

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

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[Press Room](#)



Photos of Joyce DiDonato are available for download from the online press kit [here](#).

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS
JOYCE DIDONATO: EDEN
SATURDAY, JANUARY 21
AT ZELLERBACH HALL**

Piedmont East Bay Children’s Choir joins DiDonato for a very special concert finale

Berkeley, January 10, 2023 — From the musical mind of storyteller, activist, and educator Joyce DiDonato comes EDEN, the mezzo-soprano’s latest project, co-commissioned by Cal Performances, exploring the majesty, mystery, and might of the natural world. As in her 2016 Cal Performances debut program *In War & Peace: Harmony Through Music*, DiDonato is joined by longtime partners, the early-music ensemble Il Pomo d’Oro for EDEN. The theatrical, semi-staged concert features music from the 17th to 21st centuries, including works by Handel, Gluck, Cavalli, Mahler, Ives, and Copland. Oscar-winning British composer Rachel Portman composed a new work specially for the project, setting a text by American poet Gene Scheer for *The First Morning of the World*.

More than just a concert, DiDonato’s EDEN is also an initiative uniting education, drama, and music, working with international environmental and education organizations. The concerts are experiential and community-focused and for each performance, DiDonato has invited local youth

choirs to join her onstage. Thus far, over 800 children worldwide have performed in *EDEN*. In Berkeley DiDonato and Il Pomo d'Oro will be joined by the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir under the direction of Eric Tuan for the concert's surprise finale. Teaching artist Risa Lenore, appointed by DiDonato's engagement program team will meet with the choristers prior to the performance for a workshop about the natural world with a focus on climate action and issues, exploring San Francisco Bay's ecological history through artwork and hands-on puppetry.

Joyce DiDonato's recording of *EDEN* was released in February 2022 and has been nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Classical Solo Vocal Album. *EDEN* also received the 2022 Opus Klassik Award for Solo Vocal Recording of the Year. DiDonato's other honors include a 2018 Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Opera; *Gramophone's* Artist of the Year and Recital of the Year awards; three German Echo Klassik Awards as Female Singer of the Year; and an induction into the *Gramophone* Hall of Fame. She was Carnegie Hall's 2019–20 Perspectives Artist with appearances including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under Riccardo Muti and Schubert's *Winterreise* in recital with Yannick Nézet-Séguin, and in late 2022 starred at the Metropolitan Opera alongside Renée Fleming and Kelli O'Hara in Kevin Puts' *The Hours*.

Joyce DiDonato most recently performed at Zellerbach Hall in February 2019 in a concert of her then current recording, *Songplay*, which brought together musicians from the varied worlds of opera, jazz, and tango for musical improvisation, experimentation, and exchange. During the pandemic she was one of only three guest curators of Cal Performances' executive and artistic director Jeremy Geffen's over 60-installment "Now More than Ever" performing arts video playlists that are still available for viewing on Cal Performances' website. Joyce DiDonato's episode can be streamed [here](#). A longtime fan of hers, Geffen shared, "Besides being a vocalist and musician celebrated around the world for her artistry, Joyce DiDonato is determined to leave this world better than she found it, using her artistic gifts and her platform for good both within and outside the auditorium. *EDEN* is as much a love-letter to the natural world as it is an artistic journey, and through the generosity of her expression in this multimedia project, not to mention the sheer beauty of her singing, she sets an example for everyone who experiences the project that the responsibility for nature lies with each of us."

- WHO** Joyce DiDonato, *executive producer and mezzo-soprano*
Il Pomo d'Oro
Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir
Eric Tuan, *director*
Zefira Valova, *conductor*
Marie Lambert-Le Bihan, *stage director*
John Torres, *lighting designer*
- WHAT** EDEN (music: including works by Handel, Gluck, Cavalli, Mahler, Ives, Copland, and Rachel Portman; Cal Performances co-commission)
- WHEN** Saturday, January 21, 8pm
- WHERE** Zellerbach Hall, Bancroft Way at Dana Street, UC Berkeley campus
- TICKETS** \$36–\$86 (prices subject to change). Available at 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. Information about student tickets and discounts is available at calperformances.org/ucb-students. For information about other discounts, visit calperformances.org/discounts.
- COVID-19** The latest information about Cal Performances' COVID-19 safety policies is available at calperformances.org/safety.