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[Press Room](#)



Photos of Alexi Kenney are available for download from the online press kit [here](#).  
A video of Kenney performing Bach's Largo from the Sonata No. 3 in C major, BWV 1005 can be viewed [here](#).  
Alexi Kenney speaks on camera about returning to the Bay Area for his Cal Performances debut [here](#).

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS  
ALEXI KENNEY, VIOLIN  
IN *SHIFTING GROUND*  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26  
AT HERTZ HALL**

**Berkeley, February 1, 2023**—Violinist Alexi Kenney makes his Cal Performances debut in a solo recital highlighting the spiritual and mystical dimensions of Bach's music on Sunday, February 26 at 3pm in Hertz Hall. Kenney, the recipient of a Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award and an Avery Fisher Career Grant, enjoys melding the new with the old, the familiar with the undiscovered. The Chaconne from Bach's Partita in D minor is situated at the center of this recital, illuminating recent works for solo violin (with and without electronics) including two being given their California premieres by a host of contemporary composers. The title *Shifting Ground* references the heart of all Baroque music—the omnipresent ground bass—upon which variations are built.

Kenney explains his inspiration for choosing the repertoire he'll play in this performance, "I must have been about 10 years old when I first heard the Bach Chaconne, introduced to me by my then-teacher Jenny Rudin. I remember being first overwhelmed by its magnitude, its complexity, its difficulty; then enchanted by its mysterious power to hold me enraptured and transported for a full 13 minutes. Over the years, the Chaconne has come to occupy maybe the biggest and most important place of any piece of music in my life: it continues to be the piece I turn to to get myself back into playing shape after taking breaks away from the violin; it provides a meditative landscape for me to think through creative thoughts; and, several years ago now, it was the only way that

seemed to make sense to process the death of the same teacher who had taught it to me all those years ago.

Through my lifetime of loving the Chaconne came the idea that inspired the *Shifting Ground* program in this concert: Bach is connected to everything. Beyond his music’s most important capacity to speak straight to the soul, Bach’s influence ripples through time and transcends genre. The structures, harmonies, and counterpoint he mastered are present in just about every genre of music we listen to today, and certainly have lived in the consciousness of almost all classical composers and performers who came after him.”

Executive and artistic director of Cal Performances Jeremy Geffen says of presenting Alexi Kenney on the season, “One of the ways Cal Performances advances the needs of the arts and arts lovers is providing a platform to performers and creators in whom we see enormous potential at nascent stages of their careers. Alexi Kenney is a perfect example of an artist whose considerable musical curiosity combines with formidable technical mastery that empowers him to share with our audiences who he is as a musician. I could not be more proud to introduce him to Cal Performances audiences, especially in a program that so clearly demonstrates his insatiable musical appetite.”

**WHO**            Alexi Kenney, *violin*

**WHAT**            *Shifting Ground*

J.S. Bach/Adagio, from Sonata No. 1 in G minor, BWV 1001 (1720)  
George Enescu/“Le Ménétrier,” from *Impressions d’Enfance*, Op. 28 (1940)  
Bach/Allemande from Partita in D minor, BWV 1004 (1720)  
Paul Wiancko/Allemande from *X Suite for Solo Violin* (2019)  
Du Yun/*Under a Tree, an Udatta*, for violin and tape (2016)  
Angélica Négron/*The Violinist* for violin and electronics, story by Ana Fabrega  
(2023, California Premiere)  
Bach/Allemande and Double, from Partita No. 1 in B minor, BWV 1002 (1720)  
Steve Reich/*Violin Phase*, for live-looped violin (1967)  
Bach/Grave, from Sonata No. 2 in A minor, BWV 1003 (1720)  
Nicola Matteis/*Alla Fantasia* (c. 1700)  
Salina Fisher/*Hikari*, for solo violin (2023, California Premiere)  
Bach/Largo, from Sonata No. 3 in C Major, BWV 1005 (1720)  
Matthew Burtner/Elegy, from *Muir Glacier* (1889-2009), for violin and glacier  
sonification (2017/2020)  
Anonymous/*Nitida Stella* (c. 1600) (arr. Alexi Kenney for solo violin)  
Bach/Chaconne from Partita No. 2 in D minor, BWV 1004 (1720)

**WHEN**            Sunday, February 26, 3pm

- WHERE** Hertz Hall, 101 Cross-Sproul Path, UC Berkeley campus
- TICKETS** \$62 (prices subject to change). 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. UC Berkeley students can access exclusive discounts, including half-price tickets in all sections of the theater and—new this year—\$10 tickets for select events for a limited number of prime seats in the theater, as part of Cal Performances’ Golden Bear Circle program. 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).
- COVID-19** The latest information on Cal Performances’ COVID-19 safety policies is available at [calperformances.org/safety](http://calperformances.org/safety).