

Cal Performances announces 2009-10 season

Joshua Kosman, Chronicle Music Critic
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Theatrical presentations by Shakespeare's Globe Theatre and Druid Ireland, recitals by sopranos Christine Brewer and Renée Fleming, and the American premiere of "A House in Bali," composer Evan Ziporyn's dance opera about the life of composer and ethnomusicologist Colin McPhee, are among the highlights of the 2009-10 season of Cal Performances.

The season, planned by outgoing Director Robert Cole, will begin Sept. 17-20 with a program by the Mark Morris Dance Group and conclude May 7-8 with Laurie Anderson's new multimedia work "Two-Sided Plays."

Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra are scheduled to return, as are the Merce Cunningham Dance Company and the Suzanne Farrell Ballet. Debuting artists include pianist Louis Lortie and the Albanian tenor Saimir Pirgu.

The China Philharmonic Orchestra will perform, as will the Russian National Orchestra under founder and conductor Mikhail Pletnev. Among the world music offerings are appearances by Senegalese singer Youssou N'Dour and Angélique Kidjo from Benin.

Here is the 2009-10 performance schedule for Cal Performances. Performances take place in Zellerbach Hall unless otherwise indicated; other venues include Zellerbach Playhouse (ZP), Hertz Hall (HH), First Congregational Church (FCC) and Wheeler Auditorium (WA). (m) indicates matinee. For more information, call (510) 642-9988 or go to calperfs.berkeley.edu.

Sept. 17-20 - Mark Morris Dance Group; Morris' "Empire Garden," "Visitation," "V."

Sept. 22 - Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra.

Sept. 26-27 - "A House in Bali"; Evan Ziporyn, composer; Paul Schick, libretto; Victoria Vaughan, director; Real Time Opera with Bang on a Can All-Stars.



Sept. 27 (m) (HH) - Christine Brewer, soprano, with pianist Craig Rutenberg.

Sept. 30 - Michael Pollan.

Oct. 11 (m) (HH) - Takács Quartet; Haydn, Shostakovich, Schumann.

Oct. 17 - Wayne Shorter Quartet.

Oct. 18 (m) (HH) - Michael Schade, tenor, with pianist Malcolm Martineau.

Oct 24 & 25 (m) (HH) - Davitt Moroney, harpsichord; Bach's "Well-Tempered Clavier."

Oct. 24 & 25 (m) - Suzanne Farrell Ballet.

Oct. 28 - Garrison Keillor.

Oct. 30 (WA) - Alfred Brendel.

Nov. 1 (m) (HH) - Louis Lortie, piano.

Nov. 4-8 - Shakespeare's Globe Theatre; "Love's Labour's Lost."

Nov. 8 (m) (HH) - Brentano String Quartet; Schubert, Britten.

Nov. 12 - Youssou N'Dour.

Nov. 15 (m) (HH) - Nuccia Focile, soprano; David Lomelí, tenor; with the Berkeley Symphony Orchestra conducted by Robert Cole.

Nov. 18-22 (ZP) - Druid Ireland; Enda Walsh's "The Walworth Farce."

Nov. 19 - Mariza.

Nov. 21 (WA) - Taylor Eigsti & Julian Lage Duo.

Nov. 22 (m) - China Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Long Yu; Yuja Wang, piano; Bao Yuankai, Rachmaninoff.

Dec. 4 (FCC) - The Tallis Scholars; Josquin, Nesbett, Tallis, Byrd.

Dec. 5 - Ira Glass.

Dec. 6 - Renée Fleming, soprano.

Dec. 11-20 - Mark Morris Dance Group; "The Hard Nut."

Dec. 13 (HH) - Kronos Quartet with cellist Joan Jeanrenaud.

Jan. 10 (m) - Garrick Ohlsson, piano; all-Chopin.

Jan. 23 (m) & 24 (m) - Peking Acrobats.

Jan. 23 (FCC) - Europa Galante with Fabio Biondi, director and violin; Telemann, Sammartini, Nardini, Corelli and Locatelli.

Feb. 13 - Masters of Persian Music.

Feb. 14 (m) (HH) - Takács Quartet; Haydn, Macmillan, Schumann.

Feb. 19 - Russian National Orchestra conducted by Mikhail Pletnev; Stefan Jackiw, violin; Lisa Delan, soprano; Pletnev, Tchaikovsky, Shostakovich.

Feb. 20 - Angélique Kidjo.

Feb. 21 (m) - Joshua Bell, violin.

Feb. 26 & 27 - Lyon Opera Ballet.

Feb. 28 (m) (HH) - Swedish Radio Choir; Ragnar Bohlin, guest conductor; Wikander, Hillborg, Mahler, Rorem, Martin.

March 6 (m) & 7 (m) - Dan Zanes & Friends.

March 9-14 - Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

March 16 (FCC) - Hespèrion XXI; Jordi Savall, director and viola da gamba.

March 17 - Gilberto Gil.

March 19 - Altan.

March 20 - Moscow State Radio Symphony Orchestra conducted by Robert Cole; Alexei Nabioulin, piano; Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, Rimsky-Korsakov.

March 21 (m) - Ian Bostridge, tenor, with pianist Julius Drake.

March 26 & 27 - Merce Cunningham Dance Company.

March 28 (m) (HH) - Julia Fischer, violin.

April 11 (m) (HH) - Saimir Pirgu, tenor.

April 20 - Baaba Maal.

April 22 - Sweet Honey in the Rock.

April 23 - Arlo Guthrie.

April 24 - Pat Metheny, guitar.

May 1 (FCC) - Concerto Köln; Bach, Sammartini, Vivaldi, Dauvergne.

May 2 (m) - Ballet Folklórico "Quetzalli" de Veracruz.

May 7 & 8 - Laurie Anderson; "Two-Sided Plays."

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<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/04/21/DD07174VGP.DTL>

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