

CONTACT: **Louisa Spier**  
(510) 643-6714  
lspier@calperformances.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 5, 2022  
[Press Room](#)



Photos of Gustavo Dudamel, esperanza spalding, and Encuentros Orchestra are available for download from the [online press kit](#).

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS  
GUSTAVO DUDAMEL CONDUCTING THE  
ENCUENTROS ORCHESTRA  
WITH SPECIAL GUEST ESPERANZA SPALDING  
THURSDAY AUGUST 4, 2022, AT 8PM  
AT THE HEARST GREEK THEATRE**

**Berkeley, July 5, 2022** —Cal Performances presents a special summer performance of [Gustavo Dudamel conducting the Encuentros Orchestra with special guest esperanza spalding on Thursday, August 4 at 8pm at UC Berkeley's Hearst Greek Theatre.](#)

Under the leadership of Gustavo Dudamel and María Valverde, the Dudamel Foundation and the Los Angeles Philharmonic will host their first *Encuentros* in the United States for two weeks in July and August. This summer music education and global leadership program for young orchestra musicians culminates in the performance at UC Berkeley's Greek Theatre. Dudamel created the idea of *Encuentros* (encounters) in 2018 as a way to explore cultural unity and celebrate harmony, equality, dignity, beauty, and respect through music, with the goal of inspiring and teaching a new generation of young leaders to work toward building a better world. This summer's *Encuentros* brings together over 100 young musicians (ages 18–26) from 34 youth orchestra and El Sistema-inspired programs in 22 countries to work together side-by-side with members of Youth Orchestra Los Angeles (YOLA), creating the Encuentros Orchestra. The August 4 concert in Berkeley will feature Dudamel and the orchestra performing Dvořák's Symphony No. 9, *From the New World* and the Bay Area

premiere of *Encuentro Obertura Festiva*, a new work by award-winning composer, trumpeter, and conductor Giancarlo Castro D'Addona.

A student of El Sistema, D'Addona has performed with the Simón Bolívar Brass Quintet and the Simón Bolívar Brass internationally. In September 2019, he became the conductor of the Reed College orchestra, and his works are performed all over the world.

Multi-Grammy-winning vocalist, bassist, and composer esperanza spalding—who recently took home a 2022 Grammy for Best Jazz Vocal Album—will join the Encuentros Orchestra with her trio for a performance of selected songs. spalding most recently performed at Cal Performances in ... (*Iphigenia*), an opera she co-created with jazz artist Wayne Shorter, which was presented in front of a sold-out audience at Zellerbach Hall in March.

Also returning to Cal Performances, Gustavo Dudamel is now in his thirteenth season as music and artistic director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic. A tireless advocate for arts education, he is known for his commitment to projects that demonstrate the capacity of art to transform the lives of children worldwide. His passion is fueled by his experience in Venezuela's El Sistema, a program initiated in 1975 by José Antonio Abreu with the goal of promoting social development through music education. El Sistema programs modeled on Maestro Abreu's vision are now active in over 100 countries, providing millions of young people around the world with free access to quality, intensive music education.

Gustavo Dudamel's Cal Performances engagements have been indicative of this commitment. His last UC Berkeley performance was in celebration of the tenth anniversary of YOLA, in a concert presented at Oakland's Paramount Theater in 2016. In 2015, he led the Simon Bolivar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela's residency in Berkeley, which was launched with a [performance](#) of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony at the Greek Theatre.

Cal Performances' COVID-19 safety protocols for this concert will be announced at a later date. Updates closer to the performance date can be found at [calperformances.org/safety-first](https://calperformances.org/safety-first).

###

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

#### **CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Thursday, August 4, 8pm**

#### ***Orchestra***

**Gustavo Dudamel conducts Encuentros Orchestra  
with special guest esperanza spalding**

**Greek Theatre**  
Gayley Road, UC Berkeley campus

#### **Program:**

Giancarlo Castro D’Addona/*Encuentro Obertura Festiva* (Bay Area Premiere)  
esperanza spalding/selected songs  
Dvořák/Symphony No. 9, *From the New World*

Under the leadership of Gustavo Dudamel and María Valverde, the Dudamel Foundation and the Los Angeles Philharmonic host their first US *Encuentros* (Encounters)—music education and global leadership program for young orchestra musicians—this summer, culminating in a performance at UC Berkeley’s Hearst Greek Theatre. The Encuentros Orchestra brings together over 100 young musicians (ages 18–26) from 34 youth orchestra and El Sistema-inspired programs in 22 countries to work together side-by-side with members of Youth Orchestra Los Angeles (YOLA) to create the Encuentros Orchestra. The concert will feature Dudamel and the orchestra performing Dvořák’s Symphony No. 9, *From the New World* and the Bay Area premiere of *Encuentro Obertura Festiva*, a new work by award-winning composer and El Sistema alum Giancarlo Castro D’Addona. Multi-Grammy-winning vocalist, bassist, and composer esperanza spalding—who recently took home a 2022 Grammy for Best Jazz Vocal Album—and her trio of Matthew Stevens, guitar; Eric Doob, drums; and Darrell Grant, piano join the orchestra for selected songs.

**Tickets:** \$35–150 (prices subject to change). Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. Tickets are available at [calperformances.org](https://calperformances.org) or by phone at (510) 642-9988.

**COVID-19:** COVID-19 safety protocols for this performance will be announced and ticketholders will be informed via email. Safety protocols will also be updated at [calperformances.org/safety-first](https://calperformances.org/safety-first).