

For Immediate Release: October 9, 2023

[Cal Performances Press Room](#)



Photos of the Brad Mehldau Trio are available for download from Cal Performances' [Press Room](#);

Images of Brad Mehldau solo are also available from the [Press Room](#).

A video of Brad Mehldau performing the C Major Prelude from Book I of Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier and his own Three Pieces After Bach: I. Rondo can be found on [YouTube](#).

## **CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS**

**GRAMMY-WINNING PIANIST AND COMPOSER  
BRAD MEHLDAU  
IN TWO CONCERTS THIS SEASON**

**THE BRAD MEHLDAU TRIO  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2023, AT 8PM  
AT ZELLERBACH HALL**

**BRAD MEHLDAU PERFORMS THE BAY AREA PREMIERE OF HIS  
SOLO PIANO WORK, *14 REVERIES*,  
A CAL PERFORMANCES CO-COMMISSION  
AND OTHER WORKS  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2024, AT 8PM  
AT ZELLERBACH HALL**

**Berkeley, CA, October 9, 2023**—Cal Performances welcomes back acclaimed pianist and composer **Brad Mehldau** for two Zellerbach Hall performances this season, demonstrating his mastery and fluency in a wide range of musical contexts. Mehldau first performs on the UC Berkeley

campus with his Grammy-winning jazz trio, featuring longtime bandmates bassist **Larry Grenadier** and drummer **Jeff Ballard**, in an evening of original compositions and reimagined jazz standards on Saturday, November 11 at 8pm at Zellerbach Hall. Mehdau returns with the Bay Area premiere of his solo piano composition, *14 Reveries*, along with selections from his *Suite April 2020* and other works to be announced, on Saturday, February 10, 2024, at 8pm at Zellerbach Hall. *14 Reveries*, a Cal Performances co-commission, is an introspective suite that explores the terrain between improvisation and composition and is influenced by French Impressionism.

As a pianist, Mehdau is widely praised for lyricism balanced with heady abstraction and innovation rooted in tradition. His influences and prolific recorded output have ventured into rock, pop, electronic music, bebop, blues, and even spiritual music. Mehdau is also an author, often writing his own [liner notes and essays about music](#). In 2023, he released *Formation, Building a Personal Canon, Part I*, an autobiography reflecting on the first 26 years of his life, in which he shares deeply personal moments and tells tales of his coming-of-age in the vibrant jazz scene of New York City in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Brad Mehdau has been refining his distinctive approach to jazz piano trio music for more than 25 years, most notably since the 1996 release of his five-album series, *The Art of the Trio*. To date, he has released 12 trio recordings of original compositions and new arrangements of jazz standards and pop songs. The Brad Mehdau Trio with San Francisco native Larry Grenadier and Santa Cruz native Jeff Ballard first performed at Cal Performances in 2006. Now regarded among the great piano trios of jazz history (see also: Ahmad Jamal, Keith Jarrett, Oscar Peterson, Bill Evans), Mehdau's group is praised for its electric chemistry and ability to effortlessly navigate a wide range of stylistic and emotional terrain. In 2007, the trio returned with guitarist Pat Metheny shortly after Mehdau and Metheny's release of their second collaborative album, *Quartet*.

In his second performance of the 2023–24 season, on February 10, Mehdau offers an introspective recital that reflects both jazz and classical influences as well as pop music sensibilities. Mehdau says his new Cal Performances co-commissioned work *14 Reveries* “reflects on the interior experience we create from our own consciousness, independently of those around us... a meditation on the space a composer leaves between specific directions in the score that lets the beauty of the music reveal itself as it allows for new discovery.” In a review of Mehdau's world premiere performance of *14*

*Reveries* in September, the *London Jazz News* described it as “a new work which is neither straightforward nor simple, but it is manifestly a very personal and special statement from one of the very great musicians of our time.”

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CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:  
**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Saturday, November 11, 2023 at 8pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**  
Bancroft Way at Dana Street,  
UC Berkeley campus

*Jazz*

**Brad Mehldau Trio**

**Brad Mehldau**, *piano*  
**Larry Grenadier**, *bass*  
**Jeff Ballard**, *drums*

**Program:**

Grammy-winning jazz pianist Brad Mehldau creates music that weaves together a host of seeming contradictions—a passion for in-the-moment discovery balanced by a penchant for narrative and structure; a sensibility prone to abstraction and dense counterpoint but also drawn to the tunefulness, simplicity, and directness of a pop song. With 12 trio recordings to his name over more than 25 years, Mehldau in this performance is joined by his longtime bandmates, bassist Larry Grenadier (a San Francisco native) and drummer Jeff Ballard (originally from Santa Cruz), for an evening of original compositions and reimagined jazz standards.

**Tickets:** \$42–\$110 (prices subject to change). Half price for UC Berkeley students. Tickets are available at [calperformances.org](https://calperformances.org), by phone at (510) 642-9988, or in person at the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, Tuesday–Friday, 12–5:30pm and Saturday–Sunday, 1–5pm. More information about student tickets and discounts is available at [calperformances.org/ucb-students](https://calperformances.org/ucb-students). For information about other discounts, visit [calperformances.org/discounts](https://calperformances.org/discounts).

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**Saturday, February 10, 2024 at 8pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**  
Bancroft Way at Dana Street,  
UC Berkeley campus

*Recital*

**Brad Mehldau: 14 Reveries**

**Program:**

Brad Mehldau/*14 Reveries* (Bay Area Premiere, Cal Performances Co-commission)  
Selections from *Suite April 2020*  
Other works to be announced

Pianist Brad Mehldau has forged a distinctive path, his music infused with the essence of jazz exploration, classical romanticism, and pop music. In the Bay Area premiere of his new Cal Performances co-commissioned solo work, *14 Reveries*, Mehldau reflects on the interior experience we create from our own consciousness, independently of those around us. Written from a similar impulse as his *Suite April 2020*, from which he will perform selections in this concert, *14 Reveries* is a meditation on the space a composer leaves between specific directions in the score that lets the music reveal itself as it allows for new discovery.

**Tickets:** \$42–\$98 (prices subject to change). Half price for UC Berkeley students. Tickets are available at [calperformances.org](http://calperformances.org), by phone at (510) 642-9988, or in person at the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, Tuesday–Friday, 12–5:30pm and Saturday–Sunday, 1–5pm. More information about student tickets and discounts is available at [calperformances.org/ucb-students](http://calperformances.org/ucb-students). For information about other discounts, visit [calperformances.org/discounts](http://calperformances.org/discounts).

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PRESS CONTACT

**Louisa Spier**

**Cal Performances**

(510) 643-6714

[lspier@calperformances.org](mailto:lspier@calperformances.org)