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[Press Room](#)

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

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS
DARCY JAMES ARGUE'S SECRET SOCIETY
PERFORMING *REAL ENEMIES*
IN *CAL PERFORMANCES AT HOME*,
PERFORMING ARTS STREAMING SERIES
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21 AT 7PM (PDT)**

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

This performance is part of the [Illuminations: Fact or Fiction](#) series

Berkeley, September 23, 2020 — Cal Performances at UC Berkeley presents Darcy James Argue's Secret Society performing *Real Enemies* in a virtual premiere that will begin streaming on Wednesday, October 21 at 7pm (PDT). The performance is one of 16 new, professionally produced full-length performances in the *Cal Performances at Home* performing arts streaming series. The recording of a new performance will premiere each week beginning October 1, 2020 through January 14, 2021. On the evenings of each streaming premiere, a special digital "watch party" will feature a participatory live chat element. More information about *Cal Performances at Home* can be found at <https://calperformances.org/at-home/>.

WHO Celebrated composer and bandleader Darcy James Argue's Secret Society is a Grammy-nominated, 18-piece big band of New York's best and brightest improvisers. For *Cal Performances at Home*, Argue—in collaboration with co-creators Isaac Butler (writer/director) and Peter Nigrini (video designer)—has gone back into the recording studio with Secret Society to create a made-for-film adaptation of *Real Enemies*, a big band jazz-theater work that takes its name from a 2009 book by Kathryn Olmsted and mixes multi-channel video, text, and music to explore conspiracy theories in the American psyche and the nature of belief.

WHAT Professionally produced, full-length streaming performance.

Program: *Real Enemies*

This performance is part of the [Illuminations: Fact or Fiction](#) series.

WHEN Streaming premiere Wednesday, October 21 at 7pm (PDT). Following the premiere, this performance will be available to view on demand for three months **until January 19, 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 Wednesday, October 21 at 7pm (PDT). To request a press pass for the streaming premiere, please email publicrelations@calperformances.org.

Video of an in-depth conversation between Darcy James Argue, Isaac Butler, Peter Nigrini, and Cal Performances executive and artistic director Jeremy Geffen will be live beginning one half-hour before the streaming premiere. Advance access to the interview is available for journalists by request. Send inquiries to publicrelations@calperformances.org.

Photos of Darcy James Argue’s Secret Society 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

STREAM PREMIERE

Wednesday, October 21, 7pm (PDT)

Darcy James Argue’s Secret Society

Real Enemies

Program:

Celebrated composer and bandleader Darcy James Argue’s Secret Society is a Grammy-nominated, 18-piece big band of New York’s best and brightest improvisers. For *Cal Performances at Home*, Argue, librettist Isaac Butler, and film director Peter Nigrini have gone back into the recording studio with the musicians to create an immersive made-for-video adaptation of Argue’s acclaimed *Real Enemies*—a multimedia work mixing visuals, text, and music to explore 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 multmovement 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, and FBI schemes to alien sightings.

This performance is part of the [***Illuminations: Fact or Fiction***](#) series.

Tickets: \$15 for a single viewer, \$30 for two viewers, and \$60 per household viewing. \$5 tickets are available for UC Berkeley students.

Following the premiere, this performance will be available to view on demand for three months. (Subject to change.) Pre-performance programming begins at 6pm (PDT).