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[Press room](#)

[Cal Performances at Home press kit](#)

## ***CAL PERFORMANCES AT HOME***

### **2020-21 FALL CALENDAR**

#### **Ticket Information**

Tickets for the fall 2020 series of *Cal Performances at Home* are \$15 for a single viewer, \$30 for two viewers, and \$60 for household viewing (three or more viewers). \$5 tickets are available for UC Berkeley students to all events. Full access to all Fall 2020 *Cal Performances at Home* content is also complimentary for Cal Performances donors at the \$225 level and above. Tickets are available at [calperformances.org](http://calperformances.org) and by phone at (510) 642-9988.

#### OCTOBER 2020

##### **STREAM PREMIERE**

**Thursday, October 1, 7pm (PDT)**

Following the premiere, this performance will be available to view on demand for three months until December 30, 2020.

**Tessa Lark**, *violin*

**Andrew Armstrong**, *piano*

##### **Program:**

Bartók (arr. Székely)/*Romanian Folk Dances*

Ysaÿe/Sonata No. 5 for Solo Violin

Schubert/Fantasy in C major, D. 934

Grieg/Violin Sonata No. 3 in C minor

Ravel/*Tzigane*

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

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##### **LIVESTREAMED EVENT**

**Tuesday, October 6, 7pm (PDT)**

Following the livestream, this performance will be available to view on demand for three months until January 4, 2021.

**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*.

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

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**STREAM PREMIERE**

**Thursday, October 8, 7pm (PDT)**

Following the premiere, this performance will be available to view on demand for three months until January 6, 2021.

**Tetzlaff Quartet**

**Program:**

Beethoven/String Quartet in B-flat major, Op. 130,  
with *Grosse Fuge* in B-flat major, Op. 133  
Beethoven/String Quartet in A minor, Op. 132

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.

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**STREAM PREMIERE**

**Wednesday, October 14, 7pm (PDT)**

Following the premiere, this performance will be available to view on demand for three months until January 12, 2021.

**Nathalie Joachim and Spektral Quartet**

## ***Fanm d'Ayiti***

### **Program:**

Composer, flutist, and vocalist Nathalie Joachim, already familiar to Cal Performances' audiences for her appearances as part of Eighth Blackbird, collaborates with Chicago's Spektral Quartet in *Fanm d'Ayiti* (*Women of Haiti*), a suite of kaleidoscopic original compositions and arrangements that explores Joachim's Haitian heritage and celebrates the songs and stories of Haiti's most compelling female artists. Singing in *kreyòl* (Haitian Creole), Joachim weaves her own luminous voice with recordings of those of her grandmother, a girls choir from her family's hometown, and interviews with activist women performers who fought for social justice in the world's first free Black republic. Folk songs blend seamlessly with chamber strings and electronic soundscapes in Joachim's deft—and highly personal—musical journey. The digital audio recording of *Fanm d'Ayiti* received a Grammy nomination for Best World Music Album and has been praised for bridging “vast expanses of time and place, bringing together the sounds of Haitian folk music, Western classical music, electronic, and hints of pop... in service to one of the deepest of traditions—the tradition of innovation” (*The Nation*).

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

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### **STREAM PREMIERE**

**Wednesday, October 21, 7pm (PDT)**

Following the premiere, this performance will be available to view on demand for three months until January 19, 2021.

### **Darcy James Argue's Secret Society *Real Enemies***

**Darcy James Argue**, *music*

**Isaac Butler**, *writer and director*

**Peter Nigrini**, *film design*

**Produced by Beth Morrison Projects**

### **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 multimediment 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.

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### **STREAM PREMIERE**

**Thursday, October 29, 7pm (PDT)**

Following the premiere, this performance will be available to view on demand for three months until January 27, 2021.

### **Manual Cinema**

*Frankenstein* (Cal Performances Co-commission)

#### **Program:**

Chicago's collective of musicians, composers, theater artists, and filmmakers captivates with its handmade and marvelously imaginative creations as seen in its mesmerizing production of *Ada/Ava* presented by Cal Performances in 2018. *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. For *Cal Performances at Home*, Manual Cinema is creating a new iteration of its acclaimed *Frankenstein* production, made especially for home video viewing. "Ingenious...no matter where you look, you'll find beauty and intrigue" (*Chicago Sun-Times*).

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.

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## NOVEMBER 2020

### **STREAM PREMIERE**

**Thursday, November 5, 7pm (PST)**

Following the premiere, this performance will be available to view on demand for three months until February 3, 2021.

### **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, *Now Hear This*, 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.

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**STREAM PREMIERE**

**Thursday, November 12, 7pm (PST)**

**Thursday, November 19, 7pm (PST)**

Following the premiere, this performance will be available to view on demand for three months until February 10, 2021.

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

**Programs:**

**November 12**

Beethoven/Sonata No. 1 in F major, Op. 5, No. 1  
Beethoven/Sonata No. 2 in G minor, Op. 5, No. 2  
Beethoven/Sonata No. 3 in A major, Op. 69

**November 19**

Beethoven/Sonata No. 4 in C major, Op. 102, No. 1  
Beethoven/Sonata No. 5 in D major, Op. 102, No. 2

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

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**STREAM PREMIERE**

**Date TBA**

**Jordi Savall**  
**La Capella Reial de Catalunya**  
**Le Concert des Nations**

**Program:**

Monteverdi/Madrigals, Selections from Book 8, *Madrigals of Love and War*

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

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**STREAM PREMIERE**

**Friday, November 27, 7pm (PST)**

Following the premiere, this performance will be available to view on demand for two weeks until December 12, 2020.

**Yo-Yo Ma and Kathryn Stott**  
***Songs of Comfort and Hope***

**Program:**

Wu Tong, arr. Ding Doudou /Far Away Mountain (遠山)

Schumann/*Fünf Stücke im Volkston*, Op.102

Harry Sdraulig/Fantasia on Waltzing Matilda

Traditional American, arr. Caroline Shaw/Shenandoah

Traditional Irish, arr. Britten/The Last Rose of Summer

Traditional Irish, arr. Kreisler/Londonderry Air (Danny Boy)

Rachmaninoff/“Vocalise”

Wu Tong, arr. Li Xun/Ding Doudou/Rain Falling from the Roof (檐头雨)

DeFalla/*Siete canciones populares españolas*

Parra, arr. Jorge Calandrelli /Gracias a la vida

Piazzolla/Le Grand Tango

**Tickets:** \$15 for a single viewer, \$30 for two viewers, and \$60 per household viewing. **Tickets are free of charge for UC Berkeley students.**

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DECEMBER 2020

**STREAM PREMIERE**

**Thursday, December 3, 7pm (PST)**

Following the premiere, this performance will be available to view on demand for one month until January 3, 2021.

**Leif Ove Andsnes, piano**

**Program:**

Mozart/Fantasia in C minor, K. 475  
Beethoven/Piano Sonata in C minor, Op. 13, *Pathétique*  
Janáček/Selections from *On an Overgrown Path*, Book 1  
Dvořák/Selections from *Poetic Tone Picture*, Op. 85

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

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**STREAM PREMIERE**

**Thursday, December 10, 7pm (PST)**

Following the premiere, this performance will be available to view on demand for three months until March 10, 2021.

**Dover Quartet**

**Program:**

Haydn/String Quartet in D minor, Op. 76, No. 2, *The Fifths*  
Ligeti/String Quartet No. 1, *Métamorphoses nocturnes*  
Dvořák/String Quartet in G major, Op. 106

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

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**LIVESTREAMED EVENT**

**Saturday, December 12, 10am-12noon (PST)**

**Family Fun Day with *The Hard Nut***

**Program:**

For the December holidays, Cal Performances is teaming up with the Mark Morris Dance Group for a Family Fun Day centered around *The Hard Nut*, choreographer Mark Morris's witty, lavish, gender-varied homage to Tchaikovsky's original score, *The Nutcracker*.

The festive event includes a *Dance with the Mark Morris Dance Group* class for all ages to learn excerpts of the *Snow* and *Flowers* dances from *The Hard Nut* to a holiday sing-along with Mark Morris Dance Group Music Director Colin Fowler and a hot chocolate and cookie recipe swap.

Family Fun Day is part of a larger week of programming from the Mark Morris Dance Group called [MMDG Holiday Special: Home for the Holidays](#), which will also include Dance for PD (Parkinson's Disease) classes and outdoor caroling. The full schedule will be announced on November 27.

**Tickets:** Free; advance registration required after November 27 at [markmorrisdancegroup.org/mmdg-holiday-special/](http://markmorrisdancegroup.org/mmdg-holiday-special/)

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### LIVESTREAMED EVENT

Thursday, December 17, 5pm (PST)

Friday, December 18, 7pm (PST)

Saturday, December 19, 1pm (PST)

### Manual Cinema

*A Christmas Carol* (Cal Performances Co-Commission)

#### Program:

Manual Cinema broadcasts holiday spirit with this livestreamed adaptation of Charles Dickens' timeless *A Christmas Carol*. Manual Cinema's *Christmas Carol* is a Cal Performances co-commission, and will be performed live from the company's studio in Chicago. The company has created a new production tailored for home viewing, one that's poignantly resonant with our current lives. In it, an avowed holiday skeptic, Aunt Trudy has been tasked with presenting her family's annual *Christmas Carol* puppet show from the isolation of her studio apartment—over a Zoom call while the family celebrates Christmas Eve under lockdown. But as Trudy becomes more absorbed in her own version of the story, the puppets take on a life of their own, and the family's holiday call transforms into a cinematic adaptation of Dickens' classic ghost story. Manual Cinema's production features hundreds of paper puppets, miniatures, silhouettes, and an original music score performed live.

Following the Saturday, December 19 matinee, performance ticketholders will be welcomed to "Puppet Time," a behind-the-scenes "meet the artists" event for audiences of all ages. Manual Cinema's artistic directors will take viewers back-stage in their studios to share the numerous theatrical mediums and devices utilized to perform Manual Cinema's *Christmas Carol*, with a live chat Q&A as well.

*This program will not be available for later viewing.*

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

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### STREAMING ONE NIGHT ONLY

Thursday December 31, 8pm (PST)

### New Year's Eve Musical Celebration

#### Program:



Join the artists who have made the *Cal Performances at Home* season possible for a celebratory evening of original performances recorded especially for this occasion. Soloists, recitalists, jazz artists, and chamber ensembles featured in the fall online streaming series have contributed special musical selections to help Cal Performances audiences usher in the year 2021 in style. All performers have carefully chosen their contributions, with the aim of sharing works that convey the joy, hope, warmth, and spirit of the holidays. Their transcendent performances promise to remind viewers of the power of the arts to uplift and connect us all, even during the most trying of times.

*This program will not be available for later viewing.*

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

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## JANUARY 2021

### **STREAM PREMIERE**

**Thursday January 7, 2021, 7pm (PST)**

Following the premiere, this performance will be available to view on demand for three months until April 7, 2021.

**Bria Skonberg**, *trumpet, vocals*

#### **Program:**

In buoyant performances that combine the energy of New Orleans swing with the dreamy vocals of radio crooners past, the charismatic young 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. Here, in a set recorded at the historic Louis Armstrong House in Queens, NY, she and her quintet perform selections from her latest album, *Nothing Never Happens*, a mix 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.

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

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### **STREAM PREMIERE**

**Thursday, January 14, 2021, 7pm (PST)**

Following the premiere, this performance will be available to view on demand for three months until April 14, 2021.

**Julia Bullock**, *classical singer*  
**Laura Poe**, *piano*

Program to be announced.

Cal Performances audiences know the superb, daring soprano Julia Bullock well, from her 2018 Hertz Hall recital, and before that, in her star turns as both Josephine Baker and French mystic and activist Simone Weil at the 2016 *Ojai at Berkeley* festival. Just before this spring’s lockdown, Bullock visited the Bay Area to sing with the San Francisco Symphony, where the *San Francisco Chronicle* praised the dramatic power and clarity of her interpretations, and her “ability to plunge unnervingly deep into this music and then surface, like some kind of musical pearl diver, with great glistening strands of expressive jewels.” Recording this recital from her home city of Munich, Bullock presents one of her characteristically diverse and thoughtfully curated programs, traversing art song, contemporary works, and selections from African-American jazz and blues.

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

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