Cal Performances

Cal Performances, the performing arts presenter of the University of California, Berkeley, fulfills its mission by presenting, producing, and commissioning renowned and emerging artists of the highest caliber. Serving the entire San Francisco Bay Area, the organization aims, through ambitious programming, to cultivate the artistic literacy of future audiences and connect the most innovative and accomplished artists in the world with the intellectual capital of UC Berkeley.

Cal Performances reaches nearly 120,000 people each year through its artistic programming and education and community outreach efforts. The organization presents close to 100 performances each year in classical music, world music and dance, jazz, early and new music, and classical dance, and theater. In recent years it has featured such renowned artists as the Vienna Philharmonic (under Semyon Bychkov, Andris Nelsons, and Lorin Maazel), London's Philharmonia Orchestra (Esa-Pekka Salonen), the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (Riccardo Muti), the Símón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra (Gustavo Dudamel), the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra (Daniel Barenboim),Yo-Yo Ma, Audra MacDonald, Renée Fleming, Julia Bullock, Jordi Savall, Kronos Quartet, Takács Quartet, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Mark Morris Dance Group, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Dorrance Dance, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Joffrey Ballet, Mariinsky Ballet, Akram Khan, Youssou N'Dour, Lila Downs, Buika, Silkroad Ensemble, Cécile McLorin Salvant, Chick Corea, Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, Laurie Anderson, Claire Chase, Eighth Blackbird, Sō Percussion, Théâtre de la Ville, Schaubühne, Robert LePage and Ex Machina, David Sedaris, Ira Glass, and Matt Groening.

Cal Performances' artistic literacy programs are recognized nationally as model engagement strategies for grades K–12 and the campus community. These programs include SchoolTime performances for K–12 students; AileyCamp, a summer camp that uses dance as a vehicle for developing self-esteem, creative expression and critical thinking skills for adolescents; artistic literacy workshops for teachers; artist and master-teaching visits to classrooms and schools; pre-concert artist talks and discussions; extended artistic residencies; master classes, arts-integrated academic courses built around the seasonand international academic conferences on campus. Approximately 20,000 people take advantage of these programs every season.

As an integral part of a world-class public university, Cal Performances supports the thriving extracurricular life on the UC Berkeley campus by overseeing Student Musical Activities, which manages the University of California Marching Band, UC Jazz Ensembles, UC Choral Ensembles, and Barestage Productions. Cal Performances sponsors the Student Ambassadors for the Arts (SAFTA), a student-led committee that hosts special events and student promotions including student parties and meet-and-greet events with artists. Embracing its role on campus, and supported by funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Cal Performances partners with faculty members to offer courses that integrate its season into the curriculum for both graduate and undergraduate students. Cal Performances' operations department manages events in five campus performance venues, including the production of over 40 graduation ceremonies each spring.

Cal Performances generates a healthy 31% from ticket sales; 20% from venue rentals and other earned income; and relies upon the generous contributions of individuals, corporations, foundations and UC Berkeley to cover the remaining 49% of its income.

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