

CONTACT: **Louisa Spier**
Cal Performances
(510) 643-6714
lspier@calperformances.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 11, 2022
[Press Room](#)



Images of Jason Moran and Alicia Hall Moran are available for download from the Cal Performances [press room](#).

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY
PRESENTS THE WEST COAST PREMIERE OF
TWO WINGS: THE MUSIC OF BLACK AMERICA IN MIGRATION
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17 AT 7:30PM
IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

**PRODUCED BY AND FEATURING JASON MORAN AND ALICIA HALL MORAN
WITH TANIA LEÓN, IMANI WINDS, AMBROSE AKINMUSIRE, HOWARD WILEY,
ST. JOHN COLTRANE AFRICAN ORTHODOX CHURCH ENSEMBLE,
HARRIET TUBMAN featuring BRANDON ROSS, MELVIN GIBBS, AND JT LEWIS,
soloists THOMAS FLIPPIN, ALLISON LOGGINS-HULL, and CURTIS STEWART,
AND AUTHOR/SCHOLAR DONNA JEAN MURCH**

Part of Cal Performances' 2021–22 *Illuminations*: “Place and Displacement” series

Berkeley, January 11, 2022 — Cal Performances at UC Berkeley presents the West Coast premiere of *Two Wings: The Music of Black America in Migration* for one night only, on Thursday, February 17 at

7:30pm in Zellerbach Hall. This expansive concert, produced by pianist **Jason Moran** and mezzo-soprano **Alicia Hall Moran**, explores the Great Migration of six million Black Americans from the rural South to northern cities and beyond through music, personal history, and scholarship. The husband and wife duo—he a MacArthur Fellow and jazz composer and pianist, she a classical vocalist and composer—traces their family history through the music of Black American life in the 20th century, with repertoire that spans Harlem Renaissance-era jazz, gospel hymns, bebop standards, Broadway show tunes, soul, classical music, and the Morans’ original compositions. Each time *Two Wings* is performed in a new city, the guest artists and collaborators shift to reflect the history of that locale; this program is tailored specifically to the context of UC Berkeley and Northern California, where Hall Moran was born and where her parents met as undergraduates at Stanford University.

In addition to Moran and Hall Moran, the Berkeley performance features the **Imani Winds** chamber ensemble (**Brandon Patrick George**, flute; **Toyin Spellman-Diaz**, oboe; **Mark Dover**, clarinet; **Kevin Newton**, French horn; **Monica Ellis**, bassoon); New York avant-jazz trio **Harriet Tubman** (**Brandon Ross**, guitar; **Melvin Gibbs**, bass; **JT Lewis**, drums); and the soloists **Thomas Flippin**, guitar; **Juliette Jones** and **Curtis Stewart**, violin; and **Allison Loggins-Hull**, flute. Conductor and composer **Tania León**, the 2021 recipient of the Pulitzer Prize in Music, conducts an eight-piece string ensemble comprising New York and Bay Area musicians.

Bay Area artists performing in the program are saxophonist and composer **Howard Wiley**; trumpet player and composer **Ambrose Akinmusire**, and the **St. John Coltrane African Orthodox Church Ensemble**, the flagship praise ensemble of San Francisco’s famed jazz church. UC Berkeley alumna **Donna Jean Murch**, professor of history at Rutgers University, is the evening’s featured author. She will read from her book *Living for the City: Migration, Education, and the Rise of the Black Panther Party in Oakland, California*, to provide historical and cultural context.

“Reaching the West Coast expresses my own experience of the Great Migration in a very personal way,” says co-producer and performer Alicia Hall Moran. Though she was raised in New York and Connecticut, Hall Moran observes, “My memories begin in my birthplace—Redwood City, California. My mother was raised in California, and her parents migrated there after the War. So our Berkeley performance of *Two Wings* focuses on California as the homeland. This time, we’re

moving in a different direction—beginning on the West Coast and then reaching back to the South for understanding. The Great Migration was an expansive movement of Black Southerners migrating inside the United States to escape rapidly expanding Jim Crow oppression. This concert is being performed within the context of a groundbreaking work by an important author who looks at these migrants who made it all the way West.”

Two Wings is presented as part of the 2021–22 season’s *Illuminations: “Place and Displacement”* series, which explores effects of migration and gentrification on individuals and communities through performances, public programs, and academic encounters.

Ticket Information

Tickets for *Two Wings: The Music of Black America in Migration* on Thursday, February 17 at 7:30pm at Zellerbach Hall range from \$36–\$78 (prices subject to change). Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at calperformances.org, and at the door. For more information about discounts, visit calperformances.org/discounts.

#

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Thursday, February 17, 7:30pm

Zellerbach Hall
Bancroft Way at Dana Street
UC Berkeley campus

Jazz

Two Wings: The Music of Black America in Migration (West Coast Premiere)

Jason Moran and Alicia Hall Moran, *producers*

Jason Moran, *piano*

Alicia Hall Moran, *mezzo-soprano*

Tania León, *conductor*

Donna Jean Murch, *narrator, author of “Living for the City”*

Imani Winds, *chamber ensemble*

St. John Coltrane African Orthodox Church Ensemble

Ambrose Akinmusire, *trumpet*

Howard Wiley, *saxophone*

Thomas Flippin, *guitar*

Juliette Jones, *violin*

Allison Loggins-Hull, *flute*

Curtis Stewart, *violin*

Harriet Tubman featuring **Brandon Ross**, *guitar*, **Melvin Gibbs**, *bass*, and **JT Lewis**, *drums*

Chase Spruill, Tia Allen, Jarvis Benson, Cassandra Lynne Richburg, Keith Lawrence, Ismail Akbar, and Joseph Hebert, *strings*

Program: Alicia Hall Moran and Jason Moran’s *Two Wings: The Music of Black America in Migration* explores the Great Migration of six million Black Americans from the rural South to northern cities and beyond. The husband and wife duo—he a MacArthur Fellow and acclaimed jazz composer and pianist, she a celebrated classical vocalist and composer—trace their family histories through the music that accompanied these brave travelers throughout the 20th century, from Harlem Renaissance-era jazz tunes, gospel hymns, bebop standards, and Broadway show tunes, to classical and chamber music and the Morans’ own compositions. *Two Wings* also includes texts by Black scholars, and poets. The production, in its West Coast premiere, will be tailored especially for Cal Performances audiences, with a diverse roster of performers, writers, and thinkers.

This performance is part of Cal Performances’ *Illuminations: “Place and Displacement”* series.

Tickets: \$36–\$78 (prices subject to change)