

Cal Performances—the performing arts presenter of the University of California, Berkeley—presents, produces, and commissions renowned and emerging artists of the highest caliber. Serving the entire San Francisco Bay Area, the organization aims, through ambitious programming, to cultivate future audiences for the arts and to connect the most innovative and accomplished artists in the world with the intellectual capital of UC Berkeley. Cal Performances reaches nearly 120,000 people each year through its artistic programming and education and community outreach efforts.

Artistic Programming

The organization presents up to 100 performances every season in a variety of genres including classical and early music; contemporary, jazz, and pop music; dance and musical traditions from around the world; and classical and contemporary theater.

Renowned artists from recent and upcoming seasons include:

- Orchestras: the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, the London Symphony Orchestra, London's Philharmonia Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, and the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela
- Conductors: Riccardo Muti, Gustavo Dudamel, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Harry Bicket, Sir Simon Rattle, Sir John Eliot Gardiner, and Daniel Barenboim
- Classical musicians: cellist Yo-Yo Ma, pianist Mitsuko Uchida, soprano Renée Fleming, mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato, singer Julia Bullock, multi-instrumentalist Jordi Savall; the Kronos Quartet, Takács Quartet, and Danish String Quartet, the English Concert; and the Tallis Scholars
- Dance and theater artists: Mark Morris Dance Group, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Joffrey Ballet, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Akram Khan, Sankai Juku, and Robert LePage with Ex Machina
- Other main stage headliners: Angélique Kidjo, Youssou N'Dour, Lila Downs, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, Cécile McLorin Salvant, the Silkroad Ensemble, Claire Chase, Eighth Blackbird, Sō Percussion, and David Sedaris

Education and UC Berkeley Campus Connection

Through the thematic programming of its annual *Illuminations* series, Cal Performances presents performances and related online and in-person programs that connect artists, creators, scholars, and activists with thinkers from the UC Berkeley community to shed light on pressing topics of the day. Past *Illuminations* themes were “Fact or Fiction” and “Music and the Mind.” The 2021–22 season explores issues of “Place and Displacement.” Artists and speakers featured in this year’s series use their work to explore the fraught and often devastating effects of migration, exile, dislocation, and separation, on both local and international scales.

Beyond *Illuminations*, Cal Performances hosts a number of additional education programs that have been recognized nationally as model engagement strategies for grades K–12 and college campus communities. These programs include SchoolTime performances for K–12 students; AileyCamp, a full scholarship summer program that uses dance as a vehicle for developing self-esteem, creative expression, and critical thinking in adolescents; workshops for teachers; artist and master-teaching visits to classrooms and schools; artist talks and discussions; extended artistic residencies; and artist master classes. Approximately 20,000 people have taken advantage of these programs each season.

As an integral part of a world-class public university, Cal Performances supports the thriving extracurricular life on the UC Berkeley campus. It oversees Student Musical Activities, comprised of the University of California Marching Band, UC Jazz Ensembles, UC Choral Ensembles, and BareStage Productions. As a service to the campus, Cal Performances’ operations department manages events in five performance venues, including the production of over 40 graduation ceremonies each academic year.

Pandemic Response and Recovery

During the initial period of challenges created by the global COVID-19 pandemic, Cal Performances supported artists and served its audiences through the presentation of its *Cal Performances at Home* online streaming season. The video series featured 26 newly produced, full-length performances by artists originally scheduled for Cal Performances’ 2020–21 season, as well as two special events. These performances were watched by viewers in 49 states and in 36 countries across six continents.

Beginning in March 2020, Executive and Artistic Director Jeremy Geffen began curating *Now More Than Ever* playlists of video performances by great artists past and present. These provided audiences

ongoing contact with the performing arts during a time when live in-person performances were not possible. The series grew to over 60 installments featuring upwards of 300 performances, available on [Cal Performances' blog](#). Three playlists were contributed by guest curators: classical singer Julia Bullock, mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato, and cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason. *Now More Than Ever* served as a reminder of the performing arts' unsurpassed ability to express the power and potential of the human spirit and encouraged viewers to make time each day for the arts.

The 2021–22 season has been Cal Performances' first fully in-person season since the start of the pandemic. The organization has also offered for a limited-time free streams of select *Cal Performances at Home* recordings of performances filmed during the live season.

Funding

Cal Performances is funded by ticket sales; venue rentals; generous contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations; and support from UC Berkeley and Student Fees. During the unprecedented time of the global pandemic, Cal Performances continues to be sustained by outstanding support from donors and institutions; this backing has been, and will continue to be, a critical part of the organization's recovery from the pandemic.

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