



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 8, 2021

Updated as of September 9, 2021 in red

CONTACT: publicrelations@calperformances.org

[Press Room](#)

CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY ANNOUNCES RETURN TO IN-PERSON PRESENTATIONS WITH 2021–22 SEASON

Season launches on Saturday, August 21, with *Not Our First Goat Rodeo* at the Greek Theatre, featuring **Yo-Yo Ma, Stuart Duncan, Edgar Meyer, Chris Thile, and Aoife O'Donovan**

ILLUMINATIONS: “PLACE AND DISPLACEMENT” SERIES EXPLORES THE EFFECTS OF MIGRATION AND GENTRIFICATION ON INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES, CONNECTING THE PERFORMING ARTS WITH RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP AT UC BERKELEY

Series features three West Coast premieres: the Cal Performances co-commissioned *Yemandja*, composed and performed by **Angélique Kidjo; Jason Moran** and **Alicia Hall Moran's *Two Wings: The Music of Black America in Migration***; and **Ted Hearne's** Grammy-nominated *Place*. Plus, appearances by **Kronos Quartet** with **Mahsa Vahdat**, and the violin/piano duo of **Ilmar Gavilán** and **Aldo López-Gavilán**

FOUR-TIME GRAMMY WINNER ANGÉLIQUE KIDJO JOINS CAL PERFORMANCES AS FIRST SEASON-LONG ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

Campus residency to connect Kidjo with UC Berkeley students and faculty

MULTI-SEASON PARTNERSHIPS SPAN MUSIC AND DANCE

Early-music ensemble **The English Concert** launches a new multi-season Handel opera/oratorio project with a concert performance of *Alcina*

The **Danish String Quartet** inaugurates a new four-part, three-season commissioning partnership with Cal Performances

The Joffrey Ballet concludes its six-year residency with a program featuring three West Coast premieres, including a recent work by ballet master **Nicolas Blanc**

FOCUS ON NEW WORK AND FRESH FACES: PREMIERES, COMMISSIONS, AND DEBUTS

21 premieres, 23 debuts, and eight commissions

Cal Performances co-commissioned premieres include: the West Coast premiere of **Wayne Shorter** and **Esperanza Spalding's *Iphigenia***; the West Coast premiere of **Angélique Kidjo's *Yemandja***; the world premiere of Samuel Adams' *Current*, performed by **Spektral Quartet**; the West Coast premiere of Andrew Norman's *Difference*,

performed by **yMusic**; and the US premiere of a new string quartet by **Bent Sørensen** and the Bay Area premiere of a new quartet by **Lotta Wennäkoski**, both performed by the **Danish String Quartet**

Cal Performances debuts include **Ballet Hispánico**, mezzo-soprano **Jamie Barton**, tenor **Paul Appleby**, choreographer and dancer **Lil Buck**, choreographer/dancer **Caleb Teicher & Company**, pianist **Eric Lu**, countertenor **Jakub Józef Orliński**, and the **Vienna Piano Trio**

In-person debuts of 2020–21 *Cal Performances at Home* artists **Jazzmeia Horn**, **Tessa Lark**, **Spektral Quartet**, **Matthew Whitaker**, and **yMusic**; plus **Bria Skonberg** and **Aaron Diehl** make their UC Berkeley debuts as bandleaders; and soprano **Angel Blue** and pianist **Daniil Trifonov** visit in their Cal Performances solo recital debuts

CLASSICAL SERIES FEATURES RARE US VISITS BY INTERNATIONAL STARS

Pianist **Mitsuko Uchida** performs Mozart with the **Mahler Chamber Orchestra**; tenor **Jonas Kaufmann** makes a rare Bay Area appearance; violinist **Leonidas Kavakos** and pianist **Yuja Wang** visit in their Berkeley duo debut; the **Tetzlaff Quartet** performs in-person following its *Cal Performances at Home* concert last season; and **Sir John Eliot Gardiner** leads the **English Baroque Soloists**

ROBUST DANCE SERIES CHAMPIONS AMERICAN DANCE COMPANIES, FORGING NEW RELATIONSHIPS AND BUILDING ON LONGTIME PARTNERSHIPS

Artists new to Cal Performances include **Lil Buck** in the West Coast premiere of *Memphis Jookin': The Show*, **Caleb Teicher & Company** with pianist **Conrad Tao** in the West Coast premiere of *More Forever*, and **Ballet Hispánico**, celebrating its 50th anniversary with a program featuring works by **Annabelle Lopez Ochoa**, **Gustavo Ramírez Sansano**, and the **Bay Area Premiere of a work by Vicente Nebrada**

Return visits from **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**, **The Joffrey Ballet**, **Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo**, and **Mark Morris Dance Group**; also returning are **Dorrance Dance** with the Bay Area premiere of *SOUNDspace* and **Eifman Ballet** with the West Coast premiere of *Russian Hamlet*

Berkeley, CA, June 8, 2021 (Updated July 2 in red)—Cal Performances' board of trustees current co-chairs Susan L. Graham and Helen Meyer, and executive and artistic director Jeremy Geffen, today announce the organization's 2021–22 season, a robust and expansive series of more than 70 dance, theater, and music performances marking the return to live, in-person performing arts presentations after COVID-19 shuttered venues in the spring of 2020. A new season of Cal Performances' *Illuminations* programming explores the timely topic of “**Place and Displacement**” through five mainstage performances, including three West Coast premieres and a series of programs that connect the work of world-class artists to the academic and intellectual life of the UC Berkeley campus. Singer, composer, activist, and humanitarian **Angélique Kidjo** joins Cal Performances as the organization's first season-long artist-in-residence, visiting for two performances and participating in collaborations with students, faculty, and campus partners, plus a full slate of public engagement activities.

The 2021–22 season initiates multi-season artistic partnerships with esteemed ensembles **The English Concert** and the **Danish String Quartet**, and concludes **The Joffrey Ballet**'s six-year residency with a program featuring three West Coast premieres. Four co-commissioned works see eagerly awaited premieres this season—*Current*, the newest string quartet by **Samuel Adams**, receives its world premiere by **Spektral Quartet**; and *Difference*, a chamber work by **Andrew Norman**, is performed in its West Coast premiere by **yMusic**. *Yemandja*, a musical theater work composed and performed by 2021–22 season artist-in-residence **Angélique Kidjo** receives its West Coast premiere; and *Iphigenia*, a new opera by **Wayne Shorter** and **Esperanza Spalding** with sets by **Frank Gehry**, sees its West Coast premiere, performed by a chamber ensemble including the Wayne Shorter Quartet. The new season also features rare visits from internationally renowned virtuosos **Mitsuko Uchida** and the **Mahler Chamber Orchestra**, **Jonas Kaufmann**, **Leonidas Kavakos** and **Yuja Wang**, the **Tetzlaff Quartet**, and **Sir John Eliot Gardiner** with the **English Baroque Soloists**. Finally, Cal Performances welcomes many artists who appeared in the 2020–21 *Cal Performances at Home* streaming series for their in-person Cal Performances debuts, including jazz artists **Matthew Whitaker** and **Jazzmeia Horn**, violinist **Tessa Lark**, and the new-music ensembles **yMusic** and **Spektral Quartet**.

Over the past year, during a time of unprecedented venue closures due to the global pandemic, Cal Performances has been able to sustain artist support through the presentation of its *Cal Performances at Home* streaming season, presenting 26 video performances of artists originally scheduled for 2019–20 and 2020–21. This support continues in the 2021–22 season as in-person performances resume, with 32 of the programs during the new season featuring artists rescheduled from performances that were cancelled as a result of the global pandemic. The newly announced season also places a special emphasis on American dance companies, with the return of longtime Cal Performances partners **Alvin Ailey American Dance Company**, **Mark Morris Dance Group**, **The Joffrey Ballet**, and **Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo** to the Zellerbach Hall stage, plus the Cal Performances debuts of **Lil Buck**, **Caleb Teicher & Company**, and **Ballet Hispánico**.

“We planned this season to be a homecoming—the warmest, most sincere welcome back for both our audiences and the artists we have all been so eager to reconnect with in person over the past year-and-a-half,” said Jeremy Geffen, executive and artistic director of Cal Performances. “It has

been so gratifying to stay in touch these past months with our patrons, near and far, through our highly successful *Cal Performances at Home* streaming season, and I am proud that through that series, the organization has been able to help sustain artists during this unparalleled crisis.” Geffen continued, “Amidst hardship and uncertainty, we have witnessed the passion of our audiences and the creativity and resilience of our artists, and re-committed ourselves as an organization to making the performing arts an inextricable part of the recovery of our community, the campus, and our society at large. As the arts return and we reset as a society, I know that music, dance, and theater—and the many unique ways artistic creators understand and re-envision the world—will guide us through whatever lies ahead.”

Cal Performances’ 2021–22 Season Overview

The 2021–22 season opens with the all-star ensemble *Not Our First Goat Rodeo* in a rescheduled performance from the 2020–21 season, performing outdoors at the Greek Theatre (Aug. 21). Longtime Cal Performances collaborators and friends, cellist **Yo-Yo Ma**, fiddler **Stuart Duncan**, double bassist **Edgar Meyer**, and mandolinist **Chris Thile**, joined by vocalist **Aoife O’Donovan**, reunite to perform music from their 2020 studio recording, a follow-up to their double-Grammy winning 2011 debut that reflects their diverse backgrounds in classical, folk, and bluegrass music.

***Illuminations*: “Place and Displacement”**

Launched in the 2020–21 season, Cal Performances’ *Illuminations* program brings the public into the heart of the groundbreaking research that distinguishes the work of UC Berkeley, providing a platform for civic engagement, public discourse, and social and cultural transformation by connecting UC Berkeley’s scholarship to the performing arts. *Illuminations* performances and events bring together a diverse community—longtime Cal Performances patrons, first-time visitors, academics and teachers, students, visiting artists, and members of the wider public—to make visible the dynamic relationships between campus scholarship and pressing issues in our wider world as seen through a lens of artistic inquiry. This season, *Illuminations* explores the theme of “Place and Displacement,” featuring five mainstage performances complemented by discussions and public programs created in collaboration with university partners. The composers, performers, and collaborating artists in this season’s “Place and Displacement” series have each been touched by the devastating but also catalyzing effects of migration, exile, dislocation, and separation, on both hyper-local and international scales. In expansive presentations, their works explore loss and renewal,

disempowerment and hope, and seek paths forward for reclaiming and celebrating the vital culture and connections that can fall victim to political and social upheaval.

“Place and Displacement” programs feature three West Coast premieres: *Yemandja*, a parable of magical realism set in West Africa during the slave trade, is a Cal Performances co-commissioned musical theater work composed and performed by 2021–22 season artist-in-residence **Angélique Kidjo** (Apr. 23). The husband-wife duo of jazz pianist/composer **Jason Moran** and classically trained soprano **Alicia Hall Moran** presents *Two Wings: The Music of Black America in Migration*, a highly personal musical journey through a century of Black resilience and cultural expression, featuring the **Imani Winds** (Feb. 17). *Place*, a Grammy-nominated oratorio by Brooklyn composer **Ted Hearne** with libretto by **Saul Williams**, is a staged work directed by **Patricia McGregor** that explores urban gentrification and is performed by six vocalists and an 18-member ensemble (Mar. 12).

In addition, **Kronos Quartet** collaborates with Iranian vocalist **Mahsa Vahdat**, who emigrated to the Bay Area to pursue creative freedom outside of the Iranian regime, in a program of music inspired by classical and contemporary Persian poets (Dec. 2). The musician brothers **Ilmar Gavilán** (violin) and **Aldo López-Gavilán** (piano) grew up as child prodigies in Cuba, but after Ilmar relocated to New York, the siblings were separated for decades because of the US–Cuba embargo. Now they perform together, reunited in a chamber jazz duo that reflects influences of their training in both European classical and Cuban jazz music (Jan. 23).

2021–22 Artist-in-Residence Angélique Kidjo

This season, Cal Performances welcomes singer, composer, activist, and humanitarian **Angélique Kidjo** as its first season-long artist-in-residence. Kidjo, a formidable presence on international stages and a four-time Grammy Award winner, visits the UC Berkeley campus twice in the 2021–22 season, performing her unique take on the Talking Heads’ seminal *Remain in Light* album (1980) in the fall, and returning in the spring with *Yemandja*, a new musical theater production co-commissioned by Cal Performances. Kidjo has been honored for her activist work by the World Economic Forum and Amnesty International, and was included on the BBC’s list of Africa’s 50 most iconic figures and the *Guardian*’s list of the “Top 100 Most Inspiring Women in the World.” Through her work as a performer and cultural ambassador, the French-Beninese singer makes

connections between contemporary issues and African musical traditions, and mines the past for lessons on improving the future. During her campus visits, Kidjo will work closely with students, faculty, and a host of campus partners as part of a series of academic encounters and public programs rooted in issues close to her heart, including questions of equity in technology and data.

Multi-season Partnerships

This season, two renowned international music ensembles embark on multi-season performing partnerships with Cal Performances, developing imaginative projects over several years and offering audiences an opportunity to experience both canonic works and brand-new commissions. The acclaimed early-music ensemble **The English Concert** launches a new project in collaboration with Cal Performances with its concert performance of George Frideric Handel's *Alcina* (Nov. 7). Each of the ensemble's future annual visits will focus on a concert performance of a complete Baroque oratorio or opera, usually by Handel. This season's *Alcina* performance features an international cast of soloists in their Cal Performances debuts: soprano **Karina Gauvin** as Alcina, soprano **Lucy Crowe** as Morgana, mezzo-soprano **Elizabeth DeShong** as Bradamante, mezzo-soprano **Paula Murrihy** as Ruggiero, tenor **Alek Shrader** as Oronte, and bass **Wojtek Gierlach** as Melisso.

The **Danish String Quartet** and Cal Performances collaborate on the innovative *Doppelgänger* project, a new three-season partnership that pairs Schubert string quartets with newly co-commissioned work inspired by the Schubert compositions. Quartet pairings will be performed in each of four concerts over three seasons. Two of these concerts take place this season—the first featuring Schubert's final quartet in G major and the US premiere of a new quartet by Grawemeyer Award-winning Danish composer **Bent Sørensen** (Oct. 10), and the second pairing Schubert's *Death and the Maiden* quartet with the Bay Area premiere of a new quartet by Finnish composer **Lotta Wennäkoski** (Apr. 29).

The 2021–22 season also marks the conclusion of **The Joffrey Ballet**'s six-year Cal Performances residency, with two programs that feature three West Coast premieres. The three-visit collaboration has been a continuation of the longstanding relationship between Cal Performances and the Joffrey, which visited the campus each summer in the 1970s in a project that culminated in the Berkeley Ballets, a series of dances still in the Joffrey's repertoire. As with previous visits, the company's third and final residency will connect the company's Chicago home base with the creative and academic

life of the UC Berkeley campus through residency activities and public programs. This season, the Joffrey presents West Coast premieres of new works by company artists **Yoshihisa Arai** and **Chanel DaSilva**, and by ballet master **Nicolas Blanc**; plus two dances by Israeli choreographer **Itzik Galili** and a **Gerald Arpino** classic (Mar 4–6). It is especially poignant to welcome the return of this esteemed company for the conclusion of this fruitful collaboration, since the Joffrey’s performances at Zellerbach Hall in early March of 2020 were Cal Performances’ last performances before the pandemic shuttered venues.

Premieres and Debuts

Many works in the varied programs presented by **Ballet Hispánico** and the **Joffrey Ballet** this season are appearing for the first time in the Bay Area. **The Joffrey Ballet** presents three works in their West Coast premieres: **Yoshihisa Arai**’s *Boléro*, danced to Ravel’s iconic score; **Chanel DaSilva**’s *Swing Low*, set to music by cellist Zoe Keating; and **Nicolas Blanc**’s *Under the Trees’ Voices*, created to inspire a sense of community during the pandemic, with music by Ezio Bosso. **Ballet Hispánico**’s 50th-anniversary program features performances of **Annabelle Lopez Ochoa**’s *Tiburones*, the Bay Area premiere of **Vicente Nebrada**’s *Arabesque*, and **Gustavo Ramírez Sansano**’s *18+1*.

Three West Coast premieres are highlighted in the 2021–22 *Illuminations*: “Place and Displacement” series (see above): *Yemandja*, a Cal Performances co-commissioned musical theater work composed and performed by 2021–22 season artist-in-residence **Angélique Kidjo**; **Jason Moran** and **Alicia Hall Moran**’s *Two Wings: The Music of Black America in Migration*, performed in concert by the **Imani Winds** and other special guests; and *Place*, a staged oratorio performed by six vocalists and an 18-member ensemble, composed by **Ted Hearne** with libretto by **Saul Williams** and direction by **Patricia McGregor**.

Additional premiere highlights in the 2021–22 season include the world premiere of composer/performer **Vân-Ánh Võ**’s *Songs of Strength*, which places the music of her native Vietnam in conversation with contemporary sounds from around the world (Dec. 4); and the **Takács Quartet** performing the Bay Area premiere of *Les Six Rencontres*, a new quartet by pianist and composer **Stephen Hough** (Feb. 20). Mezzo-soprano **Jamie Barton** makes her Cal Performances debut performing with composer and pianist **Jake Heggie** in a program that includes the West

Coast premiere of Heggie's song cycle *What I Miss the Most...*, featuring new texts by Joyce DiDonato, Patti LuPone, Sister Helen Prejean, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Kathleen Kelly (Apr. 3).

Accomplished artists from a range of genres and disciplines make their first Cal Performances appearances during the 2021–22 season. In the recital series, celebrated countertenor **Jakub Józef Orliński** sings a wide-ranging program of music by Purcell, Handel, Schubert, Copland, the late 19th-century Polish composer Mieczysław Karłowicz, and a setting of a Walt Whitman poem by American composer Charles Naginski (Mar. 13). Pianist **Eric Lu**, a recipient of this year's Avery Fisher Career Grant, performs works by Bach, Schumann, and Brahms, as well as Chopin's epic Piano Sonata in B minor, Op. 58 in his Cal Performances debut (Feb. 6). Also appearing for the first time at UC Berkeley, tenor **Paul Appleby** sings a program of Beethoven's *An die ferne Geliebte* song cycle, Schubert and Schumann songs, and Berg's *Altenberg Lieder* (Jan.30); and soprano **Angel Blue** makes her solo recital debut in a program of songs and arias by Puccini, Strauss, and Kurt Weill, music by American composers George Gershwin and Lee Hoiby, and arrangements of Black American spirituals (Mar. 6). In chamber music, the acclaimed **Vienna Piano Trio** makes its Cal Performances debut in a rare West Coast visit as part of the ensemble's farewell tour, performing Schubert's two piano trios back to back (Apr. 9).

Several new artists originally slated for performances during the 2020–21 season recorded video concerts for the *Cal Performances at Home* streaming series, and this year will make their in-person debuts in Berkeley: violinist **Tessa Lark** (Oct. 3); jazz vocalist **Jazzmeia Horn** (Dec. 10); jazz pianist/organist **Matthew Whitaker** (Mar. 26); and new-music ensembles **Spektral Quartet** (Feb. 13) and **yMusic** (Apr. 8). Jazz trumpeter and vocalist **Bria Skonberg**, who previously performed in Zellerbach Hall as part of Monterey Jazz Festival on Tour, makes her in-person debut as a bandleader this season after her *Cal Performances at Home* streaming performance this past winter (Oct. 9).

Jazz pianist and composer **Aaron Diehl**, who has previously appeared in Berkeley as a member of Cécile McLorin Salvant's ensemble, makes his debut as a bandleader this season, leading his trio in a new project that draws connections between bebop and Bach (Nov. 12). Pianist **Daniil Trifonov**, who first appeared at Cal Performances in 2015 in a duo recital with violinist Gidon Kremer and

returned as soloist with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra the following year, makes his long-awaited UC Berkeley solo recital debut (Apr. 28).

Music Commissions

Both the chamber music series and the jazz series in the 2021–22 season feature the eagerly anticipated premieres of new works co-commissioned by Cal Performances. Two generations of jazz royalty collaborate on the new opera *Iphigenia*, a re-imagining of Euripides’ play *Iphigenia in Aulis*, with music composed by **Wayne Shorter** and a libretto by **Esperanza Spalding**, who also stars in the lead role. The fully staged work will be performed in its West Coast premiere by a 28-piece chamber ensemble with the **Wayne Shorter Quartet** at its center, plus a cast of **nine vocalists; and a chorus of 10 singers**; directed by **Liliana Blain-Cruz** and with set design by iconic architect **Frank Gehry** (Feb. 12). **Spektral Quartet** performs the world premiere of **Samuel Adams’** *Current* (Feb. 13), a new electroacoustic composition created especially for the quartet that explores, in Adams’ words, “the relationship between the minimal digital language of resonating snare drums and the warm, acoustic complexity of the string quartet.” The new-music ensemble **yMusic** performs the West Coast premiere of *Difference*, a new chamber work by Grawemeyer-winning and Grammy-nominated composer **Andrew Norman** (Apr. 8).

Additional music works on the season which were co-commissioned by Cal Performances include a new string quartet by **Bent Sørensen** (Oct. 10) in its US premiere and a quartet by **Lotta Wennäkoski** (Apr. 29) in its Bay Area premiere, both composed for the **Danish String Quartet’s** *Doppelgänger* project. **The Tallis Scholars** perform Pulitzer Prize-winning composer **David Lang’s** *sun-centered*, an *a cappella* choral work inspired by Galileo’s scientific curiosity and nonconformism (May 6). And the live-cinema collective **Manual Cinema** presents the in-person version of its Cal Performances co-commissioned *Frankenstein*, an immersive work of film, puppetry, music, and live theater that the troupe adapted in a special video format for last fall’s *Cal Performances at Home* streaming season (Oct. 31).

Rare Visits By International Stars of Classical Music

This season sees a host of international stars of the concert stage in Berkeley appearances as part of rare US tours, performing signature repertoire. Eminent pianist and revered Mozartean **Mitsuko Uchida** directs the **Mahler Chamber Orchestra** from the keyboard in a program of Mozart and

Webern (Mar. 27). German tenor **Jonas Kaufmann** (Oct. 24) performs German, French, and Italian songs in a rare Bay Area recital; and the duo of violinist **Leonidas Kavakos** and pianist **Yuja Wang** performs a recital of sonatas by Bach, Shostakovich, and Busoni (Nov. 13).

The venerable **Sir John Eliot Gardiner** leads the **English Baroque Soloists** in a program of Mozart and Haydn, including the latter's well-loved *Drumroll* Symphony, as part of an exceedingly rare stateside visit (Apr. 10). And the **Tetzlaff Quartet** returns after a streaming concert of late Beethoven quartets for *Cal Performances at Home* last fall, performing quartets by Haydn, Brahms, and Berg (Apr. 23).

Welcoming Dance Back to Zellerbach Hall

The 2021–22 dance season at Cal Performances welcomes back longtime artistic partners and audience favorites, and initiates new relationships with a diverse range of important contemporary companies creating innovative and critically acclaimed work. New York's venerated **Ballet Hispánico** visits in its Berkeley debut, with a program celebrating its 50th anniversary with works by **Annabelle Lopez Ochoa**, **Gustavo Ramírez Sansano**, and **Vicente Nebrada** (Nov. 6); and **Caleb Teicher & Company**, led by the innovative tap artist and choreographer, performs the West Coast premiere of *More Forever*, a recent collaboration with acclaimed pianist and composer **Conrad Tao**, who performs his score live (Dec. 5). **Lil Buck**, a star of the street dance genre known as “jookin’,” performs the West Coast premiere of *Memphis Jookin’: The Show*, a tribute to the Memphis-born art form that features his balletic maneuvers executed in high-top sneakers (Feb. 25–26).

Beloved dance companies returning after a pandemic-imposed absence include the iconic drag ballet troupe **Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo** (Feb 4–5); and **The Joffrey Ballet**, concluding its multi-season residency in two programs that include three West Coast premieres (see above, Mar. 4–6). Perennial favorite the **Mark Morris Dance Group** visit with a repertory program: *Dancing Honeymoon*, set to a score arranged by Ethan Iverson from recordings of Gertrude Lawrence and Jack Buchanan; *Jenn and Spencer*, a duet danced to Henry Cowell's Suite for Violin and Piano; and *V*, set to Schumann's Piano Quintet in E-flat major (Dec. 17–19). The revered **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** resumes its annual Berkeley residency, a more than 50-year tradition, with three programs that combine Ailey classics with works by celebrated living choreographers (Mar. 29 – Apr. 3). **Dorrance Dance** also returns, performing Michelle Dorrance's lean and virtuosic tap dance

work *SOUNDspace* (Mar. 18–20) in its Bay Area premiere; and **Eifman Ballet** visits with the West Coast premiere of its recent production of Boris Eifman’s opulent *Russian Hamlet* (Jun. 3–5).

Additional Season Highlights

Additional highlights of Cal Performances’ 2021–22 season include performances by an international roster of star recitalists and ensembles from the classical, contemporary, and early-music worlds; beloved pop acts; humorists; and holiday and family favorites, including: **David Sedaris** (May 5), **Lila Downs** (May 7), **Damien Sneed** (Dec. 3), **Pilobolus** (Oct. 21–22); Cal Performances mainstays **David Finckel** and **Wu Han** (Nov. 14), **Jordi Savall** (Mar. 4), and more. See below for a full list of all 2021–22 events by genre.

Venue and Ticket Information

To ensure alignment with evolving state and local COVID-19 safety regulations, Cal Performances will announce venues, seating protocols, and pricing in August 2021. Subscription packages and single tickets for Cal Performances’ 2021–22 season go on sale to the general public beginning Friday, August 27, at noon. Single tickets for *Not Our First Goat Rodeo* go on sale to the general public on Thursday, July 8 at noon. More details about Cal Performances’ 2021–22 season, including a full schedule of on-sale dates and information about COVID-19 related restrictions and policies, can be found at calperformances.org/2021-22-announce.

Complete 2021–22 Season by Genre

Special Events

- The 2021–22 season opens with *Not Our First Goat Rodeo*, the all-star folk-meets-classical ensemble of cellist **Yo-Yo Ma**, fiddler **Stuart Duncan**, bassist **Edgar Meyer**, and mandolinist **Chris Thile**, with vocalist **Aoife O’Donovan**, performing outdoors in the Greek Theatre (Aug. 21, 8pm).

Recital

- Violinist **Tessa Lark** makes her Cal Performances in-person debut with a program showcasing her fluency in both classical repertoire and fiddle music, performing Beethoven’s Sonata in G major, Op. 30 no. 3; Ravel’s Violin Sonata in G major; John Corigliano’s

STOMP; works by Michael Torke and John Lewis; and one of Lark’s original compositions (Oct. 3, 3pm).

- Star German tenor **Jonas Kaufmann**, accompanied by his longtime collaborator, pianist **Helmut Deutsch**, sings a recital of German, French, and Italian songs in a rare Bay Area appearance (Oct. 24, 3pm).
- Mandolinist **Avi Avital** and guitarist **Miloš Karadaglić** perform in Berkeley for the first time as a duo, in a program of arrangements and transcriptions of music by composers including Bach, Schubert, Villa-Lobos, and Philip Glass (Nov. 11, 7:30pm).
- Renowned in their careers as soloists, violinist **Leonidas Kavakos** and pianist **Yuja Wang** meet in a special duo chamber program of violin sonatas by Bach, Shostakovich, and Busoni (Nov. 13, 8pm).
- Cal Performances favorites, cellist **David Finckel** and pianist **Wu Han** present a concert chronicling the development of the piano sonata through history, beginning with Bach and progressing to Mendelssohn and Debussy, and finally to Britten’s Cello Sonata in C major, which Finckel studied with the work’s dedicatee, his mentor Mstislav Rostropovich (Nov. 14, 3pm).
- American tenor **Paul Appleby** makes his Cal Performances debut, accompanied by pianist **Conor Hanick**, in Beethoven’s lone song cycle, *An die ferne Geliebte*; songs by Schubert and Schumann; and Berg’s *Altenberg Lieder* (traditionally performed by a mezzo-soprano) (Jan. 30, 3pm).
- American pianist **Eric Lu**, a recipient of this year’s Avery Fisher Career Grant, makes his Cal Performances debut with a recital of music by Bach, Schumann, and Brahms, culminating in Chopin’s demanding Piano Sonata in B minor, Op. 58 (Feb. 6, 3pm).
- **Angel Blue**, the rising star American soprano recently known for her Grammy-winning role as Bess in the Metropolitan Opera’s new production of George Gershwin’s *Porgy and Bess*, makes her Cal Performances recital debut in a program of songs and arias by Puccini, Strauss, Gershwin, Weill, and Hoiby, as well as Black American spirituals (Mar. 6, 3pm).
- In-demand countertenor **Jakub Józef Orliński**, joined by pianist **Michał Biel**, offers a program sung in English, German, Italian, and Polish, featuring works by Purcell, Handel, Schubert, Copland, the late 19th-century Polish composer Mieczysław Karłowicz, and American composer Charles Naginski (Mar. 13, 3pm).

- Dynamic mezzo-soprano **Jamie Barton** collaborates with pianist and composer **Jake Heggie** in a Cal Performances debut recital that includes a selection of Heggie’s recent vocal works, including the West Coast premiere of his song cycle *What I Miss the Most...*, featuring new texts by Joyce DiDonato, Patti LuPone, Sister Helen Prejean, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Kathleen Kelly (Apr. 3, 3pm).
- Pianist **Daniil Trifonov** returns to Berkeley in his first solo recital for Cal Performances, with a unique recital including some rarely heard works. The program includes Prokofiev’s *Sarcasms*, Szymanowski’s Piano Sonata No. 3, Debussy’s *Pour le piano*, and Brahms’ Piano Sonata No. 3 (Apr. 28, 7:30pm).

Chamber Music & Orchestra

- The **Danish String Quartet** visits for two concerts as part of its new *Doppelgänger* project, pairing Schubert quartets with new work co-commissioned by Cal Performances. In its US premiere, **Bent Sørensen**’s new quartet is paired with Schubert’s String Quartet in G major (Oct. 10, 3pm); and **Lotta Wennäkoski**’s new quartet, a Bay Area premiere, is paired with Schubert’s *Death and the Maiden* quartet (Apr. 29, 8pm).
- In its first concert this season, the **Takács Quartet** plays Haydn’s String Quartet in F minor, Op. 20, No. 5; Samuel Coleridge-Taylor’s early work, *Five Fantasiestücke*, Op. 5; and Beethoven’s String Quartet in A minor, Op. 132 (Oct. 17, 3pm). Pianist and composer **Stephen Hough** joins the quartet for Dvořák’s Piano Quintet in A major, Op. 81 in the ensemble’s second concert in the 2021–22 season, when the Takács also performs the West Coast premiere of Hough’s new string quartet, *Les Six Rencontres*; and Haydn’s *Sunrise* quartet (Feb. 20, 3pm).
- Revered Mozartean **Mitsuko Uchida** partners with the **Mahler Chamber Orchestra** in a program that features Mozart’s piano concertos in A major (K. 488) and C minor (K. 491), and Webern’s Variations for Piano, Op. 27. Uchida directs the ensemble from the piano in this rare West Coast visit (Mar. 27, 3pm).
- The **Vienna Piano Trio** makes its Cal Performances debut as part of the ensemble’s farewell tour, performing Schubert’s two piano trios back to back (Apr. 9, 8pm).
- In a rare US visit, **Sir John Eliot Gardiner** directs the **English Baroque Soloists** in Haydn’s *Drumroll* Symphony and two Mozart works: the Sinfonia Concertante for Violin,

Viola, and Orchestra in E-flat major; and the Symphony No. 39 in E-flat major (Apr. 10, 3pm).

- The **Tetzlaff Quartet** makes a rare stateside appearance, performing Haydn’s String Quartet in G minor, Op. 20, No. 3; Brahms’ String Quartet in A minor, Op. 51, No. 2; and Berg’s String Quartet, Op. 3 (Apr. 23, 8pm).

Dance

- New York’s **Ballet Hispánico** celebrates its 50th anniversary with a program of dances by **Vicente Nebrada**, **Gustavo Ramírez Sansano**, and **Annabelle Lopez Ochoa**, in the company’s Cal Performances debut (Nov. 6, 8pm).
- *More Forever* brings together innovative tap dance ensemble **Caleb Teicher & Company** and award-winning composer and pianist **Conrad Tao** (who performs his score live) in the West Coast premiere of a collaboration that foregrounds the interaction between musician and dancers (Dec. 5, 3pm).
- **Mark Morris Dance Group** returns to Cal Performances, continuing a more than 30-year relationship, with a program of beloved repertory works that showcase Morris’ unique sensitivity to musical form and feeling: *Dancing Honeymoon*, *Jenn and Spencer*, and *V* (Dec. 17–18, 8pm, Dec. 19, 3pm).
- Drag ballet pioneers and Cal Performances favorites **Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo** return to Zellerbach Hall with their signature blend of satire and finesse (Feb. 4–5, 8pm).
- **Lil Buck**, a virtuoso of the urban “jookin’” dance style, makes his Cal Performances debut in the West Coast premiere of *Memphis Jookin’: The Show*, a tribute to the Memphis-born street-dance art form (Feb. 25–26, 8pm).
- **The Joffrey Ballet** concludes its six-year UC Berkeley residency with two programs of classic, recent, and brand-new works, including three West Coast premieres, by Joffrey co-founder **Gerald Arpino**, company artists **Yoshihisa Arai** and **Chanel DaSilva**, ballet master **Nicolas Blanc**, and Israeli choreographer **Itzik Galili** (Mar. 4–5, 8pm, Mar. 6, 3pm).
- Michelle Dorrance’s acclaimed tap dance company **Dorrance Dance** performs the Bay Area premiere of *SOUNDspace*, a stripped-down ensemble work that breaks down movement and sound into their most fundamental elements (Mar. 18–19, 8pm, Mar. 20, 3pm).

- **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** resumes its annual Cal Performances residency, a more than 50-year partnership, with three programs that include Ailey classics and recent works by a new generation of choreographers (Mar. 29–31, 7:30pm, Apr. 1–2 8pm, Apr. 2–3, 3pm).
- St. Petersburg’s **Eifman Ballet** visits with the West Coast premiere of Boris Eifman’s opulent and audacious *Russian Hamlet*, which transposes Shakespeare’s Denmark-based family drama to Russia’s notorious House of Romanov (Jun. 3–4, 8pm, Jun. 5, 3pm).

Early Music

- Britain’s early music specialists **The English Concert**, directed by **Harry Bicket**, launches a new multi-year initiative with annual Berkeley visits planned; this season, the ensemble gives a concert performance of Handel’s opera *Alcina* with an international cast of vocalists (Nov. 7, 3pm).
- Gamba virtuoso **Jordi Savall** visits with his ensemble **Le Concert des Nations** to perform selections from the blockbuster soundtrack to the 1991 film *Tous les matins du monde*, which features music by Lully, Couperin, Rameau, and the film’s historical protagonists, Marin Marais and Jean de Sainte-Colombe (Mar. 4, 8pm).
- Famed for their commitment to the performance of major works of Renaissance polyphony, the **Tallis Scholars** sing Brumel’s monumental *Earthquake* Mass as well as Pulitzer Prize-winning composer David Lang’s *sun-centered*, a Cal Performances co-commission inspired by the life and work of Galileo (May 6, 8pm).

New Music

- **Kronos Quartet** visits with a two-part program, the first featuring works from its visionary *50 for the Future* commissioning program, including new compositions for string quartet by **Terry Riley** and **Angélique Kidjo**. Iranian vocalist **Mahsa Vahdat** joins the quartet for the second half, performing selections inspired by classical poems by Hafez and Rumi, and texts by contemporary Iranian poets (Dec. 2, 7:30pm).
- **Spektral Quartet** makes its in-person Cal Performances debut in a program featuring the world premiere of **Samuel Adams’** *Current*, a Cal Performances co-commission; plus Schubert’s *Rosamunde* quartet and Philip Glass’ *Company* quartet (Feb. 13, 3pm).

- Composer and virtuoso performer of the 16-string *đàn tranh* (zither), **Vân-Ánh Võ** and her **Blood Moon Orchestra** perform the world premiere of *Songs of Strength*, a new suite that places music from her native Vietnam in conversation with contemporary sounds from around the world (Dec. 4, 8pm).
- **Eco Ensemble**, UC Berkeley’s acclaimed ensemble-in-residence, devotes its 2021–22 season concert to the music of Japanese composer **Toshio Hosokawa**, who will be a guest of the music department in February 2022 as the distinguished Bloch Lecturer (Feb. 5, 8pm).
- The dynamic young new-music ensemble **yMusic** makes its Cal Performances in-person debut in a program of new and recent works that includes the West Coast premiere of *Difference*, a Cal Performances co-commission by Grawemeyer-winning and Grammy-nominated composer **Andrew Norman** (Apr. 2, 8pm).

Theater

- Chicago’s live cinema collective **Manual Cinema** performs *Frankenstein*, a kaleidoscopic production co-commissioned by Cal Performances that features actors, puppetry, live music, and film (Oct. 31, 3pm). An adaptation for remote viewing screened as part of the *Cal Performances at Home* 2020–21 season.
- Brooklyn composer **Ted Hearne** collaborates with librettist **Saul Williams** and director **Patricia McGregor** in the West Coast premiere of *Place*, a staged oratorio that boldly explores the dynamics of urban gentrification (Mar. 12, 8pm).
- Cal Performances’ 2021–22 season artist-in-residence **Angélique Kidjo** explores themes of love, betrayal, honor, and revenge against the backdrop of slavery in 19th-century West Africa in her first-ever musical theater work, *Yemandja*, a Cal Performances co-commission (Apr. 23, 8pm).

Jazz

- The **Aaron Diehl Trio** is led by the versatile pianist who is known for his fluency in both classical repertoire and jazz improvisation. Diehl makes his Cal Performances debut as a band leader with *Mirror*, a new project that intersperses solo Bach works with new compositions for jazz trio (Nov. 12, 8pm).

- Jazz vocalist and composer **Jazzmeia Horn** has her in-person Cal Performances debut with a set of recent and new compositions, offering messages of reassurance and resolve inspired by a year of reflection (Dec. 10, 8pm).
- Cuban-born brothers, violinist **Ilmar Gavilán** and pianist **Aldo López-Gavilán** reunite after decades of separation caused by the US–Cuba embargo, in a program of chamber music and jazz that explores both European classical and Cuban jazz sonorities (Jan. 23, 3pm).
- The husband-wife duo of jazz pianist/composer **Jason Moran** and classical vocalist **Alicia Hall Moran** presents the West Coast premiere of *Two Wings: The Music of Black America in Migration*, a concert featuring the **Imani Winds** and other special guests that follows the stories and struggles of Black Americans in the 20th century through jazz, gospel, and classical music, as well as the Morans' own compositions (Feb. 17, 8pm).
- In a Cal Performances co-commission, jazz royalty **Wayne Shorter** (composer) and **Esperanza Spalding** (librettist and lead role) collaborate on a new opera, *Iphigenia*, a re-imagining of the Euripides play with set design by **Frank Gehry** and performed by a chamber ensemble featuring the **Wayne Shorter Quartet**, in its West Coast premiere (Feb. 12, 8pm).
- The rising star pianist and organ player **Matthew Whitaker** makes his Cal Performances in-person debut in a set of originals and jazz standards (Mar. 26, 8pm).
- Trumpeter, vocalist, and composer **Bria Skonberg**, whose music encompasses hot jazz, original works, and new arrangements of pop songs by bands including Queen and the Beatles, makes her Cal performances in-person debut (Oct. 16, 8pm).

Holiday Favorites

- The **Vienna Boys Choir** visits with *Christmas in Vienna*, a joyful program of Austrian folk songs, classical masterpieces, and Christmas hymns and carols from around the world (Nov. 27, 8pm).
- Producer, arranger, and musician **Damien Sneed** returns to Cal Performances with *Joy to the World: A Christmas Musical Journey*, a holiday concert featuring Sneed's original arrangements of gospel, jazz, and classical repertoire, performed by a cast of 10 singers and musicians (Dec. 3, 8pm).

- The world-famous brass quintet **Canadian Brass** celebrates its 50th anniversary with a holiday program of classical and popular music selections arranged to make brass instruments sing (Dec. 11, 8pm).

Pop

- In her first campus visit of the season, Cal Performances' 2021–22 artist-in-residence **Angélique Kidjo** performs her acclaimed version of the Talking Heads' seminal album *Remain in Light*, filtering the original recording's '80s sensibility through the lens of contemporary African music and culture (Oct. 29, 8pm).
- Vocal supergroups **The Manhattan Transfer** and **Take 6** join forces for *The Summit*, an evening of harmonies and gospel rhythms that culminates in a vocal “battle of the bands” (Mar. 17, 7:30pm).

Additional Performances

- The genre-defying troupe **Pilobolus** combines dance, mime, acrobatics, and shadow theater in its 50th-anniversary retrospective, *BIG FIVE-OH!* (Oct. 21, 7:30pm, Oct. 22, 8pm).
- The **Yamato Drummers** offer their latest production, *Tenmei*, an athletic and energetic spectacle of traditional *taiko* drumming (Jan. 30, 3pm).
- One-of-a-kind humorist and Cal Performances favorite **David Sedaris** tells stories and reads selections from his latest collection of essays, *The Best of Me* (May 5, 7:30pm).
- Mexican American singer and activist **Lila Downs** performs selections from her latest release, *Al Chile*; songs infused with the rhythms of *cumbia* and themes of pleasure and pain, suffering, and redemption (May 7, 8pm).