Dance Company** in *GRAHAM100*, a celebration of the company's 100th anniversary, over two performances on Saturday, February 14 at 8pm and Sunday, February 15 at 3pm at Zellerbach Hall. The Graham company, directed by **Janet Eilber**, returns to Berkeley for the first time in more than a decade with classic Graham works *Appalachian Spring*, *Night Journey*, and

Chronicle, alongside a newly commissioned dance by **Hope Boykin**—whose new work *En Masse* receives its Bay Area premiere at the Sunday matinee performance—and recent works by **Jamar Roberts** and the choreography team of **Baye & Asa**. For this special tour, the Graham dances are presented with **Isamu Noguchi**'s iconic original sets.

A revolutionary force in modern dance, Martha Graham has had a profound influence on generations of dancers and dance makers, through her groundbreaking movement technique and her contributions to the art of stage design and dance production. She founded the Martha Graham Dance Company in 1926 and led it for 66 years, creating 181 works. One hundred years after her company's first performances, Graham is remembered and revered for her commitment to experimentation and attention to contemporary social, political, psychological, and gender issues. Led since 2005 by artistic director Janet Eilber, the Graham company is celebrating this milestone across three seasons of programming, concluding this season. Highlights include an exhibition at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts curated by choreographer and writer Jack Ferver; a two-part PBS documentary airing in March; a new book of photography, *Martha Graham Dance Company: 100 Years* (Black Dog & Leventhal) from NYC Dance Project; exhibitions of Graham/Noguchi sets; and performances throughout the United States and around the world.

Martha Graham's legacy is also entwined with the performing arts at UC Berkeley. The choreographer is believed to have made her Bay Area dance debut at age 22 at the campus' Hearst Greek Theater as part of Ruth St. Denis and Ted Shawn's pioneering modern dance company, Denishawn. The performance titled *Dance Pageant of Egypt, Greece and India* took place on July 29, 1916. Her company later made its Cal Performances debut in 1970. Graham's school and company grew to be the training grounds for the next generation of American dancers and choreographers, a cadre that included such luminaries as Merce Cunningham, Pearl Lang, Paul Taylor, Glen Tetley, and Alvin Ailey, all of whom formed companies of their own and have been, or were, part of the dance programming on the Berkeley campus for decades. Two former principal dancers of the Graham company, David Wood and Marni Thomas Wood, founded UC Berkeley's Dance Department in 1968.

In bringing the Graham company's centennial celebrations to Cal Performances, the company both deepens Graham's relationship to the campus and broadens Berkeley audiences' relationship with other luminaries in the genre. The centennial honors a renewed commitment to cultivating and

presenting works by contemporary choreographers, putting Graham's work in conversation with a new generation of dance makers. The Saturday, February 14 performance features *Cortege* (2023), a recent work by the in-demand choreography team of Baye & Asa (Amadi "Baye" Washington and Sam "Asa" Pratt), created in response to Graham's seminal war protest, *Cortege of Eagles*. (1967); the work is set to music by **Jack Grabow**, and features movement vocabulary rooted in hip hop and African dance. Also on the February 14 program is Graham's psychological thriller *Night Journey* (1947), a chilling reinvention of the tragedy of Oedipus, told through the eyes of his mother and wife, Jocasta. Widely considered one of Graham's masterpieces, the work is danced to music by **William Schuman**, with sets by Isamu Noguchi. The final work on the program, Graham's *Chronicle* (1936), featuring music by **Wallingford Riegger**, was created in response to the menace of fascism in Europe during the 1930s. The company performs three parts of what was originally a five-movement work.

The Sunday, February 15 performance features the Bay Area premiere of *En Masse* (2025), a new work by acclaimed choreographer Hope Boykin. During the late 1980s, Graham and composer **Leonard Bernstein** began collaborating to create a new work based on Graham's lost dance from 1938, *American Document*, which was never completed. In honor of the Graham company's centennial, elements of this initial collaboration have been revived in this new work. Boykin, a two-time New York Dance and Performance "Bessie" Award winner who danced with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater for two decades, has both danced in and choreographed versions of Bernstein's seminal *Mass* (1971) over the course of her career. *Mass* was Bernstein's collaboration with Alvin Ailey, and, in many ways, *En Masse* can be considered a continuation and extension of those collaborations begun by Graham and Bernstein, and Bernstein and Ailey, decades ago. It features a short, recently discovered piece of music Bernstein created for Graham in the 1980s, which has been expanded and arranged by acclaimed composer/conductor **Christopher Rountree**, paired with a new arrangement of excerpts from Bernstein's *Mass*. Rountree, a three-time Grammy nominee, last appeared at Cal Performances in 2024 with his Los Angeles-based new-music ensemble Wild Up.

Also featured on the February 15 performance is *We the People* (2024), a collaboration of choreographer Jamar Roberts and roots musician **Rhiannon Giddens** that explores themes of determination and resistance. The program also includes Graham's short solo *Immediate Tragedy* (1937) which was once thought lost, after the choreographer stopped performing it in the late 1930s.

The work has now been reimagined by Janet Eilber with a newly arranged score by Christopher Rountree, inspired by pages of music hand-written by composer **Henry Cowell** found in the Graham archives. Sunday's performance opens with perhaps the most famous of all Graham's dances, *Appalachian Spring* (1944), a paean to America's pioneering spirit, created to Pulitzer Prize-winning music by **Aaron Copland** with sets by Noguchi.

Through Cal Performances' Golden Bear Circle program, UC Berkeley students are eligible to purchase a limited number of \$10 tickets for the best seats in the house for the 8pm performance on Saturday, February 14. These tickets go on sale Friday, January 30, 2026, at noon. Information about student tickets and discounts is available at calperformances.org/ucb-students.

For blind and visually impaired audience members, live audio descriptions are available for the 3pm performance on Sunday, February 15. Headsets may be reserved by contacting the Cal Performances Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 or tickets@calperformances.org.

CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, February 14, 8pm
Sunday, February 15, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall
Bancroft Way at Dana Street
UC Berkeley

Dance

Martha Graham Dance Company

GRAHAM100: A Celebration of the Company's 100th Anniversary

Janet Eilber, artistic director

Program:

Saturday, February 14

Graham/*Night Journey* (1947; music: William Schuman)

Chronicle (1936; music: Wallingford Riegger)

Baye & Asa/*Cortege* (2023; music: Jack Grabow)

Sunday, February 15

Graham/*Appalachian Spring* (music: Aaron Copland)

Immediate Tragedy (1937 original/reimagined by Janet Eilber 2020 ; original music: Henry Cowell, reimagined by Christopher Rountree)

Jamar Roberts/*We the People* (2024; music: Rhiannon Giddens)
Hope Boykin/*En Masse* (2025; Bay Area Premiere; music: Leonard Bernstein and Christopher Rountree)

The Martha Graham Dance Company returns to Cal Performances for the first time in more than a decade to celebrate its 100th anniversary, with classic Graham works such as the iconic *Appalachian Spring*, the psychological thriller *Night Journey*, and the anti-war protest *Chronicle*—all featuring Isamu Noguchi’s original sets—alongside new and recent dances by contemporary choreographers. Saturday’s performance features a 2023 work by the choreography team of Baye & Asa in response to Graham’s seminal war protest, *Cortege of Eagles*. Sunday’s matinee includes the Bay Area premiere of *En Masse* by Ailey alum Hope Boykin as well as Jamar Roberts’ *We the People*, a collaboration with roots musician Rhiannon Giddens.

Tickets: \$42–\$120 (prices subject to change). Tickets for all performances are available at calperformances.org, by phone at (510) 642-9988, or in person at the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, Tuesday–Friday, 12–5:30pm and Saturday–Sunday, 1–5pm. There is a \$15 per order service charge on ticket purchases made by phone or online that are not part of a subscription package; there is no fee for tickets purchased in person at the Zellerbach Hall Ticket Office. There is a \$20 service charge on all subscription orders.

Through Cal Performances’ [Golden Bear Circle program](#), UC Berkeley students are eligible to purchase a limited number of \$10 tickets for the best seats in the house for the Saturday, February 14 performance. These tickets go on sale Friday, January 30, 2026 at noon. More information about UC Berkeley student tickets and discounts is available at calperformances.org/ucb-students. For information about other discounts, visit calperformances.org/discounts.

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