

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2019 Yerba Buena Gardens Festival Announces Programming

100 Free Programs from Saturday, May 4 – Sunday, October 27, 2019

Opening Concert Saturday, May 4

Tribute to Charlie Palmieri by The Uprising All-Stars

Festival Highlights Include:

Embodiment Project

Roma Festival with Džambo Aguševi Orchestra

Circus Bella

Jeremy Dutcher

Aireene Espiritu – Tribute to Sugar Pie DeSanto

Yerba Buena Gardens ChoreoFest

Brooklyn Raga Massive & Martha Redbone Roots Project

SF Uke Jam Summer Uke-Splosion!

San Francisco Mime Troupe

Samora Abayomi Pinderhughes

Jazz Mafia's Brass, Bows and Beats Hip-Hop Symphony

Let's Go Salsa @ Jessie!

Children's Garden Series

Poetic Tuesdays with Litquake

(San Francisco, CA – April 8, 2019) – The **2019 Yerba Buena Gardens Festival** today announced the programming for its 19th Season at Yerba Buena Gardens in downtown San Francisco. The Festival begins on Saturday, May 4 with **Tribute to Charlie Palmieri by The Uprising All-Stars led by music director Jimmy Bosch**, the definitive salsa trombonist of his generation. Charlie Palmieri, the older brother of Latin music legend Eddie Palmieri, was a progressive force on the New York Latin music scene from the moment he joined Tito Puente's band at the Copacabana in 1947 until his death at the age of 60 in 1988. Featuring the Uprising All-Stars, the production combines New York's finest purveyors of Latin dance music with world-class Bay Area talent including trombonist Doug Beavers, conguero Little Johnny Rivero, bongo master Karl Perrazo, and vocalist Frankie Vasquez.

The Festival closes with the **19th Annual Halloween Hoopla** on Sunday, October 27. Yerba Buena Gardens Festival is also a venue for Bay Area Dance Week on Friday, April 26.

Yerba Buena Gardens Festival presents free music, theater, circus, dance, poetry, and children's programs with artists from the Bay Area and around the world. Yerba Buena Gardens is a world-renowned cultural destination for Bay Area residents, families, workers, and tourists alike and is located between Mission Street and Howard Street and 3rd and 4th Streets in downtown San Francisco. For more information, visit www.ybgfestival.org or call 415-543-1718.

Yerba Buena Gardens Festival Executive/Artistic Director Linda Lucero says, "The Yerba Buena Gardens Festival is a summertime of admission-free music, dance, theater, and poetry that represents the vibrantly diverse Bay Area arts community and audiences. The outdoor gardens are perfect places to witness the magic of the city of San Francisco and of the world in which we live."

The Festival includes the very popular **Let's Go Salsa@Jessie!** dance series, the family-friendly **Children's Garden Series**, **Poetic Tuesdays with Litquake**, and **Thursday Lunchtime Concerts**. Each and every week and weekend, the Festival presents a curated lineup of musicians, dancers, poets, and artists from around the world.

Festival Highlights include the **Roma Festival featuring Dzambo Agusevi Orchestra from Macedonia** on May 18, **Circus Bella's "Up in the Air: Relishing the Joy of Uncertainty"** on June 21 and 22, Canadian tenor **Jeremy Dutcher** on June 29, **Aireene Espiritu's Tribute to Sugar Pie DeSanto** on July 6, **Yerba Buena Gardens ChoreoFest** on July 13 and 14, **Brooklyn Raga Massive featuring Martha Redbone Roots Project** on July 20, **Ukulenny and Cynthia Lin's SF Uke Jam Summer Uke-Spllosion!** on July 27, **San Francisco Mime Troupe** on July 28, **Samora Abayomi Pinderhughes** on August 17, **Jazz Mafia's Brass, Bows and Beats Hip-Hop Symphony** on September 14, and **La Misa Negra** on September 28

Festival Programs & Series

Let's Go Salsa@Jessie!, the open-air salsa dance party in Jessie Square (near the Contemporary Jewish Museum), takes place on the third Thursday of each month from May to September from 6:00pm – 7:30pm. The series includes **Carlitos Medrano & Sabor De Mi Cuba** on May 16, **Jesús Díaz y Su QBA** on June 20, **Cabanijazz Project** on August 15, and series favorite **Ricardo Lemvo & Makina Loca** on September 19.

Children's Garden Series features interactive performances specially designed for kids and families every Friday from June to August in the Yerba Buena Children's Garden at Fourth and Howard Streets. The series presents a return performance by 2018 Grammy-nominated **Alphabet Rockers** on July 26. Other performers include **Māhealani Uchiyama, Dholrhythms Dance Company, Circus Bella, Unique Derique, Duniya Dance & Drum, Caterpillar Puppets, Chelle! & Friends, Pi Clowns, and Red Panda Acrobats**. The series ends with the wildly popular **19th Annual Halloween Hoopla** on Sunday, October 27.

Thursday Lunchtime Concert Series takes place most Thursdays from 12:30pm to 1:30pm and is a favorite destination of downtown workers, shoppers, tourists, and students. This year features the very best of local and international musicians including **oghosthaze** on May 9, **Community Music Center Older Adult Choirs** on May 16, **Afro-Cuban Ensemble of SFSU** on May 23, **Sandy Cressman's Homenagem Brasileira** on May 30, **The Onyx** on June 6, **Latin Jazz Youth Ensemble** on June 13, **Marcus Shelby Quartet** on June 20, **Edgar Pantoja & the Afro-Cuban Tribe** on June 27, **Sueños** on July 11, **Murasaki Ensemble** on July 25, **LINES Dance Center** on August 8, **Kim So Ra: A Sign of Rain** on August 15, and **Rob Reich Swings Left** on August 22.

The Yerba Buena Gardens Festival proudly hosts annual cultural celebrations: the **22nd Native Contemporary Arts Festival** on June 16, the **19th Annual AfroSolo in the Gardens** on August 3, the **26th Annual Pistahan** on August 10 and 11, and **Brazil in the Gardens featuring Fabiana Cozza** on August 18.

Yerba Buena Gardens Festival presents **Poetic Tuesdays** on the second Tuesday of each month. Guest curated by Litquake, Poetic Tuesdays run from 12:30pm-1:30pm and feature an array of poets and music. The first event is Tuesday, May 14.

The Festival also presents three performances of a new one-ring circus from **Circus Bella** on Friday, June 21 and Saturday, June 22. Conceived and directed by Abigail Munn and Joel Baker for Circus Bella, the new show "**Up in the Air: Relishing the Joy of Uncertainty**" includes static trapeze, rope walking, juggling, contortion, unicycle, original clowning, acrobatics, and more. Circus Bella is partnering with Prescott Circus Theatre, a youth development and performing arts program based in West Oakland as a pre-show and opening act.

Yerba Buena Gardens Festival Commissions

Continuing a longstanding commitment to commissioning new works, the Yerba Buena Gardens Festival has commissioned the following projects:

YBG ChoreoFest is a site-specific dance festival on July 13 and 14 curated by RAWdance's Wendy Rein and Ryan T. Smith. The third annual YBG ChoreoFest features nine local companies and leads audiences on an exciting journey throughout the lawns and architecture of Yerba Buena Gardens.

2019 Yerba Buena Gardens Festival Programming

Visit www.ybgfestival.org or call (415) 543-1718 for more detailed information.

All events are free.

The Yerba Buena Gardens Festival IS NOT part of YBCA.

All programs take place outdoors in Yerba Buena Gardens, off Mission Street between 3rd and 4th Streets, San Francisco.

April

Bay Area Dance Week Kick-Off: One Dance, Friday, April 26, 12:00pm-1:00pm

MAY

Tribute to Charlie Palmieri by The Uprising All-Stars, Saturday, May 4, 1:00pm-2:30pm

oghosthaze, Thursday, May 9, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Embodiment Project, Saturday, May 11, 1:00pm-2:30pm

Poetic Tuesdays with Litquake, Tuesday, May 14, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Community Music Center Older Adult Choirs, Thursday, May 16, 12:30-1:30pm

Let's Go Salsa@Jessie! with Carlitos Medrano & Sabor De Mi Cuba, Thursday, May 16, 6:00pm-7:30pm

Roma Festival with Dzambo Agusevi Orchestra, Saturday, May 18, 12:30pm-3:30pm

Afro-Cuban Ensemble of SFSU, Thursday, May 23, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Michael Doucet & Tom Rigney with Flambeau, Saturday, May 25, 1:00-2:30pm

Sandy Cressman's Homenagem Brasileira, Thursday, May 30, 12:30pm-1:30pm

JUNE

Betsayda Machado, Saturday, June 1, 1:00pm-2:30pm

The Onyx, Thursday, June 6, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Tunes of Sudan, Saturday, June 8, 1:00pm-2:30pm

Poetic Tuesdays with Litquake, Tuesday, June 11, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Latin Jazz Youth Ensemble, Thursday, June 13, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Garba in the Gardens, Saturday, June 15, 1:00pm-3:00pm
Native Contemporary Arts Festival, Sunday, June 16, 12:00pm-3:00pm
Marcus Shelby Quartet, Thursday, June 20, 12:30pm-1:30pm
Let's Go Salsa@Jessie! with Jesús Díaz y Su QBA, Thursday, June 20, 6:00pm-7:30pm
Circus Bella, Friday, June 21, 12:00pm-1:00pm; Saturday, June 22, 12:00pm-1:00pm & 2:15pm-3:15pm
Edgar Pantoja & the Afro-Cuban Tribe, Thursday, June 27, 12:30pm-1:30pm
Jeremy Dutcher, Saturday, June 29, 1:00pm-2:30pm

JULY

Aireene Espiritu- Tribute to Sugar Pie DeSanto, Saturday, July 6, 1-2:30pm
Poetic Tuesdays with Litquake, Tuesday, July 9, 12:30pm-1:30pm
Sueños, Thursday, July 11, 12:30pm-1:30pm
Yerba Buena Gardens ChoreoFest, Saturday, July 13 & Sunday, July 14, 1:00pm-2:30pm
Brooklyn Raga Massive with Martha Redbone Roots Project, Saturday, July 20, 1:00pm-2:30pm
Murasaki Ensemble, Thursday, July 25, 12:30pm-1:30pm
SF Uke Jam Summer Uke-Splosion!, Saturday, July 27, 1:00pm-3:00pm
San Francisco Mime Troupe, Sunday, July 28, 2:00pm-4:00pm

AUGUST

AfroSolo in the Gardens, Saturday, August 3, 1:00pm-3:00pm
LINES Dance Center, Thursday, August 8, 12:30pm-1:30pm
Pistahan, Saturday, August 10 & Sunday, August 11, 11:00am-4:00pm
Poetic Tuesdays with Litquake, Tuesday, August 13, 12:30pm-1:30pm
Kim So Ra: A Sign of Rain, Thursday, August 15, 12:30pm-1:30pm
Cabanijazz Project, Thursday, August 15, 6:30pm-7:30pm
Samora Abayomi Pinderhughes, Saturday, August 17, 1:00pm-2:30pm
Brazil in the Gardens featuring Fabiana Cozza, Saturday, August 18, 1:00pm-2:30pm
Rob Reich Swings Left, Thursday, August 22, 12:30pm-1:30pm

SEPTEMBER

American Bon Dancing, Sunday, September 1, 1:00pm-3:00pm
Poetic Tuesdays with Litquake, Tuesday, September 10, 12:30pm-1:30pm
Brass, Bows and Beats Hip-Hop Symphony, Saturday, September 14, 1:00pm-2:30pm
Anita Lofton Project, Thursday, September 19, 12:30-1:30pm
Let's Go Salsa@Jessie! with Ricardo Lemvo & Makina Loca, Thursday, September 19, 6:00pm-7:30pm
La Misa Negra, Saturday, September 28, 2019, 1:00-3:00pm

CHILDREN'S GARDEN SERIES

Yerba Buena Children's Garden is located at Howard & Fourth Streets. Two performances each day: 11:00am-11:30am and 12:15pm-12:45pm, except Circus Bella and Halloween Hoopla.

Ka-Hon, Friday, June 7

Pi Clowns, Friday, June 14

Unique Derique, Friday, June 28

Duniya Dance & Drum, Friday, July 5

Chelle! & Friends, Friday, July 12

Alphabet Rockers, Friday, July 26

Māhealani Uchiyama, Friday, August 2

Dholrhythms Dance Company, Friday, August 16

Caterpillar Puppets, Friday, August 23

Red Panda Acrobats, Friday, August 30

19th Annual Halloween Hoopla, Sunday, October 27, Noon-2:00pm

Yerba Buena Gardens Festival is made possible through the generosity of the City and County of San Francisco, Yerba Buena Gardens Conservancy, National Endowment for the Arts, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Yerba Buena Community Benefit District, San Francisco Arts Commission, MAP Fund, Bernard Osher Foundation, Fleishhacker Foundation, Zellerbach Family Foundation, California Arts Council, Center for Cultural Innovation, Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, Southern Exposure, Association of Performing Arts Professionals, Target, Metreon, and Generous Individuals who support admission-free performing arts in public spaces.

Program Partners: AfroSolo, American Indian Contemporary Arts, California Brazil Camp, Children's Creativity Museum, Community Music Center, Filipino-American Arts Exposition, Litquake, MoAD, SFJAZZ, Consulate General of Japan, Consulate General of Sweden, Red Poppy Art House, Yerba Buena Community Benefit District, MELA Arts Connect (partial list).

Pro-bono contributions: InterContinental Hotel; MJM Management Group; Millennium Partners; Manatt, Phelps & Phillips; The Keystone Social House; SF Giants; Cole Fox Hardware; Trader Joe's; Whole Foods Market SOMA; Bill Martinez; Tom Ehrlich; Amal Bisharat Photography; Jim Watkins Photography; Kelsey Ogden Film and Photo; David Tau (partial list).

Media sponsors: KPIX, BART, KPFA, KPOO, KXSF, *Where Magazine*, 7x7, FunCheapSF, SF Station, PlazaCUBA, All About Jazz, International Salsa Magazine, Red Curtain Addict.

Yerba Buena Arts & Events, producer of the Yerba Buena Gardens Festival, is located at 760 Howard Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. Phone (415) 543-1718; website: ybgfestival.org.

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