

For Immediate Release: September 9, 2024

[Cal Performances Press Room](#)



Images of Tessa Lark, Joshua Roman, and Edgar Meyer are available for download from Cal Performances [Press Room](#).
A video of the trio performing J.S. Bach's Sonata for Viola da Gamba in G major can be viewed on [YouTube](#)

CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS
TESSA LARK, *VIOLIN*
JOSHUA ROMAN, *CELLO*
EDGAR MEYER, *DOUBLE BASS*
TOURING TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A PERFORMANCE
OF
MUSIC BY BACH AND EDGAR MEYER
INCLUDING THE BAY AREA PREMIERE OF
A NEW CAL PERFORMANCES CO-COMMISSIONED PIECE
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20 AT 3PM
AT HERTZ HALL

Berkeley, CA, September 9, 2024—Cal Performances at UC Berkeley presents the trio of Grammy-winning double bassist Edgar Meyer, genre-crossing violinist Tessa Lark, and eclectic cellist Joshua Roman for a performance at Hertz Hall on Sunday, October 20 at 3pm. This new collaboration brings together three singular figures in American concert music—virtuoso instrumentalists with strong classical backgrounds, deep connections to roots and fiddle music, and wide-open artistic sensibilities. The trio will perform the Bay Area premiere of Meyer's Cal Performances co-commissioned new work as well as his *Trio 1986* and *Trio 1988*. The concert opens with J.S. Bach's Sonata for Viola da Gamba in G major, arranged specially for this instrumentation. This engagement is part of the trio's first-ever tour together.

Of these artists and the genesis of his new piece, Meyer shared, “In 1986–1988, I wrote a series of three string trios that I premiered with Daniel Phillips and Carter Brey at the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival. These were the first longer pieces that I had conceived as such, and they set the tone for my next four decades. Only one was partially recorded. After meeting Tessa Lark and Joshua Roman a few years ago, I realized that they were perfect for helping me document this personal milestone. I also have set out to write a new trio for us to ‘complete the thought.’” The group will record the works following their upcoming tour.

Violinist Tessa Lark is recognized for her mastery of both classical and bluegrass music. She was nominated for a 2020 Grammy in the Best Classical Instrumental Solo category and received one of Lincoln Center’s prestigious emerging artist awards, the Hunt Family Award. She is also the recipient of a Borletti–Buitoni Trust Fellowship, serves as Artistic Director of Musical Masterworks, and co-hosts NPR’s classical podcast, *From the Top*. Her latest recording, *The Stradgrass Sessions*, features collaborations with Edgar Meyer ([video here](#)), pianist Jon Batiste, mandolin player Sierra Hull, and fiddler Michael Cleveland. Lark last appeared at Cal Performances in a 2021 recital with pianist Amy Yang and in 2020 with pianist Andrew Armstrong as a part of the *Cal Performances at Home* streaming series.

Cellist and composer Joshua Roman is known for blending precision with improvisatory freedom. He has performed with leading orchestras worldwide and opened the 2017 TED Conference, where his performance of Bach’s Solo Cello Suites became TED’s most-viewed event. His 2023–24 season included his role as the Las Vegas Philharmonic’s inaugural Artist in Residence as well as performances with several US symphony orchestras. This engagement will mark his Cal Performances debut.

Virtuoso and composer Edgar Meyer has carved out a unique niche in the musical world bridging classical and Americana genres. Recognized with a MacArthur Award, he has performed and recorded extensively, including collaborations with Yo-Yo Ma, Chris Thile, Joshua Bell, Béla Fleck, and Zakir Hussain. Meyer’s compositions include double concertos and works premiered by the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and Minnesota Orchestra, while his genre-bending recordings, such as *The Goat Rodeo Sessions*, have garnered critical acclaim and Grammy Awards. He continues to influence the music world as a performer, composer, and educator at the Curtis Institute of Music. Meyer last appeared at Cal Performances in 2021 with Yo-Yo Ma, Stuart Duncan, Chris Thile, and guest Aoife O’Donovan in a special *Not Our First Goat Rodeo* performance at UC Berkeley’s Greek Theatre. In 2017, Cal Performances presented him with Ma and Thile at the Greek Theater, and in 2013 he made his Cal Performances debut at the Greek Theater with Ma, Duncan, Thile, and O’Donovan in their first *Goat Rodeo Sessions* engagement.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

[Sunday, October 20, 3pm](#)

**Hertz Hall
101 Cross-Sproul Path
Bancroft Way at College Ave
UC Berkeley Campus**

Chamber Music

Tessa Lark, *violin*

Joshua Roman, *cello*

Edgar Meyer, *double bass*

Program:

J.S. Bach/Sonata for Viola da Gamba in G major, BWV 1027

Edgar Meyer/*Trio 1986*

Trio 1988

New Work (Bay Area Premiere, Cal Performances Co-commission)

A new collaboration brings together three singular figures in American concert music—virtuoso instrumentalists with strong classical backgrounds, deep connections to roots and fiddle music, and wide-open artistic sensibilities. Recent Grammy-winning bass player Edgar Meyer is joined by genre-crossing violinist Tessa Lark and eclectic cellist Joshua Roman for a performance of music by Bach, trio music by Meyer, and a brand-new work from Meyer co-commissioned by Cal Performances, composed especially for this ensemble.

Tickets: \$68 (prices subject to change). UC Berkeley students can access exclusive discounts, including half-price tickets in all sections of the theater. More information about student tickets and discounts is available at calperformances.org/ucb-students.

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. For information about discounts, visit calperformances.org/discounts.

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