

CONTACT: **Louisa Spier**
Cal Performances
(510) 919-6649
lspier@calperformances.org

Jeanette Peach
Cal Performances
(949) 378-7338
jpeach@calperformances.org

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Updated October 6, 2020 in red.

[Press Room](#)

[Cal Performances at Home online press kit](#)

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS
ALEX ROSS AND JOHN ADAMS IN A LIVESTREAMED
CONVERSATION
AS PART OF *CAL PERFORMANCES AT HOME*,
A NEW PERFORMING ARTS STREAMING SERIES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6 AT 7PM (PDT)**

**Ross and Adams will discuss Ross' new book
*Wagnerism: Art and Politics in the Shadow of Music***

**Fall 2020 streaming series features a premiere each week
October 1, 2020 through January 14, 2021**

**A recording of this event will be available on demand for three months following the
livestream**

Berkeley, September 17, 2020 — Cal Performances at UC Berkeley presents music writer Alex Ross and composer John Adams in a virtual conversation about Ross' new book, *Wagnerism: Art and Politics in the Shadow of Music*, that will be livestreamed for one night only, Tuesday, October 6 at 7pm (PDT). Viewers will have the opportunity to participate in a live Q&A with Adams and Ross during the livestreamed event. The performance is one of 16 new, professionally produced full-length performances in the recently announced performing arts streaming series *Cal Performances at Home*. A new performance will premiere each week beginning October 1, 2020 and continuing through January 14, 2021. More information about *Cal Performances at Home* can be found at <https://calperformances.org/at-home/>.

WHO

One of today's most influential and well-respected 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 this livestreamed talk, Ross is joined (virtually) by eminent composer, author, and longtime Cal Performances partner and friend John Adams, who—with operas

including *Nixon in China*, *The Death of Klinghoffer*, and *Doctor Atomic* to his credit—is no stranger to musical drama and its intersection with politics and history. Ross’ new book is the product of more than 10 years of research and reflection, and examines the resonance of Wagner’s mythic storytelling on, among many other things, fantasy fiction by J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis, and films and television shows such as *Star Wars*, *The Matrix*, and *Game of Thrones*. He has been the music critic at the *New Yorker* for nearly 25 years and has received both MacArthur and Guggenheim fellowships. Ross’ 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.

- WHAT** Livestreamed conversation between Alex Ross and John Adams. Viewers will have the opportunity to participate in a live Q&A with Adams and Ross during the livestreamed event.
- WHEN** Livestreamed Tuesday, October 6 at 7pm (PDT). **A recording of this event will be available on demand for three months until January 4, 2021.**
- WHERE** Viewable online, streamed to any device with an internet connection. Access to the event will be provided upon registration. For more information on how to view *Cal Performances at Home*, please visit calperformances.org/at-home/frequently-asked-questions.
- TICKETS** \$15 for a single viewer, \$30 for two viewers, and \$60 per household viewing. \$5 tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. *Cal Performances at Home* content is also a benefit for Cal Performances donors at the \$225 level and above. For more information on becoming a donor, please visit calperformances.org/friends.
- Tickets are available at calperformances.org/at-home or by phone at (510) 642-9988.
- PRESS** Complimentary press passes are available for reviewing journalists who wish to view the streaming premiere live on Tuesday, October 6 at 7pm (PDT). To request a press pass for the streaming premiere, please email publicrelations@calperformances.org.
- Photos of Alex Ross and John Adams are available to download from the [online press kit](#).
- Over 35 *Now, More Than Ever* YouTube playlists of the performing arts, curated by Jeremy Geffen since the beginning of sheltering-in-place orders, can be found at news.calperformances.org/now-more-than-ever.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

LIVESTREAMED EVENT

Tuesday, October 6, 7pm (PDT)

Alex Ross and John Adams in Conversation

Wagnerism: Art and Politics in the Shadow of Music

Program: One of today's most influential and well-respected 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 this livestreamed talk, Ross is joined (virtually) by eminent composer, author, and longtime Cal Performances partner and friend John Adams, who—with operas including *Nixon in China*, *The Death of Klinghoffer*, and *Doctor Atomic* to his credit—is no stranger to musical drama and its intersection with politics and history. Ross' new book is the product of more than 10 years of research and reflection, and examines the resonance of Wagner's mythic storytelling on, among many other things, fantasy fiction by J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis, and films and television shows such as *Star Wars*, *The Matrix*, and *Game of Thrones*.

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