

For Immediate Release: April 20, 2022
2022-23 Season Press Kit

Cal Performances 2022-23 Season by Genre

Special Event

- In an eagerly anticipated return to Berkeley, pianist **Emanuel Ax**, violinist **Leonidas Kavakos**, and cellist **Yo-Yo Ma** reunite at Cal Performances for the first time in five seasons (program to be announced; Jan. 25, 7:30pm).

Orchestra

- **Gustavo Dudamel** conducts **Encuentros Orchestra** at the Greek Theatre (Aug. 4, time tbd) Details to be announced, see calperformances.org for updated information.
- **Esa-Pekka Salonen** conducts the **San Francisco Symphony** in a Halloween season program that includes Mussorgsky's *Night on Bald Mountain*; Liszt's *Totentanz (Dance of Death)*, featuring piano soloist **Bertrand Chamayou**; and Berlioz' *Symphonie fantastique* (Oct. 21, 8pm).
- The **Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra** returns with **Christian Thielemann** at the podium for three concerts of orchestral masterworks: Schoenberg's *Verklärte Nacht* and R. Strauss' *Eine Alpensinfonie* (Mar. 7, 7:30pm); Weber's Overture to *Oberon*, Brahms' Symphony No. 2, Debussy's *La mer*, and Mendelssohn's *The Hebrides Overture* (Mar. 8, 7:30pm); and Bruckner's Symphony No. 8 (Mar. 9, 7:30pm).
- Violinist **Daniel Hope** leads the **Zurich Chamber Orchestra** in the celebrated work *Recomposed by Max Richter: Vivaldi – The Four Seasons*, composer **Max Richter**'s reimagined contemporary versions of Vivaldi's timeless violin concertos, as well as works by Mendelssohn and Elgar (Mar. 26, 5pm).

Chamber Music

- The **Castalian String Quartet** makes its Cal Performances debut with a program spanning 200 years, including Haydn's Quartet in D major, Op. 20, No. 4; Finnish composer **Kaija Saariaho**'s *Terra Memoria*; and Schubert's Quartet in G major, D. 887 (Mar. 19, 3pm).
- The **Dover Quartet** visits for its in-person Cal Performances debut, performing Haydn's *Emperor* Quartet in C major, Op. 76, No. 3; Mendelssohn's Quartet in E-flat major, Op. 44, No. 3; and Amy Beach's rarely performed 1929 Quartet for Strings (Sep. 25, 3pm).

- The **Takács Quartet** visits Berkeley for two recitals this season: the first program includes Haydn's Quartet in F major, Op. 77, No. 2, "Lobkowitz"; Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel's sole quartet; and Beethoven's Op. 127, the first of his late-period quartets (Dec. 4, 3pm). The second program features Britten's Quartet in D major, Op. 25; Bartók's String Quartet No. 6 in D minor; and Dvořák's Quartet in G major, Op. 106 (Jan. 29, 3pm).
- The **Danish String Quartet** returns to perform the third concert in its ongoing Doppelgänger Project, pairing Schubert's *Rosamunde* Quartet with a new work by Icelandic composer **Anna Thorvaldsdóttir**, co-commissioned by Cal Performances (Apr. 14, 8pm).

Recital

- Violinist **Maxim Vengerov** returns to Berkeley after more than 15 years in a recital with pianist **Polina Osetinskaya** that includes Bach's Violin Sonata in B minor, BWV 1014; Beethoven's *Kreutzer* Sonata; an instrumental arrangement of Shostakovich's song cycle *From Jewish Folk Poetry*; and two violin works by Tchaikovsky (Oct. 14, 8pm).
- In his Cal Performances debut, **Kristian Bezuidenhout** performs a recital on a series of historic harpsichords and fortepianos, chronicling the evolution of modern keyboard instruments through works by Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Clara Schumann, and Mendelssohn (Oct. 30, 3pm).
- Lyric soprano **Ying Fang** is joined by frequent accompanist **Ken Noda** on piano in her Cal Performances debut, singing songs by Schubert, Schumann, Mahler, R. Strauss, and others (Nov. 6, 3pm).
- Cellist **Zlatomir Fung** makes his Cal Performances debut with pianist **Janice Carissa** in a program that matches cello repertoire cornerstones by Beethoven (Sonata in A major, Op. 69) and Dvořák (Rondo for Cello and Piano in G minor, Op. 94) with an arrangement of Ives songs and two contemporary works by **Judith Weir** and George Walker (Nov. 20, 3pm).
- Pianist **Seong-Jin Cho** makes his Cal Performances debut, performing a powerful collection of works: two Handel suites matched with Brahms' *Variations and Fugue on a Theme by Handel*, Op. 24; selections from Brahms' *8 Klavierstücke*, Op. 76; and Schumann's *Symphonic Etudes*, Op. 13 (Dec. 8, 7:30pm).
- **Joyce Yang** performs a piano recital that matches Tchaikovsky's *The Seasons* with excerpts from Rachmaninoff's Preludes, music by Messiaen, and a transcription of Stravinsky's orchestral suite from *The Firebird* (Jan. 22, 3pm).

- Cellist **David Finckel** and pianist **Wu Han**, annual mainstays of the Cal Performances recital series, perform Saint-Saëns' Cello Sonata in C minor, Op. 32; Brahms' Cello Sonata No. 2 in F major, Op. 99; Shostakovich' Sonata for Cello and Piano in D minor, Op. 40; and selections from *Ephemeral Objects*, a recent work by **Pierre Jalbert** in its California premiere (Feb. 5, 3pm).
- **Jeremy Denk** has curated a wide-ranging program of canonical and lesser-known works in his piano recital this season, including music by Bach, Beethoven, and Schubert, plus works by Black American vernacular composers “Blind Tom” Wiggins, Scott Joplin, and Louis Chauvin; and compositions by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and Frederic Rzewski that pay tribute to American folk music (Feb. 12, 3pm).
- **Alexi Kenney**'s solo violin program *Shifting Ground* puts selections from Bach's six Sonatas and Partitas in conversation with music by contemporary composers **Reena Esmail**, **Du Yun**, **Nicola Matteis**, **Matthew Burtner**, **Giuseppe Colombi**, and **Samuel Adams**, plus California premieres of new works by **Paul Wiancko**, **Angélica Negrón**, and **Salina Fisher** (Feb. 26, 3pm).
- Dramatic soprano **Nina Stemme** is joined on piano by **Donald Runnicles**, former music director of San Francisco Opera, in a recital of works by Wagner and Korngold, and a selection of Swedish songs (May 7, 3pm).

Early Music

- **Rachell Ellen Wong** makes her Cal Performances debut in a recital on Baroque violin, including Biber's Sonata No. 5; Tartini's *The Devil's Trill*; and sonatas by Herrando, Veracini, Bach, and Corelli, accompanied by harpsichordist **David Belkovski** and cellist **Coleman Itzkoff** (Oct. 23, 3pm).
- Catalan viol virtuoso, conductor, and musical explorer **Jordi Savall** is joined by his ensemble **Le Concert des Nations** for a concert of curated Baroque works (program to be announced; Nov. 10, 7:30pm).
- Mezzo-soprano **Joyce DiDonato** and early-music ensemble **Il Pomo d'Oro** visit with *Eden*, a theatrical, semi-staged concert co-commissioned by Cal Performances that features music from the 17th to 21st centuries by Handel, Gluck, Cavalli, Wagner, Mahler, Ives, and Copland, plus a new work by Oscar-winning composer **Rachel Portman** (Jan. 21, 8pm).
- **The English Concert**, joined by **The Clarion Choir**, continues its multi-season Cal Performances partnership with a concert performance of Handel's oratorio *Solomon*, starring mezzo-soprano **Ann Hallenberg** in the title role (Mar. 5, 3pm).

- Harpsichordist **Mahan Esfahani**, known for programming Baroque works alongside contemporary compositions, matches works by Byrd, Bach, and Scarlatti with the US premiere of Australian composer **Brett Dean**'s *ByrdSong Studies* (Apr. 2, 3pm).
- The **Tallis Scholars**, performers of sacred Renaissance choral music, celebrate their 50th anniversary with a program that includes Tallis' *Suscipe quaeso*, Byrd's *Tribue domine*, and contemporary works by **Nico Muhly** (in a West Coast premiere) and **Arvo Pärt** (Apr. 27, 7:30pm).

New Music

- **Colin Currie Group** is joined by **Synergy Vocals** for *A Steve Reich Celebration*, performing the composer's classic works *Music for 18 Musicians* and *Tehillim*, as well as the West Coast premiere of a Cal Performances co-commission, *Traveler's Prayer* (Nov. 3, 7:30pm).
- **Sō Percussion**'s first concert this season features the Bay Area premiere of recent works by **Angélica Negrón** and **Nathalie Joachim** (Nov. 12, 8pm). The quartet is joined for its second visit by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer **Caroline Shaw** as guest vocalist in the West Coast premiere of a collaboratively-created song cycle, *Let the Soil Play Its Simple Part* (Apr. 20, 7:30pm).
- **Eco Ensemble**, UC Berkeley's new music ensemble-in-residence, showcases works by music department composers **Ken Ueno**, **Edmund Campion**, and **Amadeus Julian Regucera**, as well as **Toshio Hosokawa**, the 2023 distinguished Bloch Lecturer (Feb. 4, 8pm).
- **Kronos Quartet** and special guest **Wu Man** present a program of compositions for the instrumentation of string quartet plus *pipa* by composers **Terry Riley** and **Tan Dun**, as well as arrangements of traditional Chinese music by Wu herself, created for Kronos' *Fifty for the Future* initiative (Apr. 1, 8pm).
- The West Coast premiere of *Blank Out*, **Michel van der Aa**'s layered multi-media chamber opera about trauma and memory, features soprano **Miah Persson** in the starring role (Apr. 28–29, 8pm).

Dance

- Opening Cal Performances' 2022–23 season, **Miami City Ballet** returns to Berkeley for the first time in more than a decade to perform George Balanchine's classic ballet *Jewels*, danced to music by Fauré, Stravinsky, and Tchaikovsky (Sep. 23–24, 8pm; Sep. 25, 3pm).

- **Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan** returns to Zellerbach Hall with *13 Tongues*, a work by artistic director **Cheng Tsung-lung** that translates his childhood memories of Taipei's bustling street life into a vibrant fantasy world (Oct. 29, 8pm; Oct. 30, 3pm).
- In its Cal Performances debut, East London hip-hop dance theater company **Boy Blue** presents the California premiere of the Olivier Award-nominated production *Blak Whyte Gray: A Hip-Hop Dance Triple Bill*, created by choreographer **Kenrick 'H20' Sandy MBE** and composer **Michael 'Mikey J' Asante MBE** (Dec. 9–10, 8pm; Dec. 11, 3pm).
- Continuing a tradition that dates to the late 1960s, **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** returns to Berkeley in its annual campus residency, performing classic and contemporary works that celebrate Black American experience (program to be announced; Apr. 11–13, 7:30pm; Apr. 14, 8pm; Apr. 15, 2pm & 8pm; Apr. 16, 3pm).
- **Mark Morris Dance Group** presents the Bay Area premiere of *The Look of Love*, a new production with choreography by Morris celebrating the music of Burt Bacharach, and danced to live music arranged by **Ethan Iverson** (Feb. 17–18, 8pm; Feb. 19, 3pm).
- Washington DC's **Step Afrika!** troupe brings stepping—joyful song and dance rituals performed by Black fraternities and sororities since the early 1900s—to Berkeley in the company's Cal Performances debut (Feb. 25, 8pm).
- Russian ballet company **Eifman Ballet** performs the West Coast premiere of choreographer **Boris Eifman's** 2019 production *Russian Hamlet*, which reimagines Shakespeare's play in the context of Russian history, and is danced to music by Beethoven and Mahler (June 9, 8pm; June 10, 2pm & 8pm; June 11, 3pm).

Theater/Opera

- Multimedia artist and director **William Kentridge** brings the US premiere of *SIBYL*, his chamber opera featuring film, movement, and live music, which is composed by **Nhlanhla Mahlangu** and **Kyle Shepherd** (Mar. 17, 7pm; Mar. 18, 8pm; Mar. 19, 3pm). In conjunction with the performances, Cal Performances' 2023 fundraiser **Gala** is planned with William Kentridge as honored guest (Mar. 17).
- **Michel van der Aa's** *Blank Out* (Apr. 28–29, 8pm). (see [New Music](#))
- The daughter-mother creative team of **Toshi Reagon** and **Bernice Johnson Reagon** brings science fiction writer Octavia E. Butler's *Parable of the Sower* to life in the Bay Area

premiere of an evening-length congregational opera based on Butler’s dystopian 1993 novel and its sequel, directed by **Eric Ting** and **Signe V. Harriday** (May. 5–6, 8pm).

Family

- Bearers of a six-century Viennese choral tradition, the **Vienna Boys Choir** visits Berkeley on Thanksgiving weekend to launch the holiday season with the program *Christmas in Vienna* (Nov. 26, 2pm).
- George Hinchliffe’s eight-piece **Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain** performs an eclectic set of pop, classical, and folk music (Apr. 26, 7:30pm).

Speaker

- **Ira Glass**, host and creator of the public radio program *This American Life*, shares stories, reflections, anecdotes, and revelations from his decades-long career in broadcasting (Feb. 11, 8pm).

Jazz

- The **Monterey Jazz Festival** touring program celebrates 65 years with vocalists **Dee Dee Bridgewater** and **Kurt Elling**, backed by a band led by pianist **Christian Sands**, with saxophonist **Lakecia Benjamin** and the rhythm section of bassist **Yasushi Nakamura** and drummer **Clarence Penn** (Jan. 18, 7:30pm).
- **Artemis** is an international sextet of modern jazz musicians featuring pianist and musical director **Renee Rosnes**, trumpeter **Ingrid Jensen**, reed players **Alexa Tarantino** and **Nicole Glover**, bassist **Noriko Ueda**, and drummer **Allison Miller**. The ensemble performs new compositions written by its members and classics by Lee Morgan, Thelonious Monk, **Wayne Shorter**, and others (Mar. 24, 8pm).
- Woodwind player and fourteen-time Grammy and Latin Grammy-winner **Paquito D’Rivera** performs repertoire from his *Jazz Meets the Classics* release, joined by his dynamic sextet (Apr. 21, 8pm).

Vocal Celebration

- Georgia’s male vocal choir **Ensemble Basiani** sings a program highlighting the rich polyphonic music tradition of their homeland in the Caucasus (Nov. 3, 7:30pm).
- In the program *HOPE—It’s Been a Long Time Coming*, the three-time Grammy-winning **Soweto Gospel Choir** sings freedom songs, spirituals, and music by Aretha Franklin, **Harry Belafonte**, Mahalia Jackson, and others (Nov. 5, 8pm).
- **Vienna Boys Choir** (Nov. 26, 2pm). (see [Family](#))

Percussion Festival

- The *taiko* troupe **Kodo** visits from Japan with its latest production *Tsuzumi: One Earth Tour*, which features signature pieces and new compositions by the next generation of *taiko* creators (Feb. 4, 8pm; Feb. 5, 3pm).
- **Colin Currie Group** and **Synergy Vocals**: *A Steve Reich Celebration* (Nov. 3, 7:30pm). (see [New Music](#))
- **Sō Percussion** visits in the fall (Nov. 12, 8pm); and in the spring with composer **Caroline Shaw** as guest vocalist (Apr. 20, 7:30pm). (see [New Music](#))
- Tabla virtuoso **Zakir Hussain** returns with his Masters of Percussion program, a gathering of star drummers from a range of cultures and musical traditions (Mar. 11, 8pm).

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