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# UCHICAGO presents:

## ANNOUNCING THE 2023/24 SEASON OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESENTS

Celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> season, UChicago Presents offers a stunning season of concerts and events from some of the greatest artists in the world.

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

### PHOTOS & BROCHURE

Photos visit [HERE](#)

Brochure visit [HERE](#)

### PRESS CONTACT

Scott Anderson

Marketing Coordinator

University of Chicago Presents

[ChicagoPresents@uchicago.edu](mailto:ChicagoPresents@uchicago.edu)

Mobile: 847-337-2111

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**CHICAGO** – Celebrating its 80th year showcasing the world’s most innovative artists and composers, University of Chicago Presents brings 26 stunning concerts and events to its 2023/24 season.

Subscription sales begin June 20 with discounts of up to 30% off single ticket prices. Single ticket sales begin August 8. Subscriptions and tickets can be purchased online at [chicagopresents.uchicago.edu](http://chicagopresents.uchicago.edu).

The season’s concerts will be held at three gorgeous locations on the campus of the University of Chicago. [Logan Center for the Arts, Mandel Hall, and Bond Chapel](#).

The more than two dozen captivating events cover classical, jazz, contemporary composition, early music (medieval to the Baroque), and world music from award-winning and internationally acclaimed artists. Audiences will have the thrilling opportunity to witness dozens of world and Chicago premieres as well as experience boundary-pushing performances within digital, dance, and performance art.

### A few 2023/24 season highlights

- Experience first-class artists in person representing more than ten countries performing work by composers from around the world.
- 14 composers premiere new works through [Chicago Center for Contemporary Composition](#).
- Two concerts presented by musicians from the [Chicago Symphony Orchestra](#) titled *Music in the Vernacular* celebrate music composed inside specific cultures.
- In partnership with [Court Theatre](#), the category-defying production *composition as explanation* by [Eighth Blackbird](#) gets its Chicago premiere.
- Two concerts by Grammy®-Award-winning quartet, [Pacifica](#).
- [OpenEndedGroup](#), led by digital art pioneers Marc Downie and Paul Kaiser, joins forces with dance icon Jodi Melnick and ground-breaking violinist Tom Chiu for three world premieres.
- [Jeff Parker and The New Breed](#) and the all-female supergroup [Fire and Water Quintet](#) help [Jazz at the Logan](#) continue as a leading provider of world-renowned jazz.
- France’s [Le Consort](#) takes its audience through a journey of Baroque Europe, and [Alcee Chriss III](#) shows why he’s a rising star of the pipe organ.
- The delightful refinement of traditional Chinese folk and opera from [Wu Fei](#) and the high-energy spiritual liberation from South Africa’s [Bantu Continua Uhuru Consciousness](#) offer astounding performances and amazing cultural insight.

## **FULL CONCERT SCHEDULE** – *organized by date*

### **SEPTEMBER**

Sept 28 7:30 PM	* Eighth Blackbird <i>Composition as Explanation</i>	Court Theatre	\$40
Sept 29 7:30 PM	* Eighth Blackbird <i>Composition as Explanation</i>	Court Theatre	\$40
Sept 30 2:00 PM	* Eighth Blackbird <i>Composition as Explanation</i>	Court Theatre	\$40
Sept 30 7:30 PM	Grossman Ensemble+	Logan Center	\$20

### **OCTOBER**

Oct 6 7:30 PM	Alarm Will Sound	Logan Center	\$40
Oct 8 3:00 PM	CSO Chamber Music at the University of Chicago	Mandel Hall	\$30
Oct 13 7:30 PM	Vadym Kholodenko, piano	Mandel Hall	\$40
Oct 20 7:30 PM	Pacifica Quartet	Mandel Hall	\$30
Oct 21 7:30 PM	Ben Wendel Group	Logan Center	\$40
Oct 27 7:30 PM	OpenEndedGroup with Tom Chiu and Jodi Melnick	Logan Center	\$40

### **NOVEMBER**

Nov 3 7:30 PM	Theon Cross, tuba	Logan Center	\$40
Nov 4 5:00 PM	Alcee Chriss III, organ	Bond Chapel	\$40
Nov 9 7:30 PM	Bantu Continua Uhuru Consciousness	Logan Center	\$40

### **DECEMBER**

Dec 1 7:30 PM	Grossman Ensemble	Logan Center	\$20
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### **JANUARY**

Jan 12 7:30 PM	Spanish Brass	Logan Center	\$40
Jan 26 7:30 PM	Jeff Parker & The New Breed	Logan Center	\$40
Jan 28 3:00 PM	Pacifica Quartet	Logan Center	\$30

### **FEBRUARY**

Feb 2 7:30 PM	Akropolis Reed Quintet	Logan Center	\$40
Feb 9 7:30 PM	Schumann Quartet	Logan Center	\$40
Feb 23 7:30 PM	Natalie Clein, cello	Mandel Hall	\$40
Feb 28 7:30 PM	Le Consort	Logan Center	\$40

### **MARCH**

Mar 1 7:30 PM	Grossman Ensemble	Logan Center	\$20
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### **APRIL**

Apr 5 7:30 PM	Emmet Cohen Trio	Logan Center	\$40
Apr 7 3:00 PM	Wu Fei, guzheng	Logan Center	\$40
Apr 12 7:30 PM	Lyracle	Logan Center	\$40
Apr 14 3:00 PM	CSO Chamber Music at the University of Chicago	Mandel Hall	\$30
Apr 19 7:30 PM	Fire and Water Quintet	Logan Center	\$40
Apr 26 7:30 PM	Isidore Quartet	Mandel Hall	\$40

### **MAY**

May 17 7:30 PM	Grossman Ensemble	Logan Center	\$20
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\* Eighth Blackbird is not available for any subscription series package. Single tickets can be purchased only through Court Theatre box office at [CourtTheatre.org](https://www.courttheatre.org) starting August 8.

## CURATED CONCERT SERIES

### CLASSIC CONCERT SERIES

UChicago Presents' longest-running series brings artists from around the world, including Ukraine, Germany, England, Spain, the United States, and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, to the University of Chicago campus for stunning performances of works from the classical period to the present.

- The dynamic Ukrainian pianist [Vadym Kholodenko](#) (Oct 13) explores Handel, Beethoven, and Liszt.
- Known for their spontaneity and virtuosity, Spain's [Spanish Brass](#) (Jan 12) brings a 30-year legacy as one of the most sought-after brass groups on the international stage.
- Hailed as “a sonically daring ensemble who perform new works with charisma and integrity” by *BBC Music Magazine*, [Akropolis Reed Quintet](#) (Feb 2) shines an imaginative spotlight on jazz and its impact on classical music.
- [Schumann Quartet](#) (Feb 9), comprised of German brothers Mark, Erik and Ken Schumann, and violist Veit Hertenstein present a breathtaking program to include Mozart's tribute to Haydn, one of Berg's most original compositions, and a late quartet of Beethoven.
- British cellist [Natalie Clien](#) (Feb 23) honors her Jewish ancestry with a program featuring four beloved Jewish composers, including Ernest Bloch, Mendelssohn, and Brian Elias.
- Musicians from the [Chicago Symphony Orchestra](#) explore music composed inside the world of specific cultures with two concerts titled *Music in the Vernacular* featuring works by Haydn, Bartók, Brahms, Stravinsky, Dvořák, and Tchaikovsky (Oct 8 and April 14)

**This extraordinary seven Classic Concert Series can be purchased for only \$225.**

### HOWARD MAYER BROWN INTERNATIONAL EARLY MUSIC SERIES

The Howard Mayer Brown International **Early Music Series** features artists dedicated to historically researched and informed programming and original instrument practices from medieval and Renaissance music to the Baroque.

- Rising star pipe organist, [Alcee Chriss III](#) (Nov 4) blends early music with his love of jazz, classical, improvisation, and gospel on the Bond Chapel's Reneker organ built by master organ builder Karl Wilhelm.
- A leading ensemble from Paris, [Le Consort](#) (Feb 28) takes the audience on a lovely journey through Baroque Europe in a thrilling Chicago premiere.
- From the Boston area, [Lyrcle](#) (April 12) celebrates the musical accomplishments of Japanese students at Jesuit missionary schools in Japan (1549–1613).

**This delightful three-concert Early Music Series is available for only \$90**

### MUSIC WITHOUT BORDERS SERIES

Sounds from around the globe to Chicago showcase contemporary artists blending world traditions with modern styling.

- Drawing on the singing form of ancient Chinese poetry, [Wu Fei](#), (April 7) weaves traditional guzheng, folk songs, and Chinese opera for her vocal suite *Moon Hunter*.
- One of South Africa's most successful musical exports, [Bantu Continua Uhuru Consciousness](#) (Nov 9) thrills with high-energy performances to tap into the pulses of their ancestors and awaken crowds to the power of a shared, more just future.

**This dynamic two-concert Music Without Borders Series is available for \$60.**

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## **JAZZ AT THE LOGAN SERIES**

Jazz at the Logan series brings the spectrum of contemporary jazz—with its myriad influences from the past to the present—to the Logan Center concert stage with performances by today's most exciting jazz artists.

- [Ben Wendel](#), a founding member of the Grammy® nominated groove band [Kneebody](#), kicks-off Jazz at the Logan with his Ben Wendel Group (Oct 21).
- Redefining the sound of the tuba has made [Theon Cross](#) (Nov 3) a highly important part of the London jazz scene.
- Returning to Chicago where he was an integral part of the “Modern Chicago Sound” and a member of the indie band, Tortoise, [Jeff Parker and the New Breed](#) (Jan 26) is comprised of some of the most exciting and innovative musicians on the scene today.
- Winner of the 2019 American Pianists Award, [Emmet Cohen](#) (April 5) dazzles with his precision and fluid keyboard artistry.
- Led by pianist Myra Melford, this all-female supergroup [Fire and Water Quintet](#) (April 19) brings to life the drawings of [Cy Twombly](#) through the use of provocation and cacophony alongside quieter and more subtle sounds.

**This incredible five-concert Jazz at the Logan Series is only \$150.**

## **PACIFICA QUARTET SERIES**

Pacifica Quartet returns to celebrate its 10th anniversary as the first Don Michael Randel Ensemble—in-Residence in University of Chicago’s Department of Music.

- With a career spanning nearly three decades, the Grammy® Award-winning [Pacifica Quartet](#) (Oct 20 and Jan 28) has achieved international recognition as one of the finest chamber ensembles performing today. The Quartet is known for its virtuosity, exuberant performance style, and often-daring repertory choices.

**Enjoy two concerts from this multiple award-winning quartet for only \$45.**

## **SPECIAL EVENT SERIES**

This category-defying series features these dazzling performances including dance, music, art, and a hybrid of art forms.

- Hailed as “one of the most vital and original ensembles on the American Music scene” by The New York Times, [Alarm Will Sound](#) (Oct 6) is a 20-person chamber orchestra presenting Irish composer [Donnacha Dennehy](#)’s new evening-length work, *Land of Winter*.
- Behold three distinct disciplines (digital art, dance, music) working together for the world premiere of [Open-EndedGroup](#)’s *Blackletter* (Oct 27) as well as two additional world premieres, including [Jodi Melnick](#)’s dance piece *Agua Viva—The Sadness of Flowers* and [Tom Chiu](#) composition *Z-Axis*.

**These two world-premiere experiences are only \$60**

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## TICKETS

Subscriptions starting as low as \$45, are available across six curated series, offering patrons significant savings of up to 30% off single ticket prices.

FULL SEASON PASS to all 26 concerts is available at \$644 saving more than \$275 (30%) off the single ticket price.

Curated Series Subscriptions are 25% off single ticket prices.

UChicago Presents also offer discounts to under 35, student, University and staff, and the opportunity to create your own series with a Pick 4- or Pick 6- and Pick 8-concert flexible series option. Youths ages 6-17 may receive a free ticket with every paying accompanying adult.

**Subscription information (sales start June 20) can be found at**  
<https://chicagopresents.uchicago.edu/tickets/subscription-information>

**Single tickets information (sales start August 8) at**  
<https://tickets.uchicago.edu/Online/default.asp>

NOTE: Tickets for the Eighth Blackbird at Court Theatre (Sept 28-30) must be purchased through the Court Theatre's box office at [CourtTheatre.org](https://CourtTheatre.org).

**Student, youth, and family ticket information can be found at**  
<https://chicagopresents.uchicago.edu/tickets/students-youth-families>

Patrons may also call **773.702.ARTS (2787)** or visit the UChicago Arts Box Office at the Logan Center for the Arts, 915 E. 60th Street, Tues–Fri, 12–4pm.

Single tickets go on sale August 8, 2023.

## CONCERT VENUES

This season, the University of Chicago Presents holds concerts at the following locations:

- [Mandel Hall](#): 1131 East 57th Street, Chicago, IL 60637
- [Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts](#): 915 East 60th Street, Chicago, IL 60637
- [Bond Chapel](#): 1025 E 58th St, Chicago, IL 60637

## ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESENTS

Established in 1943, The University of Chicago Presents series brings extraordinary artists from around the world to Chicago. Artists engage with audiences, scholars, and students in dynamic live performances, educational and enrichment experiences, and community engagement activities through a diverse mix of chamber music and recitals, early, contemporary, jazz, and world music, including artist residencies, commissions, and premieres.

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## 2023/24 FULL CONCERT SCHEDULE – *organized by series*

### **SPECIAL COLLABORATION WITH COURT THEATRE**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 / 7:30 PM**

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 / 7:30 PM**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 / 2 PM**

#### **COURT THEATRE**

##### **\* EIGHTH BLACKBIRD**

*composition as explanation*

BY DAVID LANG

UChicago Presents is proud to partner with Tony® Award Winner for Best Regional Theatre, Court Theatre, to present Eighth Blackbird's category-defying production composition as explanation. This production has been hailed as "extraordinary, inventive, and deserving of constant reinvention" by *Cultural Voice of North Carolina*. A playground of chamber music, theatre, poetry, and performance art, Eighth Blackbird presents a distinctly marvelous happening not to be missed. With music by David Lang and direction by Anne Bogart, the night is based on Gertrude Stein's essay of the same name. By lifting Stein's words off the page, 8BB creates layers of interpretation that reveal the human relationship with art from an entirely unprecedented perspective. One that is thoughtful, clever, humorous, insightful, and joyful.

Dalia Chin, flute, acting, voice

Zachary Good, clarinet, acting, voice

Maiani da Silva, violin, acting, voice

Ashley Bathgate, cello, acting, voice

Matthew Duvall, percussion, acting, voice

Lisa Kaplan, piano, acting, voice

\* Tickets are available starting August 8 through Court Theatre box office at [CourtTheatre.org](https://CourtTheatre.org) or 773.753.4472. Eighth Blackbird is not available for any subscription series.

### **CLASSIC CONCERT SERIES**

UChicago Presents longest-running series brings the greatest artists from around the world to the U of C campus for stunning performances of works from the Classical period to the present.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8 / 3 PM | MANDEL HALL**

**CSO CHAMBER MUSIC AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO**

*MUSIC IN THE VERNACULAR*

Stravinsky: Concertino for String Quartet

Dvořák: String Quartet No. 14 in A-flat Major Op. 105

Tchaikovsky: *Souvenir de Florence*

Rong-Yan Tang, violin

Cornelius Chiu, violin

Youming Chen, viola

Diane Mues, viola

Daniel Katz, cello

Richard Hirsch, cello

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## CSO CHAMBER MUSIC AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO continued...

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra responds to Professor Steven Rings' prompt to explore music of the vernacular. In this chamber music program, musicians from the CSO take on Stravinsky's *Concertino*, written while he was living in a fishing village in France; Dvořák's *String Quartet No. 14* featuring a lively syncopation related to a Czech stomping dance, and Tchaikovsky's *Souvenir de Florence* with distinctly Russian folk-like melodies.

### **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13 / 7:30 PM | MANDEL HALL**

#### **VADYM KHOLODENKO, PIANO**

Handel: Suite in B-flat Major, HWV. 440

Haydn: Sonata in C-sharp minor, Hob. XVI:36

Beethoven: Sonata No. 27 in E minor, Op. 90

Adès: *Traced Overhead*

Liszt: *Après une lecture de Dante*

Liszt: *Tarantella in G minor*

Award-winning Ukrainian pianist Vadym Kholodenko has captured audiences across the globe with his depth of sound, exceptional refinement of expression, and consummate virtuosity. Praising Kholodenko, *New York Classical Review* writes he “exudes a sense of excitement that comes straight out of his personality...closer to an experience of absolute improvisation than one will ever find in the classical repertoire.”

### **FRIDAY, JANUARY 12 / 7:30 PM | LOGAN CENTER**

#### **SPANISH BRASS**

With a thirty-three-year legacy in the world of chamber music, Spanish Brass continues to be one of the most dynamic and sought-after brass groups on the international musical stage. Comprised of five virtuosic musicians from Spain, the ensemble is renowned for its stunning skill, richly varied repertoire, and passionate commitment to expanding the possibilities of the brass quintet. Their performances are famous for their energy, spontaneity, and sheer musicality.

### **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2 / 7:30 PM | LOGAN CENTER**

#### **AKROPOLIS REED QUINTET**

Hailed as “a sonically daring ensemble who perform new works with charisma and integrity” by *BBC Music Magazine*, Akropolis will present imaginative arrangements alongside original reed works that highlight exploration into jazz and its impact on classical music. The program will include a traditional baroque dance suite with early jazz harmonies and *Moods and Attitudes*, a new work by jazz composer Omar Thomas consisting of a modernized shuffle, a noir ballad, and a bebop romp.

### **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9 / 7:30 PM | LOGAN CENTER**

#### **SCHUMANN QUARTET**

Mozart: Quartet in A Major, K. 464

Berg: Quartet, Op. 3

Beethoven: Quartet in E-flat Major, Op. 127

The three brothers, Mark, Erik and Ken Schumann, and violist Veit Hertenstein are well known for their willingness to take risks and explore new musical territories. This breathtaking program will include Mozart's tribute to Haydn, one of Berg's most original compositions, and a late quartet of Beethoven's that brought the composer back to the string quartet genre after a 10-year absence.

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**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23 / 7:30 PM | MANDEL HALL****NATALIE CLEIN, cello**

Ernest Bloch: Meditation

Weinberg: Sonata for Cello &amp; Piano No. 2 in G minor, Op. 63

Brian Elias: *L'innominata*

Mendelssohn: Sonata No. 1 in B-flat major, Op. 45

Ernest Bloch: Three scenes From Jewish life

British cellist Natalie Clein has built a distinguished career regularly performing at major venues and with orchestras worldwide. Clein came to widespread attention at the age of sixteen when she won both the BBC Young Musician of the Year and the Eurovision Competition for Young Musicians in Warsaw. Inspired by her Jewish ancestry, this program features four beloved Jewish composers.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 14 / 3 PM | MANDEL HALL****CSO CHAMBER MUSIC AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO***MUSIC IN THE VERNACULAR*

Haydn: Piano Trio No. 39 in G Major Op. 82 No. 2

Bartók: *Contrasts* for violin, clarinet, piano

Brahms: Clarinet Quintet in B minor Op. 115

Qing Hou &amp; Lei Hou, violin

Lawrence Neumann, viola

John Sharp, cello

John Bruce Yeh, clarinet

John Novacek, piano

These unparalleled musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra explore music composed inside the world of specific cultures. The program includes one of Haydn's best-known piano trios, Bartók's *Contrasts* (filled with Hungarian and Romanian dance melodies), and closes with a later work of Brahms, one of the first chamber works composed for an ensemble featuring clarinet.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 26 / 7:30 PM | MANDEL HALL****ISIDORE QUARTET**

## UCP PREMIERE

Mendelssohn: String Quartet No. 5, Op. 44, No. 3 in E-flat Major

Wijeratne: "Disappearance of Lisa Gherardini"

Britten: String Quartet Op. 36, No. 2 in C Major

This program connects past to present with a piece Mendelssohn wrote in 1838 to inspire religious contemplation, Benjamin Britten's 1946's commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the death of Henry Purcell, and Dinuk Wijeratne's 2022 true story of the 1911 theft of the Mona Lisa. Winners of a 2023 Avery Fisher Career Grant and the 14th Banff International String Quartet Competition in 2022, this young dynamic group was founded at the Juilliard School with a mission is to "approach the established as if it were new, and the new as if it were firmly established."

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## **HOWARD MAYER BROWN INTERNATIONAL**

### **EARLY MUSIC SERIES**

The Howard Mayer Brown International **Early Music Series** features artists dedicated to historically researched and informed programming and original instrument practices from medieval and Renaissance music to the Baroque.

#### **ALCEE CHRISS III, ORGAN**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4 / 5 PM | BOND CHAPEL**

Expect to be delightfully surprised by Texas-born Dr. Alcee Chriss III, who has soared to become a leading young pipe organist, blending his love of jazz, classical, improvisation, and gospel. This thrilling Early Music concert will feature the Bond Chapel's Reneker organ built by master organ builder Karl Wilhelm. *American Record Guide* writes, "he plays with clarity, imagination, musicality, virtuosity, and yes, personality." Active as a church musician, conductor, and jazz pianist, he currently serves as the Minister of Music at Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church in Ridgefield, CT.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 / 7:30 PM | LOGAN CENTER**

#### **LE CONSORT**

*A JOURNEY THROUGH BAROQUE EUROPE*

CHICAGO PREMIERE

This leading baroque ensemble of four young musicians from Paris brings a delightful program showing the immense expressive range and creativity of Bach, Vivaldi, Corelli, Purcell, Rameau, and others. You will also hear two magnificent settings of "Follia" — the era's most recognizable melody

**FRIDAY, APRIL 12 / 7:30 PM | LOGAN CENTER**

#### **LYRACLE**

*MUSICIANS OF THE TENSHŌ EMBASSY*

This Early Music program celebrates the musical accomplishments of Japanese students at Jesuit missionary schools in Japan (1549–1613) who became accomplished viol players and singers. European Jesuits ran schools where music was considered essential learning. Lyracle honors these boys' achievements through music and storytelling with works by Durante Lobo, Francisco Guerrero, Damião de Góis, and Jacopo Peetrino. Actor Danielle Boivin joins the five musicians for the readings from historical documents.

## **MUSIC WITHOUT BORDERS SERIES**

UChicago Presents' newest series brings sounds from around the globe to Chicago, showcasing contemporary artists blending world traditions with modern styling.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9 / 7:30 PM | LOGAN CENTER**

#### **BANTU CONTINUA UHURU CONSCIOUSNESS**

Praising BCUC as "exhilarating" *The Guardian* writes "they continue to shock and surprise...they have shaken up South African music." BCUC's music is for the people, by the people, with the people, and an instrument of political and spiritual liberation. With their high-energy performances, they have become one of South Africa's most successful musical exports. Tapping into the pulses of their ancestors, they awaken crowds to the power of a shared, more just future.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 7 / 3 PM | LOGAN CENTER**

#### **WU FEI, guzheng**

*MOON HUNTER*

Wu's work, as described by *allmusic.com*, "evinces respect for tradition, an interest in what instruments can do, and good old-fashioned showmanship." Wu Fei's solo guzheng/vocal suite Moon Hunter draws on the singing form of ancient Chinese poetry. Wu's original work weaves together traditional guzheng, folk songs, and Chinese opera. The program features Wu's telling the history of the guzheng and the regional linguistic character of different singing styles of Chinese operas.

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## **JAZZ AT THE LOGAN SERIES**

Jazz at the Logan series brings the spectrum of contemporary jazz — with its myriad influences from the past to the present — to the Logan Center concert stage with performances by the most exciting artists of today. Check our website for the opportunity to join us for early pre-show free concerts presented by the Jazz Institute of Chicago at Café Logan.

### **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21 / 7:30 PM | LOGAN CENTER**

#### **BEN WENDEL GROUP**

Ben Wendel, saxophone  
Nate Wood, drums  
Harish Raghavan, bass  
Taylor Eigsti, piano

*The New York Times* describes a founding member of the Grammy® nominated groove band Kneebody, saxophonist Ben Wendel as “a naturally inquisitive musician whose credentials branch out beyond jazz.” Recipient of multiple awards, including the ASCAP Jazz Composer Award, he’s worked with a variety of musicians from Snoop Dogg to Linda May Han Oh. Ben Wendel brings together a quartet of accomplished forward-thinking musicians for his UChicago Presents debut.

### **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3 / 7:30 PM | LOGAN CENTER**

#### **THEON CROSS, tuba**

Think you know the sound of a tuba? Wait until you hear Theon Cross. Hailed for reinventing the tuba, the flexibility and power of his sound have made Cross a major figure in London’s thriving jazz scene. His rise to fame started in 2016 with the release of *Aspirations*, bringing international attention and a Jazz FM nomination for best Jazz Newcomer.

### **FRIDAY, JANUARY 26 / 7:30 PM | LOGAN CENTER**

#### **JEFF PARKER & THE NEW BREED**

This cutting-edge jazz ensemble pushes the boundaries of the genre with its fusion of jazz, rock, funk, and electronic music. Led by guitarist and composer, Jeff Parker, an integral part of the “Modern Chicago Sound” and member of the Chicago-based indie band, Tortoise, the New Breed is comprised of some of the most exciting and innovative musicians on the scene today. *Pitchfork* describes their latest recording *Mondays at The Enfield Tennis Academy* as “spiritual jazz, knotty melodies, and effortless solos over a slow-moving foundation...mesmerizing as a luxurious, beatific ambient record.”

### **FRIDAY, APRIL 5 / 7:30 PM | LOGAN CENTER**

#### **EMMET COHEN TRIO**

Zachary Weg of *All About Jazz* says Cohen is “one of the finest piano players to emerge in decades.” A frequent headliner at Jazz at Lincoln Center, this multifaceted jazz pianist’s signature professional undertaking is the “Masters Legacy Series,” a celebratory set of recordings honoring legendary jazz musicians. His precision and fluid keyboard artistry has garnered international acclaim, including winning the 2019 American Pianists Award, and being named a finalist in 2011 Thelonious Monk International Piano Competition.

### **FRIDAY, APRIL 19 / 7:30 PM | LOGAN CENTER**

#### **FIRE AND WATER QUINTET**

##### *FOR THE LOVE OF FIRE AND WATER*

This supergroup was assembled by pianist and composer Myra Melford includes Mary Halvorson on guitar, Ingrid Laubrock on saxophone, Tomeka Reid on cello, and Lesley Mok on percussion. For The Love of Fire and Water is inspired by the American painter Cy Twombly’s drawings, *Gaeta Set* (for the Love of Fire & Water). The dynamic music uses provocation and cacophony alongside quieter sounds and blank space. The resulting music aligns with Twombly’s organic, elemental ideas that he sought to portray in his artwork.

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## **PACIFICA QUARTET SERIES**

UChicago Presents is thrilled to have this multi-award-winning string quartet return to celebrate its 10th anniversary as the first Don Michael Randel Ensemble-in-Residence in University of Chicago's Department of Music. With a career spanning nearly three decades, the Grammy® Award-winning Pacifica Quartet has achieved international recognition as one of the finest chamber ensembles performing today. The Quartet is known for its virtuosity, exuberant performance style, and often-daring repertory choices.

Simin Ganatra, violin  
Austin Hartman, violin  
Mark Holloway, viola  
Brandon Vamos, cello

### **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20 / 7:30 PM | MANDEL HALL**

Dvořák: String Quartet No. 12 in F major, Op. 96 "American"  
Gruenberg: Four Diversions for String Quartet, Op. 32  
Beethoven: String Quartet in A minor, Op. 132

### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 28 / 3 PM | LOGAN CENTER**

Mozart: Quartet in C major, K. 465 "Dissonance"  
Bartók: Quartet No. 4, Sz. 91  
Debussy: String Quartet in G minor, Op. 10

## **SPECIAL EVENT SERIES**

This category-defying series features these dazzling performances including dance, music, art, and a hybrid of art forms.

### **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6 / 7:30 PM | LOGAN CENTER**

#### **ALARM WILL SOUND**

*LAND OF WINTER* BY DONNACHA DENNEHY  
US PREMIERE

Hailed as "one of the most vital and original ensembles on the American Music scene" by *The New York Times*, this 20-person chamber orchestra will perform Irish composer Donnacha Dennehy's new evening-length work, *Land of Winter*. The Latin name for Ireland is Hibernia, which translates as "land of winter." This exciting new work will explore the play between light and time as they relate to the seasons of the year.

### **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27 / 7:30 PM | LOGAN CENTER**

#### **OPENENDEDGROUP**

**WITH TOM CHIU AND JODI MELNICK**

THREE WORLD PREMIERES

OpenEndedGroup: *BlackLetter*  
Tom Chiu: *Z-Axis*  
Jodi Melnick: *Agua Viva—The Sadness of Flowers*

#### **OpenEndedGroup: *BlackLetter***

This incredible new work of live 3D cinema by pioneers in digital art, Marc Downie and Paul Kaiser, stages an encounter between past and present, projecting Martin Luther's fiery words through the lens of contemporary AI imaging systems. Driven by the performance of violinist Tom Chiu, it casts Luther's judgments of women onto one woman dancer, Jodi Melnick, as she shifts through space.

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OPENENDEDGROUP continued...

**Tom Chiu: *Z-Axis***

Tom Chiu continues his ongoing explorations with extended techniques by experimenting with the dimensionality and directionality of specific sound parameters.

**Jodi Melnick: *Agua Viva—The Sadness of Flowers***

A lush dance duet by Jodi Melnick and Maya Lee-Parritz hinges on a fragile, often wild, conductive line, empowering the female body.

## **CHICAGO CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY COMPOSITION**

CCCC brings exemplary professional and student composers and professional artists together to create and present innovative contemporary music. The CCCC series features performances of world-premiere works by the resident Grossman Ensemble, a supergroup of Chicago's contemporary musicians with a unique creative rehearsal process focused on the interaction between composers, musicians, and conductors.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 / 7:30 PM | LOGAN CENTER**

**GROSSMAN ENSEMBLE+**

*VIRTUOSI AT THE EDGE*

Brad Lubman, conductor

The Chicago Center for Contemporary Composition, known for its collaboration between composers, conductors, and musicians, begins the season with an exciting performance by the resident Grossman Ensemble, soprano soloist Kristina Bachrach, and special guest artists. Conducted by one of the leading figures in modern music, Brad Lubman, the program includes Unsuk Chin's gripping seven-movement work based on scenes from fairytales *Akrostichon-Wortspiel*, and Arlene Sierra's energetic *Ballistae*, inspired by ancient artillery machinery. CCCC commissions of Brad Lubman and Ramon Lazkano receive world premieres.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1 / 7:30 PM | LOGAN CENTER**

**GROSSMAN ENSEMBLE**

WORLD PREMIERES I

Georgia Mills, conductor

The Grossman Ensemble, the resident supergroup of the Chicago Center for Contemporary Composition, premieres four new compositions developed during their unique nine-week collaborative workshopping process. Conductor Georgia Mills leads the ensemble through a rich program showcasing the harmonic detail, colorful timbre, moodiness, and lyricism of composers Sungji Hong, Jeffrey Mumford, Andreia Pinto-Correia, and Justin Weiss. The audience and artists are invited to mix and mingle at the after-party.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 1 / 7:30 PM | LOGAN CENTER**

**GROSSMAN ENSEMBLE**

WORLD PREMIERES II

David Dzubay, conductor

Four works brought to life over the previous nine-week workshop cycle receive world premieres from the CCCC's Grossman Ensemble — "some of the best contemporary players in the city" - *Chicago Reader*. Composers Gregory Beyer, Sean Shepherd, Melinda Wagner, and Ricardo Zohn-Muldoon offer a program of contemporary music featuring an array of sonic landscapes, rhythmic complexity, and colorful expression, led by returning conductor David Dzubay. An after-party with the artists completes the evening.

—MORE—

**FRIDAY, MAY 17 / 7:30 PM | LOGAN CENTER**  
**GROSSMAN ENSEMBLE**  
**WORLD PREMIERES III**  
 Jeff Meyer, conductor

The CCCC's resident group of contemporary music specialists, the Grossman Ensemble, presents new compositions exploring relationships, textures, and electroacoustic elements mixed with elements of jazz, blues, and other cultural influences. Composers David Bird, Vivian Fung, Felipe Lara, and Gabriel Novak each introduce their new work with accomplished conductor and champion of new music Jeff Meyer. Celebrate the close of the Grossman Ensemble's 2023/24 season at an afterparty with the artists.

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**The University of Chicago Presents is grateful to these partners and supporters in its 2023/24 season:**

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FOR ADDITIONAL PHOTOS, INTERVIEWS, AND INFORMATION,  
 PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO ASK.

**PRESS CONTACT**

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

**PHOTOS & BROCHURE**

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Scott Anderson  
 Marketing Coordinator  
 University of Chicago Presents  
[ChicagoPresents@uchicago.edu](mailto:ChicagoPresents@uchicago.edu)  
 Mobile: 847-337-2111

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