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[Press Room](#)

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

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS
THE MATTHEW WHITAKER QUARTET
IN *CAL PERFORMANCES AT HOME*,
PERFORMING ARTS STREAMING SERIES
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5 AT 7PM (PST)**

Fall 2020 streaming series features a premiere every week through January 14, 2021

This performance is part of the [Illuminations: Music and the Mind](#) series

Berkeley, October 8, 2020 — Cal Performances at UC Berkeley presents the Matthew Whitaker Quartet in the premiere of a virtual jazz set that will begin streaming on Thursday, November 5 at 7pm (PST). 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 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 calperformances.org/at-home/.

WHO Keyboardist Matthew Whitaker is 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. Now 19-years-old, he has been performing across the globe since age 11—even 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. He has just released his second recording, *Now Hear This*, a collection of original music and arrangements of works by Ahmad Jamal, Charlie Parker, Eddie Harris, Michel Camilo, Billy Strayhorn, and more.

WHAT Professionally produced, full-length streaming performance.

WHEN Streaming premiere Thursday, November 5 at 7pm (PST). Following the premiere, this performance will be available to view on demand for three months until February 3, 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.

MORE

CONTENT: Video of a conversation between Matthew Whitaker and Cal Performances executive and artistic director Jeremy Geffen will be live beginning one half-hour before the streaming premiere.

By the time Matthew Whitaker's performance premieres on November 5, the *Cal Performances at Home* library of offerings will feature performances streamable on demand by **violinist Tessa Lark** and **pianist Andrew Armstrong**, the **Tetzlaff Quartet**, **Nathalie Joachim** and **Spektral Quartet**, **Darcy James Argue's Secret Society**, and **Manual Cinema**. All performances are available for three months following their premiere date except where indicated, and can be found at calperformances.org/at-home.

Over 40 *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.

PRESS Complimentary press passes are available for reviewing journalists who wish to view the streaming premiere live on Thursday, November 5 at 7pm (PST). To request a press pass for the streaming premiere, please email publicrelations@calperformances.org.

Photos of Matthew Whitaker Quartet are available to download from the [online press kit](#).

Advance access to the interview with Matthew Whitaker is available for journalists by request. Send inquiries to publicrelations@calperformances.org.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

STREAM PREMIERE

Thursday, November 5, 7pm (PST)

Matthew Whitaker Quartet

Matthew Whitaker, *piano and Hammond B3 organ*

Marcos Robinson, *guitar*

Karim Hutton, *bass*

Isaiah Johnson, *drums*

Program:

Keyboardist Matthew Whitaker is 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 11—even 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. Having just released his second recording, the 19-year-old is currently taking the jazz world by storm.

This performance is part of the [*Illuminations: Music and the Mind*](#) 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 until February 3, 2021. Pre-performance programming begins at 6:30pm (PDT).