

University of California, Berkeley





Universities. They exist to foster a commitment to knowledge in its myriad facets. To pursue that knowledge and extend its boundaries. To organize, teach, and disseminate it throughout the wider community.

At Cal Performances, we're proud of our place at the heart of one of the world's finest public universities. Each season, we strive to honor the same spirit of curiosity that fuels the work of this remarkable center of learning—of its teachers, researchers, and students.

That's why I'm happy to present the details of our 2020/21 Season, an endlessly diverse collection of performances rivaling any program, on any stage, on the planet. Here

you'll find legendary artists and companies like cellist **Yo-Yo Ma**, the **Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra** with conductor **Gustavo Dudamel**, the **Mark Morris Dance Group**, pianist **Mitsuko Uchida**, and singer/songwriter **Angélique Kidjo**. And you'll discover a wide range of performers you might not yet know you can't live without—extraordinary, less-familiar talent just now emerging on the international scene.

This season, we are especially proud to introduce our new *Illuminations* series, which aims to harness the power of the arts to address the pressing issues of our time and amplify them by shining a light on developments taking place elsewhere on the Berkeley campus. Through the themes of *Music and the Mind* and *Fact or Fiction* (please see the following pages for details), we'll examine current groundbreaking work in the university's classrooms and laboratories. And by viewing these achievements through the lens of the performing arts, we'll reaffirm both their central importance in life and our commitment to the university as a whole, provide our audiences with fresh insights into compelling topics, and explore the vital role the arts play in broadening our horizons.

Most of all, we invite you to sample the wonders that only the live performing arts can offer—their vast potential, when fueled by the energy supplied by the audience, to create truly transformative human experiences. We promise you an enriching and entertaining celebration of the very best in music, dance, theater, and more.

Welcome to the 2020/21 Season!

Jeremy Geffen Executive and Artistic Director Cal Performances

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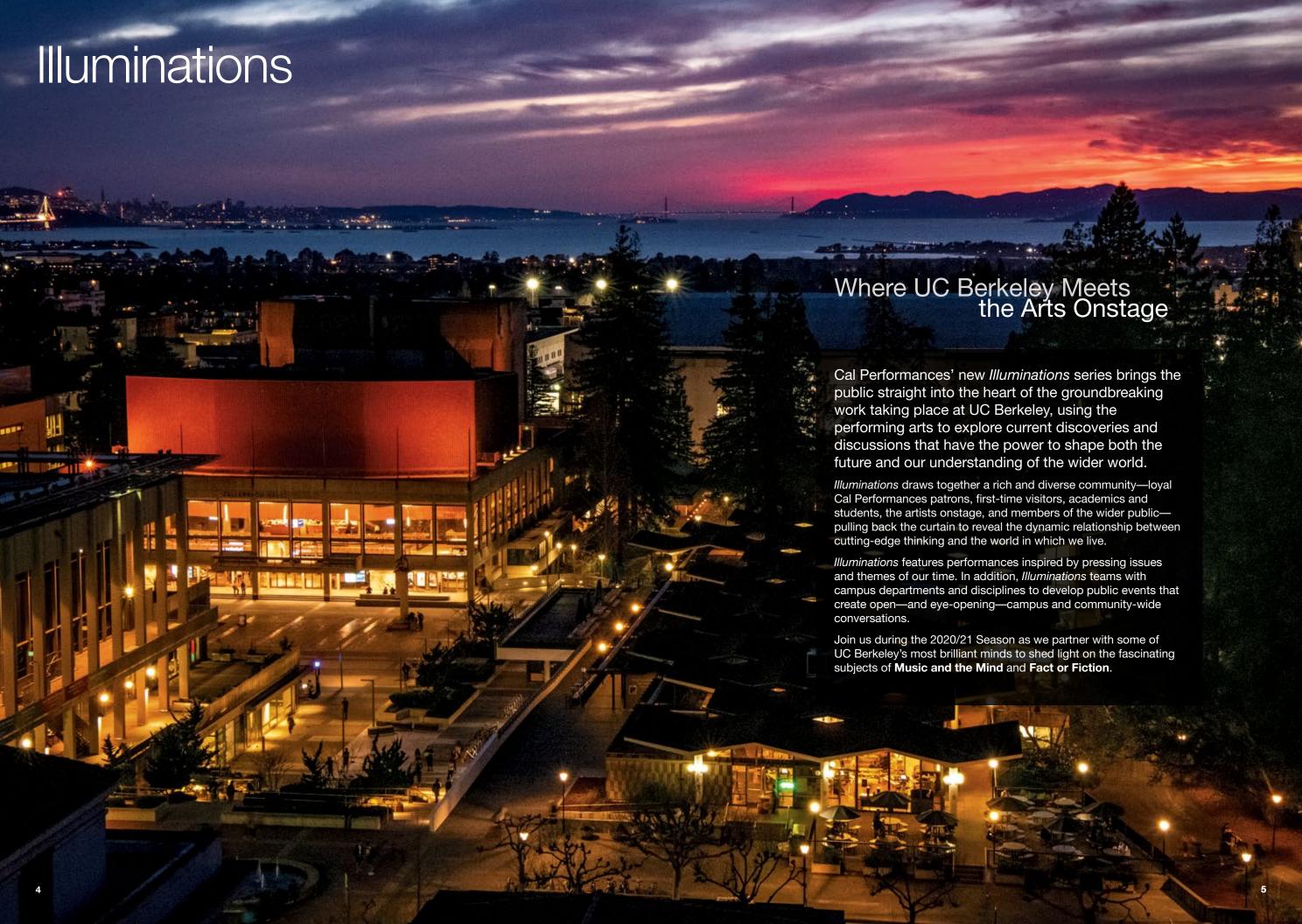
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We do not "need" music to survive, yet rarely do we meet anyone who claims not to love it. Music has the power to unite, entertain, move, and comfort us. However, our relationship to music can sometimes feel full of mystery: Where does something so abstract and seemingly non-essential for human life get its power? What can listening—an act both simple and complex—teach us about how our brains work? And what is scientific research revealing about the therapeutic power of music to treat longterm degenerative diseases?

This season offers diverse opportunities to explore our deeply human connection with music.

### **Tetzlaff Quartet: Beethoven String** Quartets

### December 2020

The Tetzlaff Quartet's performances of late Beethoven quartets bring to life the previously unimaginable soundscapes created entirely in the mind of a profoundly deaf composer, a man isolated within his soundless world. These extraordinary universes of musical expression are a testament to the power of human imagination and continue to resonate deeply within us today, centuries after their composition. (See p. 13 for full event description.)

### Matthew Whitaker, piano

### December 2020

The extraordinary 18-year-old jazz pianist Matthew Whitaker has been performing around the world since the age of 11. Scientists recently have begun studying him in hope of discovering the amazing ways this blind prodigy's brain visualizes music.

### Renée Fleming and **Special Guests**

### April 2021

A special afternoon of music and discussion performed and hosted by soprano Renée Fleming, who has made the relationship between music and the mind the subject of her recent work. In collaboration with the Berkeley Brain Initiative, the UC Berkeley faculties of Molecular & Cell Biology and Psychology, and UCSF's Weill Institute for Neurosciences, the program offers insights into music's untapped potential and its complex relationship with the human brain. (See p. 19 for full event description.)

### **Mark Morris Dance** Group: Dance for PD

#### May 2021

The Mark Morris Dance Group's inspiring Dance for PD program offers dance classes for people with Parkinson's disease, profound interactions that demonstrate the connection between movement, rhythm, our need for social connection, and-most importantly-joy. (Visit calperformances.org/related-events for more information on the Mark Morris Dance Group's Platée residency activities.)

(See p. 33 for full event description.)

Additional details regarding related events for all *Illuminations* programs will be announced throughout the season.

### Does something need to be real **Darcy James Argue's** to be true? Mark Twain famously

Illuminations

said we should never let the

truth get in the way of a good

performance experience may

not be 100% faithful to history.

Indeed, a different spin on the

details has always played a

role in morphing history into

Illuminations: Fact or Fiction

happens when alterations of

the truth—even the deliberate

begin to impact our ability to

tell fact from fiction, and how

This season invites us to

truth and nontruth.

consider the possibilities for

making our way through the

increasingly fluid landscape of

world today.

this challenge is impacting our

examines the tension between

this "creative license" and what

dissemination of disinformation—

mythology and creating legends

that amplify the stories of heroes.

story, and arts audiences have

long accepted that a compelling

#### October 2020

Real Enemies

Through this evening-length, multimedia, jazz-fueled exploration of paranoia, Darcy James Argue's *Real Enemies* considers the tricky history of American conspiracy thinking. (See p. 31 for full event description.)

### **Manual Cinema's Frankenstein**

### October 2020

Manual Cinema's mesmerizing Frankenstein examines the parallels between Mary Shelley's famous fictional "creature" and the actual events of her life. (See p. 31 for full event description.)

### Lars Jan's The White Album

### December 2020

Mining new lessons for today from its searing observations, director Lars Jan's multilayered production considers the complexities of Joan Didion's iconic essay about California in the 1960s. (See p. 31 for full event description.)

### Bang on a **Can All-Stars**; Julia Wolfe's Steel Hammer

### January 2021

Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Julia Wolfe's Steel Hammer weaves more than 200 (often contradictory!) versions of the classic American "John Henry" folktale into a musical allegory exploring the historical truths—and untruths—of the industrial age. (See p. 23 for full event description.)

MANUAL CINEN FRANKE

### The English Concert; Handel's Tamerlano

### **April 2021**

Sometimes, how a story is told uncovers more about the time (and agents) of its telling than about the actual history on which it is based. Handel's popular 18th-century opera Tamerlano reveals what can happen when the history of an actual 14thcentury Turco-Mongol conqueror is glorified by storytellers from a radically different time and place. (See p. 21 for full event description.)

Fact or Fiction campus partners include Berkeley Arts + Design, Berkeley Law, Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism, Berkeley School of Information, Berkeley Library, and Townsend Center for the Humanities.



# Special

### **Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra** Gustavo Dudamel, conductor

TUE, MAR 2, 7:30PM, ZH

**SCHUBERT RAVEL** 

Symphony No. 5 Rapsodie espagnole Ma mère l'Oye Suite

**STRAVINSKY** The Firebird Suite (1919 version)

WED, MAR 3, 7:30PM, ZH

HAYDN **PROKOFIEV**  Symphony No. 59, Fire Symphony No. 1, Classical Symphony No. 5

THU, MAR 4, 8PM, ZH

RIMSKY-KORSAKOV Scheherazade, Op. 35 **TCHAIKOVSKY** Symphony No. 5

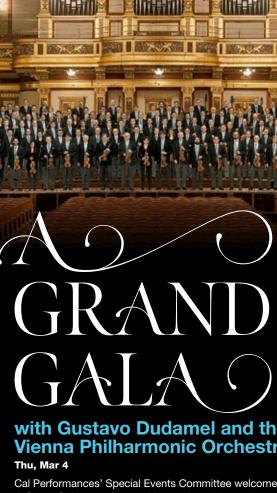
A match made in music lovers' heaven!

Centuries of refined European orchestral tradition meet the dynamism of South America's favorite son when the majestic Vienna Philharmonic and the charismatic Venezuelan conductor Gustavo Dudamel unite for three lush and powerful orchestral programs. Dudamel and the Vienna Philharmonic have developed a close relationship in recent years—in 2017, he became the youngest-ever conductor to lead the orchestra's annual New Year's Day concert broadcast to 50 million viewers in nearly 90 countries; and the following year, he conducted the orchestra in a whirlwind friendship tour of the Americas. Dudamel has earned a cult following among music connoisseurs for the vitality and sophistication of his interpretations, and the Vienna Philharmonic is revered for a depth of sound that is "rich in detail and fearsome in its intensity" (The Guardian, London). In their first Cal Performances concerts together, Dudamel and the orchestra perform a rich collection of Old World masterworks culled from recent collaborations.

The first program explores color and light, pairing Schubert's kaleidoscopic Fifth Symphony with Ravel's dreamy Rapsodie espagnole and the radiant miniatures of his *Mother Goose* suite, plus Stravinsky's brilliant ballet score based on the Russian fairy tales of the Firebird. The second program offers a fascinating contrast between an actual Classical-era symphony by Haydn and Prokofiev's later reflection on the Classical style, and is capped by the Russian master's grand and exuberant Fifth Symphony. The final, all-Russian program places Rimsky-Korsakov's evocative orchestral suite *Scheherazade* in conversation with Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony, a work of dramatic shifts that ranges from delicate to turbulent.

Major support provided by The Bernard Osher Foundation.





### with Gustavo Dudamel and the **Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra**

Cal Performances' Special Events Committee welcomes you to A Grand Gala, an unforgettable evening with conductor Gustavo Dudamel and the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra in support of Cal Performances' artistic initiatives and education programs. First, enjoy cocktails and a festive pre-performance dinner in Pauley Ballroom. Then, following the concert at Zellerbach Hall, join the artists back in the ballroom for a gala party featuring modern Viennese cocktails, desserts, and waltzing!

We are holding the best concert seats for our gala guests. Tickets are limited for this traditionally sold-out event, so we encourage you to act quickly by contacting the Development Office at 510.642.8653 (email: donate@calperformances.org) or visit calperformances.org/grand-gala.

### **Gala Committee**

Naniette Coleman Marianne Geagea Cary Koh Chris Lauer Sylvia Lindsey Jen Lyons

Helen Meyer Maris Meyerson Leigh Teece Carol Jackson Upshaw Sara E. Wilson Caroline Winnett

\*Grand Gala ticket package options not available as part of 2020/21 Season subscription ticket purchases.

calperformances.org/grand-gala

# Chamber Music & Orchestra

### Mahler Chamber Orchestra Mitsuko Uchida, piano and director

Sun, Mar 28, 3pm, ZH

MOZART Piano Concerto No. 18 in B-flat major, K. 456
JANÁČEK Mládí

MOZART Piano Concerto No. 21 in C major, K. 467

A true season highlight! The legendary Mitsuko Uchida, a revered Mozart interpreter and one of the supreme pianists of our time, visits with two of the composer's brilliant concertos, directing Europe's outstanding Mahler Chamber Orchestra from the keyboard. These masterworks have long been staples of Uchida's repertoire; she won a Grammy for her recordings with the Cleveland Orchestra and, as the Telegraph observes, still approaches them with a "rapturous sense of discovery." Uchida has spoken eloquently about conducting Mozart's music from the piano, and how she relishes the composer's conception of soloist and orchestra as partners, rather than competitors. As Artistic Partner of the Mahler Chamber Orchestra. she has been collaborating closely with the ensemble on this repertoire over many concerts worldwide. Uchida tours infrequently, and her last Cal Performances recital (during the 2013-14 season) quickly sold out, so make sure to order your tickets early!

Patron Sponsors: Nadine Tang and Bruce Smith

### **Dover Quartet**

Sun, Oct 11, 3pm, HH

**HAYDN** String Quartet in D minor, Op. 76, No. 2, *The Fifths* 

IGETI String Quartet No. 1,

Métamorphoses nocturnes **DVOŘÁK** String Quartet in G major, Op. 106

Heralded as "the young American string quartet of the moment" by the New Yorker, the Dover Quartet catapulted to international stardom following a stunning sweep of the 2013 Banff Competition, at which they took home every prize. Winner of the Cleveland Quartet Award and honored with a coveted Avery Fisher Career Grant, the Dover has become one of the most in-demand ensembles in the world, praised for finding clarity in complex works, with an incisive rhythmic sense and an uncommon sensitivity to color and phrasing. Here, in Berkeley, these gifted musicians play one of Haydn's most ambitious quartets; Ligeti's first string quartet, composed while he was still living in communist Hungary; and Dvořák's poetic and expressive penultimate quartet.

### **Tetzlaff Quartet**

SAT, DEC 5, 8PM, HH

**BEETHOVEN** String Quartet in C-sharp minor, Op. 131

String Quartet in A minor, Op. 132

SUN, DEC 6, 3PM, HH

**BEETHOVEN** String Quartet in B-flat major, Op. 130 with *Grosse Fuge* 

Op. 130 with *Grosse Fuge* in B-flat major, Op. 133
String Quartet in F major, Op. 135

The superlative Tetzlaff Quartet returns following its memorable Cal Performances debut in 2017—this time playing four of Beethoven's extraordinary late string quartets over two concerts. The group is named after siblings Christian (violin) and Tanja (cello) Tetzlaff, and each of its members enjoys a robust solo career in Europe, making stateside visits extremely rare events. Known for its warm, blended, and flowing sound in even the thorniest repertoire, the Tetzlaff promises to bring new insights to a program of canonic works revered for their emotional immediacy and technical complexity. "Supremely lyrical, exactingly detailed playing...an overwhelming performance" (The New York Times).

An *Illuminations*: Music and the Mind event. Please see p. 6 for details.

Patron Sponsors: Charles and Helene Linker

### Takács Quartet

SUN, JAN 17, 3PM, HH

MOZART String Quartet No. 15 in D minor,

K. 421/417b **DUTILLEUX** Ainsi la nuit

BRAHMS String Quartet No. 3

SUN, JAN 24, 3PM, HH

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**HAYDN** String Quartet in G major, Op. 77, No. 1

BRITTEN String Quartet No. 3
DEBUSSY String Quartet

After immersing Berkeley fans in single-composer cycles by Beethoven and Bartók in recent seasons, the Takács Quartet returns with two remarkably diverse programs—and welcomes its newest member, violist Richard O'Neill.

Performances by this esteemed ensemble are routinely praised for going "straight to the music's expressive heart.... The Takács Quartet makes the music dance, and that, in essence, is the secret of their success" (Classics Today).

Each concert this season highlights a Classical, Romantic, and 20th-century work, the first including Mozart's elegant Quartet No.15, one of the six he dedicated to Haydn; Henri Dutilleux's *Ainsi la nuit (Thus the Night)*, a refined and compelling work from 1976; and Brahms' ebullient Quartet No. 3.

The second concert features Britten's Third String Quartet, which the group has recorded to great acclaim; Debussy's sole quartet, which the *Strad* praised as "masterfully played and powerfully projected," with "an almost orchestral emotional resonance"; and Haydn's masterful Op. 77, No. 1, a work infused with the rhythmic vitality of traditional Hungarian folk music.





TETZLAFF QUARTET







# ADDITIONAL EVENT Alex Ross on Wagner

Thu, Sep 24, 7:30pm, ZH

One of today's most influential and well-loved writers on classical and contemporary music, 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.

**MITSUKO UCHIDA** 



# Tessa Lark, violin Andrew Armstrong, piano

Sun, Nov 8, 3pm, HH

BARTÓK

(arr. Székely) Romanian Folk Dances
YSAŸE Sonata No. 5 for Solo Violin
SCHUBERT Fantasy in C major, D. 934
Violin Sonata No. 3 in C minor

RAVEL Tzigane

The young Kentuckian Tessa Lark grew up with both classical music and fiddle tunes in her ears, and has been known to cap a breathless violin recital with an encore selection that invokes her bluegrass roots. In 2012, Lark became the first American since 1960 to win the Walter M. Naumburg International Violin Competition, and she has since gone on to receive further honors, including the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant. *Gramophone* has applauded Lark's "canny ability to adjust her approach according to the stylistic dictates of whatever she's playing." Here, in her Berkeley debut, she lends this interpretive flexibility to an eclectic program infused with folk sounds from Northern and Eastern Europe, and featuring Schubert's transcendent Fantasy in C major.

Major support provided by The Bernard Osher Foundation.

**Patron Sponsors: Nadine Tang and Bruce Smith** 

# David Finckel, cello Wu Han, piano

Sun, Nov 15, 3pm, ZH

**BEETHOVEN** The Five Sonatas for Cello and Piano

Cal Performances favorites and chamber music superstars, cellist David Finckel and pianist Wu Han return in a marathon program of the complete Beethoven sonatas for cello and piano—monumental works in the repertoire but also significant artistic touchstones for these consummate artists, who have been playing them together for more than 25 years. The husbandand-wife duo has captivated critics across the globe through committed performances of Beethoven's deeply conversational works: "There was a sense of absolute certainty in the way cellist and pianist completed each other's sentences, yet their long familiarity with each other's musical responses did not rob their performances of freshness, spontaneity or directness" (Chicago Tribune).

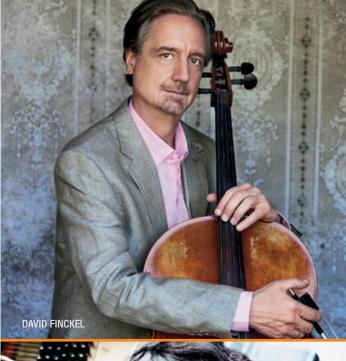
### Seong-Jin Cho, piano

Fri, Dec 11, 8pm, ZH

BRAHMS Six Pieces for Piano, Op. 118
SCHUMANN Humoresque
BERG Piano Sonata, Op. 1
LISZT Piano Sonata in B minor

A star in his native South Korea, the preternaturally talented young pianist Seong-Jin Cho has been in high demand as a recitalist since he won the gold medal at the 2015 Chopin International Competition in Warsaw, joining an illustrious cohort that includes Maurizio Pollini and Martha Argerich. Cho has been selling out major concert halls around the world in recent seasons, and is lauded for interpretive wisdom that belies his 25 years, combining a "mixture of virtuosic and poetic dispositions, of fierce and restrained temperaments" (Bachtrack). Here he tackles Schumann's massive Humoresque along with two remarkable one-movement piano sonatas: Berg's concise early-period work, and Liszt's enigmatic, fiercely challenging Sonata in B minor.









### Maxim Vengerov, violin

Roustem Saïtkoulov, piano

Sun, Jan 31, 3pm, ZH

MOZART Violin Sonata No. 26 in B-flat major,

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

Known for his effortless virtuosity, Grammy Award-winning violinist Maxim Vengerov began his career as a child prodigy in late Soviet-era Russia, and was already hailed as one

of the most outstanding violinists of his generation by his early 20s. Vengerov's performing career was sidelined by a shoulder injury for years, during which time he took up conducting; now he has returned to the stage, and by all accounts the master musician is playing better than ever. "Vengerov plays with such innate ease that difficulty doesn't really register as such. But his technical wizardry is accompanied by a big dose of heart...he seems instinctively to understand what makes the music go" (The Washington) Post). His recital features masterworks from the violin repertoire, including Mozart's genial B-flat sonata and Prokofiev's dark and brooding Sonata No.1.

### Christine Goerke, soprano Malcolm Martineau, piano

Sun, Feb 21, 3pm, HH

R. STRAUSS Eight Songs from the Last Pages, Op. 10

Seven Early Songs **BERG** WAGNER Wesendonck Lieder **BRAHMS** Selected songs

A rare chance to hear one of the world's outstanding dramatic sopranos—among the most powerful operatic voices of her generation—in the intimacy of Hertz Hall. An accomplished Wagnerian, Goerke is sought out for her opulent voice and dramatic intensity, which is tempered by a refined interpretive intelligence. She triumphed in the punishing role of Strauss' Elektra at San Francisco Opera in 2017, and her performances in Wagner's Ring cycle at the Metropolitan Opera last season brought down the house, when she was praised as "a Brünnhilde who marries vocal vitality and emotional presence in each radiant note. She takes on the physically grueling task with ninja-like focus and suppleness" (*The New York Times*).

### Jeremy Denk, piano

Sun, Mar 7, 3pm, HH

J.S. BACH

The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book 1

Insightful pianist Jeremy Denk—MacArthur Fellow, writer, and noted musical commentator—performs Book I of Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier, the preludes and fugues that Beethoven referred to as his musical bible. Denk has written insightfully about Bach as a great humanist, describing how the composer's music represents an "intoxicating combination"—a feeling of the divine balanced with the earthly beauty of logic and discipline. The New York Times has extolled Denk's "profound affinity with Bach" as a performer, and the Philadelphia Inquirer has called his Bach recitals "mesmerizing."

**Patron Sponsors: Will and Linda Schieber** 







### Beatrice Rana, piano

Sun, Apr 11, 3pm, HH

**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

Italian pianist Beatrice Rana has been charming listeners worldwide with electrifying performances that marry exhilarating power and precision with a startling sensitivity to the poetry underlying a musical score. Rana's solo recital debut at Carnegie Hall last season left audiences rapt, and the *New York Times'* chief classical music critic wrote that her rendition of Chopin's Op. 25 études "set a new standard for me," adding "she made the pieces sound as poetic and colorful as anything Chopin ever wrote." Here, her program includes the composer's four diabolical and lyrical scherzos, which completely upended the genre; two contrasting waltzes by Ravel and Scriabin; and Scriabin's volatile late-period "Insect Sonata."

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

Sun, May 2, 3pm, HH

Music critic Alex Ross has called Jamie Barton "a fresh wonder of the opera world, possessing a voice of preternatural beauty and power," and *Gramophone* praised her for having "the sort of instrument you could listen to all day, in any sort of repertoire." The American mezzo-soprano 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. In recital, Barton is also known for curating provocative and fascinating programs, and here she joins longtime friend and collaborator Jake Heggie for the West Coast premiere of a new work by the acclaimed composer and pianist.



### Renée Fleming and Special Guests Sun, Apr 18, 3pm, ZH

The riveting soprano Renée Fleming visits with a combination discussion-performance, 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 (see p. 6). 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 campus partners including the Berkeley Brain Initiative and the UC Berkeley faculties of Molecular & Cell Biology and Psychology, as well as UCSF's Weill Institute for Neurosciences. Fleming's thought-provoking program offers insights into music's untapped potential for healing and transformation.

An *Illuminations*: Music and the Mind event. Please see p. 6 for details.

Patron Sponsors: Michael A. Harrison and Susan Graham Harrison





### Jordi Savall

### La Capella Reial de Catalunya Le Concert des Nations

Thu, Nov 12, 7:30pm, ZH

MONTEVERDI Madrigals, Selections from Book 8, Madrigals of Love and War

Gamba virtuoso and musical polymath Jordi Savall returns with a rare and precious gift for his many Berkeley fans—selections from Monteverdi's Madrigals of Love and War. With these sumptuous works, published late in his life, the composer proposed a groundbreaking model for how music could convey a wide range of emotion. The set includes a wealth of musical treasures, including the wondrous "Lamento della Ninfa" and "Combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda," and Savall's recordings of these works, made 25 years ago, are still widely recognized as touchstones, praised for the performers' vivid colorations, purity of tone, and sensitive accompaniment. "These madrigals are among the supreme glories of 17th-century vocal art, and Savall does them proud. Whether making love or sallying boisterously into battle, his singers and instrumentalists bring out every musical and expressive nuance" (*Chicago Tribune*).

### Mahan Esfahani, harpsichord

Sun, Feb 14, 3pm, HH

PROGRAM TO INCLUDE:

**J.S. BACH** Goldberg Variations, BWV 988

In the polarized world of classical music, where battles often rage over issues of interpretation and authenticity, Mahan Esfahani is the rare harpsichordist known for mesmerizing performances of both early music and contemporary repertoire. The acclaimed Iranian American musician is an unapologetic champion of the harpsichord, devoted to restoring the Baroque mainstay to what he sees as its rightful place at the center of concert music. Esfahani has been praised for his crisp articulation and a thrillingly dynamic style on an instrument that famously resists extremes. Here, in a recital perfect for Valentine's Day, he plays Bach's timeless Goldberg Variations, best known on piano but originally composed for his instrument: "Esfahani feels like the harpsichord's answer to the young Gould—exuberant, antisentimental, bracing" (The New Yorker).

### **The English Concert**

Harry Bicket, artistic director

Wed, Apr 28, 7pm, ZH

**HANDEL** 

Tamerlano, HWV 18

Cast:

Michael Spyres, tenor (Bajazet) Bejun Mehta, countertenor (Tamerlano) Avery Amereau, alto (Irene) Jakub Józef Orliński, countertenor (Andronico) Sophie Bevan, soprano (Asteria) Ashley Riches, bass (Leone)

Greed, jealousy, betrayal, revenge—Handel's psychological thriller *Tamerlano* has it all. Performed in concert by Britain's renowned Handel specialists The English Concert, this sinister opera seria was among the composer's big London hits of the 1720s, with a story loosely based on the historic conflict between a Turkish sultan and the Tartar conqueror Timur (or Tamerlano), who ruled much of Asia in the 14th century. The soloists here include two revered countertenors—Bejun Mehta as Tamerlano, a role that has defined his career, and rising star Jakub Józef Orliński, who has recently appeared to rave reviews in both Handel's Rinaldo and Rodelinda. "Bicket...drew a lithe, detailed and richly expressive account of this great score from the first-rate players. The ovations were enormous. The audience seemed not just excited but also grateful" (The New York Times).

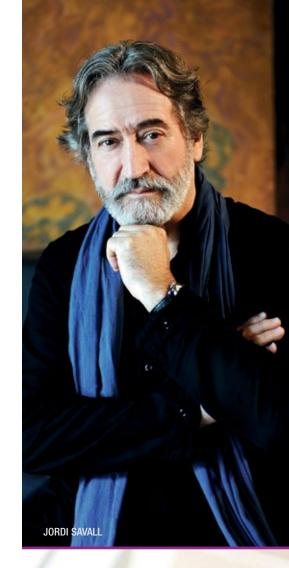
Sung in Italian with English supertitles.

An Illuminations: Fact or Fiction event. Please see p. 7 for details. Major support provided by The Bernard Osher Foundation. **Patron Sponsor: Bernice Greene** 

This event is sponsored by an Anonymous donor.

#### PLEASE NOTE

Platée with Mark Morris Dance Group and Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra & Chorale is available on our Early Music series. Please see pp. 24-25 for the full event description.







### **Bang on a Can All-Stars**

Sat, Jan 23, 8pm, ZH

JULIA WOLFE

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 folktale of "John Henry" that she could get her hands on—more than 200!—and weaves these often contradictory stories 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. "A musical archaeology of a familiar tale—one that preserves, even enlarges, its central mystery" (The New Yorker).

An Illuminations: Fact or Fiction event. Please see p. 7 for details.

Koto-Uta

Steel Hammer

Patron Sponsor: Françoise Stone

### **Eco Ensemble**

Sat, Feb 13, 8pm, HH

TOSHIO HOSOKAWA

Vertical Song 1 Spell Sen VI Singing Trees (Requiem for Toru Takemitsu) Somon-ka

Praised by the *New York Times* as a "dream team of local musicians who embody a high point in the Bay Area's vibrant contemporary music scene," UC Berkeley's stellar ensemble-in-residence specializes in precise and passionate performances of works by living composers. The group is directed by new-music champion and music department faculty member David Milnes and is comprised of talented performers from across the region. This season's Cal Performances concert will showcase the music of Japanese composer Toshio Hosokawa, who will be a guest of the music department in February 2021 as the distinguished Bloch Lecturer. The program features the UC Berkeley Chamber Chorus, led by Wei Cheng, and acclaimed *koto* player Kyoko Kawamura. "It's difficult to imagine any group giving a better performance than that of the Eco Ensemble" (*San Francisco Classical Voice*).

### yMusic

Sat, Mar 13, 8pm, ZP

The innovative and daring yMusic—"one of the groups that has really helped to shape the future of classical music" (NPR)—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 flexible sextet—all members of Generation Y—is sought out for its uncanny ability to bridge contemporary concert music with pop and indie rock sensibilities, effortlessly moving between Carnegie Hall concerts and massive arena shows without skipping a beat. The centerpiece of this UC Berkeley debut is *Difference*, a Cal Performances co-commission by Andrew Norman, a leading composer of his generation praised by the *New Yorker* as a "master of a uniquely dazzling and mercurial style."

### Nico Muhly and Friends Investigate the Glass Archive

### Lesser Known

Fri, Apr 16, 8pm, ZH

Beginning as a student, the now-acclaimed composer Nico Muhly worked for eight years as an intern, archivist, editor, and assistant conductor for veteran minimalist composer Philip Glass. Lesser Known is the product of Muhly's discoveries during that formative experience and features his own new arrangements and reinterpretations of obscure gems drawn from 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. "His musicians played and sang superbly, almost as agile as Glass's own ensemble...the music shimmered and danced, with ample sensitivity to the sad, wistful aura that Glass can evoke" (The New York Times).

Patron Sponsors: Liz and Greg Lutz

### PLEASE NOTE

Vân-Ánh Võ and Blood Moon Orchestra is available on both the New Music and World Stage series. Please see page 37 for the full event description.







# Opera



# Dance



# Miami City Ballet Lourdes Lopez, artistic director

### **Berkeley Symphony Orchestra**

Gary Sheldon, conductor

Fri-Sat, Oct 2-3, 8pm Sun, Oct 4, 3pm, ZH

BALANCHINE

The Four Temperaments (music: Hindemith)

JUSTIN PECK ALEXEI RATMANSKY

Heatscape (music: Martinů) Symphonic Dances (music: Rachmaninoff)

Famed for its dedication to the repertory, style, and technique of George Balanchine, Miami City Ballet returns to UC Berkeley for the first time in over a decade. The company is directed by former New York City Ballet principal Lourdes Lopez, among the last dancers of her generation to have worked with Balanchine himself, and its Berkeley program this season places the master choreographer's epic 1946 masterwork *The Four Temperaments* in conversation with recent commissions. Justin Peck's *Heatscape* is an energetic romp danced before a mural by street artist Shepard Fairey, and Alexei Ratmansky's *Symphonic Dances*, set to Rachmaninoff, evokes a delirious, dreamlike state. "Symphonic Dances is a choreographic and visual feast...it's endlessly interesting and outrageous—and one of Ratmansky's most fascinating creations" (*Critical Dance*).

**Patron Sponsors: Ivan and Maris Meyerson** 

### **Ballet Hispánico**

Sat, Nov 21, 8pm Sun, Nov 22, 3pm, ZH

ANNABELLE LOPEZ

OCHOA Tiburones

MICHELLE

MANZANALES Con Brazos Abiertos
ANDREA MILLER Nací

Founded 50 years ago, New York's pioneering Ballet Hispánico makes its Cal Performances debut with a bold program of new and recent works by acclaimed and up-and-coming women choreographers. Annabelle Lopez Ochoa's *Tiburones* (*Sharks*) critiques the racial and gender stereotypes portrayed in *West Side Story*; and Andrea Miller's *Naci* draws on the choreographer's Spanish and Jewish American heritage to explore Sephardic culture. Michelle Manzanales' *Con Brazos Abiertos* (*With Open Arms*)—which has impressed critics with its combination of vitality and warmth—addresses the complexities of Mexican American identity. "The members of Ballet Hispánico are 12 of the most technically accomplished and musical dancers you'll find in the contemporary sphere" (*The Washington Post*).

Patron Sponsors: Daniel W. Johnson and Herman Winkel

## **Cloud Gate Dance Theatre** of Taiwan

Sat, Dec 5, 8pm Sun, Dec 6, 3pm, ZH

Sun, Dec 6, 3pm, ZH

CHENG TSUNG-LUNG 13 Tongues (music: Lim Giong)
LIN HWAI-MIN Dust (music: Shostakovich)

Taiwan's beloved contemporary dance troupe returns to UC Berkeley following its exquisite 2016 performances of *Rice* at Zellerbach Hall. The program looks back at the company's history and offers a glimpse into its future, with two major works by the troupe's outgoing and incoming artistic directors. Lin Hwai-min recently stepped down from leading the company he founded 47 years ago, and his successor and protégé, Cheng Tsung-lung, promises to continue the singular blend of modern dance, ballet, martial arts, and Qigong that has long defined this esteemed company. Lin's *Dust* is a requiem for the displaced communities of the modern world and is set to Shostakovich's String Quartet No. 8, which commemorates the horrors of World War II. Cheng's 13 *Tongues* translates his childhood memories of the bustling street life of Taipei into a vibrant fantasy world, as neon lights and urban sounds mingle with the city's religious rites and festive parades.







## Caleb Teicher & Company Conrad Tao, piano

### More Forever

Sat, Dec 12, 8pm Sun, Dec 13, 3pm, ZP

Celebrated as "one of the brightest lights in tap today" (*The New Yorker*), 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.

### **Boy Blue**

### Blak Whyte Gray: A Hip-Hop Dance Triple Bill

Fri-Sat, Mar 5-6, 8pm Sun, Mar 7, 3pm, ZP

East London hip-hop company Boy Blue presents *Blak Whyte Gray*, a daring and poetic 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 smash 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, and "the whole thing has a cumulative force that's huge" (*The New Yorker*).

### Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Robert Battle, artistic director Matthew Rushing, associate artistic director

Tue-Thu, Apr 6-8, 7:30pm Fri, Apr 9, 8pm Sat, Apr 10, 2pm & 8pm Sun, Apr 11, 3pm, ZH

The international dance sensation returns for what is always a hugely popular Berkeley residency, with a range of repertoire that boldly takes on the defining issues of the day while celebrating movement in all of its pure, ecstatic beauty. Under the leadership of Robert Battle, the Ailey company continues to dazzle, staging timely new works—sometimes joyous, sometimes heartrending—by established choreographers like Rennie Harris, Ronald K. Brown, Judith Jamison, and Donald Byrd, and rising stars like Jamar Roberts. These new creations resonate profoundly with Ailey's own works, including his 1960 classic, *Revelations*, "a triumphant hymn to the human spirit, moving from a sense of sorrow to joy-filled life" (*The Guardian*).

Patron Sponsors: Gail and Dan Rubinfeld

### **PLEASE NOTE**

Platée with Mark Morris Dance Group and Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra & Chorale is available on our Dance series. Please see pp. 24–25 for the full event description.







# Theater



MANUAL CINEMA FRANKENSTEIN

# Darcy James Argue's Secret Society

### Real Enemies

Fri-Sat, Oct 9-10, 8pm, ZH

Darcy James Argue, music Isaac Butler, writer and director Peter Nigrini, film design

#### **Produced by Beth Morrison Projects**

Composer and bandleader Darcy James Argue arrives in Berkeley with his Secret Society, an 18-piece big band of New York's best and brightest improvisers, for an immersive 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, "a work of furious ambition that feels deeply in tune with our present moment" (*The New York Times*). Argue's eclectic music combines traditional jazz with postwar serialism, Latin rhythms, film noir orchestrations, and rock sonorities, deploying a clever 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.

An *Illuminations*: Fact or Fiction event. Please see p. 7 for details.

### Manual Cinema Frankenstein

**A Cal Performances Co-commission** 

Sat, Oct 24, 8pm Sun, Oct 25, 3pm, ZH

Back by popular demand following its mesmerizing production of *Ada/Ava* in 2018, Chicago's one-of-a-kind collective of musicians, composers, theater artists, and filmmakers captivates with its handmade and marvelously imaginative 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 an immersive score performed onstage by four musicians. "Ingenious...no matter where you look, you'll find beauty and intrique" (*Chicago Sun-Times*).

An *Illuminations*: Fact or Fiction event. Please see p. 7 for details.

### The White Album

by Joan Didion

Fri-Sat, Dec 4-5, 8pm, ZP

#### Created by Lars Jan/Early Morning Opera Performed by and created with Mia Barron

When Joan Didion wrote her iconic 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 winner 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. "A multilayered production...that radiated with a light hallucinatory touch" (Los Angeles Times).

An *Illuminations*: Fact or Fiction event. Please see p. 7 for details.







### **Bria Skonberg**

Wed, Dec 9, 7:30pm, ZP

In buoyant performances that combine the energy of New Orleans swing with the dreamy vocals of radio crooners past, the charismatic voung trumpeter and vocalist Bria Skonberg recalls a time, before bebop, when jazz was our nation's popular music. Skonberg last performed at Cal Performances in April 2019, as part of the dream team from the Monterey Jazz Festival on Tour. Now, she returns with a 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. "Bria Skonberg plays trumpet like a red hot devil and sings like a dream" (The Wall Street Journal).

# Matthew Whitaker Quartet

Matthew Whitaker, piano and Hammond B3 organ Marcos Robinson, guitar Karim Hutton, bass Isaiah Johnson, drums

### Sat, Dec 19, 8pm, ZP

To witness the breathless virtuosity of Matthew Whitaker improvising at the keyboard is to be in the presence of a once-in-a-generation musical talent. Blind since age two, Whitaker holds court on piano and Hammond B-3 organ, with a bold and confident sense of swing and 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 11even opening for Stevie Wonder at the Apollo Theater—and at 13, he became the youngest musician to be endorsed by Hammond in the company's history. Now, with the release of his first recording at the ripe age of 18, he is taking the jazz world by storm. "Whitaker summoned the ghosts of Larry Young and Oscar Peterson... [his] instrumental trio inspired spontaneous dancing and a standing ovation. As a student of great piano masters, he has quickly identified the buttons that resonate with a crowd looking for a good time" (Los Angeles Times).

An *Illuminations*: Music and the Mind event. Please see p. 6 for details.

### **Artemis**

Sat, Feb 27, 8pm, ZH

Including

Renee Rosnes, music director and piano Ingrid Jensen, trumpet Nicole Glover, tenor saxophone

Noriko Ueda, bass Allison Miller, percussion

The brainchild of pianist and composer Renee Rosnes, Artemis is an international ensemble of modern jazz masters, each hardswinging member of the group a bandleader and composer in her own right. 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, jazz classics by Thelonious Monk and Wayne Shorter, and new compositions written expressly for the ensemble. "One of Sunday's clear highlights was a set by the super-group Artemis...[which] played like an expertly crafted mixtape" (Rolling Stone).

### Jazzmeia Horn

Thu, Mar 11, 7:30pm, ZP

Jazz vocalist Jazzmeia Horn dazzles with her fleet scat singing and impeccable sense of swing, and is part of an exciting new generation of commanding, creative artists effortlessly bridging jazz's illustrious past with today's popular music. The rising star has chops to spare—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 album, A Social Call, landed in Billboard's jazz Top 10 and her follow-up release, Love and Liberation, features compelling original compositions as well as standards from the Great American Songbook, spirituals, and modern R&B. "Her tunes are so good, other singers are sure to try them on, but then they'll have to sing them as well as Jazzmeia Horn does. Her interpretations set a standard of their own" (NPR).

### **PLEASE NOTE**

Real Enemies performed by Darcy James Argue's Secret Society is

available on our Jazz series. Please visit p. 31 for the full event description.





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JAZZMEIA HORN



### **Lila Downs**

### Fri, Sep 25, 8pm, ZH

NPR has called her a "warrior woman" and the *Guardian* says her voice is "almost superhuman," but Grammy- and Latin Grammy-winning singer and activist Lila Downs is beloved by her legions of fans for not letting it all go to her head—while always staying true to her roots. The Mexican American star, raised in Minnesota and Oaxaca, has built a career connecting the folk and indigenous music of Mexico to 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.

## The Dhamaal Dancers and Musicians of India

### Fri, Nov 13, 8pm, ZH

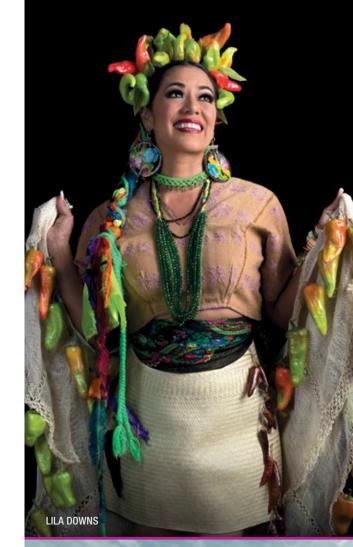
A feast for eyes and ears! Direct from Jaipur, India, the astonishing Dhamaal Dancers and Musicians of India visit with a tribute to Holi, the Hindu festival of colors. The troupe of traditional musicians, dancers, acrobats, and singers revels in the holiday's intoxicating spirit of merriment and release, 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, whose music has been called "hypnotic, joyous and instantly likeable" (The Irish Times), last visited Cal Performances with his Bollywood Masala Orchestra and Dancers of India in 2015.

### **Angélique Kidjo**

### Remain in Light

### Thu, Nov 19, 7:30pm, ZH

Three-time Grammy Award winner Angélique Kidjo is a force of nature, capable of transforming any musical material in her path with her powerful voice and positive message. Last year, she scored a major triumph with *Celia*, her brilliant reflection on an icon of the Americas, celebrated salsa singer Celia Cruz. Now, Kidjo revisits her unforgettable *Remain in Light* project from 2018, in which she repatriated the Talking Heads' landmark 1980 album, connecting deeply with the music's original Afropop underpinnings and filtering its new-wave sensibility through her own musical influences from across the African continent. Kidjo uplifts the music with her euphoric singing, backed by layers of explosive percussion and driving horn orchestrations, and mines the songs for topics that resonate with her today, adding her own lyrics in languages from her home country of Benin. "Angélique Kidjo and the Talking Heads are a match made in musical heaven" (*Pop Matters*).







### Kodo

### Legacy

Sat, Feb 6, 8pm Sun, Feb 7, 3pm, ZH

Athleticism, grace, stamina, discipline—Kodo's riveting performances combine explosive energy with breathtaking control. The multigenerational Japanese *taiko* troupe's 15 drummers conjure a "primal power and bravura beauty" (*Chicago Tribune*), invoking centuries of history and culture with each blow to their massive drums. Kodo'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. "Kodo's rich sound-world ranges from woodland susurrations to a thundering which makes you feel as if you've been struck in the chest" (*The Economist*).

### Vân-Ánh Võ and Blood Moon Orchestra

### Songs of Strength (World Premiere)

Sun, Mar 14, 7pm, ZP

A fearless musical explorer, 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. Originally from Vietnam and 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 around the world. Võ's Songs of Strength features a vibrant collection of voices—Iranian singer/songwriter Mahsa Vahdat, rapper DemOne, and breakdancer TUNJI, plus her multicultural Blood Moon Orchestra—with texts in English, Persian, and Vietnamese. "Võ is a veteran when it comes to taking risks, and it pays off in her compelling music" (NPR).

# **Zakir Hussain and the Masters of Percussion**

Sat, Mar 20, 8pm, ZH

Tabla virtuoso Zakir Hussain's thrilling Masters of Percussion performances are labors of love in the truest sense. The revered musician began touring nearly 25 years ago in a duo with his late father and mentor, the legendary Ustad Allarakha, and today keeps that great artist's memory alive through these spirited gatherings with the world's finest percussion players. Hussain's collaborators—stellar musicians he is eager to introduce to international audiences—are family members, longtime partners, and dear friends, and the warmth and camaraderie of their musical dialogue is palpable even as they exchange fiery riffs that drive the music to ecstatic heights. "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."





# Vocal Celebration



# Madeleine Peyroux & Paula Cole

#### Sat, Oct 16, 8pm, ZH

A double bill of two red-hot vocalists performing music from their megahit records! Careless Love, Madeleine Peyroux's breakout recording, helped define a new genre of vocal jazz and featured smart and understated new versions of songs by Bob Dylan, Elliott Smith, Leonard Cohen, and Hank Williams. The record sold half a million copies, and the UK's Guardian praised it as a "classily produced and coolly graceful set" with an "intelligent choice of terrific songs." Paula Cole's album This Fire has a cult following for its no-holds-barred message of female empowerment, thoughtful lyrics, and catchy hooks. The influential recording went double platinum, hit #20 on the Billboard charts, and earned seven Grammy nominations, with memorable hits like "Where Have All the Cowboys Gone?" and "I Don't Want to Wait."

### A Tribute to Aretha Franklin: The Queen of Soul

### with Damien Sneed and Karen Clark Sheard

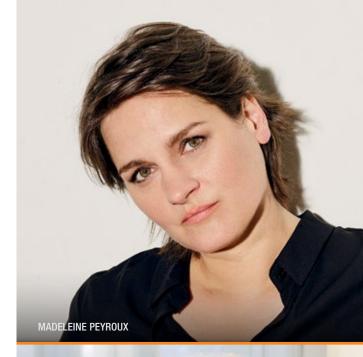
Sat, Mar 6, 8pm, ZH

Versatile and accomplished musician Damien Sneed returns following his homage to the life and times of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. last season—now with four-time Grammy winner and gospel star Karen Clark Sheard. Joined by an A-list of jazz, gospel, and soul musicians and vocalists, Sneed and Clark Sheard offer a rousing 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."

### Sol3 Mio

### Fri, Mar 12, 8pm, ZH

A lively evening of classical favorites and popular song with three of opera's shining lights! Sol3 Mio is the fun-loving 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 brought the house down at San Francisco Opera last season, when he stepped in as understudy in the lead role for the opening night of Gounod's *Romeo and Juliet*. As the *San Francisco Chronicle* raved, "He's got a vigorous, full-bodied sound with a lustrous mid-range and glorious, perfectly placed top notes...Pati sings in a gleaming, sensuous stream of sound." The charismatic and convivial trio sings timeless opera arias such as "Nessun Dorma" as well as popular hits like "Blue Bayou," "That's Amore," and "Volare" in transcendent harmony, accompanying themselves on piano and guitar, with orchestral backing tracks adding extra drama to lift the soaring vocals.







**SOL3 MIO** 



### **Vienna Boys Choir**

### Christmas in Vienna

Sat, Nov 28, 8pm, ZH

A perfect concert for the whole family! Let the Vienna Boys Choir—returning this season on Thanksgiving weekend—fill you with the holiday spirit in this delightful program of Austrian folk songs, classical masterpieces, and Christmas hymns and carols. Beloved the world over for "clarion voices, musicality, and technique" (*The Washington Post*), 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

### **Canadian Brass**

### Making Spirits Bright for 50 Years and Counting!

Fri, Dec 18, 8pm, ZH

The "gold standard" among brass quintets—and not just because its members perform on 24K gold-plated instruments—the Canadian Brass has conquered audiences the world over, bringing the sound and excitement of brass music to new generations of concertgoers. For half a century, the light-hearted and virtuosic ensemble has performed 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 to sound sublime on brass instruments. "These are the men who put brass music on the map with their unbeatable blend of virtuosity, spontaneity and humor" (The Washington Post).

### **Pilobolus**

### Big Five-Oh!

Thu, Apr 22, 7:30pm Fri, Apr 23, 8pm, ZH

For five decades, the athletic, nimble, zany, seemingly superhuman dancers and acrobats of Pilobolus have entranced audiences with their unique and beguiling version of dance theater. Contorting, bending, and partnering to transform themselves into a phantasmagoria of animals, spirits, and monsters, the Pilobolus dancers tell otherworldly stories through the astounding 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. "The dancers move so skillfully, so symbiotically, that they cease to resemble people at all. Plants, animals, all manner of objects and suggestions of objects arise and then dissolve, and at the end of an evening you feel as though you've glimpsed many worlds" (The New Yorker).





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### **Corporate Support:**





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### 2020/21 Season at a Glance

### August

**20** Not Our First Goat Rodeo: Yo-Yo Ma, *cello*; Stuart Duncan, *violin*; Edgar Meyer, *bass*; Chris Thile, *mandolin* 

### September

**24** Alex Ross; Author of Wagnerism: Art and Politics in the Shadow of Music

25 Lila Downs

### **October**

**2–4** Miami City Ballet with Berkeley Symphony Orchestra

**9–10** Darcy James Argue's Secret Society; *Real Enemies* 

11 Dover Quartet

16 Madeleine Peyroux & Paula Cole

24-25 Manual Cinema; Frankenstein

### November

**8** Tessa Lark, *violin*; Andrew Armstrong, *piano* 

**12** Jordi Savall, La Capella Reial de Catalunya, Le Concert des Nations; Monteverdi's *Madrigals of Love and War* 

**13** The Dhamaal Dancers and Musicians of India

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

**19** Angélique Kidjo; *Remain in Light* 

21-22 Ballet Hispánico

**28** Vienna Boys Choir; Christmas in Vienna

**Ticket Office Phone** 

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510.642.9988

### **December**

**4–5** The White Album by Joan Didion; Lars Jan/Early Morning Opera

5-6 Tetzlaff Quartet

**5–6** Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan

9 Bria Skonberg

**11** Seong-Jin Cho, *piano* 

**12–13** Caleb Teicher & Company; Conrad Tao, *piano*; *More Forever* 

**18** Canadian Brass; *Making Spirits Bright for 50 Years and Counting!* 

19 Matthew Whitaker Quartet

### January 2021

17 Takács Quartet

**23** Bang on a Can All-Stars; Julia Wolfe's Steel Hammer

24 Takács Quartet

**31** Maxim Vengerov, *violin*; Roustem Saïtkoulov, *piano* 

### **February**

6-7 Kodo; Legacy

**11–13** The 7 Fingers; *Passengers* 

13 Eco Ensemble

**14** Mahan Esfahani, *harpsichord* 

**21** Christine Goerke, *soprano*; Malcolm Martineau, *piano* 

27 Artemis

### March

**2–4** Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra; Gustavo Dudamel, *conductor* 

**5–7** Boy Blue; *Blak Whyte Gray:* A Hip-Hop Dance Triple Bill

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

7 Jeremy Denk, piano

11 Jazzmeia Horn

12 Sol3 Mio

**13** yMusic

**14** Vân-Ánh Võ and Blood Moon Orchestra; *Songs of Strength* 

**20** Zakir Hussain and the Masters of Percussion

**28** Mahler Chamber Orchestra with Mitsuko Uchida, *piano* 

### **April**

6-11 Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

11 Beatrice Rana, piano

**16** Nico Muhly and Friends Investigate the Glass Archive; Lesser Known

**18** Renée Fleming and Special Guests

22-23 Pilobolus; Big Five-Oh!

**28** The English Concert; Handel's *Tamerlano* 

### May

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

**7–9** Mark Morris Dance Group and Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra & Chorale; *Platée* 

### June

4-6 Eifman Ballet: Russian Hamlet

potential to create transformative experiences, and the energy supplied by the audience."

"What makes the arts truly alive is their

—Jeremy Geffen, executive and artistic director

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