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# Cal Performances

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

2024–25 Season Subscriptions

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WILLIAM KENTRIDGE'S  
THE GREAT YES, THE GREAT NO

## Letter from the Director



Welcome to Cal Performances' 2024–25 season! Over the coming year, we'll spotlight fresh perspectives, captivating stories, and brilliant talent in presentations that expand the boundaries of the performing arts and inspire us to engage more deeply with the world around us.

As you read this brochure, I recommend you give particular attention to our *Illuminations* theme of "Fractured History," which will introduce nuanced accounts and powerful new voices to enrich our understanding of the past and explore how our notions of history affect our present and future.

As part of our *Illuminations* thematic programming, we'll welcome the return of two extraordinary talents: the brilliant South African artist **William Kentridge**, with the Bay Area premiere of his new chamber opera, *The Great Yes, The Great No*; and powerhouse soprano and artistic thought leader **Julia Bullock**, who will serve as our artist in residence over the course of the season.

I'm delighted to recognize the Maria Manetti Shrem and Elizabeth Segerstrom California Orchestra Residency, which will host an impressive selection of performances by the legendary **Vienna Philharmonic** under preeminent conductor **Yannick Nézet-Séguin**.

And finally, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention our outstanding dance season, which is distinguished by **Twyla Tharpe's** 60th anniversary *Diamond Jubilee*, toasting the artistic output that has easily made Tharp one of today's most celebrated choreographers; as well as the Cal Performances debut of the world-renowned Brazilian troupe **Grupo Corpo**.

I look forward to engaging with so many fresh artistic perspectives alongside you all, and to witnessing how these experiences will move each one of us in the profound and incalculable ways made possible only by the live performing arts.

**Jeremy Geffen**  
Executive and Artistic Director  
Cal Performances

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## Venue Key

- ZH Zellerbach Hall
- ZP Zellerbach Playhouse
- HH Hertz Hall
- FCC First Congregational Church, Berkeley (also known as First Church)



STEP AFRIKA!  
THE MIGRATION: REFLECTIONS ON JACOB LAWRENCE

2024–25 Season

# Illuminations

**Our understanding of history is neither static nor complete; rather, it is dynamic and ever-changing due to the malleability of our collective memory.** Examining the evolution of our historical narratives often entails reevaluating our collective understanding of the truth, and finding new sources and voices with the potential to add layers to our understanding. Through this year's theme of "Fractured History", we aim to explore and expand our understanding of the past. In partnership with campus thought leaders, *Illuminations* performances and public programs investigate what gets lost when we abridge complex events, how we might "zoom out" to be more inclusive in historical perspective, and what role the arts can play in restoring nuance to the way we view our past, present, and future.

Lead support for *Illuminations* is provided by the Koret Foundation.



***This Land is Our Land***  
 Featuring Martha Redbone  
 Roots Project and  
 American Patchwork Quartet  
 Fri, Feb 28, 8pm, ZH  
 See page 37 for event description.



WEST COAST PREMIERE  
**Olivier Messiaen's *Harawi***  
 An American Modern Opera  
 Company Production  
 Fri, Sep 27, 8pm, ZH  
 See page 7 for event description.

# Fractured



BAY AREA PREMIERE  
**William Kentridge's  
*The Great Yes, The Great No***  
 Fri–Sat, Mar 14–15, 8pm  
 Sun, Mar 16, 3pm, ZH  
 See page 32 for event description.



**Story Boldly's *Defining Courage***  
 An Immersive Live Event  
 Fri, Apr 4, 8pm, ZH  
 See page 33 for event description.

# History

**Step Afrika!**  
*The Migration: Reflections  
 on Jacob Lawrence*  
 Sat, Nov 2, 8pm  
 Sun, Nov 3, 3pm, ZH  
 See page 27 for event description.



**Grupo Corpo**  
*21 and Gira*  
 Fri–Sat, Apr 25–26, 8pm, ZH  
 See page 30 for event description.



**Dover Quartet**  
 Sun, Nov 3, 3pm, HH  
 Works by Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate,  
 Pura Fé, Jessie Montgomery, and Dvořák  
 See page 11 for event description.



**The English Concert**  
 Handel's *Giulio Cesare  
 in Egitto*  
 Harry Bicket, conductor  
 Sun, Apr 27, 3pm, ZH  
 See page 22 for event description.

## Artist in Residence Julia Bullock

*"Bullock brings the quality of oration to all she sings. By the end... you just may feel the world ever so slightly differently, with your perception a little changed, your receptivity a little enhanced, your sense of wonder a little improved."*

—Los Angeles Times



JULIA BULLOCK

Cal Performances welcomes soprano Julia Bullock as 2024–25 season Artist in Residence, with two performances that showcase her radiant voice, keen interpretive intelligence, and boundless artistic imagination. One of the most influential and admired artists before the public today, Bullock is in demand the world over as a captivating performer in a dazzling range of repertoire, from the Baroque era to the present. Most recently, she won her first Grammy for Best Classical Solo Vocal Album, a collaboration with conductor and pianist Christian Reif which was also named one of NPR Music's 10 Best Classical Albums of 2022.

Whether bringing fresh insight to well-known masterworks, creating new roles as the muse of many of the world's leading composers, or designing bespoke programs that marry her musical intrepidity with deep exploration of the most pressing issues of our time, Bullock is an artist whose curiosity inspires audiences to feel and think more deeply. On the UC Berkeley campus, she finds the ideal setting to showcase and share her profound gifts.

Visit [calperformances.com/artist-in-residence-julia-bullock](https://calperformances.com/artist-in-residence-julia-bullock) for information about campus events and activities as they are announced.



### WEST COAST PREMIERE **Olivier Messiaen's *Harawi*** An American Modern Opera Company Production

Fri, Sep 27, 8pm, ZH

Zack Winokur, *director*  
Julia Bullock, *soprano*  
Conor Hanick, *piano*  
Bobbi Jene Smith, *choreographer and dancer*  
Or Schraiber, *choreographer and dancer*

*Harawi*, an American Modern Opera Company production, realizes Olivier Messiaen's deeply affecting, hour-long song cycle for voice and piano in a newly physicalized and dramatized dimension featuring company members soprano Julia Bullock, pianist Conor Hanick, and choreographer/dancers Bobbi Jene Smith and Or Schraiber, with direction by Zack Winokur. Moving from duet to quartet, the production breaks open Messiaen's cycle, connects the relationship between movement and music, and grapples with the intensity of love and loss in the human experience.

An *Illuminations*: "Fractured History" event.  
Visit [calperformances.org/illuminations](https://calperformances.org/illuminations) for details.



### **Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment** Julia Bullock, *soprano*

Sun, Jan 19, 3pm, ZH

Arias and instrumental works by Handel, Lully, Rameau, Purcell, Vivaldi, J.S. Bach, and others

For her second engagement of the season, Bullock is joined by the famed period-instrument ensemble the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment in its long-awaited return to Berkeley. The collective brings a fresh approach and a spirit of inquisitiveness to Baroque music performance—and is known for making historic instruments sing in the repertoire originally composed for them. The program highlights Bullock's gleaming soprano in arias from operas by Handel, Lully, Rameau, and Purcell in Italian, French, and English, as well as instrumental showpieces by Vivaldi, Bach, Pachelbel, and Handel.

For complete program, please visit the Cal Performances website.

# Orchestra & Chamber Music

Maria Manetti Shrem and Elizabeth Segerstrom  
California Orchestra Residency

**Vienna Philharmonic**  
**Yannick Nézet-Séguin**, *conductor*

Wed–Thu, Mar 5–6, 7:30pm  
Fri, Mar 7, 7pm, ZH

Wed, Mar 5, 7:30pm ZH

**MOZART** Symphony No. 41 in C major, K. 551, *Jupiter*  
**MAHLER** Symphony No. 1 in D major

Thu, Mar 6, 7:30pm ZH

**SCHUBERT** Symphony No. 4 in C minor, D. 417, *Tragic*  
**DVOŘÁK** Symphony No. 9 in E minor, Op. 95,  
*From the New World*

**with Yefim Bronfman**, *piano*

FRI, MAR 7, 7pm, ZH

**BEETHOVEN** Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor, Op. 37  
**R. STRAUSS** *Ein Heldenleben*, Op. 40

A standout season highlight! “Devoted to tending the fire of tradition” (*The New York Times*), the magnificent Vienna Philharmonic returns to Berkeley with three electrifying programs of symphonic masterworks with maestro Yannick Nézet-Séguin at the podium. With his signature energy and dramatic flair, Nézet-Séguin leads the Philharmonic through repertoire at the very core of the ensemble’s more than 180-year history.

One of the most in-demand conductors in the world, Nézet-Séguin seems to be everywhere at once—the Grammy winner also leads the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, and was musical advisor for the Leonard Bernstein biopic *Maestro*, for which he also recorded the soundtrack.

The March 5 concert matches Mozart’s brilliant *Jupiter* Symphony with Mahler’s dramatic and ambitious Symphony No. 1, and the March 6 performance pairs the sweet lyricism of Schubert’s Symphony No. 4 with Dvořák’s well-loved *New World* Symphony, the orchestra’s honeyed brass section featured in the work’s haunting slow movement.

The final concert in the series welcomes esteemed pianist Yefim Bronfman for Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 3, an intensely dramatic work that grabs on and doesn’t let go. Bronfman has said of this concerto, “You listen to it, [and] time stops...there’s only you and this music.”

Major Support: Jerome and Thao Dodson (3/5),  
Beth DeAtley (3/6), Diana Cohen and Bill Falik (3/7), Anonymous (3/7)

## Cal Performances’ 2025 Gala with the Vienna Philharmonic

**SAVE THE DATE: FRI, MAR 7, 2025**

**5:30pm** Cocktails and Light Bites  
**7pm** Performance  
**9pm** Reception and Dinner

Cal Performances invites you to join us on Friday, March 7, 2025, for an unforgettable evening with the Vienna Philharmonic. All proceeds from this event will support Cal Performances’ artistic initiatives and education programs.

The best seats for the performance will be reserved for gala guests. Seating will be limited, so we encourage you to save the date and plan to join us for this high-profile event. More information will be available soon. In the meantime, contact Cal Performances’ Development Office at 510.642.8653 or [donate@calperformances.org](mailto:donate@calperformances.org) with any questions.



**“Nézet-Séguin didn’t merely keep time or hold the Philharmonic together; he led them with passion and decisive interpretation.... The finale’s final bars were so rousing, the audience began to cheer before Nézet-Séguin had even lowered his baton.”**

—The New York Times

# Orchestra & Chamber Music

TESSA LARK



JOSHUA ROMAN

**Tessa Lark, violin**  
**Joshua Roman, cello**  
**Edgar Meyer, double bass**

Sun, Oct 20, 3pm, HH

**J.S. BACH** Sonata for Viola da Gamba in G Major, BWV 1027  
**EDGAR MEYER** *Trio 1986*  
*Trio 1988*  
 New Work (Bay Area Premiere,  
 Cal Performances Co-commission)

An exciting new collaboration brings together three singular figures in American concert music—virtuoso instrumentalists with fierce classical chops, deep connections to roots and fiddle music, and wide-open artistic sensibilities. Perhaps today's best-known bass virtuoso, recent Grammy winner Edgar Meyer has built an extraordinary career as a soloist with leading orchestras; a musical sparring partner with the likes of Yo-Yo Ma, Zakir Hussain, Joshua Bell, Chris Thile, and Béla Fleck; and an in-demand composer and recording artist. Featuring genre-crossing Kentucky-born violinist Tessa Lark and eclectic cellist Joshua Roman, the trio takes an exhilarating romp through selections by Bach, trio music by Meyer, and a brand-new work co-commissioned by Cal Performances, composed especially for these players.

Lead Sponsor: Nadine Tang  
 Patron Sponsors: Dr. Rupali Das-Melnyk and Dr. Ostap Melnyk

EDGAR MEYER

## Dover Quartet

Sun, Nov 3, 3pm, HH

**JESSIE MONTGOMERY**  
*Strum*

**JEROD IMPICHCHAACHAHAHA' TATE**  
 New Work (West Coast Premiere,  
 Cal Performances Co-commission)

**PURA FÉ**  
 arr. TATE *Rattle Songs*  
**DVOŘÁK** Quartet in F major, Op. 96, *American*

Named one of the greatest string quartets of the past 100 years by *BBC Music Magazine*, the two-time Grammy-nominated Dover Quartet returns with an exciting program that connects new work by Emmy-winning American Indian composer Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate with Dvořák's beloved *American* Quartet. Tate, a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma, composes music that has been described as "rich, provocative and moving" by the *New York Times* and "lusty and vivid" by *San Francisco Classical Voice*. His co-commissioned work is paired with his arrangement of Pura Fé's layered and rhythmic work *Rattle Songs*.

Patron Sponsors: Joe W. Laymon, Kiese Laymon, Jeanne Laymon, Thomas Laymon, Eve Dunbar, and Cade Catherine Dunbar-Laymon

An *Illuminations*: "Fractured History" event.  
 Visit [calperformances.org/illuminations](http://calperformances.org/illuminations) for details.



DOVER QUARTET

## Takács Quartet with Jeremy Denk, piano

Sun, Jan 26, 3pm, HH

**BEETHOVEN** String Quartet in F major, Op. 18, No. 1  
**JANÁČEK** String Quartet No. 1, *The Kreutzer Sonata*  
**BRAHMS** Piano Quintet in F minor, Op. 34

## Takács Quartet

Sun, Feb 16, 3pm, HH

**HAYDN** String Quartet in C major, Op. 54, No. 2, *Tost*  
**BRITTEN** String Quartet No. 2  
**BEETHOVEN** String Quartet in F major, Op. 59, No. 1, *Razumovsky*

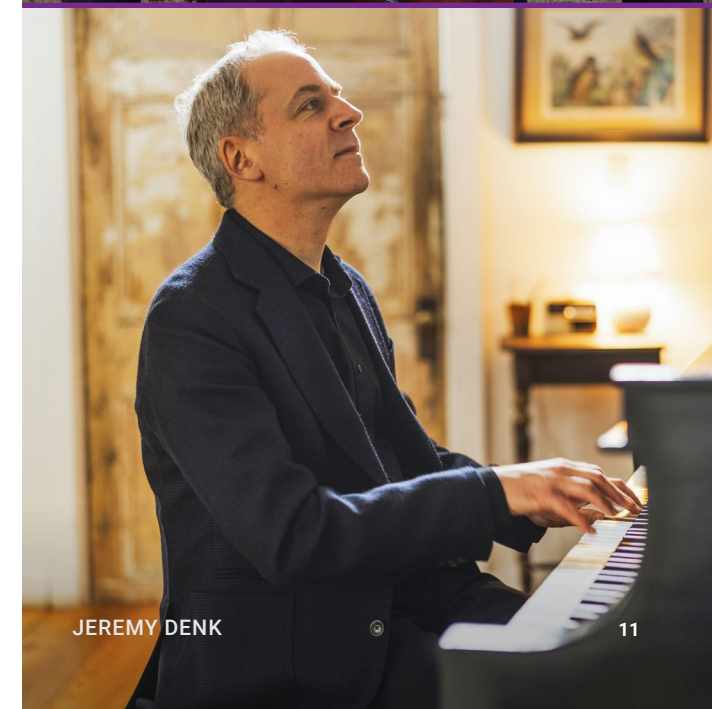
"One of the greatest chamber string ensembles we have on the world stage" (*Scherzo Magazine*), the Takács Quartet visits with two riveting programs this season. For the first, the group is joined by pianist Jeremy Denk for Brahms' Piano Quintet in F minor—among the towering creations in the composer's catalog in its skilled mingling of moods, from majesty, serenity, and joy to tension, foreboding, and despair. Denk, a MacArthur "Genius" award winner and well-regarded author, is already beloved by Berkeley audiences for his intelligence, humor, and interpretive insight, making this an exhilarating artistic matchup!

The Takács' second concert features an epic work from Beethoven's "heroic" middle period; Haydn's effervescent, well-loved string quartet Op. 54, No. 2; and Britten's rarely performed second quartet. In composing the work, Britten sought to embody the same qualities he revered in Purcell's music: "clarity, brilliance, tenderness, and strangeness."

Patron Sponsors: Jeffrey MacKie-Mason and Janet Netz (1/26), Françoise Stone (2/16)  
 Major Support: Taube Philanthropies (2/16)



TAKÁCS QUARTET



JEREMY DENK

# Orchestra & Chamber Music



HAGEN QUARTET

## Danish String Quartet

Sun, Feb 2, 3pm, HH

<b>CAROLINE SHAW</b>	<i>Entr'acte</i>
<b>HAYDN</b>	Andante from String Quartet in F major, Op. 77, No. 2
<b>STRAVINSKY</b>	Three Pieces for String Quartet
<b>O'CAROLAN</b>	Three Melodies: <i>Mabel Kelly, Planxty Kelly, Carolan's Quarrel with the Landlady</i>
<b>SHOSTAKOVICH</b>	String Quartet No. 15, Op. 144

The marvelous Danish String Quartet returns after the conclusion of its multiseason *Doppelgänger* project with an artfully curated program. It seems there is nothing these players can't do—complex contemporary works, ethereal soundscapes, sparkling Baroque arrangements, even earthy folk song. Caroline Shaw's *Entr'acte* is paired with a selection from the Haydn quartet that inspired it, and Stravinsky's folk-infused miniatures converse with songs by 19th-century Irish harpist Turlough O'Carolan. Shostakovich's intense, brooding final quartet provides emotional counterballast in a kaleidoscopic musical journey.

Major Support: The Bernard Osher Foundation

## Wu Han, *piano* Arnaud Sussmann, *violin* David Finckel, *cello*

Sun, Feb 9, 3pm, HH

<b>HAYDN</b>	Piano Trio in E major, Hob. XV:28
<b>SHOSTAKOVICH</b>	Piano Trio No. 2 in E minor, Op. 67
<b>MENDELSSOHN</b>	Piano Trio No. 2 in C minor, Op. 66

Perennial favorites David Finckel and Wu Han expand their acclaimed duo for this special recital of piano trio masterworks by Haydn, Shostakovich, and Mendelssohn. French-born violinist Arnaud Sussmann is a frequent collaborator with the bicoastal musical power couple, which has no shortage of virtuosic potential ensemble partners, thanks to Han and Finckel's posts as co-directors of both Music@Menlo and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. Sussmann is an ideal co-conspirator in this repertoire, praised for an "old-school sound...[with a] rare combination of sweet and smooth that can hypnotize a listener" (*Pioneer Press, MN*).

Patron Sponsors: Daniel Johnson and Herman Winkel

## Hagen Quartet

Sun, Feb 23, 3pm, HH

<b>HAYDN</b>	String Quartet in G major, Op. 54, No. 1 String Quartet in E major, Op. 54, No. 3
<b>R. SCHUMANN</b>	String Quartet in A major, Op. 41, No. 3

Among Europe's most enduring and admired ensembles, the Hagen Quartet makes its much-anticipated Berkeley debut with a formidable program of works by Haydn and Robert Schumann. In its 40-year history, the Hagen has earned a reputation for performances of exceptional refinement and ensemble cohesion. "It is hard to know what to admire most in the quartet's playing.... The focus and unanimity are astounding. The music seems to have an inner life. You get the impression that every note, every gesture has been carefully considered" (*The New York Times*).

*"The Danish play as if they have abandoned their individual personalities entirely to serve the collective—as if they were joined on a single instrument, armed with four bows."*

—The New York Times



DANISH STRING QUARTET



ARNAUD SUSSMANN, WU HAN, DAVID FINCKEL



# Orchestra & Chamber Music



MITSUKO UCHIDA

## Brentano String Quartet

Sun, Mar 2, 3pm, HH

<b>BEETHOVEN</b>	String Quartet in B-flat major, Op. 18, No. 6
<b>LEI LIANG</b>	New Work (Bay Area Premiere)
<b>BRAHMS</b>	String Quartet in B-flat major, Op. 67

Returning to Berkeley after a long absence, the distinguished Brentano String Quartet has been at the vanguard of American chamber music for more than 30 years, known for stunning rapport and a rich, full ensemble sound. The program includes Beethoven's early Quartet in B-flat major, with its unforgettable fourth movement (*La Malinconia*), and Brahms' lighthearted third quartet. The centerpiece is a new work by esteemed Chinese-born American composer (and UC San Diego professor) Lei Liang, whose music has been described as "hauntingly beautiful and sonically colorful" by the *New York Times*, and "brilliantly original and inarguably gorgeous" by the *Washington Post*.

## Mahler Chamber Orchestra Mitsuko Uchida, piano and director

José Maria Blumenschein, concertmaster and leader

Sun, Mar 23, 3pm, ZH

<b>MOZART</b>	Piano Concerto in B-flat major, K. 456 Piano Concerto in C major, K. 467
<b>JANÁČEK</b>	<i>Mládí</i>

The superlative Mahler Chamber Orchestra returns with magisterial pianist Mitsuko Uchida, continuing a multiyear collaboration to bring Mozart's exquisite piano concertos to Berkeley audiences. These utterly original compositions are a boundless playground where Mozart explored new ideas of musical drama, form, and ensemble interplay. A revered Mozartean, Uchida has lived with these works for decades, performing and recording them to great acclaim, and she has spoken about the merits and pleasures of returning to familiar repertoire throughout her illustrious career. The composer's music, she has said, "is about conversation and happiness and joy and sorrow and life. Mozart wrote so many wonderful pieces, but for me his concerti are infinitely deeper and varied, and each is an instrumental opera."

Lead Sponsor: Nadine Tang

## Owls

Alexi Kenney, violin  
Ayane Kozasa, viola  
Gabriel Cabezas, cello  
Paul Wiancko, cello

Sun, Apr 13, 3pm, HH

<b>COREA</b>	<i>Children's Song No. 12</i>
<b>PAUL WIANCKO</b>	<i>Vox Petra</i> <i>When the Night</i>
<b>FRANGHIZ ALI-ZADEH</b>	<i>Rəqs</i>
<b>COUPERIN</b>	<i>Les Barricades Mystérieuses</i>
<b>TROLLSTILT</b>	<i>Ricercar</i>
<b>TERRY RILEY</b>	"Good Medicine" from <i>Salome Dances for Peace</i>

Owls is a fresh and original new string quartet collective featuring some of chamber music's most creative voices. All of the ensemble's repertoire is arranged specially for the group's unusual forces of two cellists instead of two violinists, "a process that may account for Owls' evident deep investment in each work they play" (*The New York Times*). The program features two pieces by cellist Paul Wiancko (also of Kronos Quartet), alongside works by Azerbaijani composer Franghiz Ali-Zadeh, minimalism pioneer Terry Riley, jazz legend Chick Corea, indie rock duo Trollstilt, and French Baroque composer François Couperin.



BRENTANO STRING QUARTET



OWLS

# Classical Recital

## Njioma Chinyere Grevious, *violin* *Influences*

Sun, Sep 29, 3pm, HH

WHITE	<i>Blues Dialogues</i>
RAVEL	Violin Sonata No. 2 in G major
WIENIAWSKI	Scherzo-Tarantelle
PROKOFIEV	Violin Sonata No. 1 in F minor, Op. 80

Dynamic violinist Njioma Chinyere Grevious visits in her Cal Performances debut with a program that showcases her superb technique and remarkable versatility. A 2024 winner of the Avery Fisher Career Grant, the up-and-coming artist is a featured performer in the Sphinx Soloist Program, which showcases top Black and Latinx string players who are laureates of the prestigious Sphinx Competition. Both Dolores White's *Blues Dialogues* and Ravel's Violin Sonata are influenced by Black American vernacular music, evoking themes of struggle, hope, and freedom. Scherzo-Tarantelle by Henryk Wieniawski is a fast-paced tarantella inspired by Italian folk music; and Prokofiev's brooding Op. 80 Violin Sonata evokes the tumultuous energy of Russia under Stalin.

NJIOMA CHINYERE GREVIOUS

## Lester Lynch, *baritone*

## Kevin Korth, *piano*

Sun, Oct 13, 3pm, HH

SCHUBERT	Selections from <i>Schwanengesang</i> , D. 957
BRAHMS	<i>Vier ernste Gesänge</i> , Op. 121
MUSSORGSKY	<i>Songs and Dances of Death</i>
Songs by IVES and GORDON GETTY	

A regal presence on stages the world over, dramatic baritone Lester Lynch has recently sung many of the most iconic opera roles to great acclaim: Crown in *Porgy and Bess*; Wotan in *Das Rheingold*; Conte di Luna in *Il Trovatore*; and the title roles in *Macbeth* and *Rigoletto*. Lynch can sing with great power and silken subtlety, and brings dramatic flair and gravitas to his rare recital performances. For his Cal Performances debut, he presents songs by Schubert, Brahms, and Mussorgsky exploring the profound themes of love, loss, and mortality, as well as works by American composers Charles Ives and Gordon Getty. "The greatest singing actor of the production...[his] vocal beauty and emotional honesty made for a deeply touching, vulnerable portrayal. Lynch's gift...left me mesmerized" (*San Francisco Classical Voice*).

## Eric Lu, *piano*

Sun, Oct 27, 3pm, HH

HANDEL	Suite in E major, HWV 430
SCHUBERT	Impromptus, Op. 142
CHOPIN	Waltz in C-sharp minor, Op. 64, No. 2 Barcarolle in F-sharp major, Op. 60 Piano Sonata No. 2 in B-flat minor, Op. 35

A young master with a poet's sensibility, American pianist Eric Lu makes audiences lean in to appreciate the full magnitude of his artistry. Lu is known for patience, restraint, and a refined, delicate touch at the keyboard, and returns after his rapturously received Cal Performances debut during the 2021-22 season. His recital is centered on works by Chopin, a composer with whom he has been closely associated since he won the Chopin International Competition in Warsaw at age 17. "[Lu's] emotional depth and dynamic range are particularly striking, bringing light and shade to everything he touches" (*International Piano*).

## Behzod Abduraimov, *piano*

Sun, Nov 10, 3pm, HH

FRANCK arr. BAUER	Prélude, Fugue, and Variations, Op. 18
DILOROM SAIDAMINOVA	<i>The Walls of Ancient Bukhara</i>
RAVEL	<i>Gaspard de la nuit</i>
PRICE	<i>Fantasia nègre</i> No. 1 in E minor
PROKOFIEV	10 Pieces from <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , Op. 75

Commanding Uzbek pianist Behzod Abduraimov is best known as a powerhouse soloist with the world's great orchestras, but his recital appearances harness all the same musical force and beauty on a more intimate scale. His eclectic Cal Performances debut program foregrounds story and image, including Prokofiev's piano adaptation of music from his ballet *Romeo and Juliet*, and Uzbek composer Dilorom Saidaminova's 1973 programmatic opus *The Walls of Ancient Bukhara* (in what is likely its first West Coast performance). Florence Price's *Fantasia nègre* No. 1, a rarely performed gem enjoying newfound popularity thanks to revived interest in Price's body of work, showcases Black American folk melodies and idioms. "[Abduraimov] coaxed sound of gossamer beauty from the keys and created shimmering halos around the notes" (*The Times*, London).



LESTER LYNCH



ERIC LU



BEHZOD ABDURAIMOV

# Classical Recital

**Asmik Grigorian, soprano**  
**Lukas Geniušas, piano**

Sun, Dec 15, 3pm, HH

Songs by TCHAIKOVSKY and RACHMANINOFF

Lest there be any doubt that Lithuanian soprano Asmik Grigorian is among the most electrifying performers of her generation, the *Guardian* has compared her voice to “velvet-wrapped steel” and *Classical Source* has described “words pouring from her like streams of molten lava.” Having sung lead roles in *Madama Butterfly*, *Jenůfa*, and *Salome* to great acclaim in recent seasons, Grigorian makes a rare US visit in an all-Russian-language Cal Performances debut recital, performing rarely heard songs—“small pieces of opera in a few minutes,” she calls them—by Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff. She is joined by frequent collaborator, pianist Lukas Geniušas.

Patron Sponsors: S. Shariq Yosufzai and Brian James

For complete program, please visit the Cal Performances website.



ASMNIK GRIGORIAN

**Leonidas Kavakos, violin**

**Bach's Complete Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin**

Fri–Sat, Nov 15–16, 8pm, ZH

Towering works in the repertoire, Bach's Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin conjure vast sonic landscapes with just four gut strings and a horsehair bow. Considered both an invitation and a challenge to violinists since they were first published more than 220 years ago, these touchstones of European music come with a title—“Sei Solo”—that in Italian both describes the work itself (“Six Solos”) and acts as a sobering reminder to the player (“You are alone”). In this rare and powerful musical experience, Greek virtuoso Leonidas Kavakos performs the complete set over two nights. “Kavakos’s sound is intense, silken, mercurial—a modern, characterful performance aware of history, playful in its ornamentation, but without exaggeration” (*The Guardian*).



LEONIDAS KAVAKOS

**Igor Levit, piano**

Tue, Nov 19, 7:30pm, ZH

<b>J.S. BACH</b>	Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue in D minor, BWV 903
<b>BRAHMS</b>	Ballades, Op. 10
<b>BEETHOVEN arr. LISZT</b>	Symphony No. 7 in A major, Op. 92

Truly an artist of our global, connected era, German pianist Igor Levit enjoys assembling bold recital programs that place masterworks of the canon alongside lesser-known gems. Praised for his extraordinary technique and musicianship, Levit is also one of classical music's most politically outspoken figures, a cultural omnivore who has cited Thelonious Monk and hip-hop among his influences. His artistry revels in extremes—here, he matches Brahms' sensual Ballades with Liszt's fiendishly challenging transcription of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony.

Patron Sponsors: Art Berliner and Marian Lever



IGOR LEVIT

**Maxim Vengerov, violin**  
**Polina Osetinskaya, piano**

Sat, Nov 23, 8pm, ZH

<b>C. SCHUMANN</b>	Three Romances for Violin and Piano, Op. 22
<b>BRAHMS</b>	Scherzo from <i>F-A-E Sonata</i>
<b>R. SCHUMANN</b>	Violin Sonata No. 1 in A minor
<b>PROKOFIEV</b>	Five Melodies, Op. 35 Violin Sonata No. 2 in D major, Op. 94a

Blazing virtuosity and breathtaking expressiveness have been the hallmarks of Russian-born violinist Maxim Vengerov's sound for decades. The multiple Grammy and *Gramophone* Award winner has taken a fascinating path from his formative years as a child prodigy in Siberia, through studies with mentor Mstislav Rostropovich, to a phenomenal international career that has included prestigious posts as a conductor and educator. Vengerov returns to Berkeley with frequent collaborator pianist Polina Osetinskaya to charm us anew with “that gloriously rich, focused sound; that nimble, immaculate technique; that sense of meaning and purpose he injects into even single notes; and, above all, that effortless charisma” (*The Strad*).

Major Support: Lance and Dalia Nagel; The Sir Jack Lyons Charitable Trust



MAXIM VENGEROV

LEIF OVE ANDSNES



**Leif Ove Andsnes, piano**

Tue, Apr 1, 7:30pm, ZH

- GRIEG** Piano Sonata in E minor, Op. 7
- TVEITT** Piano Sonata, Op. 129, *Sonata Etere*
- CHOPIN** 24 Preludes, Op. 28

The *New York Times* calls Leif Ove Andsnes “a pianist of magisterial elegance, power, and insight.” Known for his commanding technique and searching interpretations, the Norwegian virtuoso has a special affinity for the music of his homeland, and here pairs Edvard Grieg’s sole piano sonata with Geirr Tveitt’s *Sonata Etere*, a colorful work from the 1950s that reflects the composer’s deep immersion in Norwegian folk music. “Andsnes reminds you of his capacity to go directly to the heart of the matter. Taking you on a journey of increasing subtlety and introspection, he makes you aware that so much of this music is for those long winter nights” (*Gramophone*).

Major Support: The Bernard Osher Foundation  
Patron Sponsor: Anonymous

**Benjamin Beilman, violin**  
**Steven Osborne, piano**

Sun, Mar 9, 3pm, HH

- C. SCHUMANN** Three Romances for Violin and Piano, Op. 22
- BRAHMS** Violin Sonata in G major, Op. 78, *Regensong*
- L. BOULANGER** Two Pieces for Violin and Piano
- FRANCK** Violin Sonata in A major

Certain words seem to recur in nearly every review of a performance by the electrifying young American violinist Benjamin Beilman: *tone, sound, intensity*. A few seasons ago, Beilman’s debut with the Berkeley Symphony in Jennifer Higdon’s Violin Concerto brought the house down, and now he returns in his Cal Performances debut with a recital that explores influence and inspiration between the composers Clara Schumann and Brahms, and works by French composers Lili Boulanger and César Franck. “Playing with rich sound and plenty of brilliance, Beilman conveyed both dreamy lyricism and heated intensity” (*The New York Times*).

**Evren Ozel, piano**  
**Music of the Night**

Sun, Mar 16, 3pm, HH

- BEETHOVEN** Piano Sonata in C-sharp minor, Op. 27, No. 2, *Moonlight*
- DEBUSSY** *Images*, Book 2
- BARTÓK** *Out of Doors*
- R. SCHUMANN** *Fantasiestücke*, Op. 12
- RAVEL** *Gaspard de la nuit*

Since making his debut with the Minnesota Orchestra at age 11, the dynamic young pianist Evren Ozel’s star has been steadily on the rise. Ozel is a member of the Bowers Program at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, where he is performing, touring, and teaching alongside its esteemed veteran artists. His artfully crafted Berkeley debut program features an evocative and poetic collection of works by Debussy, Bartók, Robert Schumann, and Ravel, plus Beethoven’s famous *Moonlight* Sonata. “A marvelous musician...one with disarming confidence in his interpretations and a gift for smooth and engaging mood shifts” (*The Star Tribune*).



BENJAMIN BEILMAN



EVREN OZEL

# Early Music

THE ENGLISH CONCERT



CHRISTOPHE DUMAUX

## The English Concert

### Handel's *Giulio Cesare in Egitto*

Harry Bicket, *conductor*

Sun, Apr 27, 3pm, ZH

Christophe Dumaux, *countertenor* (Giulio Cesare)

Louise Alder, *soprano* (Cleopatra)

Paula Murrihy, *mezzo-soprano* (Sesto)

Beth Taylor, *contralto* (Cornelia)

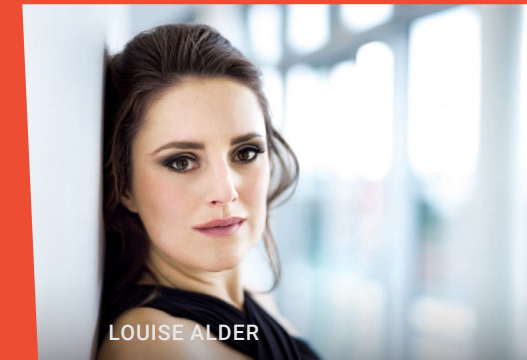
John Holiday, *countertenor* (Tolomeo)

Meili Li, *countertenor* (Nireno)

Love, betrayal, family drama, and political intrigue—Handel's blockbuster heroic opera recounts the historic meeting of Julius Caesar and Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt, through a series of unforgettable arias, vivid characterizations, and sumptuous orchestration. Dazzling British soprano Louise Alder sings the seductive central role of Cleopatra, opposite French countertenor Christophe Dumaux as her Caesar. It is hard to overstate the sublime performances director Harry Bicket coaxes from his brilliant soloists and his truly stellar ensemble. "Handel's genius shone throughout in the English Concert's magnificent orchestra, which played as if inhabiting the spirit of Handel himself" (*San Francisco Classical Voice*).

**Patron Sponsors:** Beth DeAtley, Bernice Greene, Anonymous

An *Illuminations*: "Fractured History" event.  
Visit [calperformances.org/illuminations](http://calperformances.org/illuminations) for details.



LOUISE ALDER



PAULA MURRIHY



BETH TAYLOR



JOHN HOLIDAY



MEILI LI

## Jordi Savall, La Capella Reial de Catalunya, and Hespèrion XXI

### *The Tears and the Fire of the Muses*

Sat, Oct 12, 8pm, ZH

Berkeley audiences adore Jordi Savall for his limitless curiosity, supreme musicality, and remarkable gift of connecting people, places, and eras through fascinating repertoire. In his latest program, the musical polymath and virtuoso viol player traces the influence of Claudio Monteverdi—innovative composer, opera pioneer, and brilliant music theorist—through his sacred and secular works, as well as those of John Dowland, Anthony Holborne, Samuel Scheidt, and Giacomo de Gorzanis in England, Germany, and Italy. This season marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of Savall's esteemed early-music ensemble Hespèrion XXI, joined here by the glorious vocalists of La Capella Reial de Catalunya.

**Major Support:** The Bernard Osher Foundation

For complete program, please visit the [Cal Performances website](http://Cal Performances website).



JORDI SAVALL

## Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment

### Julia Bullock, *soprano*

Sun, Jan 19, 3pm, ZH

For full listing, visit page 7.

## Les Arts Florissants with Théotime Langlois de Swarte, *violin*

### Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons at 300*

Wed, Mar 19, 7:30pm, ZH

**Program to include:** VIVALDI *The Four Seasons Violin Concertos Op. 8, Nos. 1–4*, and works by MONTEVERDI, UCCELLINI, and GEMINIANI

The spirited young violinist Théotime Langlois de Swarte is a transfixing performer, and watching him play, it is easy to imagine the fiery violin virtuoso Antonio Vivaldi holding court in a Baroque recital centuries ago. Vivaldi was a trailblazer in the new format of the violin concerto during his time, and is best remembered for his Opus 8 collection of concertos, *The Four Seasons*. Langlois de Swarte joins period instrument ensemble Les Arts Florissants in a concert honoring this enduring work in its 300th birthday year, alongside gems by Vivaldi's peers and predecessors Monteverdi, Uccellini, and Geminiani.

For complete program, please visit the [Cal Performances website](http://Cal Performances website).



THÉOTIME LANGLOIS DE SWARTE

LES ARTS FLORISSANTS

## The Tallis Scholars

### *Palestrina 500*

Peter Phillips, *director*

Fri, May 2, 8pm, FCC

**PALESTRINA** *Missa Ut re mi fa sol la*  
*Laudate pueri*  
*Tribulationes civitatum*  
*Tu es Petrus*

**DI LASSO** *Media vita*  
*Timor et tremor*

A master of counterpoint and prolific composer of more than 105 masses and 250 motets, Palestrina is recognized as one of the most influential figures in all of music history. His sublimely spiritual works represent the loftiest peak of Italian polyphony. The incomparable Tallis Scholars celebrate Palestrina's 500th birthday with a program that includes one of his lesser-known mass settings, two of his greatest motets, and works by his contemporary, Orlando di Lasso. The Tallis Scholars have sung Palestrina's music more than that of any other composer, in the process winning a *Gramophone Award* for their now-classic Palestrina recording, "the standard against which other choirs must be measured in this repertoire" (*Classics Today*).

**Patron Sponsors:** Michael A. Harrison and Susan Graham Harrison



THE TALLIS SCHOLARS

WORLD PREMIERE

**yMusic Performs a World Premiere by Gabriella Smith**

Sat, Mar 8, 8pm, ZP

Praised by NPR Music as "...deeply, profoundly skilled," yMusic continues its long collaborative relationship with composer Gabriella Smith with an ambitious new project. A composer with an ecologist's soul, Berkeley native Smith traveled the world recording underwater environments, from coral reefs to tidepools, freshwater marshes to the open ocean, to create her latest work for the adventurous ensemble. The new score, a blend of acoustic performance with raw and processed field recordings, is Smith's invitation to the listener to commune and connect with the fragile beauty of the natural world threatened by climate change. "Magnificent and mind-blowingly original...her [music] speaks for itself—eloquently, ferociously and with a palette of instrumental sounds that land as both familiar and strikingly new" (*San Francisco Chronicle*).



GABRIELLA SMITH



Y MUSIC

WEST COAST PREMIERE

**Olivier Messiaen's *Harawi***

An American Modern Opera Company Production

Fri, Sep 27, 8pm, ZH

Zack Winokur, *director*

Julia Bullock, *soprano*

Conor Hanick, *piano*

Bobbi Jene Smith, *choreographer and dancer*

Or Schraiber, *choreographer and dancer*

*Harawi*, an American Modern Opera Company production, realizes Olivier Messiaen's deeply affecting, hour-long song cycle for voice and piano in a newly physicalized and dramatized dimension featuring company members soprano Julia Bullock, pianist Conor Hanick, and choreographer/dancers Bobbi Jene Smith and Or Schraiber, with direction by Zack Winokur. Moving from duet to quartet, the production breaks open Messiaen's cycle, connects the relationship between movement and music, and grapples with the intensity of love and loss in the human experience.

An *Illuminations*: "Fractured History" event. Visit [calperformances.org/illuminations](http://calperformances.org/illuminations) for details.



JULIA BULLOCK



OR SCHRAIBER



BOBBI JENE SMITH

**Eco Ensemble**

**Best of Berkeley**

David Milnes, *director*

Sat, Feb 1, 8pm, HH

The UC Berkeley Music Department's ensemble in residence devotes its winter concert to works by alumni of the university's prestigious composition program, praised by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as "a constant source of challenging and arresting new compositions." In recent seasons, the adventurous ensemble has performed the music of visiting composers Kaija Saariaho and Toshio Hosokawa, as well as faculty members Ken Ueno, Edmund Campion, and Cindy Cox to great acclaim. This season, director David Milnes leads the group through acoustic and electroacoustic works by recent and distant graduates, including Jimmy López Bellido and Mason Bates, among others.



ECO ENSEMBLE



PILOBOLUS: RE:CREATION

**Step Afrika!**

*The Migration: Reflections on Jacob Lawrence*

Sat, Nov 2, 8pm  
Sun, Nov 3, 3pm, ZH

Washington DC's celebrated step dance company celebrates its 30th anniversary with a powerful production that tells the story of the Great Migration through Black dance forms, bold visual art, and vivid theatricality. *The Migration* is based on Jacob Lawrence's famous series of paintings from the early 1940s that explored the Black American migration experience in a modernist style with a distinctive earth-tone color palette. Set to an uplifting soundtrack that includes music by Nina Simone and John Coltrane, gospel, and West African drumming, the movement traces a historical arc from Africa to the post-Civil War South to a new life in the North, the choreography a mix of stepping, tap, body percussion, and modern dance. Step Afrika's past season performances sold out, so get your tickets now! "A life-affirming evening of theater" (*DC Theatre Scene*).

An *Illuminations*: "Fractured History" event.  
Visit [calperformances.org/illuminations](http://calperformances.org/illuminations) for details.

**Pilobolus**

*re:CREATION*

Sat, Nov 30, 2pm & 8pm **THANKSGIVING WEEKEND**  
Sun, Dec 1, 3pm, ZH

Pilobolus invites us to step into a realm where imagination knows no limits. In this retrospective production, the boundaries of gravity and creativity blur, offering an intimate window into the essence of the creative process. Following a triumphant three-week summer residency at the Joyce Theater in New York, Pilobolus' *re:CREATION* tour embarks on a nationwide journey, bringing the company's celebrated collection of repertory to delighted audiences from coast to coast. *re:CREATION* is a transformative odyssey of reinvention where audience and artists rediscover, redefine, and recreate timeless narratives through new visions of history, myth, and the innate human need for expression.

**BAY AREA PREMIERE**

**Dorrance Dance**

*The Nutcracker Suite*

Sat, Dec 14, 8pm  
Sun, Dec 15, 3pm, ZH

MICHELLE DORRANCE, HANNAH HELLER, JOSETTE WIGGAN

*The Nutcracker Suite* (music: Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn's interpretation of the Tchaikovsky score)

Explosive tap dance meets hot jazz rhythms in acclaimed company Dorrance Dance's intoxicating production of the holiday classic. Danced to Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn's marvelously inventive 1960 reinterpretation of the original Tchaikovsky score, *The Nutcracker Suite* boogies, slides, struts, and dives through the magical story of a young girl and her fantastical Christmas adventure. Along with collaborators Hannah Heller and Josette Wiggan, Artistic Director Michelle Dorrance transforms the Sugar Plum Fairy into a slinky Sugar Rum Cherry, the "March of the Toy Soldiers" becomes a swinging brass "Peanut Brittle Brigade" romp, and the original ballet's pageant of national dances gets a fresh new twist. "The orchestrations are playful, surprising, imaginative. Ms. Dorrance and her collaborators...have responded in kind" (*The New York Times*).



STEP AFRIKA!  
*THE MIGRATION: REFLECTIONS ON JACOB LAWRENCE*



DORRANCE DANCE  
*THE NUTCRACKER SUITE*

# Dance



*“Tharp is America’s crossover dance queen.... She melds classical ballet with modern dance, avant-garde experiment with Broadway pizzazz, technical rigor with off-the-cuff attitude, uptown glamor with downtown grit.”*

—The Guardian

## Twyla Tharp Dance Diamond Jubilee Featuring Third Coast Percussion

Fri–Sat, Feb 7–8, 8pm  
Sun, Feb 9, 3pm, ZH

TWYLA THARP *Diabelli* (music: Beethoven’s *Diabelli Variations*)  
New Work (music: Philip Glass)

A titan of American dance, Twyla Tharp celebrates 60 years crafting strikingly original, thoroughly accessible, and utterly uncategorizable works with a new collaboration with Philip Glass, the artists’ first partnership in nearly 40 years. Performed live by Chicago’s Grammy-winning Third Coast Percussion ensemble, the score is based on Glass’ 1993–99 work *Agua da Amazonia* and reflects on the crisis of climate change. Tharp also revives *Diabelli*, her 1998 triumph that challenges 11 dancers and a pianist to embody Beethoven’s endlessly inventive *Diabelli Variations*.

Patron Sponsors: Toni Ratner Miller and Joyce Ratner (2/7), Rockridge Market Hall (2/8)

TWYLA THARP

## BAY AREA PREMIERE

### Batsheva Dance Company

#### MOMO

Sat, Feb 22, 8pm  
Sun, Feb 23, 3pm, ZH

OHAD NAHARIN *MOMO* (Bay Area Premiere; music: Laurie Anderson and Kronos Quartet’s *Landfall*; *Metamorphosis: Two* by Philip Glass; *Madre Acapella* by Arca; Maxim Waratt)

Among the world’s most exciting makers of contemporary dance, Ohad Naharin brings his powerhouse company to Berkeley for the Bay Area premiere of a daring recent work. In the company’s words, “*MOMO* has two souls. One sends long roots to the depths of the earth—a soul that embodies archetypes and myths of hardened, raw masculinity, and the other is in a constant search for an individual and distinct DNA; one moves within its own autonomous and independent force field and the other is a constellation of elements that spin around the same nucleus—alternately drifting away and towards it, making room for necessary tenderness and catharsis.” Recordings of Laurie Anderson and Kronos Quartet’s *Landfall* and Phillip Glass’ *Metamorphosis: Two* provide the slow simmering musical backdrop, alongside a song/prayer by Venezuelan musician Arca.

Lead Sponsor: Nadine Tang  
Major Support: The Sir Jack Lyons Charitable Trust



BATSHEVA DANCE COMPANY  
MOMO



BAY AREA PREMIERE

**Grupo Corpo**

**21 and Gira**

Fri–Sat, Apr 25–26, 8pm, ZH

**RODRIGO PEDERNEIRAS** *21* (music: Marco Antônio Guimarães & Uakti)  
*Gira* (music: Metá Metá)

Brazil's riveting Grupo Corpo visits in its Cal Performances debut with two works that showcase the company's distinctive style, rooted in classical ballet but enriched by folk and popular dance. Co-led by brothers Paulo and Rodrigo Pederneiras, the troupe's dancers are celebrated for their athleticism, versatility, and deep respect for the connections between music and movement. The choreography in *21* is derived from the rhythmic sequences in the score by Marco Antônio Guimarães and Brazilian instrumental group Uakti. *Gira* ("Spin") is inspired by the Afro-Brazilian religion Umbanda and features music by São Paulo band Metá Metá that combines ritual chanting with animal cries, bird calls, and searing saxophone. "Their...dancers are masters of a scintillating eclecticism of style, able to whip a languorous Latin shimmy into a sharp pirouette, to flip from samba to jazz to ballet in a single phrase" (*The Guardian*).

**Please note: this performance contains nudity.**

An *Illuminations*: "Fractured History" event.  
Visit [calperformances.org/illuminations](http://calperformances.org/illuminations) for details.



GRUPO CORPO  
GIRA

**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**

Tue–Thu, Apr 8–10, 7:30pm

Fri, Apr 11, 8pm

Sat, Apr 12, 2pm & 8pm

Sun, Apr 13, 3pm, ZH

Strength, precision, and passion remain the hallmarks of the august Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater more than 65 years after its inception. The company's legendary dancers return to Berkeley with vibrant programs of new and classic works that showcase and synthesize a dazzling range of cultural influences, from spirituals and church hymns, jazz, R&B, and hip-hop, to African dance and classical ballet. Many of the earliest Ailey works and the newest company creations share a common focus: illuminating the rich panorama of Black American experience. Ailey's monumental *Revelations* serves as a beacon through it all, and as former company dancer and longtime keeper of the Ailey flame Sylvia Waters observes, "It's a testament to Alvin's understanding of humanity and the human spirit. That, yes, people experience despair, struggle, repression, oppression, but they have the resilience and strength to go forward."

**Mark Morris Dance Group**

**Pepperland**

Fri–Sat, May 9–10, 8pm

Sun, May 11, 3pm, ZH

*Pepperland* is back! Mark Morris Dance Group presents its joyous romp through the Beatles' beloved, groundbreaking concept album, *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*. Bursting with energy and buoyant creativity, neon costumes, and spectacular ensemble numbers, the playful and often poignant production features a score of inspired Beatles arrangements plus originals by longtime Morris collaborator Ethan Iverson for an ensemble of voice, theremin, soprano sax, trombone, and keyboards. "Morris continually plays around with the Beatles' own contrasts between sentiment and abstraction and sheer fantasy, although he throws in an extra helping of irony now and then" (*Los Angeles Times*).

**Patron Sponsors:** Helen and John Meyer (May 9),  
Beth DeAtley (May 11)



ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER



MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP  
PEPPERLAND

# Theater

**BAY AREA PREMIERE**  
**William Kentridge's**  
***The Great Yes, The Great No***

A Cal Performances Co-commission

Fri–Sat, Mar 14–15, 8pm  
 Sun, Mar 16, 3pm, ZH

William Kentridge, *concept and director*  
 Nhlanhla Mahlangu, *associate director*  
 and *choral composer*

Phala O. Phala, *associate director*  
 Thulani Chauke, *dancer*  
 Teresa Phuti Mojela, *dancer*

Internationally acclaimed for his visual art and theater productions, South African artist William Kentridge returns to campus with his latest creation for the stage, a chamber opera set on a 1941 sea voyage from Marseille to Martinique. Conceived in collaboration with theater maker Phala Ookeditse Phala and choral conductor and dancer Nhlanhla Mahlangu, *The Great Yes, The Great No* fictionalizes the historic wartime escape from Vichy France by, among others, the surrealist André Breton, the anthropologist Claude Lévi-Strauss, and the Cuban artist Wilfredo Lam—and adds a distinguished and colorful cast of characters to the passenger list, like Aimé Césaire, Josephine Baker, Leon Trotsky, Diego Rivera, Frida Kahlo, and Joseph Stalin.

In Kentridge's hands, the ship becomes a fantastical menagerie of thinkers, makers, and revolutionaries in a production that merges surrealist imagery with real-life events, lush South African choral music, dance, poetry, and anti-rational approaches to language and image. Kentridge's breathtaking visual inventiveness combines animated drawings, video projection, masks, shadow play, and bold sculptural costumes with spoken and projected text that explores the relationship between surrealism and the anticolonial Négritude movement.

The *San Francisco Chronicle* raved about *SIBYL*, Kentridge's 2023 presentation at Cal Performances, so get your tickets now!

Support for this performance is provided by *The Great Yes, The Great No* Council for Kentridge.

Lead Sponsor: Nadine Tang

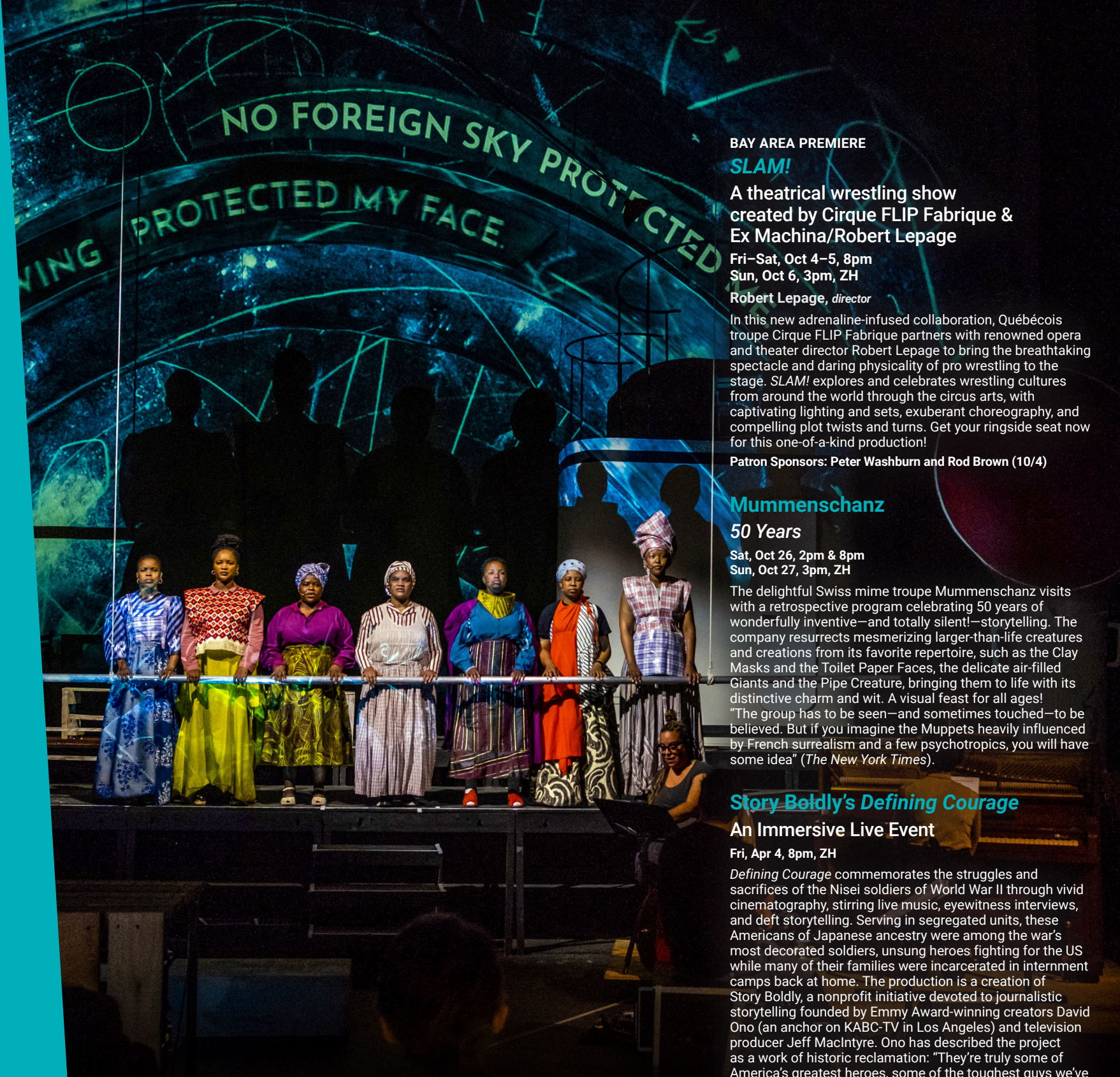
Major Sponsors: Bob Ellis (3/15);  
 Janice & Nicholas E. Brathwaite (3/15)

Sponsors: Helen Berggruen for Five Arts Foundation; The Edgar Foster Daniels Foundation; Divesh & Diksha Makan

Commissioning support is provided by Sakurako and William Fisher.

An *Illuminations*: "Fractured History" event.  
 Visit [calperformances.org/illuminations](http://calperformances.org/illuminations) for details.

WILLIAM KENTRIDGE'S  
***THE GREAT YES, THE GREAT NO***



**BAY AREA PREMIERE**

***SLAM!***

A theatrical wrestling show  
 created by Cirque FLIP Fabrique &  
 Ex Machina/Robert Lepage

Fri–Sat, Oct 4–5, 8pm  
 Sun, Oct 6, 3pm, ZH

Robert Lepage, *director*

In this new adrenaline-infused collaboration, Québécois troupe Cirque FLIP Fabrique partners with renowned opera and theater director Robert Lepage to bring the breathtaking spectacle and daring physicality of pro wrestling to the stage. *SLAM!* explores and celebrates wrestling cultures from around the world through the circus arts, with captivating lighting and sets, exuberant choreography, and compelling plot twists and turns. Get your ringside seat now for this one-of-a-kind production!

Patron Sponsors: Peter Washburn and Rod Brown (10/4)

**Mummenschanz**

***50 Years***

Sat, Oct 26, 2pm & 8pm  
 Sun, Oct 27, 3pm, ZH

The delightful Swiss mime troupe Mummenschanz visits with a retrospective program celebrating 50 years of wonderfully inventive—and totally silent!—storytelling. The company resurrects mesmerizing larger-than-life creatures and creations from its favorite repertoire, such as the Clay Masks and the Toilet Paper Faces, the delicate air-filled Giants and the Pipe Creature, bringing them to life with its distinctive charm and wit. A visual feast for all ages! "The group has to be seen—and sometimes touched—to be believed. But if you imagine the Muppets heavily influenced by French surrealism and a few psychotropics, you will have some idea" (*The New York Times*).

**Story Boldly's Defining Courage**

**An Immersive Live Event**

Fri, Apr 4, 8pm, ZH

*Defining Courage* commemorates the struggles and sacrifices of the Nisei soldiers of World War II through vivid cinematography, stirring live music, eyewitness interviews, and deft storytelling. Serving in segregated units, these Americans of Japanese ancestry were among the war's most decorated soldiers, unsung heroes fighting for the US while many of their families were incarcerated in internment camps back at home. The production is a creation of Story Boldly, a nonprofit initiative devoted to journalistic storytelling founded by Emmy Award-winning creators David Ono (an anchor on KABC-TV in Los Angeles) and television producer Jeff MacIntyre. Ono has described the project as a work of historic reclamation: "They're truly some of America's greatest heroes, some of the toughest guys we've ever created. To learn about these guys and learn about their adversity and how they overcame it...[I was shocked at] how they just kind of faded back into the background, never to be adored, never to be thanked or congratulated."

Patron Sponsor: Anonymous

An *Illuminations*: "Fractured History" event.  
 Visit [calperformances.org/illuminations](http://calperformances.org/illuminations) for details.



CIRQUE FLIP FABRIQUE & EX MACHINA: ***SLAM!***



MUMMENSCHANZ



STORY BOLDLY'S ***DEFINING COURAGE***

**Samara Joy**

Wed, Feb 5, 7:30pm, ZH

In jazz, every generation has a few “old souls” who skip the line to join the pantheon of greats—young artists who burst on the scene seemingly out of nowhere, fully formed. Fresh out of music school but with a deep history in gospel music, the wildly talented vocalist Samara Joy is just such a figure. Joy won Best Jazz Vocal Album and Best New Artist at the 2023 Grammy Awards for her debut release, an old-school affair that explores classic tunes associated with Carmen McRae, Nat King Cole, and Billie Holiday, and followed it with a third Grammy, for Best Jazz Performance, in 2024. “Listening to Samara Joy, I’m struck by the sound of her voice—warm, grounded and sturdy, an impression reinforced by her sure sense of pitch.... Her swingy rhythm can feel lighter than air” (NPR).



SAMARA JOY

**Antonio Sánchez**  
*Birdman* LIVE

The Academy Award-winning Best Picture, *Birdman*, screened to a live soundtrack

Sat, Jan 18, 8pm, ZH

Anyone who saw Alejandro Iñárritu’s film *Birdman* when it was released in 2014 can recall the moment when they realized—wow, this is not your usual Hollywood film soundtrack! Antonio Sánchez’ drumming exploded off the screen, a companion, counterweight, and commentary on the psychological turmoil of Michael Keaton’s character. Sánchez’ largely improvised solo drum set score won a Grammy for Best Score Soundtrack (and a BAFTA, and a Critic’s Choice Award), and the film took home the gold, winning the Oscar for Best Picture. In this special screening and concert, Sánchez celebrates the film’s 10th anniversary with a riveting live performance. “There’s no one better to inject the volatile tempos of New York City than jazz drummer Antonio Sánchez...[he adds] a vitality that maps out the emotions of the film’s characters with precision and almost no sentimentality” (*The Guardian*).

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ANTONIO SÁNCHEZ

**Sullivan Fortner Trio**

Thu, Mar 13, 7:30pm, ZP

Over the past decade, pianist Sullivan Fortner has developed an expansive and distinctive approach to jazz that combines his New Orleans heritage with the hard bop sounds of New York and a cosmopolitan flair born from years touring the world with luminaries like Roy Hargrove and Cécile McLorin Salvant. *The New York Times* has praised his music for its “rhythmic brio and harmonic insight,” and *All About Jazz* has admired his “sophisticated yet earthy way(s) with the pen and the piano.” Fortner’s most recent release is a solo record that showcases the breadth of his artistry, featuring original compositions alongside classics by Stevie Wonder, Antônio Carlos Jobim, Kurt Weill, and Duke Ellington. He nearly stole the show as a sideman with Salvant at her most recent Zellerbach Hall concert and now makes his Cal Performances debut as a leader with a hard-swinging trio of like-minded young talents.



SULLIVAN FORTNER

# Vocal Celebration

**Patti LuPone**  
**Joseph Thalken, piano**  
*Songs from a Hat*

Sat, Apr 5, 8pm, ZH

In a wildly entertaining showcase of her wit and virtuosity, Broadway star Patti LuPone sings an intimate cabaret-style evening of songs, with the titles randomly chosen from an onstage hat. Over the course of her extraordinary career, LuPone has earned three Tony Awards, two Olivier Awards, and two Grammys, all confirming her uncommon talent and popularity. Expect signature songs from the musicals that made her a household name, such as *Evita*, *Gypsy*, *Company*, and *Les Misérables*, woven together with stories from her remarkable life in the limelight. "Admirers of LuPone are accustomed to her powerful vocals, her barbed banter, and affective reminiscences, all of which were grandly displayed in *Songs from a Hat*" (*Theaterscene*).



PATTI LUPONE

**San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus**  
*Holiday Spectacular!*

Sat, Dec 21, 5pm, ZH

Celebrate the season with a couple hundred of your most talented neighbors at the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus' *Holiday Spectacular!*. The storied ensemble pulls out all the stops in this beloved annual tradition, complete with holiday carols, satirical sketches, ugly Christmas sweaters, Santa outfits, and guest dancers and drag artists. Expect nostalgic classics like "Little Drummer Boy," "Sleigh Ride," and "Deck the Halls"; holiday pop songs by the likes of George Michael, the Jackson 5, and the Manhattan Transfer; and glorious parodies of anyone who has been taking themselves too seriously of late. It's heartfelt, it's hilarious, and it's a uniquely Bay Area celebration of community and holiday cheer. Last season's holiday concert sold out, so get your tickets now!



SAN FRANCISCO GAY MEN'S CHORUS

**This Land is Our Land**  
**Featuring Martha Redbone**  
**Roots Project and**  
**American Patchwork Quartet**

Fri, Feb 28, 8pm, ZH

**Martha Redbone, guitar and vocals**  
**Clay Ross, guitar and vocals**  
**Falguni Shah, vocals**  
**Yasushi Nakamura, bass**  
**Clarence Penn, drums**

Roots music singer and songwriter Martha Redbone lends her soul-stirring voice to a new collaboration with the genre-defying American Patchwork Quartet, for a performance exploring the United States' rich cultural tapestry. Redbone draws on her southeastern Cherokee/Choctaw and African American heritage to craft uplifting songs that celebrate the human spirit, infused with the folk and blues sounds of her childhood in the Appalachian Mountains of Kentucky. She has said, "I feel that the one thing that still resonates physically and emotionally with people is music... [It] is the one field where we still have a fighting chance to be able to share some important, powerful, profound messages."

An *Illuminations*: "Fractured History" event.  
 Visit [calperformances.org/illuminations](http://calperformances.org/illuminations) for details.



MARTHA REDBONE



AMERICAN PATCHWORK QUARTET

**Ladysmith Black Mambazo**

Sat, Mar 1, 8pm, ZH

Beloved South African vocal group Ladysmith Black Mambazo, with one of "the most distinctive and uplifting choral sounds around" (NPR), visits with its unforgettable harmonies and inspiring message. Since its launch to global stardom on Paul Simon's *Graceland* album in 1986, the group has won five Grammys and sung for millions across continents. Born from struggle under its country's apartheid regime, Ladysmith sings songs of freedom, love, and peace, and Nelson Mandela famously cited the group's music as a source of strength and inspiration during his imprisonment, later calling them "South Africa's cultural ambassadors" (*Theaterscene*).



LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZO

# Percussion

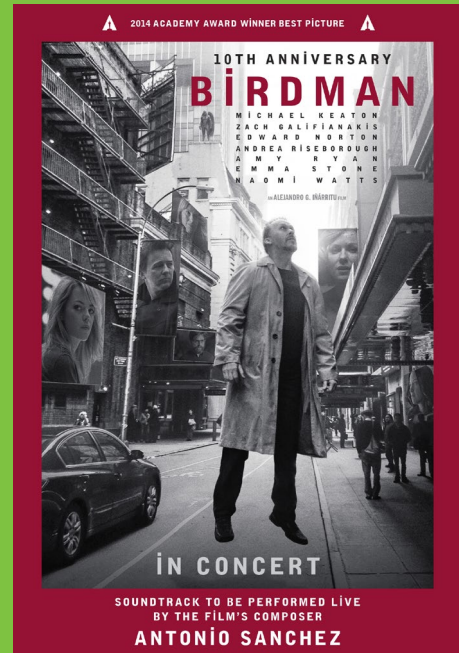
## Antonio Sánchez *Birdman* LIVE

The Academy Award-winning Best Picture, *Birdman*, screened to a live soundtrack

Sat, Jan 18, 8pm, ZH

Anyone who saw Alejandro Iñárritu's film *Birdman* when it was released in 2014 can recall the moment when they realized—wow, this is not your usual Hollywood film soundtrack! Antonio Sánchez' drumming exploded off the screen, a companion, counterweight, and commentary on the psychological turmoil of Michael Keaton's character. Sánchez' largely improvised solo drum set score won a Grammy for Best Score Soundtrack (and a BAFTA, and a Critic's Choice Award), and the film took home the gold, winning the Oscar for Best Picture. In this special screening and concert, Sánchez celebrates the film's 10th anniversary with a riveting live performance. "There's no one better to inject the volatile tempos of New York City than jazz drummer Antonio Sánchez...[he adds] a vitality that maps out the emotions of the film's characters with precision and almost no sentimentality" (*The Guardian*).

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ANTONIO SÁNCHEZ  
*BIRDMAN* LIVE

## KODO

### One Earth Tour 2025: *Warabe*

Sat, Jan 25, 8pm  
Sun, Jan 26, 3pm, ZH

In its latest creation, *Warabe*, famed *taiko* troupe Kodo explores the most basic and authentic of musical impulses, the "desire to play the drums with the simple heart of a child." The living bearers of a centuries-old Japanese folk tradition, the ensemble's athletic drummers create a universe of sound and emotion through thunderous percussion and polished theatricality. "Their sound stretches from the lightest of rainfall to cataclysmic thunderclaps" (*The Guardian*).

## Twyla Tharp Dance Diamond Jubilee Featuring Third Coast Percussion

Fri-Sat, Feb 7-8, 8pm  
Sun, Feb 9, 3pm, ZH

For full listing, see page 28.

## Zakir Hussain and Masters of Percussion

Fri, Mar 21, 8pm, ZH

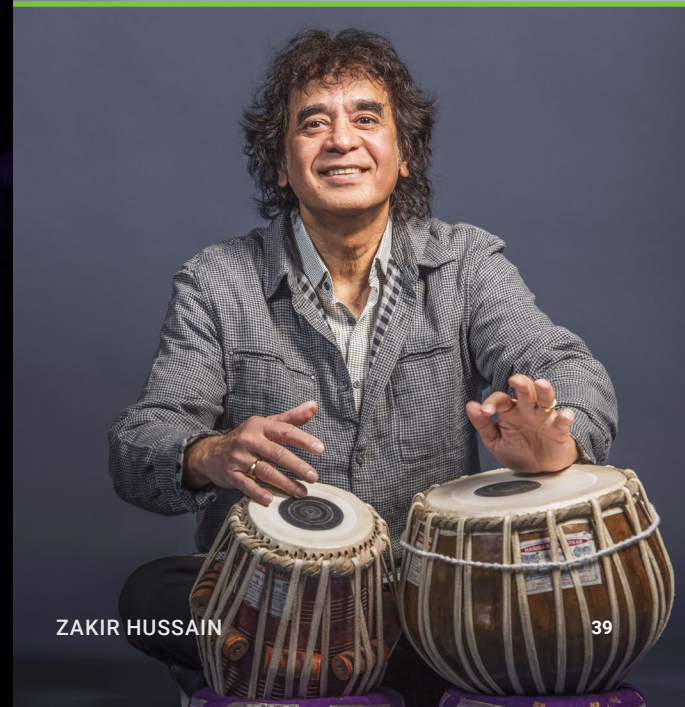
Google Zakir Hussain's name and a Who's Who of the music world populates your screen: Edgar Meyer, Béla Fleck, Herbie Hancock, George Harrison, Van Morrison, Earth, Wind & Fire, John McLaughlin, Mickey Hart, Kronos Quartet, Yo-Yo Ma...and the list goes on and on. A wildly prolific collaborator, the *tabla* virtuoso has brought the ecstatic rhythms of Indian classical music to the farthest corners of the globe, masterfully connecting his own musical traditions to a breathtaking array of pop, rock, and folk genres. This latest edition of his popular Masters of Percussion program invites a dynamic cast of virtuoso performers to the Zellerbach Hall stage.



KODO



THIRD COAST PERCUSSION



ZAKIR HUSSAIN



**Disney Concerts Presents  
Encanto: The Sing-Along Film Concert**

Sun, Nov 24, 1pm & 5pm, ZH

Disney's beloved animated feature *Encanto* comes to life in an interactive performance and screening—featuring a live band—that's perfect for the whole family! The film tells the tale of an extraordinary family, the Madrigals, who live in a charmed town in the mountains of Colombia. The Madrigal children all have magical powers, with the exception of Mirabel—who discovers her own talents as she sets out to save her village from danger. The Academy Award- and Grammy-winning soundtrack features eight original songs by Tony- and Grammy-winning composer Lin-Manuel Miranda, with an original score by Grammy winner Germaine Franco. Dress up as your favorite character and sing along with chart-topping hits like “We Don’t Talk About Bruno” and “Surface Pressure.”

ENCANTO

**Mummenschanz**

50 Years

Sat, Oct 26, 2pm & 8pm  
Sun, Oct 27, 3pm, ZH

The delightful Swiss mime troupe Mummenschanz visits with a retrospective program celebrating 50 years of wonderfully inventive—and totally silent!—storytelling. The company resurrects mesmerizing larger-than-life creatures and creations from its favorite repertoire, such as the Clay Masks and the Toilet Paper Faces, the delicate air-filled Giants and the Pipe Creature, bringing them to life with its distinctive charm and wit. A visual feast for all ages!



MUMMENSCHANZ

**Pilobolus**

re:CREATION

Sat, Nov 30, 2pm & 8pm **THANKSGIVING WEEKEND**  
Sun, Dec 1, 3pm, ZH

Pilobolus invites us to step into a realm where imagination knows no limits. In this retrospective production, the boundaries of gravity and creativity blur, offering an intimate window into the essence of the creative process. Pilobolus' re:CREATION tour embarks on a nationwide journey, bringing the company's celebrated collection of repertoire to delighted audiences from coast to coast.



PILOBOLUS

**BAY AREA PREMIERE**

**Dorrance Dance**

*The Nutcracker Suite*

Sat, Dec 14, 8pm  
Sun, Dec 15, 3pm, ZH

Explosive tap dance meets hot jazz rhythms in acclaimed company Dorrance Dance's intoxicating production of the holiday classic. Danced to Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn's marvelously inventive 1960 reinterpretation of the classic Tchaikovsky score, *The Nutcracker Suite* boogies, slides, struts, and dives through the magical story of a young girl and her fantastical Christmas adventure.



DORRANCE DANCE  
THE NUTCRACKER SUITE

**KODO**

One Earth Tour 2025: *Warabe*

Sat, Jan 25, 8pm  
Sun, Jan 26, 3pm, ZH

In its latest creation, *Warabe*, famed *taiko* troupe Kodo explores the most basic and authentic of musical impulses, the “desire to play the drums with the simple heart of a child.” The living bearers of a centuries-old Japanese folk tradition, the ensemble's athletic drummers create a universe of sound and emotion through thunderous percussion and polished theatricality. “Their sound stretches from the lightest of rainfall to cataclysmic thunderclaps” (*The Guardian*).

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Explore articles and videos about some of our most anticipated performances, including an interview with Artist in Residence Julia Bullock, a spotlight on the unique movement styles of dance companies across our season, a breakdown of the fascinating history that inspired each *Illuminations*: "Fractured History" performance, and more!

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