

For Immediate Release: September 24, 2024 updated October 7

[Cal Performances Press Room](#)



Photos of the Dover Quartet and Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate are available for download from the Cal Performances [Press Room](#)

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS
A FEATURED PERFORMANCE IN THE 2024–25
ILLUMINATIONS “FRACTURED HISTORY” SERIES**

**DOVER QUARTET
PERFORMING THE WEST COAST PREMIERES OF A
NEW WORK AND AN ORCHESTRATION BY
JEROD IMPICHCHAACHAAHA' TATE,
BOTH CAL PERFORMANCES CO-COMMISSIONS**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3 AT HERTZ HALL

Berkeley, CA, September 24, 2024, updated October 7—Cal Performances at UC Berkeley welcomes back the two-time Grammy-nominated **Dover Quartet** with a program of works exploring musical and cultural traditions that make up American concert music, on Sunday, November 3 at 3pm at Hertz Hall. The ensemble performs the West Coast premieres of Emmy-winning American Indian composer **Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate's** new work *Abokkoli'*

Taloova' (*Woodland Songs*), and his orchestration of a *Rattle Songs* by Tuscarora composer and musician **Pura Fé**, both co-commissioned by Cal Performances. Dvořák's *American* Quartet, and composer **Jessie Montgomery**'s *Strum*, written for the 2012 Sphinx Competition, round out the program. The performance is part of Cal Performances' *Illuminations: "Fractured History"* programming for the 2024–25 season.

Camden Shaw, the Dover Quartet's cellist, explained the impetus behind curating this collection of works: "The program celebrates, illuminates, and expands the already robust connections between many American voices, including jazz, bluegrass, Indigenous American music, and Western classical music. Dvořák's most famous works were directly inspired by the music he heard and studied while living in Iowa, and included the music of Indigenous peoples and African Americans. Ulali, a vocal trio of Indigenous women, wrote incredible music combining traditional styles of their ancestors with harmonic styles heavily influenced by Western classical music and jazz. Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate studied composition in the tradition of Western classical music but draws heavily on the styles and traditions of his Chickasaw roots. And Jessie Montgomery's *Strum* expounds on bluegrass styles within the architecture and dialect of contemporary composition. When you put it all together, you get a celebration of our connection to one another, and the complex and beautiful tapestry of voices in North America."

Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate, a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma, has devoted his career to cultivating a distinctive language of Indigenous American classical composition. He is a former Cultural Ambassador (2021) for the US Department of State, and a 2024 recipient of a USA Fellowship. His commissioned works have been performed by the National Symphony Orchestra, the San Francisco Symphony, Dallas Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, Buffalo Philharmonic, and many others. Tate won an Emmy award for his work on the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority documentary *The Science of Composing*, and his music was featured on the HBO series *Westworld*. He is currently composing the first-ever opera written entirely in an American Indian language.

Abokkoli' Taloova' (*Woodland Songs*) is infused with the melodies, rhythms, and legends of Tate's Chickasaw heritage. The work celebrates the woodland animals of his people's Southeastern

homelands, with movements named for the squirrel, the bird, the deer, the fish, and the raccoon. “Each movement,” he says, is “a deep, dramatic, and rhapsodic expression of my feelings of being a Chickasaw man from a beautiful and robust culture.... I allow myself to fluidly dance between cultural clarity and modern expressionism.”

Rattle Songs is a suite of compositions created by the Tuscarora vocalist Pura Fé for her ensemble Ulali, a First Nations women’s *a cappella* trio that explores Native American song through innovative modern arrangements and rich harmonies. Tate’s arrangement for string quartet evokes the turtle shell shakers that are part of Native American stomp dancing and social songs, filtered through a contemporary compositional aesthetic. Jessie Montgomery’s ebullient work *Strum* is inspired by American folk and dance music, and features strumming pizzicato, layers of rhythmic ostinati, and interwoven melodies. Dvořák’s well-loved *American Quartet*, which the Czech composer wrote during a visit to the midwest in 1893, serves as backdrop for the more recent works on the program.

The performance continues the 2024-25 season’s *Illuminations* programming, which explores the idea of “Fractured History” through eight performances and a series of related public and classroom programs created with visiting artists and university partners. Through this series, Cal Performances investigates collective memory and the complex evolution of historical narratives to consider what role the performing arts might play in restoring nuance to our understanding of the past, and how that understanding shapes our present and future. Visit calperformances.org/illuminations-2024-25 for more information.

CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE: **CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

Sunday, November 3, 3pm

Hertz Hall

Bancroft Way at College Avenue,
UC Berkeley campus

Chamber Music

[Dover Quartet](#)

Program:

Jessie Montgomery / *Strum*

Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate / *Abokkoli' Taloowa' (Woodland Songs)* (West Coast Premiere, Cal Performances Co-Commission)

Pura Fé, orch. Tate / *Rattle Songs* (West Coast Premiere, Cal Performances Co-Commission)

Dvořák / Quartet in F major, Op. 96, *American*

The Grammy-nominated Dover Quartet returns to Berkeley to perform music that connects new work by Emmy-winning American Indian composer Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate with Dvořák's *American* quartet. His new work is paired with his orchestration of indigenous artist Pura Fé's layered and rhythmic work *Rattle Songs*, both co-commissioned by Cal Performances, in a program that explores the notion of a truly American sound.

An *Illuminations*: “Fractured History” event. Visit calperformances.org/illuminations for more information.

Tickets: \$74 (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.

PRESS CONTACT

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