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

For a complete list of all *Cal Performances at Home* performances currently available visit [calperformances.org/buy](http://calperformances.org/buy)

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS  
RENÉE FLEMING’S “MUSIC AND THE MIND”  
AS PART OF THE CAL PERFORMANCES AT HOME  
PERFORMING ARTS STREAMING SERIES  
THURSDAY, APRIL 29 AT 7PM (PDT)**

Fleming will perform a selection of works,  
including the world premiere of Tod Machover’s *VocaGammified*

UC Berkeley neuroscience professor Dr. Ehud Isacoff joins Fleming for a conversation  
focused on memory, imagination, and the healing potential of music

This performance is part of Cal Performances’ *Illuminations: Music and the Mind* series,  
and will be viewable on demand for three months, through July 28, 2021

Spring 2021 streaming series features a digital watch party on  
select Thursday evenings through June 10, 2021

**Berkeley, April 5, 2021** — Cal Performances at UC Berkeley presents *Renée Fleming’s “Music and the Mind,”* a combination discussion-performance debuting with an interactive digital watch party on Thursday, April 29 at 7pm (PDT). Building on her ongoing creative collaborations with researchers, scholars, and scientists, soprano **Renée Fleming** will be joined by UC Berkeley professor of neuroscience, director of the Weill Neurohub East, and leader of the Berkeley Brain Initiative **Dr. Ehud Isacoff** for a conversation that will offer insights into music’s untapped potential for healing and transformation. Illuminating selections from Fleming’s expansive repertoire, performed by Fleming with piano accompaniment by **Robert Ainsley** and filmed exclusively for *Cal Performances at Home* at the Kreeger Museum in Washington, DC, will punctuate the conversation. The musical program will include the world premiere of Tod Machover’s “VocaGammified”—which expands on the composer’s 2019 work *Gammified*, a work based on MIT research on the effects of gamma

frequencies on our brains—as well as works by Delbos, Duparc, Fauré, Gershwin, Handel, and Wolf.

“Without the mind, music is just sound, and this relationship between music and the human brain has been an ongoing focus of interest for Renée—as it has been for Cal Performances with our *Illuminations: Music and the Mind* programming this season—and so she felt like a natural partner for an event bridging the worlds of music and science,” said **Jeremy Geffen**, executive and artistic director of Cal Performances. “With *Illuminations*, Cal Performances is investigating the human relationship to music and looking more closely at what listening to music can teach us about how our brains work. With the brainpower of UC Berkeley at our fingertips—including access to the brilliant minds at the Weill Neurohub East and Berkeley Brain Initiative—and our long history of presenting the finest artists in the world, Cal Performances is uniquely positioned to bring together some of the greatest minds in both science and music to further the conversation about music’s role in brain health and the power of music to treat long-term degenerative diseases.”

Following its debut, Renée Fleming’s program will be available for viewing on demand through July 28, 2021. The event is one of 12 newly produced, full-length performances in the Spring 2021 *Cal Performances at Home* performing arts streaming series, a continuation of the ambitious series launched in fall 2020. Filmed on stages all over the world—in renowned venues and recording studios in the locations where the artists are sheltering in place—all artists currently planned for the spring series were originally booked to perform in person at UC Berkeley as part of Cal Performances’ 2020–21 live season, which was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. The debuts of every spring performance, on select Thursday evenings through June 10, 2021, will be celebrated with a digital watch party accompanied by participatory live chat. Every performance (except where noted) will be viewable on demand for three months following its debut. A complete list of all *Cal Performances at Home* performances currently available for viewing can be found at [calperformances.org/buy](https://calperformances.org/buy). The performances will be supplemented with free artist talks, interviews, lectures, and panel discussions shared on the **Beyond the Stage** web page at [calperformances.org/learn/beyond-the-stage](https://calperformances.org/learn/beyond-the-stage).

## WHO

As part of Cal Performances’ 2020/21 *Illuminations: Music and the Mind* programming, soprano Renée Fleming presents a combination discussion-performance—featuring UC Berkeley professor of neuroscience Dr. Ehud Isacoff—

as part of her ongoing creative collaborations with researchers, scholars, and scientists. Fleming has made the relationship between music and the human brain the subject of recent work, and this year launched a live-streamed series of conversations with leaders and practitioners working at the intersection of music, neuroscience, and healthcare. In this special recital/presentation, she offers insights into music’s untapped potential for healing and transformation, performing illuminating selections from her expansive repertoire, with piano accompaniment by Robert Ainsley.

**WHAT** Newly produced, full-length, streaming program.

**Vocal selections to include:**

Handel/“Calm thou my soul” from *Alexander Balus*

“To fleeting pleasures” from *Samson*

Wolf/“Die Spröde” from *Goethe-Lieder*

Mignon III, “So lasst mich scheinen” from *Goethe-Lieder*

Fauré/“Prison,” Op. 83, No. 1

Delbos/“Dors” from *L’âme en bourgeois*

Duparc/“Le manoir de Rosemonde”

Gershwin/“Fascinating Rhythm”

Tod Machover/“VocaGammified”

This performance is part of this season’s [\*\*\*Illuminations: Music and the Mind\*\*\*](#) programming.

**WHEN** Streaming debut Thursday, April 29 at 7pm (PDT). Following the debut, this program will be available to view on demand for three months until July 28, 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* events, please visit [calperformances.org/at-home/frequently-asked-questions](https://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.

Tickets are available at [calperformances.org/buy](https://calperformances.org/buy) or by phone at (510) 642-9988.

**MORE**

**CONTENT:** Video of a conversation between Renée Fleming and Cal Performances executive and artistic director Jeremy Geffen will be available to stream for free beginning at 12pm (PDT) on Monday, April 26 at [calperformances.org/beyond-the-stage](https://calperformances.org/beyond-the-stage).

By the time *Renée Fleming’s “Music and the Mind”* debuts on April 29, the *Cal Performances at Home* library of offerings will feature spring 2021 performances streamable on demand by the **Takács Quartet**, harpsichordist **Mahan Esfahani**,

pianist **Mitsuko Uchida**, soprano **Christine Goerke** and pianist **Craig Terry**, pianist **Jeremy Denk**, and vocalist **Jazzmeia Horn**. For a complete list of all *Cal Performances at Home* performances currently available, visit [calperformances.org/buy](https://calperformances.org/buy). All performances are available for three months following their debut date, except where indicated.

Nearly 60 *Now, More Than Ever* YouTube playlists of the performing arts, curated by Jeremy Geffen since the beginning of the pandemic, can be found at [calperformances.org/nmte](https://calperformances.org/nmte).

**PRESS** Complimentary press passes are available for reviewing journalists. To request a press pass for this performance, please email [publicrelations@calperformances.org](mailto:publicrelations@calperformances.org).

Photos of Renée Fleming are available to download from the [online press kit](#).

## CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

### CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

#### DEBUT WATCH PARTY

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

Following the debut, this program will be available to view on demand for three months, from April 30 through July 28, 2021.

#### *Renée Fleming’s “Music and the Mind”*

**Program:** As part of Cal Performances’ 2020/21 *Illuminations: Music and the Mind* programming, soprano Renée Fleming presents a combination discussion-performance—featuring UC Berkeley professor of neuroscience Dr. Ehud Isacoff—as part of her ongoing creative collaborations with researchers, scholars, and scientists. Fleming has made the relationship between music and the human brain the subject of recent work, and this year launched a live-streamed series of conversations with leaders and practitioners working at the intersection of music, neuroscience, and healthcare. In this special recital/presentation, she offers insights into music’s untapped potential for healing and transformation, performing illuminating selections from her expansive repertoire, with piano accompaniment by Robert Ainsley.

This performance is part of this season’s [Illuminations: Music and the Mind](#) programming.

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