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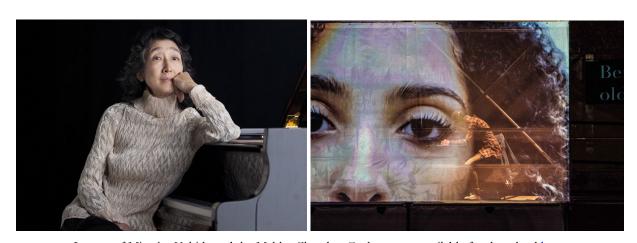
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 10, 2022

Press Room

CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS THE FINAL TWO FREE VIDEO STREAMS OF THE CAL PERFORMANCES AT HOME 2021–22 SEASON

## MITSUKO UCHIDA WITH THE MAHLER CHAMBER ORCHESTRA STREAMING JUNE 16–22

# TED HEARNE AND SAUL WILLIAMS' PLACE A SEMI-STAGED SECULAR ORATORIO EXPLORING URBAN GENTRIFICATION STREAMING JUNE 23–29



Images of Mitsuko Uchida and the Mahler Chamber Orchestra are available for download <a href="here">here</a>. Images of Ted Hearne and Saul Williams' *Place* are available for download <a href="here">here</a>.

**Berkeley, June 10, 2022**—Cal Performances at UC Berkeley releases the final two free video streams of its *Cal Performances at Home* 2021–22 season: June 16–22 with a video of pianist Mitsuko Uchida performing with and directing the Mahler Chamber Orchestra from the keyboard; and June 23–29 with a video of *Place*, Ted Hearne and Saul Williams' semi-staged secular oratorio exploring urban gentrification. Both performances were recorded live at Zellerbach Hall during March 2022.

The program featuring Uchida and the Mahler Chamber Orchestra, recorded on March 27, draws a line from Henry Purcell's uniquely English form of Baroque music to Mozart's Viennese masterworks. The concert features two piano concertos Mozart composed in the winter of 1785–86: the Concerto in A major, K. 488, and the Concerto in C minor, K. 491. Uchida directs both concertos from the keyboard. Rounding out the performance, the strings of the Mahler Chamber Orchestra, led by concertmaster Mark Steinberg, are featured in a selection of fantasias by Purcell, compositions that cap a fertile era of viol consort music. Of the concert, reviewer Harvey Steiman wrote in *Seen and Heard International*, "Mozart's two final concertos came through with refinement and precision, and not a whit of over-interpretation. Every phrase emerged with refreshing honesty and sparkle. Those moments when the piano was front-and-center were especially delicious."

The second of the two streams, Ted Hearne and Saul Williams' *Place* explores urban gentrification from several perspectives, addressing displacement through the lenses of settler colonialism, police violence, and Afrofuturism. *Place* was a finalist for the 2021 Pulitzer Prize and its recording for New Amsterdam Records received two Grammy nominations. The semi-staged oratorio features music composed by Ted Hearne and a libretto by Williams and Hearne; the production was co-created with director Patricia McGregor and produced by Beth Morrison Projects. Seen here in its West Coast premiere on March 12 at Zellerbach Hall *Place* features six vocalists and an 18-member ensemble that blends the energy of rock, pop, and electronic music with acoustic orchestral sonorities. An additional video of a post-performance artist conversation moderated by producer Beth Morrison with Hearne, tenor Isaiah Robinson, choreographer Jennifer Newman, will be available online at the same time as the performance.

Place was presented as part of Cal Performances' 2021–22 <u>Illuminations</u> series, which explored the theme of "Place and Displacement" through performances, public programs, and academic encounters. As part of <u>Illuminations</u>, <u>Place</u> creators and performers were also featured in Cal Performances' <u>Gentrification Storytelling</u> panel discussion, created in partnership with the Othering & Belonging Institute, which explores the ways stories can help people understand the complex subject of gentrification. More information about this conversation as well as a free video of it are available at <u>calperformances.org/gentrification-storytelling</u>.

These two performances are the final videos released as part of the 2021–22 Cal Performances at Home series. Streaming is free with registration as part of Cal Performances' ongoing efforts to promote increased access to the performing arts. Previous streams this year have featured the Mark Morris Dance Group's world-premiere 2016 performance of Layla and Majnun, featuring the Silkroad Ensemble and guest vocalists Azerbaijan's Alim Qasimov and Fargana Qasimova; a Danish String Quartet performance of Schubert's String Quartet in G major; the Bay Area premiere of More Forever, a collaboration between the Caleb Teicher & Company dance ensemble and pianist/composer Conrad Tao; Kronos Quartet performing with special guest vocalist Mahsa Vahdat; and Jason Moran and Alicia Hall Moran's Two Wings: The Music of Black Migration in America.

### **CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

Cal Performances at Home video stream Available to view June 16 at noon (PDT) – June 22 at 11:59pm (PDT)

Chamber Music and Orchestra
Mahler Chamber Orchestra
Mitsuko Uchida, piano and director
Mark Steinberg, concertmaster and leader

#### Program:

Mozart/Piano Concerto in A major, K. 488 Purcell/Four Fantasias (arr. string orchestra) Mozart/Piano Concerto in C minor, K. 491

In their performance recorded at Zellerbach Hall on March 27, 2022, Uchida and the Mahler Chamber Orchestra draw a line from Henry Purcell's uniquely English form of Baroque music to Mozart's Viennese masterworks. The program features two piano concertos Mozart composed in the winter of 1785–86: the Concerto in A major, K. 488 and the Concerto in C minor, K. 491. Uchida directs both concertos from the keyboard. Rounding out the program, the strings of the Mahler Chamber Orchestra, led by concertmaster Mark Steinberg, are featured in a selection of fantasias by Purcell, compositions that cap a fertile era of viol consort music.

**Tickets:** Free with registration at <u>calperformances.org/cpah-mco</u>. Donations are welcomed.

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Cal Performances at Home video stream
Available to view June 23 at noon (PDT) – June 29 at 11:59pm (PDT)

Theater/New Music
Ted Hearne and Saul Williams' Place (West Coast Premiere)

Created by Ted Hearne, Patricia McGregor, and Saul Williams Ted Hearne, composer
Saul Williams and Ted Hearne, librettists
Patricia McGregor, director
Sanford Biggers and Tim Brown, scenic designers
Tim Brown, video designer
Scott Bolman, lighting designer
Jennifer Newman, choreographer

### Program:

Composer Ted Hearne confronts the inequities of urban gentrification head-on in *Place*, an oratorio created in collaboration with director Patricia McGregor and librettist Saul Williams. The staged, evening-length work—seen here in its West Coast premiere—features six vocalists and an 18-member ensemble that blends the energy of rock, pop, and electronic music with acoustic orchestral sonorities. The first part of the libretto is a collage of Hearne's own writings and autobiographical reflections, which are placed in conversation with—and overtly challenged by—Williams' text in the second half, which addresses displacement through the lenses of settler colonialism, police violence, and Afrofuturism. The program was filmed live at Zellerbach Hall on March 12, 2022.

**Tickets:** Free with registration at <u>ccalperformances.org/cpah-place</u>. Donations are welcomed.

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