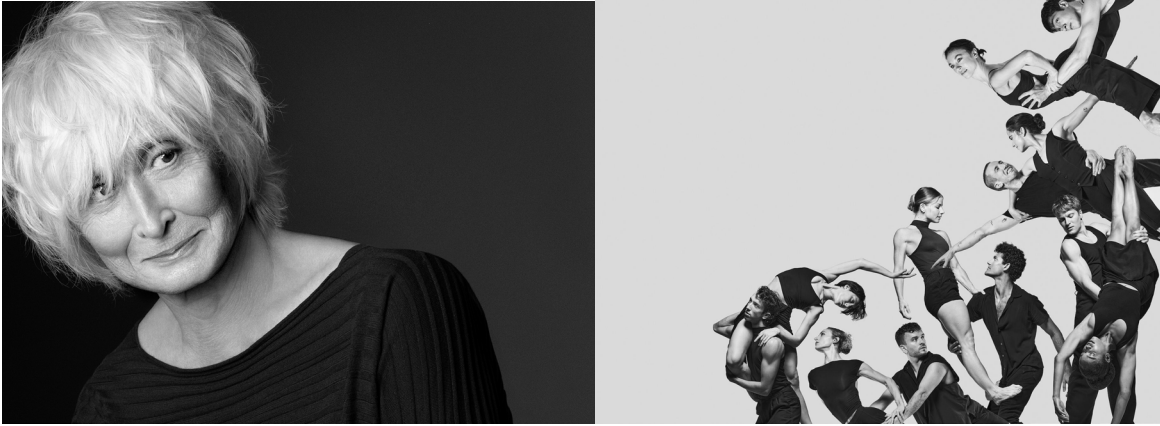


For Immediate Release: January 13, 2025, **Updated January 31, 2025**
[Cal Performances Press Room](#)



Images of Twyla Tharp (left) and Twyla Tharp Dance (right) as well as Third Coast Percussion and flutist Constance Volk are available for download from the Cal Performances [Press Room](#).

A preview video of Twyla Tharp Dance can be viewed on [Vimeo](#).

A video about the arrangement of Philip Glass' music for *SLACKTIDE* can be viewed on [YouTube](#).

An audio interview with Tharp about this program can be streamed on [YouTube](#).

CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS
TWYLA THARP DANCE
DIAMOND JUBILEE
IN THE WEST COAST PREMIERE OF *SLACKTIDE*,
WITH A SCORE BY PHILIP GLASS
PERFORMED LIVE BY
THIRD COAST PERCUSSION
AND CONSTANCE VOLK, FLUTE
FEBRUARY 7–9 AT ZELLERBACH HALL

Performances include the West Coast premiere of Tharp's 1998 work
Diabelli, featuring live piano accompaniment

Berkeley, January 13, 2025, Updated January 31, 2025—Cal Performances at UC Berkeley continues its dynamic and eclectic 2024–25 dance season with the long-awaited return of **Twyla Tharp Dance** as part of the choreographer's current Diamond Jubilee tour, celebrating Tharp's 60-year career as one of the most influential and popular American choreographers of her generation. For the first time in 10 years, Tharp's company will return to Zellerbach Hall for three performances on February 7–8 at 8pm and February 9 at 3pm. The program features the West Coast premiere of *SLACKTIDE*, danced to a score by composer **Philip Glass** performed live by Chicago's Grammy-

winning **Third Coast Percussion** and featuring flutist **Constance Volk**. Tharp also revives *Diabelli*, a signature ensemble work from 1998 inspired by Beethoven's *Diabelli Variations* with music performed live by pianist **Vladimir Romyantsev**, for its West Coast premiere.

SLACKTIDE reunites two titans of contemporary performing arts for the first time in nearly 40 years—since Tharp and Glass' exhilarating 1986 creation, *In the Upper Room*. In close collaboration with Tharp, Third Coast Percussion has arranged Glass' hypnotic 1993–99 score *Aguas da Amazonia*, which they perform live on a collection of custom-designed percussion instruments. Flutist Constance Volk will join the group performing a series of solos she has composed for the arrangement, which the artists have also recorded together. Tharp's choreography captures the layered rhythms and propulsive energy of Glass' iconic music that reflects on the crisis of climate change.

In *Diabelli*, Tharp's choreography highlights the intense humanity of Beethoven's fiendishly challenging composition, bringing out its humor, pathos, and tenderness. The technically demanding work asks dancers to shift effortlessly from ballet to jazz and contemporary dance, even incorporating social dance. Russian-born pianist Vladimir Romyantsev joins the dancers as accompanist and sparring partner for this choreographic and musical journey.

Tharp is renowned for creating technically precise, uncategorizable works that have pushed the boundaries of ballet and contemporary dance. Tharp founded Twyla Tharp Dance in New York City 1965 and, in addition to creating dances for her company as well as for American Ballet Theatre, she has choreographed Tony-winning Broadway shows, Emmy-winning television specials, and blockbuster Hollywood films including *Amadeus* and *Ragtime*.

Chicago-based Third Coast Percussion—**Sean Connors, Robert Dillon, Peter Martin, and David Skidmore**—is the first percussion ensemble ever to win a Grammy award. Celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2025, the quartet is best known for interpretations of works by John Cage and Steve Reich, and for its robust commissioning program through which it has developed close relationships with numerous living composers. Third Coast Percussion has also previously created first recordings of several commissioned works by Glass, including *Perpetuum* (2019) and *Metamorphosis No. 1* (2022).

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 8 performance. Also that evening, all UC Berkeley student ticketholders and their guests are invited to attend a reception with light refreshments on the mezzanine level at Zellerbach Hall immediately following the performance. Information about the student reception as well as student tickets and discounts is available at calperformances.org/ucb-students.

For blind and visually impaired audience members, Cal Performances will offer live audio descriptions of the performance taking place on Sunday, February 9. These live descriptions are spoken by a professional audio describer through a wireless headset system with the intention of providing clear and engaging descriptions of the meaningful visual details of a performance. Headsets may be reserved by contacting the Cal Performances Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 or tickets@calperformances.org. Additional information about services available for patrons with disabilities can be found at calperformances.org/accessibility.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

Friday, February 7, 8pm
Saturday, February 8, 8pm
Sunday, February 9, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall
Bancroft Way at Dana Street,
UC Berkeley campus

Dance / Percussion

[Twyla Tharp Dance](#)

Diamond Jubilee

Featuring Third Coast Percussion

Constance Volk, *flute*

Vladimir Romyantsev, *piano*

Program:

Twyla Tharp/*Diabelli* (1998, West Coast Premiere, music: Beethoven's *Diabelli Variations*; performed live by Vladimir

Romyantsev, *piano*)

SLACKTIDE (2025, West Coast Premiere, music: new arrangements of music from Philip Glass' *Aguas da Amazonia*; performed live by Third Coast Percussion and Constance Volk, *flute*)

Choreographer Twyla Tharp celebrates 60 years of crafting strikingly original, accessible, and uncategorizable works with a new collaboration with composer Philip Glass, the artists' first partnership in nearly 40 years. In close collaboration with Tharp, Third Coast Percussion has arranged Glass' hypnotic 1993–99 score *Agua da Amazonia*, which the musicians perform live on a collection of custom-designed percussion instruments. Flutist Constance Volk joins them performing Glass' music that reflects on the crisis of climate change. Tharp also revives *Diabelli*, her 1998 triumph that challenges 11 dancers and pianist Vladimir Remyantsev (performing live) to embody Beethoven's *Diabelli Variations*.

For blind and visually impaired audience members, live audio descriptions are available for the Sunday, February 9 performance. Headsets may be reserved by contacting the Cal Performances Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 or tickets@calperformances.org.

Tickets: \$42–\$120 (prices subject to change) UC Berkeley students can access exclusive discounts, including half-price tickets, in all sections of the theater, and are also eligible to purchase a limited number of \$10 tickets for the best seats in the house for the Saturday, February 8 performance, beginning at 12pm on Friday, January 24, through the [Golden Bear Circle](#) seating program. All UC Berkeley student ticketholders and their guests are invited to attend a reception with light refreshments on the mezzanine level at Zellerbach Hall immediately following the Saturday, February 8 performance. Information about UC Berkeley student tickets and discounts is available at calperformances.org/ucb-students; information about other discounts can be found at calperformances.org/discounts.

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.

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PRESS CONTACT:

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