MUSIC dance theater Cal Performances

Bria Skonberg



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Jeremy Geffen

ords cannot express my pleasure in welcoming you to this evening's concert with the brilliant Bria Skonberg. Many of you will recall that Bria was featured last January as part of *Cal Performances at Home*, our well-received series that successfully delivered full-length, professionally produced, original programming to audiences in their own homes and during a time of social distancing. On that occasion, Bria and her terrific band knocked the ball out of the park with a rousing jazz concert filmed exclusively for Cal Performances at the Louis Armstrong House Museum Garden in Queens, New York City. I have no doubt that she and her colleagues will do the same again tonight, and I'm so happy you could join us for what promises to be a remarkable concert; it's wonderful that we can

gather together again, listening to great music under the same roof!

When the pandemic forced Cal Performances to close its doors in March 2020, no one could have imagined what lay ahead. Since then, we've witnessed a worldwide health crisis unlike any experienced during our lifetimes, an extended period of political turmoil, recurring incidents of civil unrest and racially motivated violence, and a consciousness-raising human rights movement that has forever—and significantly—changed how each of us views social justice in our time.

Of course, the pandemic remains with us to this date and future challenges—including many adjustments to "normal' procedures and policies—can certainly be expected. I encourage you to check Cal Performances' website regularly for the most current information regarding our COVID-19 response. First and foremost, I assure you that there is nothing more important to us than the health and safety of our audience, artists, and staff. (And I remind one and all that proof of vaccination is mandatory today, as is protective masking throughout the event.)

Our season continues this month with performances by two Cal Performances audience favorites—the brilliant **Danish String Quartet** (Oct 10) and **Takács Quartet** (Oct 17)—and our full schedule offers more of the same, packed with the kind of adventurous and ambitious programming you've come to expect from Cal Performances. In particular, I want to direct your attention to this year's *Illuminations*: "Place and Displacement" programming, through which we'll explore both loss and renewal, disempowerment and hope, while seeking paths forward for reclaiming and celebrating vital cultural connections that can fall victim to political and social upheaval.

Please take the opportunity to explore the complete schedule through our website and season brochure and begin planning your performance calendar; now is the perfect time to guarantee that you have the best seats for all the events you plan to attend.

Throughout history, the performing arts have survived incredible challenges: periods of war, economic collapse, and, yes, terrible disease. And if it will take time for us—collectively and individually—to process the events of the past 18 months, I'm certain that the arts have the power to play a critical role as we come to terms with what we have experienced and move together toward recovery.

I know you join us in looking forward to what lies ahead, to coming together once again to encounter the life-changing experiences that only the live performing arts deliver. We can't wait to share it all with you during the coming year.

Cal Performances is back. Welcome home!

Jeremy Geffen Executive and Artistic Director, Cal Performances





Saturday, October 9, 2021, 8pm Zellerbach Hall

Bria Skonberg

Bria Skonberg, *vocals and trumpet* Mathis Picard, *piano* Gabe Schnider, *guitar* Adi Meyerson, *bass* Darrian Douglas, *drums*

COVID-19 Information

Proof of vaccination status is required for entrance and masking is mandatory throughout the event. COVID-19 information is updated as necessary; please see Cal Performances' website for the most up-to-date policies and information.

UC Berkeley does not promise or guarantee that all patrons or employees on site are vaccinated. Unvaccinated individuals may be present as a result of exemptions, exceptions, fraudulent verification, or checker error. None of these precautions eliminate the risk of exposure to COVID-19.





21/22 SEASON

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ew York-based and Canadian-born singer, trumpeter, and songwriter Bria Skonberg has been described as one of the "most versatile and imposing musicians of her generation" (The Wall Street Journal). Skonberg has stormed onto the jazz scene with her smoky vocals, blistering trumpet, and compelling compositions and arrangements. The Juno Award winner has sung the music of Aretha Franklin alongside Michelle Williams of Destiny's Child, played with U2 at the iconic Apollo Theater, sat in with the Dave Matthews Band, was a featured guest with Jon Batiste, performed as part of the Monterey Jazz Festival on Tour, and sang the National Anthem at Madison Square Garden for a New York Rangers game.

Skonberg's fall 2019 album, Nothing Never Happens, offers striking originals and creative covers of Queen, the Beatles, Duke Ellington, and more. Produced by Grammy Award winner Eli Wolf, Nothing Never Happens invites listeners to join Skonberg in diverting attention from the overload of social media, breaking news, political bickering, and negative energy, with a stunning album that at times channels the ubiquitous anger and hopelessness that confronts us all in the modern media landscape. but at others manages to drown out that noise and shine a light on the serene and the celebratory. Described by Skonberg as being "grittier, bluesy-er, and funkier," than her previous albums, its sounds are inspired by Tom Waits, Duke Ellington, and Memphis Soul.



Above: Bria Skonberg. Photo by Dario Acosta.





21/22 season

Angélique Kidjo Remain in Light

"Remain in Light feels like an album that Kidjo was born to sing; never has she sounded so convincing, so powerful."

-Songlines

The four-time Grammy Award winner kicks off her 2021–22 Berkeley residency as Cal Performances' first seasonlong artist-in-residence with this ecstatic and bold retake on the Talking Heads' classic 1980 album.

Oct 29 ZELLERBACH HALL

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