



UCHICAGO •
presents •

2019-2020

IMPACT REPORT

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UCHICAGO •
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Welcome

By the end of the first week of March, UChicago Presents had enjoyed an extraordinary concert season with inspired artistic collaborations, exhilarating programming, and Chicago debut performances by thrilling artists, with an equally exciting spring schedule of concerts to come and ambitious plans for the 2020/21 season. It all came to a halt mid-month with the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our spring concert schedule was canceled, UChicago students were sent home and told not to return after spring break, and the campus was closed. All of Chicago was put under a “shelter at home” order.

This turn of events prompted our reflection on the importance of live music in our lives, and we’ve keenly felt its loss: the inspiring performances that connect us to the best of humanity, the music that gratifies and invigorates us, the community of fellow listeners with whom we share these experiences. So we were determined that the music should play on, and we found a way...

In lieu of in-person concerts, UChicago Presents pivoted to offer seven virtual events this spring through online streaming. Our concert and discussion offerings spanned the breadth of our series, featuring contemporary, jazz, classical, early, and world music artists. We also honored our place within the University by activating the participation of UChicago faculty and the co-sponsorship of campus entities for these streamed events that broadened our community to wherever the internet reaches around the world.

UChicago Presents is distinguished by the world-renowned artists and programs presented on our series, but it is our patrons that are at the heart of what we do — and whose support makes the music possible. At the time of this writing, we are still unsure about when we will be able to return to concerts with artists and audiences in the concert hall. Regardless, we thank you for your involvement and support over the past year, and we remain steadfast in our commitment to bring you music that inspires and generates deep meaning for our lives. We look forward to continuing to share music together, no matter the form.

Sincerely,



Amy Iwano
Executive Director



Staff

Amy Iwano
Executive Director

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Director of Production
and Education

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Communications and
Development Manager

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Communications and
Production Assistant

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Alex Warmath
House Managers

Eric Bromberger
Program Annotator

Adrián Mandeville
Photographer

Amy Iwano: Photo credit: Elliot Mandel

On the cover: (Top, left to right) Anastasia Zakharova plays the domra in Russian Renaissance's Chicago debut. Christian Gerhaher and Gerold Huber perform Mahler's lieder in Mandel Hall. Rahim AlHaj delivers a program of solo oud music in a streaming concert. (Bottom, left to right) Anthony McGill returns to the series in a streaming concert from New York. Rachel Podger plays Bach and Biber in the Logan Center. Credit: Adrián Mandeville for UChicago Presents

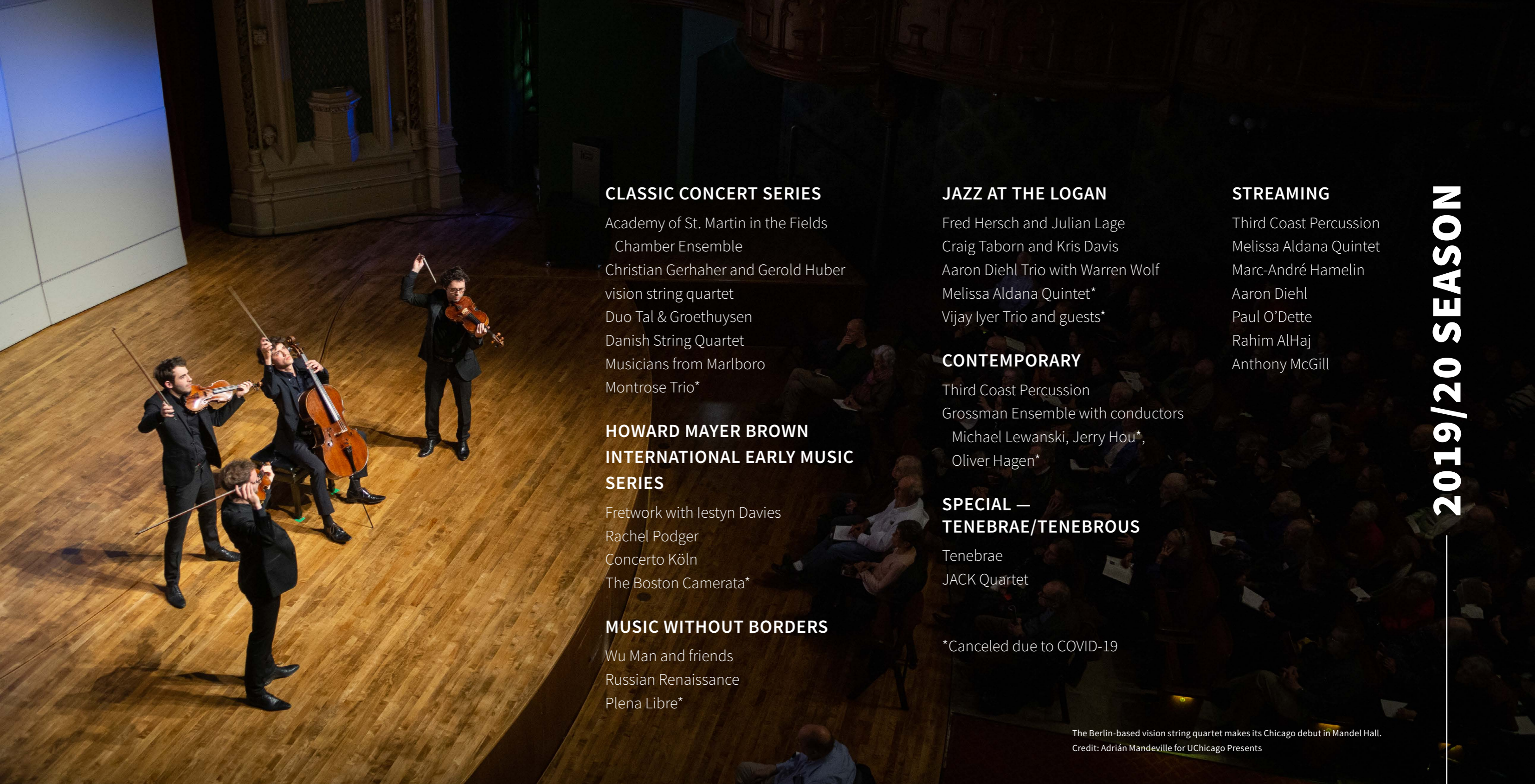
Mission

The University of Chicago Presents concert series endeavors to present music on an intimate scale at the highest level, creating for audiences of all ages experiences that transform, entertain, educate, and enlighten, inspiring a powerful sense of shared humanity. Advancing the values of its home at the University, UCP engages audiences throughout the Chicago region — the student, the Nobel Laureate, the uninitiated, the dedicated musician, and everyone in between — to nurture curiosity through great music-making.

chicagopresents.uchicago.edu

Clockwise from top left: Russian Renaissance makes its Chicago debut on the Music Without Borders series. The Danish String Quartet returns to Mandel Hall for a survey of works by Beethoven. Kris Davis and Craig Taborn perform duo piano improvisations on the Jazz at the Logan series. Viol consort Fretwork and countertenor Iestyn Davies perform ballads from the English Renaissance. Credits: Jack Siegel and Adrián Mandeville





CLASSIC CONCERT SERIES

Academy of St. Martin in the Fields
Chamber Ensemble
Christian Gerhaher and Gerold Huber
vision string quartet
Duo Tal & Groethuysen
Danish String Quartet
Musicians from Marlboro
Montrose Trio*

**HOWARD MAYER BROWN
INTERNATIONAL EARLY MUSIC
SERIES**

Fretwork with Iestyn Davies
Rachel Podger
Concerto Köln
The Boston Camerata*

MUSIC WITHOUT BORDERS

Wu Man and friends
Russian Renaissance
Plena Libre*

JAZZ AT THE LOGAN

Fred Hersch and Julian Lage
Craig Taborn and Kris Davis
Aaron Diehl Trio with Warren Wolf
Melissa Aldana Quintet*
Vijay Iyer Trio and guests*

CONTEMPORARY

Third Coast Percussion
Grossman Ensemble with conductors
Michael Lewanski, Jerry Hou*,
Oliver Hagen*

**SPECIAL —
TENEBRAE/TENEBOUS**

Tenebrae
JACK Quartet

*Canceled due to COVID-19

STREAMING

Third Coast Percussion
Melissa Aldana Quintet
Marc-André Hamelin
Aaron Diehl
Paul O’Dette
Rahim AlHaj
Anthony McGill

2019/20 SEASON

The Berlin-based vision string quartet makes its Chicago debut in Mandel Hall.
Credit: Adrián Mandeville for UChicago Presents

Mainstage Concerts



Tenebrae performs with the Chicago Children's Choir — Hyde Park Presto ensemble in Rockefeller Memorial Chapel. Credit: Adrián Mandeville for UChicago Presents

In the 2019/20 season, UChicago Presents embraced a new motto, inviting audiences to “Listen Boldly” — to take a chance on something different, and to approach every performance as a novel experience, whether a familiar program or ensemble or not. This maxim has guided our programming as well, leading us to present unique performances that encourage audiences to listen in new ways, to find something unexpected, and to share moments of inspiration with each other.

At the fore of this initiative were two concerts presented as part of a season-exclusive pairing called “**Tenebrae/Tenebrous**,” which featured British vocal ensemble Tenebrae and contemporary string ensemble JACK Quartet. In a candlelit Rockefeller Chapel, Tenebrae provided a stirring performance of Joby Talbot’s *Path of Miracles*, a musical chronicle of the pilgrimage along Spain’s Camino de Santiago. Later in the season, the JACK Quartet provided a truly one-of-a-kind concert experience performing Georg Friedrich Haas’ ninth string quartet in total darkness. Both concerts invited new ways of listening and engaging with music, and they inspired a similar approach to the rest of the season, one rooted in curiosity and an openness to hear music anew.

18 Mainstage Concerts
25 scheduled

7,044
Total Concert
Attendance



140

Musicians
(183 including
canceled concerts)



7

Chicago
debuts



13

UChicago
Presents
debuts

The **Classic Concert Series**, which has been the hallmark of UChicago Presents since the organization's inception in 1943, began with memorable performances by the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble, who returned to the series to open the season with Mendelssohn's Octet, and by baritone Christian Gerhaher with pianist Gerold Huber, whose Chicago recital debut performance of Mahler's lieder captivated the Mandel Hall audience. The series continued its tradition of Chicago debuts with the Berlin-based vision string quartet, who performed as part of its first American tour, and with pianists Yaara Tal and Andreas Groethuysen, who delivered a rare duo-piano performance. The Danish String Quartet enthralled audiences in early 2020 with a survey of Beethoven's string quartets, and the Musicians from Marlboro shared the unparalleled originality of composer Kate Soper alongside familiar and enchanting works by Handel, Schubert, and Brahms in the last concert presented in Mandel Hall this season.

“

[Fretwork's concert with Iestyn Davies was] truly one of the most beautiful performances my wife and I have ever experienced. Thank you so much for bringing it to our campus.

Brad Brickner

The **Howard Mayer Brown International Early Music Series** has long been an entry point into unfamiliar repertoire and a home for familiar works presented in novel ways. That reputation was fortified with this season's programming. In the fall, the renowned viol consort Fretwork returned to the series with acclaimed countertenor Iestyn Davies in a program that brought audiences vocal music from the English Renaissance. In January, violinist Rachel Podger cast some of the world's most familiar solo repertoire in an entirely new light when she performed Bach's first and third cello suites on baroque violin, and in late February, the self-conducted chamber orchestra Concerto Köln performed Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* as if the music was fresh off of the composer's desk.

“

Aaron Diehl Trio plus Warren Wolf was one of the best concerts ever — beautiful and engrossing; we loved every minute of it.

Lynne and Ralph Schatz

This season, the **Jazz at the Logan** series highlighted one-of-a-kind collaborations mixing jazz and other genres. Veteran pianist Fred Hersch joined the young virtuoso guitarist Julian Lage for a duo performance that wedded jazz harmonies and improvisation with classical and baroque counterpoint and forms, and Aaron Diehl and his trio likewise mixed classical sensibility with jazz style when they joined forces with vibraphonist



Vibraphonist Warren Wolf returned to the Jazz at the Logan series to revisit the repertoire of the Modern Jazz Quartet with the Aaron Diehl Trio. Credit: Jack Siegel

Warren Wolf to revisit the repertoire of the Modern Jazz Quartet. On the other end of the spectrum, Craig Taborn embraced avant-garde and contemporary composition when he returned to the Logan Center for a duo piano performance with Kris Davis.

“

Wu Man’s concert combined scholarship and cross-cultural collaboration with a powerful and unified theme related to music of the Tang Dynasty, but reaching across the centuries to music of today. It demonstrated once again why she is a unique, vital artist who always finds new and exciting ways to explore the past and present, and with a musicianship and sensitivity that truly stands out. The audience was totally enraptured by the experience, and I had the distinct pleasure of joining her in a pre-concert conversation that touched on various aspects of her career and this project in particular.

Anthony Cheung, Assistant Professor of Music

In its second season, the **Music Without Borders** series again brought new sounds and perspectives to UChicago Presents, sharing artists representing musical traditions from around the world. Chinese pipa player Wu Man,

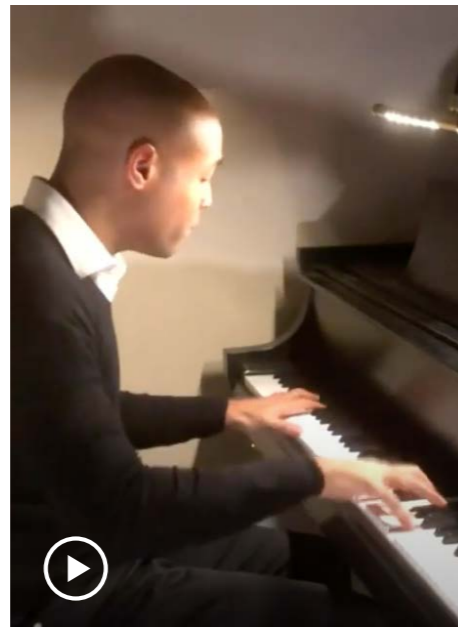
balalaika ensemble Russian Renaissance, and Puerto Rican band Plena Libre shared their music and cultures with us through performances, talks with UChicago scholars, a film screening, lunch discussions, dance workshops, matinee performances for Chicago public schools students, and much more. The series was again supported by a National Endowment for the Arts grant, and the artists’ mini-residencies were presented in partnership with the Center for East Asian Studies; the Center for East European and Russian/Eurasian Studies; and the Center for Latin American Studies.

Leading the charge in the presentation of new music in Chicago, the **Chicago Center for Contemporary Composition** shared its second season of concerts, beginning with Third Coast Percussion in a program including world premieres by Georg Friedrich Haas and UChicago composer Rodrigo Bussad. The Center’s resident Grossman Ensemble kicked off its sophomore season with world premieres by distinguished guest composer Tania León, as well as ensemble co-director Anthony Cheung and UChicago composers Will Myers and Alison Yun-Fei Jiang. Eight more brand-new works slated to be premiered by the Grossman Ensemble this season will be rescheduled for future seasons due to the coronavirus pandemic.



Third Coast Percussion performs Alex Lunsqui’s “Shi” on the Contemporary Series.
Credit: Adrián Mandeville for UChicago Presents

Pivoting to a Remote World



Top: Melissa Aldana performs during a livestream Q&A in April 2020. Bottom left: Performing remotely from Rochester, New York, world-renowned lutenist Paul O'Dette gives a concert of British Renaissance music. Bottom right: Pianist Aaron Diehl delivers a program of Harlem Stride music from his home in New York City.

In early spring 2020, UChicago Presents' season, like much of the world, was upended by the global coronavirus pandemic. It became necessary to cancel the rest of our concerts beginning in April, which included unique performances like Melissa Aldana's *Visions for Frida Kahlo*, inspired by the life and work of the visionary artist; the Boston Camerata's *The Night's Tale*, based on an eight-centuries-old epic poem; and Vijay Iyer's *Ghosts Everywhere I Go: The Arches Project*, a world-premiere commission inspired by the poetry and research of UChicago writer and scholar Eve Ewing. We hope to reschedule these programs, as well as concerts by the Montrose Trio and resident ensemble Plena Libre, for future seasons.



85,397

Reached via
livestream



41

States reached



39

Countries
reached

Though in-person concerts were foreclosed for the end of the 2019/20 season, we continued to present performances and connect artists and audiences through innovative digital means. We partnered with the 92nd Street Y in New York and the Chamber Music Society of Detroit to present livestream performances by Third Coast Percussion, Marc-André Hamelin,

Aaron Diehl, Rahim AlHaj, and Anthony McGill, and we produced a live Q&A with saxophonist Melissa Aldana. In addition to streaming events, we began developing more content-rich digital communications to share with audiences, and we launched a new blog called the **Greenroom**, offering an immersive opportunity for audiences to engage with the programs and performances that we were not able to realize in person.

Throughout UChicago Presents' 76th season, more than 94,000 people experienced the power of music to connect, uplift spirits, grow community, enrich lives, and give joy. Whether in-person or online, UCP continues to create for audiences of all ages experiences that transform, entertain, educate, and enlighten, inspiring a powerful sense of shared humanity.

“

Thank you for the wonderful online Aaron Diehl concert. I felt like I was in a private performance. It was marvelous to be able to see his hands so close. I only wish he could've heard my enthusiastic applause.

Cynthia Kirk

Livestream views

around the world

Listeners tuned into digital
streaming concerts from 39
countries across the globe.

“
What a great message of hope,
optimism, artistry, and the power
of music — both through words (the
inspiring conversation between
UChicago Professor Philip Bohlman
and Rahim AlHaj) and through a
wonderfully recorded concert from
AlHaj’s home.

Leo Voogt; The Hague, Netherlands

Education, Outreach, and Engagement



Pipa virtuoso Wu Man poses for a photo with students following a matinee performance at the Logan Center.

Striving toward our mission of creating transformative and engaging experiences for audiences of all ages, the 2019/20 season saw UChicago Presents host 26 education, outreach, and engagement events, including eight public events that welcomed more than 300 community members to dance workshops, master classes, lunch discussions, a film screening, and a listening session with Aaron Diehl and Associate Professor Jennifer Iverson.

26 Education, Outreach,
Engagement Events
34 including canceled events



2,145
People Served



1,121
Student tickets



206
Free tickets
for UChicago
students

19%
of total concert
attendance

As in seasons past, artist residencies were a focal point of UChicago Presents' engagement activities. In fall 2019, we partnered with the Chinese Fine Arts Society, UChicago's Center for East Asian Studies (CEAS), and International House to present public activities surrounding Wu Man's UChicago Presents debut on the Music Without Borders series, which included a lunch discussion with students from CEAS and a free, public screening of the documentary *Discovering a Musical Heartland: Wu Man's Return to China*. The University also welcomed Puerto Rican band Plena Libre to Chicago for two week-long visits as the Don Michael Randel Ensemble-in-Residence. The GRAMMY Award-nominated ensemble engaged University students, community members, and public school students through eleven class visits, four performances, and two interactive dance workshops. We look forward to welcoming Plena Libre for its final visit in January 2021 (rescheduled due to the coronavirus), which will include a lunch discussion hosted by the Center for Latin American Studies, a bomba dance workshop, and a concert featuring the premiere of new works by graduate composition students. Plena Libre's final campus visit will culminate with a UChicago Presents performance in Mandel Hall.

UChicago Presents is committed not just to serving our existing audiences, but also to inspiring a new generation of concertgoers. We welcome students and youth into the concert hall with free tickets for children (when accompanying an adult), and we've partnered with Chicago's Teen Arts Pass to offer \$5 tickets to teens and to empower them to develop an independent appreciation of the arts. We shared our concerts with more than 1,100

students this season, and thanks to the generosity of our donors, 206 University of Chicago students were able to request free tickets through our Sponsor-a-Student program.

“

The Duo Tal & Groethuysen piano master class and the JACK Quartet string and chamber music master class gave students the opportunity to perform their solo and chamber music repertoire with expert musicians. These students benefited from a deeper study of their repertoire and alternative perspectives on how to interpret the music they perform.

*Clare Longendyke, Piano Artist-in-Residence and
Director of the Chamber Music Program*

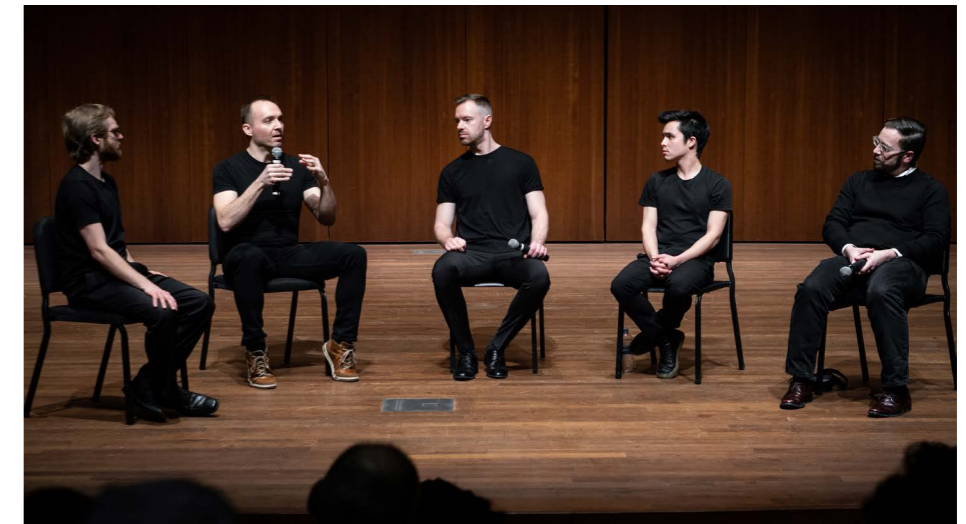
We shared music and musicians with audiences beyond the concert hall as well. Duo Tal & Groethuysen and the JACK Quartet led master classes for students in the Music Department’s Chamber Music Program, and we partnered with our Logan Center Community Arts colleagues to bring matinee performances with Wu Man and Russian Renaissance to 508 public school students. We also strengthened our connections to schools by presenting educational performances by Plena Libre to 690 students at the Merit School of Music and the UChicago Laboratory Schools.

In addition to deepening relationships with organizations beyond the university, UChicago Presents continues to be a cornerstone of the UChicago community by providing opportunities for involvement for its own members. UChicago scholars, including faculty and graduate students from across such subject areas as Music and Germanic Studies, led engaging conversations with artists and enriching pre-concert lectures for thirteen performances throughout the season. In addition, students have played a key role in UChicago Presents’ operations. Student work positions offer opportunities to gain experience in music and arts administration, both as office and communications assistants and as front-of-house managers. This year, we also added a position for a student photographer, Adrián Mandeville, who captured many entrancing moments throughout our season and whose photographs you can see in this report.

“

Wu Man’s residency at the University of Chicago was a wonderful collaboration that provided an opportunity for students, scholars and the general public to not only revel in her musical mastery, it was also a chance to learn more about her personal journey, her diverse musical collaborations, and the efforts to sustain and invigorate Chinese musical traditions.

*Abbey Newman, Associate Director,
UChicago Center for East Asian Studies*



Top: The JACK Quartet joins UChicago Associate Professor Seth Brodsky in a post-concert talkback.
Credit: Adrián Mandeville for UChicago Presents
Bottom left: Saxophonist Melissa Aldana speaks with UChicago Presents as part of the Meet the Music Makers interview series. Bottom right: Wu Man in a lunch discussion at the Center for East Asian Studies.

Thank You

to the many people who were involved in making the 2019/20 season successful

Particularly **The Saints** and coordinator **Anita Shore**; **Max Evert**, Mandel Hall Manager; **Frank Gilbert**, Logan Center Associate Director of Production; **Emily Hooper Lansana**, Director of Community Arts; **Greg Redenius**, Logan Center Director of Facilities and Operations; **Jack Siegel**; **Sean Wills**, Logan Center Evening and Weekend Manager. UChicago Presents is also deeply grateful to **Berthold Hoeckner**, **Barbara Schubert**, **Augusta Read Thomas**, **Denise Jorgensen**, **David Levin**, **Bill Michel**, **Anne Robertson**, the **Office of the Provost**, and the **staff of Rockefeller Chapel** for their support of music on campus.

And to the UChicago scholars who have contributed to this season:

Seth Brodsky: Associate Professor of Music and the Humanities in the College; Director, Richard and Mary L. Gray Center for Arts and Inquiry

Anthony Cheung: Assistant Professor of Music; Director of Graduate Studies

Barbara Dietlinger: Ph.D. candidate in Music History/Theory

Berthold Hoeckner: Professor of Music and the Humanities in the College; Chair, Department of Music

Jennifer Iverson: Associate Professor of Music; Director of Undergraduate Studies

Robert Kendrick: William Colvin Professor in Music, Romance Languages and Literatures, and the College

Olga Sánchez Kisielevska: Lecturer in the Department of Music

John Lawrence: Ph.D. candidate in Music History/Theory

William Nickell: Assistant Professor; Chair, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

Yuting Tan: Ph.D. student in Music Composition

Florian Walch: Ph.D. student in Music History/Theory

David Wellbery: LeRoy T. and Margaret Deffenbaugh Carlson University Professor in the Department of Germanic Studies, Comparative Literature, Committee on Social Thought, and the College; Chair, Department of Germanic Studies

David Wilson: Ph.D. candidate in Ethnomusicology

Lawrence Zbikowski: Professor of Music and the Humanities in the College



Professor David Wellbery delivers a lecture titled “Till Eulenspiegel: Life and Afterlife” preceding Duo Tal & Groethuysen’s performance in Mandel Hall. Credit: Adrián Mandeville for UChicago Presents

Arts Partners

UChicago Presents values the support of the many partners whose participation made possible and enriched our concert season.

Foundation and Institutional Partners

Arts Midwest, Illinois Arts Council, National Endowment for the Arts, Revada Foundation, Reva and David Logan Foundation

Presenting Partners

92nd Street Y, Chamber Music Society of Detroit, Chicago Center for Contemporary Composition, International House at UChicago, Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts, Rockefeller Chapel

University of Chicago Partners

Arts + Public Life; Center for East Asian Studies; Center for East European and Russian/Eurasian Studies; Center for Latin American Studies; Center for Middle Eastern Studies; Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture; Committee on Theater and Performance Studies; Department of Music; Division of the Humanities; France Chicago Center; Logan Center Community Arts; Nicholson Center for British Studies; UChicago Arts

Promotional and Community Partners

Chicago Children’s Choir – Hyde Park Presto ensemble, Chicago Jazz Magazine, Chinese Fine Arts Society, Collaborative Arts Institute of Chicago, DownBeat Magazine, Early Music Now, Hyde Park Jazz Festival, Italian Cultural Institute, Ivelisse Diaz, Jazz Institute of Chicago, La Petite Folie, Piccolo Mondo, Segundo Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center, WDCB Jazz 90.9 FM, WFMT

Donors

UChicago Presents gratefully acknowledges the many friends who graciously supported our programs in the 2019/20 season.

\$10,000 AND ABOVE

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Illinois Arts Council
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and Cynthia Winter
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Nicholas Yasillo

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MATCHING GIFTS

IBM Corporation

SPECIAL THANKS

The Saints

We also thank the many individuals who make annual contributions under \$50, and all of those who donated tickets following the cancellation of concerts due to the 2020 coronavirus pandemic. Every gift we receive helps to bring the music to the stage.

This list reflects contributions received for the period between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. We wish to acknowledge our donors accurately. If there is an error in your listing, please email or call us at chicagopresents@uchicago.edu or 773.702.8068.

* Denotes individuals who have sponsored a student.

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**Thank you for being part
of our 76th season.**

The Academy of St. Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble performs in Mandel Hall
to open the 2019/20 concert season. Credit: Adrián Mandeville for UChicago Presents