About The Broad Stage’s 2020/21 Season Attractions

Birds in the Moon | WORLD PREMIERE (DATES, MOBILE PRODUCTION, DATES AND VENUES TBD) A new chamber opera by Mark Grey and Júlia Canosa i Serra; Directed by Elkhanah Pulitzer; Video Design by Deborah O’Grady; Production Design by Chad Owens. A story of urgency is told in this world premiere opera, a mobile production staged in a shipping container (which transforms into a state of the art, self-powered designed and engineered by Meyers Sound Lab). With live music, soundscapes, video projections and actors, Birds in the Moon considers the choices made by necessity in a world where water is scarce and migration has become a desperate flight in search of a better life. Performances are free and open to the public. Previously, The National Opera of Belgium La Monnaie|de Munt Opera commissioned an opera, based on Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein, to commemorate the novel’s 200th anniversary, from composer Mark Grey - a Walt Disney Concert Hall sound designer, intimate collaborator with composer John Adams, and Kronos Quartet tour sound designer for over a decade - and librettist Júlia Canosa i Serra. Grey has had works commissioned by or premiered at the LA Phil, New York Philharmonic, Carnegie Hall, and Kronos Quartet. Director Elkhanah Pulitzer’s projects include the premiere of David Lang’s prisoner of the state for the New York Philharmonic and Barbican Theatre, Leonard Bernstein’s MASS for the LA Phil and at Lincoln Center, Nixon in China for the LA Phil, John Adams’ The Gospel According to the Other Mary for San Francisco Symphony, Lucia di Lammermoor for LA Opera, the live tour of Esperanza Spalding’s album 12 Little Spells, and directing works for Lincoln Center Mostly Mozart Festival, San Francisco Symphony and Boston Lyric Opera.

Takács Quartet | BROAD STAGE DEBUT (January 15, 2021, Main Stage) Hailed as “arguably the greatest string quartet in the world” by The Guardian, the program features Haydn’s final quartet, Britten’s glorious and final completed work and Debussy’s beautiful lone quartet. Former Broad Stage resident artist Richard Yongjae O’Neill has joined them. Now entering its forty-fifth season, Takács is renowned for the vitality of its interpretations. Gramophone said, “To Debussy’s luminous String Quartet the Takács bring all their intelligence, skill, taste and virtuosity. While every measure of this performance affords pleasure, the pizzicato shower of the scherzo and the touching tenderness of the Andantino are special treats.”

The Stanley Clarke Band (January 16, 2021; Main Stage) Four-time GRAMMY® winner Stanley Clarke has attained “living legend” status during his 40-plus year career and makes The Broad Stage his Los Angeles home. Upon leaving the Philadelphia Musical Academy, Stanley made his way to New York City where he very quickly worked with such greats as Horace Silver, Art Blakey, Dexter Gordon, Gil Evans, and Stan Getz. He performed with Chick Corea in the groundbreaking jazz-rock fusion unit Return to Forever. The first bassist in history to double on acoustic and electric bass with equal ferocity, Clarke is one of the most celebrated bass players in the world. He became the first jazz-fusion bassist to headline tours, sell out shows worldwide and have his recordings reach gold status. Scoring an episode of Pee-Wee’s Playhouse got him an Emmy-nomination; he now has some 70 film and television credits now including Boyz ’N the Hood and What’s Love Got To Do With It? He was Rolling Stone magazine’s very first Jazzman of the Year and bassist winner of Playboy’s Music Award for ten straight years. In 2011, he received the prestigious Miles Davis Award.

Acrobuffos: Air Play | SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PREMIERE BROAD STAGE DEBUT (January 23, 2021; Main Stage) Umbrellas fly, fabrics soar, balloons swallow people and snow swirls, filling the stage. This visual poem, using no words, brings to life the very air that we breathe. Air Play from Acrobuffos is part comedy, part sculpture, part circus, and part theatre, all while transforming ordinary objects into uncommon beauty: you will feel as if you’ve stepped into an enchanted world where normal rules like gravity are suspended. Sydney Morning Herald said,
“★★★★ A joy from start to finish, Air Play will entrance children, and will act as a great reset button for stressed adults.” Air Play has been performed on five continents and seen by over 150,000. Seth Bloom and Christina Gelsone - who are Acrobuffos - are two clowns with a silent double act that develops through playful physical comedy sequences, that swell into shameless one-upmanship one moment, deflating into immature pranks the next. Spliced into the visual humor are Daniel Wurtzel's marvelous "air sculptures." Seth and Christina said, “Audiences tell us that the wonder and discovery of Air Play are bold reminders of their own childhood and growing up, of friendship, sibling rivalry, loss, and memory. umbrellas and glitter, and the effect is pure delight.”

Dianne Reeves, Chicho Valdés & Joe Lovano: DUETS | BROAD STAGE DEBUTS (February 4-5) (February Dates TBD; Main Stage) Three legends. Two nights. 12 GRAMMY® Awards. This all-star concert features the most influential figure in modern Afro-Cuban jazz, Chicho Valdés, sharing the stage for unforgettable duets with iconic vocalist Dianne Reeves and celebrated saxophonist Joe Lovano. Five-time GRAMMY® winner Dianne Reeves is the pre-eminent jazz vocalist in the world. Reeves received the GRAMMY® for Best Jazz Vocal Performance for three consecutive recordings – a GRAMMY® first in any vocal category. Featured in George Clooney’s six-time Academy Award nominated Good Night, and Good Luck, Reeves won the Best Jazz Vocal GRAMMY® for the film’s soundtrack. Reeves has recorded and performed with Wynton Marsalis and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under Barenboim, and appeared with Sir Simon Rattle and the Berlin Philharmonic. In 2018 the National Endowment for the Arts designated Reeves a Jazz Master.

Cuban pianist, composer, and arranger Chicho Valdés is the most influential figure in modern Afro-Cuban jazz. In a career spanning more than 60 years, both as a solo artist and bandleader, Valdés has distilled elements of the Afro-Cuban music tradition, jazz, classical music, rock, and more, into a deeply personal style. Winner of six GRAMMY® and four Latin GRAMMY® Awards, Valdés received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Latin Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences. Born in Quivicán, Dionisio Jesús "Chicho" Valdés Rodríguez debuted professionally in 1959 with the band Sabor de Cuba directed by his father. Valdés became the founder, pianist, composer and arranger of the landmark band Irakere (1973-2005). With its audacious mix of Afro-Cuban ritual music, Cuban dance, jazz, classical and rock, Irakere won a GRAMMY® for its self-titled debut in 1979. With a GRAMMY® win for his 52nd Street Themes and 14 other nominations, saxophonist, composer and producer Joe Lovano has also won DownBeat Magazine’s Critics and Readers Polls countless times as Tenor Saxophonist, Musician of the Year, Jazz Album of the Year and Triple Crowns. Lovano has created a body of acclaimed work for his own large ensembles, including strings, woodwinds, his horn-rich Nonet, and more recently the newest iteration of his classic quartet. Lovano has performed and recorded with a long list of jazz greats including Woody Herman, Bill Frisell, Tony Bennett, Abbey Lincoln, Charlie Haden, McCoy Tyner, Herbie Hancock, Michael Brecker, Ravi Coltrane, Chicho Valdéesz, Ornette Coleman and many others.

Simone Dinnerstein | BROAD STAGE DEBUT (February 6, 2021; Main Stage) Acclaimed pianist Simone Dinnerstein, considered one of the foremost interpreters of Bach in the world, is a graduate of The Juilliard School where she was a student of Peter Serkin. She first attracted attention in 2007 with her self-produced recording of Bach’s Goldberg Variations: #1 on the Billboard Classical chart in its first week of sales and Best of 2007 lists including The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, and The New Yorker, and the Diapason d’Or in France. Allan Kozinn said in The New York Times, “individual, compelling ... a thoughtfully conceived, thoroughly modern performance that seemed to take into account the development of Western art music since Bach.” She branched out into interesting collaborations: duo recitals with cellist Matt Haimovitz; and Portals: Travels through Time, a performance piece with violinist Tim Fain. She spent 2018 touring Piano Concerto No.3, a piece that Philip Glass wrote for her as a co-commission by twelve orchestras.

Heartbeat Opera: Fidelio | LA PREMIERE (February 13 & 14, 2021; Main Stage) Heartbeat Opera’s daring adaptation of Beethoven’s Fidelio pits corruption against courage and hate against hope in a thrilling 90-minute work. The imaginative staging features five singers, seven band members, a chorus of recorded audio and video of more than 100 incarcerated singers and seventy volunteers from six prison choirs in four states across the Midwest. As Founding Co-Artistic Director of Heartbeat Opera, Ethan Heard (Director and Adaptor) has directed La Susanna at BAM and the Kennedy Center Fidelio, Butterfly, Dido & Aeneas, Kafka-Fragments, The Seven Deadly Sins, the drag extravaganzas Dragus Maximus: a homosexual opera odyssey, All the World’s a Drag!, Queens of the Night: Mozart in Space, Miss Handel, and The Fairy Queen. Alex Ross in The New Yorker wrote, Heartbeat is “a categorically imaginative company ... I saw Fidelio, and was blindsided by its impact. Earlier this year, Heard and (Music Director) Daniel Schlosberg went to correctional facilities in the Midwest and filmed Beethoven’s chorus being sung by prisoners ... Beethoven’s music was itself a spell of freedom for them—a virtual walk in open air.”
The 7 Fingers: Passengers | LA PREMIERE (February 19-21, 2021; Main Stage) Montréal’s award-winning circus troupe, The 7 Fingers is a scintillating mix of evocative dance, physical expression, thrilling acrobatics and mesmerizing projections. Passengers reflects on our nostalgic and symbolic fascination with trains, transporting audiences to dreams of another era and land, while celebrating the beauty of interpersonal relationships. We speed through lands all the while staring out the window, at the reflection of our very own eyes superimposed upon the shifting landscape. Our reasons for leaving may differ, but we are joined in a moment of suspended limbo between two lives, as we say goodbye to one and prepare for another. The Boston Globe said, “In the captivating Passengers, this train is bound for glory.” There will be a 50-minute family-friendly matinee on Saturday, Feb 20 at 11 AM. Following the performance, join us for POP! activities on the plaza with fun and free activities.

Ephrat Asherie Dance Company: Odeon | LA PREMIERE March 5 & 6, 2021; Main Stage) The Berkshire Edge said, “Just when you thought you knew something about dance, along comes Ephrat Asherie to blow that all to smithereens.” Ephrat Asherie, a future facing company, jumped to the front of the dance world with Odeon, which layers breaking, hip-hop, house and vogue to the rich and buoyant sounds of fin-de-siecle Brazilian composer Ernesto Nazareth. Rooted in street and social dance, Ephrat Asherie Dance (EAD) is dedicated to revealing the inherent complexities of these forms. Chicago Tribune said, “Joyful and exuberant! If break dancing and bossa nova had a baby, it might look something like the style of Ephrat Asherie Dance. Odeon combines love and talent for jazz music, break dancing and Brazilian traditions … blending Latin social dance traditions with New York-style break dancing.” EAD’s first evening-length work, A Single Ride, earned two Bessie nominations in 2013 for Outstanding Emerging Choreographer and Outstanding Sound Design by Marty Beller.

Miloš (Classical Program: March 12, 2021; Family Matinee: March 13, 2021; Main Stage) The young virtuoso who revitalized the role of the guitar in classical music, Miloš Karadaglic has a repertoire spanning Bach to The Beatles. In 2010, Miloš signed his first record deal with Deutsche Grammophon and before long was performing sell out concerts as a soloist with international orchestras and in recitals, continuously topping music charts. His solo guitar recital at the Royal Albert Hall to a full house was the first of its kind and much lauded by the critics. His 2014 recording of Rodrigo’s concertos with the London Philharmonic and Yannick Nezét-Séguin had the Sunday Times calling him The King of Aranjuez. His 2016 record, Blackbird – The Beatles Album included duets with Gregory Porter, Tori Amos, Steven Isserlis and Anoushka Shankar. At his peak, he was struck down by a hand injury which left him unable to play with no real sense if or when he might recover. Thankfully in August 2018, fully recovered and mentally as well as physically stronger, Miloš made a triumphant return to the stage in front of 6,000 people at the BBC Proms, he performed the world premiere of Joby Talbot’s guitar concerto, Ink Dark Moon written especially for him, with the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

Nat Geo Live: Improbable Ascent (March 18-19, 2021; Main Stage) Born with one hand, paraclimber Maureen Beck tried rock climbing for the first time after a camp counselor told her she could skip it. Her love of the sport was instantaneous, but there was no guide for climbing with one hand. Unfazed, she decided to figure it out for herself through trial and error; before long she was leading a crew of passionate adaptive climbers around the world. After tackling some of the hardest climbs by a one-handed athete and securing two world paraclimbing championships, Maureen yearned to push still further. So when legendary adaptive climber Jim Ewing asked her to join his attempt to make the first adaptive ascent of one of North America’s classic, most wild towers—the Lotus Flower Tower in Canada’s Cirque of the Unclimbables—she didn’t hesitate. On their month-long expedition they dealt with rough weather, sudden illness, and a food shortage, yet Maureen found herself growing addicted again to the thrills and challenges of the sport. With her trademark humor and wit, 2019 National Geographic Adventurer of the Year Maureen Beck chronicles her adventures as a one-handed athlete.

Cristina Pato & Mazz Swift: INVISIBLE(s) | WEST COAST PREMIERE (March 20, 2021; Main Stage) Cristina Pato, gaita (Galician bagpipe) superstar and member of the Silkroad Ensemble founded by Yo-Yo Ma and critically-acclaimed singer, Juilliard trained violinist and composer Mazz Swift use stirring music to shed light on the experiences of forgotten communities. Pato is a master of the Galician bagpipes and a classical pianist, hailed as “a virtuosic burst of energy” by The New York Times and as “one of the living masters of the gaita” by The Wall Street Journal. Upon meeting Swift during a Silkroad Ensemble residency, the pair quickly discovered that they were each exploring how might our social, political, and cultural landscapes be different if history had been written by those in forgotten communities? Pato was beginning to understand how women’s issues in Spain were being swept aside and Swift had composed a piece about victims of police brutality and racism. Swift plays electric and acoustic instruments, combining elements of classical, folk, rock, jazz, free improvisational music and electronica to create a
rich, unique and diverse musical experience. She has performed with Whitney Houston, Perry Farrell, Dee Snider, DJ Logic, Kanye West, and most recently as string mistress for D’Angelo’s “Vanguard Strings” and at many great NYC venues (Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Symphony Space, BAM Next Wave Festival at the Harvey Theater, and Joe’s Pub).

Keb’ Mo’ (March 26, 2021; Main Stage) Over the past two decades, Keb’ Mo’ has proven to defy genre labels. The five-time GRAMMY® winner has a reputation as a modern master of American roots music, and his eagerly-awaited return to The Broad Stage promises an evening of old-fashioned blues mixed seamlessly with contemporary soul and folksy storytelling. Making music that reflects his own passions and interests, he has earned a reputation for his ability to draw upon his bottomless roots-music expertise to make deeply expressive, highly personal music. Blues Blast said, “Like Bonnie Raitt or Robert Cray, Mo’ has figured out how to be honest, true to the Blues tradition and internationally popular.” Rock and Blues Muse said, “There’s something about Keb’ Mo’s music that brings on the warmth of a summer afternoon ... life, vitality and a certain peace and good humor about the man himself. The groove was so good, I could have listened to him all night.”

Nat Geo Live: Invisible Wonders (April 1 & 2, 2021; Main Stage) In photographer Anand Varma’s hands, a camera is not just a tool to capture what he sees: it’s a way to illuminate the layers of beauty and complexity that are otherwise hidden from the naked eye. He has devoted years of his life to developing innovative techniques—even building some of his own equipment—to create intimate, dramatic, and surprising images of nature. His ultimate goal is to spark a sense of wonder about our world. Through his work, Anand highlights creatures whose incredible details typically go unseen. From the secret life cycle of the honeybee to the lightning-fast behaviors of hummingbirds, his photos slow down the fast, speed up the slow, and magnify the miniature to reveal life at the edge of our perception.

Fauxnique: The F Word | LA PREMIERE (April 2 & 3, 2021; Edye) The F Word is Feminism! Through personal anecdote, song, dance, drag lip-synch and simple stage magic, Fauxnique celebrates and pokes fun at feminism in a high-energy show that is revelatory, inspiring and laugh-out-loud hilarious. Monique Jenkinson is a multi-genre performing artist whose work considers the performance of femininity as a powerful, vulnerable and subversive act through her drag queen alter ego Fauxnique. Informed both by a tradition of radical queer performance and theory, and by classical ballet training. She said, “My work often uses drag to consider the performance of femininity as a forceful, vulnerable and subversive act.” Fauxnique made herstory as the first cis-gender woman to win a major drag (queen) pageant. Honors include an Irvine Artist Fellowship at the de Young, SF Weekly’s Best Performance Artist, and the Isadora Duncan Dance Award. The San Francisco Bay Guardian said that “Jenkinson is must-see because of her technical excellence, ability to create beauty, and rare personable flair for drama.”

Compagnie Marie Chouinard: Hieronymus Bosch, The Garden of Earthly Delights | LA PREMIERE (April 16-17 Main Stage). From the internationally-renowned and startlingly-original choreographer Marie Chouinard -- a living canvas from one of the world’s most famous paintings, painted over 500 years ago. This surreal dance vision squarely confronts the before, during and after of original sin, brimming with visual wit, wonderment and chaos. Tanzchrift (Vienna) said, “Chouinard successfully pulls off the feat of actually bringing the Bosch triptych to life ... magnificent, delightful, startlingly well performed. [She] brings us a new vision of Bosch.” Chouinard’s first creation in 1978, the solo Crystallization, was followed by over fifty choreographic productions, action-performances, vocal works, installations and films, in which the choreographer has explored the poetics of the body in immediate, intelligible and ever-surprising ways. Although her works are seen as provocations, they are better viewed as pathways towards freedom and compassion, where humor is possible and eros omnipresent. The architecture of the cosmos, the intelligence of the body and its inexhaustible complexity of articulation and mutation harmonize in formal constructions in which style and substance are balanced. Her group has presented over 1,000 performances around the world. Contains nudity throughout. Not recommended for children.

Nassim | LA PREMIERE (April 16–18, 2021; Edye) Nassim Soleimanpour, an Iranian multidisciplinary theatre maker from Tehran, brings his 2017 Nassim. The evening features the playwright on stage with an audacious new theatrical experiment -- in which a different performer joins him each night while the script waits unseen in a sealed box. Touchingly autobiographical yet powerfully universal, Nassim is a striking theatrical illustration of how language can both divide and unite us. The New York Times said, “His new play speaks, at times eloquently, of trying to live and work in a place and with a language not your own.” Soleimanpour’s plays have been translated into 20 languages. Best known for White Rabbit Red Rabbit written to travel the world when he couldn’t, he has been awarded the Dublin Fringe Festival Best New Performance, Summerworks Outstanding New Performance Text Award and The Arches Brick Award (Edinburgh Fringe). By the time Nassim was permitted to travel for the
first time in early 2013, White Rabbit Red Rabbit had been performed over 1,000 times in 20 languages. The Hollywood Reporter said, “Soleimany’s plays have never been performed in Farsi in his native country because of governmental repression. The situation particularly distresses him because his mother, who still lives in Iran, has never heard or seen one of her son’s plays performed in her language.”

Sea Sick, written and performed by Alanna Mitchell, The Theatre Centre production | LA PREMIERE (April 23-24, 2021; Edye) Rob Bailis was in the audience at Sea Sick at the Edinburgh festival, in which award-winning journalist Alanna Mitchell turned master storyteller in this mesmerizing solo show. Culled from her work with leading ocean scientists and infused with her innate ability to lure an audience in, Sea Sick tells Mitchell’s most important story: her journey to the bottom of the ocean, the demons she discovered there and, most importantly, her hope for the future. The Arts Desk said “★★★★ Sea Sick is a quiet call to action ... a crucial examination of an underexposed issue.” The Guardian said, “She understands the way stories work: that with herself at the center, an outsider on a quest for knowledge, we can take that journey with her. The knowledge she’s gained from studying watery dead spots, ancient fish and plankton leads her to leave us with a gentle provocation, a way to break the stubborn human blockage that prevents some of us from admitting that we’ve harmed the Earth. Why don’t we try forgiveness? After all, we have to own what we’ve done in order to be able to fix it. This might be the most pragmatic use of the concept of forgiveness in the world and it could only come from Mitchell: someone who sees the writing on the wall but still believes in the power of a happy ending.”

Yo-Yo Ma and Austin Mann -- Truth, Trust and Service: How Culture Connects Us -- an evening of conversation, music and images | LA PREMIERE (April 29, 2021; Main Stage) Cellist Yo-Yo Ma and photographer Austin Mann (National Geographic, The Travel Channel, Samaritan’s Purse, Global Poverty Project) explore the role culture can play in helping to imagine and build a stronger, more resilient society. In August 2018, Yo-Yo Ma began a two-year journey to perform Johann Sebastian Bach’s six suites for solo cello in 36 locations around the world, music that is among the first Yo-Yo ever learned when he began playing the cello at age four. The project is motivated not only by his six-decade relationship with the music, but also by Bach’s ability to speak to our shared humanity at a time when our civic conversation is so often focused on division. The performances of Bach’s suites for solo cello on six continents were paired with “Days of Action” to ask how culture seeks truth, builds trust and encourages us all to work in service of one another. For Yo-Yo, Bach’s 300-hundred-year-old music is one extraordinary example of how culture connects us and can help us to imagine and build a better future, but he believes there are many, many more. And for Yo-Yo, culture includes not just the arts, but everything that helps us to understand our environment, each other, and ourselves, from music and literature to science and food.

Elina Garanča, mezzo-soprano; Malcolm Martineau, piano (May 9, 2021; Main Stage) One of the music world’s major stars returns to the site of her 2012 U.S. recital debut. In May 2013, Garanča was honored by the Wiener Staatsoper with the title of ‘Kammersängerin.’ One of the youngest recipients of the Award, Garanča was honored for her devotion to the House, singing over one hundred and forty performances of eighteen roles since her 2003 House debut, beginning with the small role of Lola; she is now the House’s reigning Carmen, Sesto, Giovanna Seymour, Charlotte and Octavian. Opera News said, “Garanča’s talents would make her a star in any century ... perhaps the mezzo’s greatest strength is her ability to render a cantabile line of such overwhelming beauty as to make time stop. Elina Garanča has already secured her place in opera history, and she may just be getting started.” The Times said, “Garanča easily projects virility and positions the notes, whatever their register, like a darts player hitting the bull’s-eye.”

Nat Geo Live: How to Clone a Mammoth (May 20 & 21, 2021; Main Stage) Could extinct species, like mammoths and passenger pigeons, be brought back to life? National Geographic Emerging Explorer, evolutionary biologist Beth Shapiro, is one of the scientists investigating this intriguing possibility. From deciding which species should be restored to anticipating how revived populations might be overseen in the wild, the technical challenges and ethical considerations of de-extinction are substantial. Join Shapiro for a vivid exploration into the extraordinary cutting-edge—and controversial—science that is being used today to resurrect the past. A pioneer in ancient DNA research, Shapiro travels extensively through the Arctic regions of Siberia and North America to collect the bones, teeth, and other remains of Ice Age giants like mammoths, saber-toothed cats, and giant camels. She extracts DNA from these remains and uses this information to understand how changing climates and increasing human activity have shaped the present-day distribution of species. Her goal is to use this information from the past and, increasingly, genomic tools developed in the present, to save living species from the same fate as so many ancient animals.
Mark Morris Dance Group and Music Ensemble: Mozart Dances | BROAD STAGE DEBUT (June 10-13, 2021; Main Stage) Alastair Macaulay said in The New York Times, “Throughout Mozart Dances, Mark Morris emerges as the most artfully musical choreographer alive.” Mozart Dances has been praised as music embodied, with three exquisite Mozart piano works set to Morris’ buoyant, exhilarating choreography. The work features new chamber interpretations of Piano Concerto No. 11, Sonata for Two Pianos, and Piano Concerto No. 27 performed live, and designed especially for our intimate hall. Judith Mackrell said in The Guardian, “What makes this evening … is the very human voice that Morris finds within the beauty of the music. All that the audience has to do is be beguiled by the experience.” Mark Morris Dance Group (MMDG) was founded in 1980 in New York City by Artistic Director and Choreographer Mark Morris and has been called “the preeminent modern dance organization of our time” by Yo-Yo Ma. MMDG Music Ensemble, formed in 1996, is integral to the Dance Group. Classical Voice of North Carolina said, “With the dancers come the musicians … and what a difference it makes.” The Music Ensemble is led by Colin Fowler, who began collaborating with MMDG in 2005 during the creation of Mozart Dances.

Alan Cumming and Ari Shapiro: Och & Oy! A Considered Cabaret | WEST COAST DEBUT (July 30-31, 2021; Main Stage) Presented in association with KPCC Radio. Tony Award®-winner Alan Cumming (Cabaret, “The Good Wife”) and NPR’s All Things Considered host and frequent Pink Martini singer Ari Shapiro transport listeners through an evening of tunes and tall tales. Cumming said that Ari had interviewed him often: “The last time was in D.C., and by the end, I realized our unusual chemistry, and Ari’s amazing voice, would make a really great cabaret show.” Shapiro added, “We’re both storytellers who try to help audiences better understand themselves and the world. This show lets us explore those shared ideals on stage together.” Alan Cumming has performed with Jay Z and Liza with a Z; he has won a Tony Award®, hosted the Tonys and been nominated for an Emmy for it; he made back-to-back films with Stanley Kubrick and the Spice Girls; he has played God, the Devil, Hitler, the Pope, a teleporting superhero, Hamlet, all the parts in Macbeth, a Smurf (twice), the Emcee in Cabaret (thrice), a James Bond baddie - oh, and political spinmeister Eli Gold on

Ari Shapiro hosts All Things Considered, NPR’s award-winning afternoon newsmagazine, since 2015. During his first two years, All Things Considered grew at an unprecedented rate, with more people tuning in than to any other program on the radio. An occasional singer, Shapiro makes frequent guest appearances with Pink Martini, whose albums feature his contributions, in multiple languages. Since his debut at the Hollywood Bowl in 2009, Shapiro has performed at many storied venues, including Carnegie Hall, The Royal Albert Hall, and L'Olympia.

Beethoven, Bagels & Banter (Sundays, 11:00am: Jan 31, Feb 28, Apr 11; Edye) A season-long celebration of Beethoven’s 250th birthday with favorite chamber musicians. The popular series returns with a season-long celebration of Beethoven’s 250th birthday. Curated by Robert Davidovici and featuring a mélange of world-class guest musicians, each program will include at least one work by the great composer himself. “[Robert Davidovici] is a terrific violinist. His technique is of the ‘wow’ variety, his tone as huge as he cares to make it.” — The Boston Globe. Spend your Sunday mornings with great music, lively conversation and freshly made bagels. Series Sponsor: Barbara Herman

blackbox The hottest club in town is back and bigger than ever, now including social dances in the larger East Wing. Reverend Shawn Amos returns with his signature series of smooth grooves and robust rhythms, featuring a stellar lineup of musicians you’ll want to get to know! Whether you feel like dancing to high-energy beats in the East Wing, or relaxing to transcendent sounds in The Edye, you’ll be part of the sold-out craze that continues to enrapture our audiences.

Missy Andersen (Feb 26, 2021; Edye) Born in Detroit and living in San Diego by way of Queens, New York, Missy Andersen followed her self-titled debut with In the Moment, a timeless follow-up of blues going straight to the spirit and body. With her band leader/guitarist/husband Heine Andersen, she has again created a personal soundtrack for good times and the pain and joys of love. As a child, Missy was exposed to her parent’s extensive music collection that included soul, R&B, blues, jazz, and gospel. It didn’t matter what the genre was as her favorite songs were always the ones that told a story. Later she would discover Dinah Washington, Sarah Vaughan, and Billie Holiday and that eventually lead her to O.V. Wright, Bobby Bland, Little Milton, James Carr, Ray Charles, Ann Peebles, and Irma Thomas. Missy began fronting bands in her early teens, playing local venues which quickly lead to doing studio sessions and performances as a background vocalist. She continued honing her skills and moved to San Diego, California where she met Heine, a seasoned musician visiting from Denmark. They would eventually marry and form the San Diego-based band, Tell Mama. PBS Australia said she is “One of the truly great
voices of our time” and The Washington Blues Society Bluesletter said, “Missy Andersen proves beyond a doubt that she’s the real deal.” Blues Magazine said Missy has “...Vocal magic that lights up the night."

**Jennifer Leitham (March 19, 2021; Edye)** Considered by many to be one of the finest bassists in the world, Leitham has been a career jazz musician for over 48 years. She is known for playing with many music world-masters, including Mel Tormé, Peggy Lee, George Shearing, Doc Severinsen, Woody Herman, Benny Carter, Louis Bellson, Bill Watrous, Take 6 and k.d. lang. along with countless other greats in many genres. She is a bassist, vocalist, composer, arranger, lyricist, and producer. Her bass lines have graced numerous movies and TV shows. Jennifer leads her trio and plays in clubs and concerts around the world. Jennifer has played on over 140 albums, including 11 albums of her own. Remnants Of Humanity is her latest, with her wry protest tunes on center stage. Her Future Christmas was one of the top selling Indie CDs of 2014. Her 2015 release, MOOD(S)WINGS, was voted one of the top three Jazz CDs of 2015 by the readers of JazzEd magazine. She was awarded the 2014 Community Leader Angel Award by the Center for Transyouth Health and Development at Children's Hospital of Los Angeles and was lauded as one of the top 20 pioneers in Vanity Fair's “Trans America” 2015 Edition. In 2016, L.A. Weekly named her as one of the “50 Most Interesting Angelinos.” In 2018, Leitham spoke at Jazz At Lincoln Center's Jazz Congress and was featured twice on the NowThis news site. The feature film documentary about her, I Stand Corrected has won 12 best film awards and has screened at festivals and around the world since 2012.

**King Solomon Hicks (April 9, 2021; East Wing)** “King” Solomon Hicks is a 2522-year-old guitarist and vocalist, who hails from Harlem, New York. At the age of 13, Solomon started playing at New York City’s Cotton Club as the lead guitarist of its 17-piece band and still continue to perform there. Solomon, who plays a Benedetto GA35 Guitar, has performed with Tony Bennett, The Destroyers (George Thorogood), Neal Evans (Soulive), Jimmy Vivino (Bandleader for Conan O’Brien), Sam Moore, Marcus King, Stax Songwriter William Bell, John Nemeth, Blind Boy Paxton, Roger Earl (Foghat), Kim Simmonds ( Savoy Brown), Davey Knowles, Ne-Yo, Jon Hendricks, Mike Stern and Lee Ritenour. He regularly performs at NYC’s hottest venues, including The Iridium, BB Kings, Ashford and Simpson’s Sugar Bar, The Red Rooster, Terra Blues, Minton’s Playhouse and Ginny’s. Also nicknamed “Lil’ B.B.,” he has been featured in The New York Times, The Washington Post, New York Daily News, Amsterdam News, Blues Blast magazine’s front cover, and the PBS TV series, American Music. King Solomon Hicks has taught music at the Children’s Aid Society and is a member of the Harlem Arts Alliance member.

**The Reverend Shawn Amos & The Brotherhood (June 25, 2021; East Wing)** The Reverend Shawn Amos, delivering his message of joyful blues, is the curator of blackbox, a series of emerging jazz and blues artists in an intimate settings, and a frequent presence at The Broad Stage, is known as a performer from West Coast clubs, to Deep South joints, to European festivals, to YouTube, to the podcast universe, reaching an ever-increasing flock. The Rev’s distinctive blend of black roots music, R&B, and stripped-down rock n’ roll, brings a bracing, soul-deep musical experience to audiences starved for authenticity, and for connection.

The Brotherhood are all friends from a life of music, this is a deep roots collaboration between the blues singer-songwriter and harmonica player and some old friends: drummer Brady Blade (Indigo Girls, Buddy & Julie Miller), bassist Christopher Thomas (Norah Jones, Macy Gray), and longtime Rev guitarist Chris “Doctor” Roberts. Blade, Thomas, and Roberts provide not only musical, but also spiritual and emotional support for embracing new territory, artistically and otherwise.

Shawn grew up as the son of entrepreneur and William Morris agent Wally “Famous” Amos. He said, “I grew up on the A & M lot.” Prior to his creation of the Reverend persona in 2013, folks knew Shawn Amos as producer (Solomon Burke’s Live in Nashville, and Shout! Factory box set Q: The Musical Biography of Quincy Jones), content creator for companies looking for ways to tell their stories on the internet, and Americana singer-songwriter who’d grown up in a dramatically dysfunctional L.A. home, a story the Rev serialized as Cookies & Milk in the Huffington Post. Back in his producer days, the Rev oversaw the reissue of Herb Alpert & the Tijuana Brass’ catalog, and a remix of the classic Whipped Cream & Other Delights album. At The Broad Stage and Vibrato, The Reverend Shawn Amos regularly performs, and programs everything from jazz, to Great American Songbook evenings.

**Red Hen Press**, one of the few literary presses in the Los Angeles area, was founded in 1994 by Kate Gale and Mark E. Cull with the intention of keeping creative literature alive. Our focus as a literary press is to publish poetry, literary fiction, and nonfiction. Red Hen Press is committed to publishing work of literary excellence, supporting diversity, and promoting literacy in our local schools. We seek a community of readers and writers who are actively engaged in the essential human practice known as literature.
The Broad Stage’s continued partnership with LA’s own esteemed literary publisher Red Hen Press makes for an extraordinary season of poetry in mixed-media and experimental performance formats.


**David Campos** co-founded the literary radio show *Pákatelas* on KFCF 88.1FM Fresno. While attending the University of California, Riverside, he helped kick start the I-Promise Joanna Anti-Bullying campaign alongside California Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera in coordination with the Gluck Fellows Program of the Arts. Campos’s poems have appeared in *American Poetry Review*, *Boxcar Poetry Review*, *Huizache*, *Packinghouse Review*, *Verdad*, *In The Grove*, and *Mirimar*, among others.

**Kazim Ali** has lived transnationally in the United States, Canada, India, France, and the Middle East. His books include the volumes of poetry: *The Voice of Sheila Chandra*, *Inquisition*, *Sky Ward*, winner of the Ohioana Book Award in Poetry; *The Far Mosque*, winner of Alice James Books’ New England/New York Award, *The Fortieth Day*, and *All One’s Blue*; the cross-genre texts *Bright Felon* and *Wind Instrument*; the novel *The Secret Room: A String Quartet*; a memoir of his Canadian childhood, *Northern Light*; and among his books of essays are the hybrid memoir *Silver Road: Essays, Maps & Calligraphies* and *Fasting for Ramadan: Notes from a Spiritual Practice*.

**Blas Falconer** is the author of *Forgive the Body This Failure* (forthcoming, Four Way Books, 2018); *The Foundling Wheel* (Four Way Books, 2012); *A Question of Gravity and Light* (University of Arizona Press, 2007); and *The Perfect Hour* (Pleasure Boat Studio: A Literary Press, 2006). He is also a co-editor for *The Other Latin@: Writing Against a Singular Identity*(University of Arizona Press, 2011) and *Mentor & Muse: Essays from Poets to Poets* (Southern Illinois University Press, 2010).

**Hila Plitmann** is a glittering jewel on the international music scene, known worldwide for her astonishing musicianship, light and beautiful voice and the ability to perform challenging new work. She has worked with many leading conductors, performing with the likes of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the New York Philharmonic and the London Symphony Orchestra.

**About The Broad Stage**

The Broad Stage gathers artists, thinkers and audiences to celebrate our shared humanity and expand the role the arts play in the vitality of our diverse community. As a presenter and producer of performing arts affiliated with Santa Monica College, The Broad Stage brings a bold array of renowned local, national and international artists across dance, theatre, humanities, classical, jazz and popular music, to the Westside of Los Angeles each year. In addition, our immersive Education & Community programs serve thousands of schoolchildren and families, and provide ongoing opportunities for SMC students and faculty to directly engage with the art and artists.

The Broad Stage primarily utilizes the state-of-the-art venues at Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center including The Eli & Edythe Broad Stage main stage, The Edye Second Space and The East Wing, and also increasingly brings a variety of site-specific work and community programs to spaces across the Westside. The Eli and Edythe Broad Stage main stage is unlike any performance space in the country; it is sublimely intimate with just over 500 seats yet strikingly grand in its feel, boasting one of the city's largest proscenium stages. The 100-seat black box Edye Second Space and the versatile East Wing are adaptable performing spaces allowing for a wide variety of artists and experiences.

*Editors please note* when referring to our venue, we are appropriately The Broad Stage (three words) and we are located in Santa Monica, California. The Broad (two words) refers to the contemporary art museum on Grand Avenue in downtown Los Angeles.