

For Immediate Release: April 16, 2024, updated September 17, 2024

[2024–2025 Season Announcement Press Kit](#)

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## CAL PERFORMANCES 2024–25 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Performance Venues

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

Zellerbach Playhouse – Bancroft Way at Dana Street, UC Berkeley campus

Hertz Hall – Bancroft Way at College Avenue, UC Berkeley campus

First Congregational Church (also known as First Church) – 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

### Ticket Information

Tickets to Cal Performances are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at [calperformances.org](http://calperformances.org), and (510) 642-9988

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### SEPTEMBER 2024

Friday, September 27, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

*New Music*

[\*\*Olivier Messiaen's \*Harawi\*\*\*](#)

**An American Modern Opera Company Production** (US Premiere)

**Zack Winokur**, *director*

**Julia Bullock**, *soprano*

**Conor Hanick**, *piano*

**Bobbi Jene Smith**, *choreographer and dancer*

**Or Schraiber**, *choreographer and dancer*

### **Program:**

*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 choreographers/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.

**Tickets:** \$36–\$78 (prices subject to change)

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**Sunday, September 29, 3pm**

**Hertz Hall**

*Recital*

[Njioma Chinyere Grevious](#), *violin*

Andrew Goodridge, *piano*

*Influences*

**Program:**

Perkinson/*Blue/s Forms for Solo Violin*

Mozart/Violin Sonata No. 21 in E minor, K. 2304

Beethoven/Violin Sonata No. 9 in A major, Op. 47, *Kreutzer*

Dynamic violinist Njioma Chinyere Grevious performs her Cal Performances debut in a recital that showcases her technique and 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. The solo work *Blue/s Forms* is a rarely performed work by Black American composer Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson, who was active in New York’s classical and jazz music worlds from the 1950s through the ’90s. Beethoven’s brilliant *Kreutzer* sonata and Mozart’s elegiac E minor sonata round out the program.

**Tickets:** \$74 (prices subject to change)

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OCTOBER 2024

**Friday, October 4, 8pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**

**Saturday, October 5, 8pm**

**Sunday, October 6, 3pm**

*Theater*

**Ex Machina/Robert LePage & Cirque FLIP Fabrique**

[SLAM!](#) (Bay Area Premiere)

**When theater and cirque meet the mat**

**Robert LePage**, *director*

**Program:**

In this new adrenaline-infused collaboration, Québécois troupe Cirque FLIP Fabrique partners with opera and theater director Robert Lepage to bring the spectacle and physicality of pro wrestling to the stage. *SLAM!* explores wrestling cultures from around the world through the circus arts, lighting and sets, choreography, and plot twists and turns.

**Tickets:** \$36–\$82 (prices subject to change)

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**Saturday, October 12, 8pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**

*Early Music*

[Jordi Savall, La Capella Reial de Catalunya, and Hespèrion XXI](#)

*The Tears and the Fire of the Muses*

**Program:**

Scheidt/Paduan & Courant *Dolorosa* Cantus V-IX

Monteverdi/*Lamento d'Arianna* a 5 (Book 6, 1614)

Holborne/[Pavin] *Paradizo*

*The teares of the Muses* [Galliard]

Monteverdi/*Sestina "Lagrime d'Amante al Sepolcro dell'Amata"* a 5 (VI Libro, 1614)

Dowland/*Lacrimæ tristes* [Pavan]

M. Nicholas Gryffith his Galiard

Monteverdi/*Qui rise Tirsi*

Madrigal Concertato à 5 (VI Libro, 1614)

Holborne/[Pavin] *Bona Speranza*

de Gorzanis/[Gallarda] *La Barca d'Amore*

Monteverdi/*Tirsi e Clori*. Ballo Concertato con voci e istrumenti a 5

In his latest program, the musical polymath and virtuoso viol player Jordi Savall traces the influence of Claudio Monteverdi—innovative composer, opera pioneer, and 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 early-music ensemble Hespèrion XXI, joined in this performance by the vocalists of La Capella Reial de Catalunya.

**Tickets:** \$48–\$98 (prices subject to change)

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**Sunday, October 13, 3pm**

**Hertz Hall**

*Recital*

[Lester Lynch, baritone](#)

**Kevin Korth, piano**

**Program:**

Beach/“The Year’s at the Spring,” from *Four Browning Songs*, Op. 44, No. 1

Brahms/*Vier ernste Gesänge (Four Serious Songs)*, Op. 121

Schubert/*An Sylvia*, Op. 106, No. 4, D. 891

“Das Fischermädchen” from *Schwanengesang*, No. 10, D. 957

Nacht und Träume, D. 827

Der Erlkönig, Op. 1, D. 328

Mussorgsky/*Pesni i pljaski smerti (Songs and Dances of Death)*

Traditional/Getty/Danny Boy

Traditional/Getty/Shenandoah

Traditional/Brown/Sweet Home

Traditional/Simonson–Lynch/Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho

A presence on stages the world over, dramatic baritone Lester Lynch has recently sung many of the most iconic opera roles: 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 subtlety, and brings dramatic flair and gravitas to his rare recital performances. In 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.

**Tickets:** \$74 (prices subject to change)

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**Sunday, October 20, 3pm**

**Hertz Hall**

*Chamber Music*

[Tessa Lark, violin](#)

[Joshua Roman, cello](#)

[Edgar Meyer, double bass](#)

**Program:**

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)

A new collaboration brings together three singular figures in American concert music—virtuoso instrumentalists with classical chops, deep connections to roots and fiddle music, and wide-open artistic sensibilities. Recent Grammy winning bass player Edgar Meyer is joined by genre-crossing

Kentucky-born violinist Tessa Lark and eclectic cellist Joshua Roman for a performance of selections by Bach, trio music by Meyer, and a brand-new work co-commissioned by Cal Performances, composed especially for these players.

**Tickets:** \$68 (prices subject to change)

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**Saturday, October 26, 2pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**

**Saturday, October 26, 8pm**

**Sunday, October 27, 3pm**

*Theater / Family*

**[Mummenschanz](#)**

***50 Years***

**Program:**

The Swiss mime troupe Mummenschanz performs a retrospective program celebrating 50 years of their inventive storytelling. The company resurrects 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 all to life.

**Tickets:** \$36–\$86 (prices subject to change)

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**Sunday, October 27, 3pm**

**Hertz Hall**

*Recital*

**[Eric Lu, piano](#)**

**Program:**

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

Eric Lu is known for patience, restraint, and a refined, delicate touch at the keyboard. He returns to Cal Performances after his debut in the 2021–22 season with a recital 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.

**Tickets:** \$74 (prices subject to change)

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Tuesday, October 29, 7pm

Zellerbach Hall

*Speakers*

**[The Future of American Democracy: The 2024 Election and Beyond](#)**

A panel discussion with Janet Napolitano, Robert Reich, Maria Echaveste, and Angela Glover Blackwell

**Program:**

As voters prepare to head to the polls on November 5, join UC Berkeley’s Goldman School of Public Policy and Cal Performances for a critical look at the current moment, the issues that have shaped and led to this year’s tumultuous election, and the future of American democracy. Featured on stage together are UC Berkeley experts from former presidential administrations—**Janet Napolitano**, former Secretary of Homeland Security under the Obama administration (2009-2013); **Robert Reich**, former Secretary of Labor under the Clinton administration (1993-1997); and **Maria Echaveste**, former Assistant to the President and Deputy White House Chief of Staff under the Clinton Administration (1998-2001)—as well as PolicyLink founder-in-residence and Chief Vision Officer for the Goldman School of Public Policy’s new Democracy Policy Initiative, **Angela Glover Blackwell**.

**Tickets:** \$20 general public, \$15 UC Berkeley faculty and staff, \$5 UC Berkeley students. All tickets are general admission. 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.

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NOVEMBER 2024

Saturday, November 2, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Sunday, November 3, 3pm

*Dance*

**[Step Afrika!](#)**

***The Migration: Reflections on Jacob Lawrence***

**Program:**

Washington DC’s celebrated step dance company celebrates its 30th anniversary with a 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 a soundtrack that includes music by Nina Simone and John Coltrane,

gospel music, 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.

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

**Tickets:** \$42-98 (prices subject to change)

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**Sunday, November 3, 3pm**

**Hertz Hall**

*Chamber Music*

[Dover Quartet](#)

**Program:**

Jessie Montgomery/*Strum*

Jerod Impichchaachaaha’ Tate/*Abokkoli’ Taloova’ (Woodland Songs)* (West Coast Premiere, Cal Performances Co-Commission)

Pura Fé arr. Tate/*Rattle Songs*

Dvořák/*Quartet in F major, Op. 96, American*

The Grammy-nominated Dover Quartet returns to Berkeley to perform music that connects new work by Emmy-winning American Indian composer Jerod Impichchaachaaha’ Tate with Dvořák’s *American* Quartet. His co-commissioned work is paired with his arrangement of Pura Fé’s layered and rhythmic work *Rattle Songs* in a program that explores the notion of American sound.

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

**Tickets:** \$74 (prices subject to change)

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**Sunday, November 10, 3pm**

**Hertz Hall**

*Recital*

[Behzod Abduraimov, piano](#)

**Program:**

Franck arr. Bauer/*Prélude, Fugue, and Variations, Op. 18*

Mussorgsky/*Pictures at an Exhibition*

Price/*Fantasia nègre* No. 1 in E minor

Prokofiev/*10 Pieces from Romeo and Juliet, Op. 75*

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 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 Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*. Florence Price's *Fantasia nègre* No. 1, a rarely performed work enjoying newfound popularity due to revived interest in Price's body of work, showcases Black American folk melodies and idioms.

**Tickets:** \$78 (prices subject to change)

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**Friday, November 15, 8pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**

**Saturday, November 16, 8pm**

*Recital*

[Leonidas Kavakos, violin](#)

**Programs:**

Friday, November 15:

JS Bach/Partita No. 3 in E major, BWV 1006  
Sonata No. 2 in A minor, BWV 1003  
Sonata No. 3 in C major, BWV 1005

Saturday, November 16:

JS Bach/Sonata No. 1 in G minor, BWV 1001  
Partita No. 1 in B minor, BWV 1002  
Partita No. 2 in D minor, BWV 1004

Violinist Leonidas Kavakos, admired for balancing clarity and expressive power in his lyrical playing, performs towering works in the repertoire, Bach's Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin. The pieces 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").

**Tickets:** \$65–125 (prices subject to change)

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**Tuesday, November 19, 7:30pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**

*Recital*

[Igor Levit, piano](#)



**Program:**

JS Bach/Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue in D minor, BWV 903

Brahms/Ballades, Op. 10

Beethoven arr. Liszt/Symphony No. 7 in A major, Op. 92

Pianist Igor Levit's bold recital programs place masterworks of the canon alongside lesser-known gems. Praised for his extraordinary technique and musicianship, Levit also stands out in the world of classical music as a cultural omnivore who has cited Thelonious Monk and hip-hop among his influences. His artistry revels in extremes—in this performance, he matches Brahms' sensual Ballades with Liszt's challenging transcription of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony.

**Tickets:** \$40–125 (prices subject to change)

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**Saturday, November 23, 8pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**

*Recital*

[Maxim Vengerov, violin](#)

**Polina Osetinskaya, piano**

**Program:**

C. Schumann/Three Romances for Violin and Piano, Op. 22

Brahms/Scherzo from *F-A-E Sonata*

R. Schumann/Violin Sonata No. 3 in A minor

Prokofiev/Five Melodies, Op. 35

Violin Sonata No. 2 in D major, Op. 94a

Virtuosity and expressiveness have been the hallmarks of 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 an international career that has included prestigious posts as a conductor and educator. Vengerov returns to Cal Performances with his frequent collaborator pianist Polina Osetinskaya.

**Tickets:** \$40–\$125 (prices subject to change)

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**Sunday, November 24, 1pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**

**Sunday, November 24, 5pm**

*Family*

**Disney Concerts Presents**

[Encanto: The Sing-Along Film Concert](#)

**Program:**

Disney's animated feature *Encanto* comes to life in an interactive performance and screening featuring live music by Banda de la Casita. 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. Audiences are invited to dress up as their favorite characters and sing along with chart-topping hits like “We Don’t Talk About Bruno” and “Surface Pressure.”

**Tickets:** \$40–\$92 (prices subject to change)

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**Saturday, November 30, 2pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**

**Saturday, November 30, 8pm**

**Sunday, December 1, 3pm**

*Dance / Family*

[Pilobolus](#)

*re:CREATION*

**Program:**

For over five decades, the dancers and acrobats of Pilobolus have entranced audiences with their unique version of dance theater. Contorting, bending, and partnering to transform themselves into a phantasmagoria of animals, spirits, and monsters, the Pilobolus dancers tell otherworldly stories through the strength and precision of their bodies, enhanced by magical stage effects. In this retrospective production, the boundaries of gravity and creativity blur, offering an intimate window into the essence of the creative process.

**Tickets:** \$36–\$86 (prices subject to change)

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DECEMBER 2024

**Saturday, December 14, 8pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**

**Sunday, December 15, 3pm**

*Dance / Family*

[Dorrance Dance](#)

**Michelle Dorrance, Hannah Heller, Josette Wiggan/*The Nutcracker Suite*** (Bay Area)

Premiere) (music: Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn's interpretation of the Tchaikovsky score)

**Program:**

Tap dance meets jazz rhythms in Dorrance Dance's production of this holiday classic. Danced to Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn's jazz interpretation 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. Along with collaborators Hannah Heller and Josette Wiggan, artistic director Michelle Dorrance gives the ballet's pageant of national dances a 21st-century twist as the Sugar Plum Fairy transforms into a slinky Sugar Rum Cherry and the "March of the Toy Soldiers" becomes a swinging brass "Peanut Brittle Brigade" romp, among other creative inventions..

**Tickets:** \$35–\$105 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, December 15, 3pm

Hertz Hall

*Recital*

[Asmik Grigorian, soprano](#)

Lukas Geniušas, *piano*

**Program:**

Tchaikovsky/Средь шумного бала (Amid the Din of the Ball), Op. 38, No. 3

Снова, как прежде (Again, As Before, Alone), Op. 73, No. 6

Нет, только тот, кто знал (None but the Lonely Heart), Op. 6, No. 6

Слеза дрожит (A Tear Trembles), Op. 6, No. 4

Благословляю вас, леса (I Bless You, Forests), Op. 47, No. 5

Не спрашивай (Do Not Ask), Op. 57, No. 3

Romance in F minor, Op. 5

Scherzo humoristique, Op. 19, No. 2

Rachmaninoff/В молчаньи ночи тайной (In the Silence of the Secret Night),

Op.4, No. 3

Не пой, красавица (Do Not Sing, My Beauty) Op. 4, No. 4

Дитя! Как цветок, ты прекрасна (Child! Thou Art as Beautiful as a Flower), Op. 8, No. 2

Сон (The Dream), Op. 8, No. 5

Весенние воды (Spring Waters), Op. 14, No. 11

О, не грусти! (Oh, Do Not Grieve!), Op. 14, No. 8

Я жду тебя (I Wait for Thee), Op. 14, No. 1

Preludes, Op. 32, Nos.12 & 13

Сумерки (Twilight), Op. 21, No. 3

Здесь хорошо (How Fair this Spot), Op. 21, No. 7

Мы отдохнём (Let Us Rest), Op. 26, No. 3

Диссонанс (Dissonance), Op. 34, No. 13

Having sung lead roles in *Madama Butterfly*, *Jenůfa*, and *Salome* in recent seasons, soprano Asmik Grigorian makes her West Coast debut at Cal Performances in an all-Russian-language recital, performing rarely heard songs—“small pieces of opera in a few minutes,” she calls them—by Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff. She is joined by her frequent collaborator, pianist Lukas Geniušas.

**Tickets:** \$78 (prices subject to change)

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**Saturday, December 21, 5pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**

*Vocal Celebration*

[San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus](#)

*Holiday Spectacular!*

**Program:**

The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus invites audiences to celebrate the Christmas season with *Holiday Spectacular!* The ensemble pulls out all the stops in this 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; as well as humorous parodies.

**Tickets:** \$40–92 (prices subject to change)

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JANUARY 2025

**Saturday, January 18, 8pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**

*Jazz / Percussion*

[Antonio Sánchez](#)

[Birdman LIVE](#)

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

**Program:**

In Alejandro Iñárritu's 2014 film *Birdman*, Antonio Sánchez' drumming served as a companion, counterweight, and commentary on the psychological turmoil of Michael Keaton's character. Sánchez' largely improvised solo drumming won a Grammy for Best Score Soundtrack (as well as a BAFTA and a Critic's Choice Award), and the film won the Oscar for Best Picture. In this special screening and concert, Sánchez celebrates the film's 10th anniversary with a live solo performance.

**Tickets:** \$36–\$86 (prices subject to change)

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Sunday, January 19, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall

*Early Music*

[Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment](#)

[Julia Bullock, soprano](#)

**Program:**

Handel/Overture from *Music for the Royal Fireworks*

“Verdi prati” from *Alcina*

Vivaldi/Concerto in E major, Op. 8, No. 1, *Spring* (from *The Four Seasons*)

Bach/“Schafe können sicher weiden” from BWV 208

Handel/“La Paix” from *Music for the Royal Fireworks*

“The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba” from *Solomon*, HWV 67

“Da tempeste il legno infranto” from *Giulio Cesare in Egitto*, HWV 17

Strozzi/Che si può fare?, Op. 8

Lully/“Marche pour la cérémonie des Turcs” from *Le Bourgeois gentilhomme*

Purcell/“If Love’s a Sweet Passion” from *The Fairy Queen*

Rameau/“Les sauvages” from *Les Indes galantes*

J.S. Bach/Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G Major, BWV 1048

Handel/“Let the Bright Seraphim” from *Samson*, HWV 57

Pachelbel/Canon in D major

Handel/“La Réjouissance” from *Music for the Royal Fireworks*

For this performance, her second engagement of the season, artist in residence Julia Bullock is joined by the famed period-instrument ensemble the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. 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 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.

**Tickets:** \$56–\$86 (prices subject to change)

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Saturday, January 25, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Sunday, January 26, 3pm

*Family / Percussion*

[KODO](#)

**One Earth Tour 2025: *Warabe***

**Program:**

In its latest creation, *Warabe*, famed *taiko* troupe Kodo goes back to the roots of the artform, exploring 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.

**Tickets:** \$42–\$106 (prices subject to change)

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**Saturday, January 25, 8pm**

**Hertz Hall**

**Sunday, January 26, 3pm**

*Orchestra/Chamber Music*

**[Takács Quartet with Jeremy Denk, piano](#)**

**Program:**

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

The Takács Quartet performs two riveting concert programs in Berkeley this season. (The second one takes place on Sunday, February 16.) For this first performance, 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 a popular favorite among Berkeley audiences.

**Tickets:** \$110 (prices subject to change)

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**FEBRUARY 2025**

**Saturday, February 1, 8pm**

**Hertz Hall**

*New Music*

**[Eco Ensemble](#)**

***Best of Berkeley***

**David Milnes, director**

**Program:**

The UC Berkeley Department of Music’s ensemble in residence devotes its winter concert to works by alumni of the university’s prestigious composition program. 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. In this performance, 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.

**Tickets:** \$36 (prices subject to change)

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**Sunday, February 2, 3pm**

**Hertz Hall**

*Orchestra/Chamber Music*

**Danish String Quartet**

**Program:**

Caroline Shaw/*Entr'acte*

Haydn/Andante from String Quartet in F major, Op.77, No.2

Stravinsky/Three Pieces for String Quartet

O'Carolan/Three Melodies:

*Mabel Kelly*

*Planxty Kelly*

*Carolan's Quarrel with the Landlady*

Shostakovich/String Quartet No. 15, Op. 144

The Danish String Quartet returns to Berkeley with a program of Caroline Shaw's *Entr'acte* paired with a selection from the Haydn quartet that inspired it. Additionally, 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.

**Tickets:** \$92 (prices subject to change)

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**Wednesday, February 5, 7:30pm,**

**Zellerbach Hall**

*Jazz*

**Samara Joy**

**Program:**

Fresh out of music school but with a deep foundation in gospel music, the wildly talented vocalist Samara Joy has 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.

**Tickets:** \$45–\$110 (prices subject to change)

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**Friday, February 7, 8pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**

**Saturday, February 8, 8pm**

**Sunday, February 9, 3pm**

*Dance / Percussion*

[Twyla Tharp Dance](#)

**Diamond Jubilee**

**Featuring Third Coast Percussion**

**Program:**

Twyla Tharp/*Diabelli* (music: Beethoven's *Diabelli Variations*)

New Work (music: new arrangements of music from Philip Glass' *Aguas da Amazonia*)

Choreographer Twyla Tharp celebrates 60 years of crafting strikingly original, accessible, and 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 *Aguas da Amazonia* and reflects on the crisis of climate change. Tharp also revives *Diabelli*, her 1998 triumph that challenges 11 dancers and a live pianist to embody Beethoven's *Diabelli Variations*.

**Tickets:** \$42–\$120 (prices subject to change)

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**Sunday, February 9, 3 pm**

**Hertz Hall**

*Orchestra/Chamber Music*

[Wu Han, piano](#)

[Arnaud Sussmann, violin](#)

[David Finckel, cello](#)

**Program:**

Haydn/Piano Trio in E major, Hob. XV:28

Shostakovich/Piano Trio No. 2 in E minor, Op. 67

Mendelssohn/Piano Trio No. 2 in C minor, Op. 66

Cellist David Finckel and pianist 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 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.

**Tickets:** \$86 (prices subject to change)

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Sunday, February 16, 3pm

Hertz Hall

*Orchestra/Chamber Music*

Takács Quartet

**Program:**

Haydn/String Quartet in C major, Op. 54, No. 2, *Tost*

Britten/String Quartet No. 2 in C major, Op. 36

Beethoven/String Quartet in F major, Op. 59, No. 1, *Razumovsky*

This, the second Takács Quartet concert at Cal Performances this season, 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. (The previous performance takes place on January 26.)

**Tickets:** \$98 (prices subject to change)

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Saturday, February 22, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

Sunday, February 23, 3pm

*Dance*

Batsheva Dance Company

*MOMO*

**Program:**

Ohad Naharin/*MOMO* (Bay Area Premiere) (music: Laurie Anderson and Kronos Quartet, from the album *Landfall*; *Metamorphosis II* by Philip Glass; *Madre Acapella* by Arca; Maxim Waratt)

Choreographer Ohad Naharin and powerhouse dance company Batsheva come to Berkeley for the Bay Area premiere of a new 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 Philip Glass’ *Metamorphosis II* provide the slow simmering musical backdrop, alongside *Madre Acapella*, a song/prayer by Venezuelan musician Arca, and additional music by Naharin himself under the moniker Maxim Waratt.

**Tickets:** \$42–\$108 (prices subject to change)

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Sunday, February 23, 3pm

Hertz Hall

*Orchestra/Chamber Music*

Hagen Quartet

**Program:**

Haydn/String Quartet in G major, Op. 54, No. 1

String Quartet in E major, Op. 54, No. 3

R. Schumann/String Quartet in A major, Op. 41, No. 3

Among Europe's most enduring and admired string quartets, the Hagen Quartet returns to Cal Performances for the first time in more than a quarter of a century with a formidable program of works by Haydn and Schumann. In its 40-year history, the Hagen has earned a reputation for performances of exceptional refinement and ensemble cohesion.

**Tickets:** \$86 (prices subject to change)

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Friday, February 28, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall

*Vocal Celebration*

*This Land Is Our Land*

**Featuring Martha Redbone Roots Project and American Patchwork Quartet**

**Martha Redbone**, *guitar and vocals*

**Clay Ross**, *guitar and vocals*

**Falguni Shah**, *vocals*

**Yasushi Nakamura**, *bass*

**Ocie Davis**, *drums*

**Program:**

Roots music singer and songwriter Martha Redbone lends her 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.

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

**Tickets:** \$36–\$86 (prices subject to change)

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MARCH 2025

**Saturday, March 1, 8pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**

*Vocal Celebration*

**Ladysmith Black Mambazo**

**Program:**

Beloved South African vocal group Ladysmith Black Mambazo returns to Zellerbach Hall to perform its iconic 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. Nelson Mandela famously cited the group's music as a source of strength and inspiration during his imprisonment.

**Tickets:** \$36–\$86 (prices subject to change)

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**Sunday, March 2, 3pm**

**Hertz Hall**

*Orchestra/Chamber Music*

**Brentano String Quartet**

**Program:**

Beethoven/String Quartet in B-flat major, Op. 18, No. 6  
Lei Liang/New Work (Bay Area Premiere)  
Brahms/String Quartet No. 3 in B-flat major, Op. 67

Returning to Berkeley after a long absence, the Brentano String Quartet has been at the vanguard of American chamber music for more than 30 years. Their concert program includes Beethoven's early Quartet in B-flat major, with its 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.

**Tickets:** \$74 (prices subject to change)

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**Wednesday, March 5, 7:30pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**

**Thursday, March 6, 7:30pm**

**Friday, March 7, 7pm**

*Orchestra/Chamber Music*

**Maria Manetti Shrem and Elizabeth Segerstrom California Orchestra Residency**

**Vienna Philharmonic**

**Yannick Nézet-Séguin, conductor**

**Program:**

Wed, Mar 5

Mozart/Symphony No. 41 in C major, K. 551, *Jupiter*

Mahler/Symphony No. 1 in D major

Thu, Mar 6

Schubert/Symphony No. 4 in C minor, D. 417, *Tragic*

Dvořák/Symphony No. 9 in E minor, Op. 95, *From the New World*

Fri, Mar 7

**with Yefim Bronfman, piano**

Beethoven/Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor, Op. 37

R. Strauss/*Ein Heldenleben*, Op. 40

The Vienna Philharmonic returns to Berkeley for three concerts 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, the Grammy-winning Nézet-Séguin also leads the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, and was musical advisor for the Leonard Bernstein biopic *Maestro*, for which he additionally recorded the soundtrack.

**Tickets:** \$50–\$225 (prices subject to change)

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**Friday, March 7, 5:30 pm**

**Location to be Announced**

*Gala Celebration*

**[Cal Performances' 2025 Gala with the Vienna Philharmonic](#)**

**Program:**

5:30pm Cocktails and Light Bites

7pm Performance

9pm Reception and Dinner

Cal Performances hosts a gala evening with the Vienna Philharmonic with all proceeds supporting Cal Performances' artistic initiatives and education programs. More information will be available at a later date. For questions, contact Cal Performances' Development Office at 510.642.8653 or [donate@calperformances.org](mailto:donate@calperformances.org).

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**Saturday, March 8, 8pm**

**Zellerbach Playhouse**

*New Music*

[yMusic Performs a World Premiere by Gabriella Smith](#) (World Premiere, Cal Performances Co-Commission)

**Program:**

yMusic continues its long collaborative relationship with composer and Berkeley native, Gabriella Smith, with an ambitious new project co-commissioned by Cal Performances. A composer with an ecologist's soul, 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.

**Tickets:** \$48 (prices subject to change)

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**Sunday, March 9, 3pm**

**Hertz Hall**

*Recital*

[Benjamin Beilman, violin](#)

**Steven Osborne, piano**

**Program:**

C. Schumann/Three Romances for Violin and Piano, Op. 22

Brahms/Violin Sonata in G major, Op. 78, *Regensonne*

L. Boulanger/Two Pieces for Violin and Piano

Franck/Violin Sonata in A major

Critically acclaimed violinist Benjamin Beilman made his debut in the Berkeley Symphony's 2018 season opening concert performing Jennifer Higdon's Violin Concerto. He returns to Zellerbach Hall for his Cal Performances debut with a recital that explores influence and inspiration between the composers Clara Schumann and Brahms, as well as performs works by French composers Lili Boulanger and César Franck.

**Tickets:** \$68 (prices subject to change)

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**Thursday, March 13, 7:30pm**

**Zellerbach Playhouse**

*Jazz*

[Sullivan Fortner Trio](#)

**Program:**

Over the past decade, pianist Sullivan Fortner has developed a 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. Fortner's most recent release is a solo record that showcases the breadth of his artistry, featuring original compositions alongside classics by Stevie Wonder, Antonio Carlos Jobim, Kurt Weill, and Duke Ellington. Cal Performances audiences will recall his role as a sideman with Salvant at her January 2024 Zellerbach Hall concert, and with this performance he makes his Cal Performances debut as a bandleader with a hard-swinging trio of like-minded talents.

**Tickets:** \$68 (prices subject to change)

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**Friday, March 14, 8pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**

**Saturday, March 15, 8pm**

**Sunday, March 16, 3pm**

*Theater*

[William Kentridge's \*The Great Yes, The Great No\*](#) (Bay Area Premiere; Cal Performances Co-commission)

**William Kentridge**, *concept and director*

**Nhlanhla Mahlangu**, *associate director and choral composer*

**Phala O. Phala**, *associate director*

**Tlale Makhene**, *music director*

**Mwenya Kabwe**, *dramaturg*

**Program:**

Internationally acclaimed for his visual art and theater productions, South African artist William Kentridge returns to UC Berkeley 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 Wifredo Lam—and imaginatively adds a distinguished and colorful cast of characters to the passenger list, like Aimé Césaire, Josephine Baker, Leon Trotsky, and Joseph Stalin.

In Kentridge's hands, the ship becomes a fantastical menagerie of thinkers, makers, and revolutionaries in a production that merges real-life events with lush South African choral music, dance, poetry, and anti-rational approaches to language and image. Kentridge's 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.

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

**Tickets:** \$48–\$120 (prices subject to change)

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**Sunday, March 16, 3pm**

**Hertz Hall**

*Recital*

[Evren Ozel](#), *piano*

***Music of the Night***

**Program:**

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 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.

**Tickets:** \$68 (prices subject to change)

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**Wednesday, March 19, 7:30pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**

*Early Music*

[Les Arts Florissants](#)

with Théotime Langlois de Swarte, *violin*

***Vivaldi’s The Four Seasons at 300***

**Program:**

Monteverdi/*Adoramus te, Christe*, SV 289 (transcription)

Vivaldi/Concerto for Strings in D minor, *Madrigalesco*, RV 129

Uccellini/*Aria sopra la Bergamasca*, Op. 3

Vivaldi/Concerto in D minor, RV 813

Geminiani/Concerto Grosso No. 12 in D minor, *La Follia* (after Corelli)

Vivaldi/ Violin Concertos, Op. 8, Nos. 1–4, *The Four Seasons*  
Overture to *La fida ninfa*, RV 714  
Grave from Violin Concerto in B-flat major, RV 370

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*. The spirited violinist Théotime Langlois de Swarte joins period instrument ensemble Les Arts Florissants for a concert honoring Vivaldi's enduring work in its 300th birthday year, alongside gems by his peers and predecessors Monteverdi, Uccellini, and Geminiani.

**Tickets:** \$76–\$106 (prices subject to change)

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**Friday, March 21, 8pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**

*World Music / Percussion*

[\*\*Zakir Hussain and Masters of Percussion\*\*](#)

**Program:**

Zakir Hussain has performed with a Who's Who of the music world: Edgar Meyer, Béla Fleck, Herbie Hancock, George Harrison, Van Morrison, Earth, Wind & Fire, John McLaughlin, Mickey Hart, Kronos Quartet, Yo-Yo Ma, and more. A prolific musician, the tabla virtuoso has brought the ecstatic rhythms of Indian classical music to the farthest corners of the globe, connecting his own musical traditions to an array of pop, rock, and folk genres. This latest edition of his Masters of Percussion program brings a dynamic cast of virtuoso performers, to be announced at a later date, to the Zellerbach Hall stage.

**Tickets:** \$38–\$86 (prices subject to change)

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**Sunday, March 23, 3pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**

*Orchestra/ Chamber Music*

[\*\*Mahler Chamber Orchestra\*\*](#)

**Mitsuko Uchida**, *piano and director*

**José Maria Blumenschein**, *concertmaster and leader*

**Program:**

Mozart/Piano Concerto in B-flat major, K. 456

Janáček/*Mládí*

Mozart/ Piano Concerto in C major, K. 467



The Mahler Chamber Orchestra returns with pianist Mitsuko Uchida, continuing a multiyear collaboration to bring Mozart's piano concertos to Berkeley audiences. These 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 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."

**Tickets:** \$50–\$175 (prices subject to change)

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APRIL 2025

**Tuesday, April 1, 7:30pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**

*Recital*

[Leif Ove Andsnes, piano](#)

**Program:**

Grieg/Piano Sonata in E minor, Op. 7

Tveitt/Piano Sonata, Op. 129, *Sonata Etere*

Chopin/24 Preludes, Op. 28

Known for his commanding technique and searching interpretations, the Norwegian virtuoso pianist Leif Ove Andsnes has a special affinity for the music of his homeland. In this performance, he 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.

**Tickets:** \$68–\$96 (prices subject to change)

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**Friday, April 4, 8pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**

*Theater*

[Story Boldly's \*Defining Courage\*](#)

**An Immersive Live Event**

**Program:**

*Defining Courage* commemorates the struggles and sacrifices of the Nisei soldiers of World War II through vivid cinematography, live music, eyewitness interviews, and 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 in incarceration 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.”

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

**Tickets:** \$36–\$86 (prices subject to change)

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**Saturday, April 5, 8pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**

*Vocal Celebration*

**[Patti LuPone](#)**

**Joseph Thalken, *piano***

***Songs from a Hat***

**Program:**

In a 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 career, LuPone has earned three Tony Awards, two Olivier Awards, and two Grammys, all confirming her uncommon talent and popularity. The program will feature songs from the musicals that made her a household name, such as *Evita*, *Gypsy*, *Company*, and *Les Misérables*, woven together with stories from her life in the limelight.

**Tickets:** \$52–\$185 (prices subject to change)

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**Tuesday, April 8, 7:30pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**

**Wednesday, April 9, 7:30pm**

**Thursday, April 10, 7:30pm**

**Friday, April 11, 8pm**

**Saturday, April 12, 2pm**

**Saturday, April 12, 8pm**

**Sunday, April 13, 3pm**

*Dance*

**[Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#)**

**Program:**

Strength, precision, and passion remain the hallmarks of the 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.

**Tickets:** \$45–\$158 (prices subject to change)

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**Sunday, April 13, 3pm**

**Hertz Hall**

*Orchestra/Chamber Music*

[Owls](#)

**Alexi Kenney**, *violin*

**Ayane Kozasa**, *viola*

**Gabriel Cabezas**, *cello*

**Paul Wiancko**, *cello*

**Program:**

Corea/*Children's Song No. 12*

Paul Wiancko/*Vox Petra*

*When the Night*

Franghiz Ali-Zadeh/*Rəqs*

Couperin/*Les Barricades Mystérieuses*

Trollstilt/*Ricercar*

Terry Riley/"Good Medicine" (from *Salome Dances for Peace*)

Owls is a 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 instrumentation of two cellos, one violin, and one viola. 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 (Monica Mugan and Dan Trueman), and French Baroque composer François Couperin.

**Tickets:** \$74 (prices subject to change)

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**Friday, April 25, 8pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**

**Saturday, April 26, 8pm**

*Dance*

**Grupo Corpo**

***21 and Gira***

**Program:**

Rodrigo Pederneiras/*21* (Bay Area Premiere; music: Marco Antônio Guimarães & Uakti)

*Gira* (Bay Area Premiere; music: Metá Metá)

Brazil's Grupo Corpo performs its Cal Performances debut with two works that showcase the dance company's distinctive style, rooted in classical ballet but enriched by folk and popular dance. Under the artistic direction of choreographer Rodrigo Pederneiras' brother Paulo 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 saxophone. *Note: This performance contains nudity.*

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

**Tickets:** \$38–\$98 (prices subject to change)

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**Sunday, April 27, 3pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**

*Early Music*

**The English Concert**

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

**Harry Bicket, conductor**

**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)

**Program:**

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. British soprano Louise Alder sings the seductive central role of Cleopatra, opposite French countertenor Christophe Dumaux as her Caesar.

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

**Tickets:** \$44–\$132 (prices subject to change)

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MAY 2025

**Friday, May 2, 8pm** **First Congregational Church**  
(Also known as First Church)

*Early Music*

**[The Tallis Scholars](#)**

***Palestrina 500***

**Peter Phillips, *director***

**Program:**

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 spiritual works represent the peak of Italian polyphony. The 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.

**Tickets:** \$68–\$96 (prices subject to change)

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**Friday, May 9, 8pm** **Zellerbach Hall**  
**Saturday, May 10, 8pm**  
**Sunday, May 11, 3pm**

*Dance*

**[Mark Morris Dance Group](#)**

***Pepperland*** (Cal Performances Co-commission)

**Program:**

Mark Morris, choreography  
Ethan Iverson, composer

Mark Morris Dance Group presents its romp through the Beatles' groundbreaking concept album, *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*. Bursting with energy and creativity, neon costumes, and ensemble numbers, the playful and often poignant production features a score of Beatles arrangements plus originals by longtime Morris musical collaborator Ethan Iverson for an ensemble of voice, theremin, soprano sax, trombone, and keyboards.

**Tickets:** \$42–\$148 (prices subject to change)

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**PRESS CONTACT:**

Louisa Spier  
Cal Performances  
Media Relations Manager  
(510) 643-6714  
lspier@calperformances.org