

For Immediate Release

Yerba Buena Gardens Festival Announces Special Summer 2021 Programming

**Free Performances from June 26 to August 28 in downtown San Francisco
Every Thursday and Every Saturday**

**First Concert Saturday, June 26, 1:00pm
Bobi Céspedes, the Bay Area's matriarch of Cuban Music**

Festival Highlights Include:
Kev Choice Ensemble, July 1
Rebirth Canal, July 8
YBG ChoreoFest, July 10, July 31, August 14
Sentimiento y Manana, July 15
La Doña, July 17
LoCura, July 29
Andre Thierry, July 22
Ensemble Mik Nawooj, July 24
Lavay Smith & Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers, August 5
AfroSolo Arts Festival in the Gardens, August 7
Valerie Troutt, August 12
Cabanijazz Project, August 19
Cláudia Villela, August 21
Native Contemporary Arts Festival Presents, August 26
Circus Bella's Humorous!, August 28

Children's Garden Series Returns!
Ka-Hon on July 16, Pi Clowns on July 23 and Red Panda Acrobats on July 30

(San Francisco, CA, June 8, 2021) - Yerba Buena Gardens Festival announces a special 2021 summer season that will kickoff on Saturday, June 26 at 1:00pm with a free concert from Bobi Céspedes, the Bay Area's matriarch of Cuban Music. In 2020, the Festival was poised to celebrate its 20th Anniversary and, now, in 2021, the organization can properly acknowledge this landmark year by honoring the Festival's historical legacy and cultural impact in the Bay Area and beyond.

For over two decades, the Yerba Buena Gardens Festival has presented free outdoor music, theater, circus, dance, poetry, and children's programs with artists from the Bay Area and around the world. Yerba Buena Gardens is located between Mission Street and Howard Street and Third and Fourth Streets in downtown San Francisco. For more information, visit ybgfestival.org.

"I could not be more thrilled to announce this special Festival season of free performances and concerts this summer," says Festival Executive/Artistic Director Linda Lucero. "On

behalf of the Festival staff and board, I am so excited to welcome everyone back to the beautiful Gardens to experience our region's rich cultural diversity and the immense fortitude of our local artists and performers. After a long period of isolation for many of us, Yerba Buena Gardens Festival remains a space for art and joy, welcoming people from all walks of life. There's nothing that gladdens the heart and spirit more than celebrating the performing arts together under open skies."

The global pandemic forced the cancellation of the 2020 Yerba Buena Gardens Festival but strengthened the organization's arts advocacy efforts. These efforts included the **Endurance, Hope, and Community Commissioning** program that provided \$2,000 "mini-commissions" to 20 Bay Area artists that allowed for the creation, continuation, or completion of specific performing arts projects. Many of these projects will be performed or premiered at this Summer's Festival. Check the YBG Festival online calendar for the updated line-up, plus special programs to be announced in September and October.

2021 Yerba Buena Gardens Festival Programming

Visit www.ybgfestival.org for further artist announcements and detailed information.

All events are free. For Editors: 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, and the Yerba Buena Children's Garden located at Howard & Fourth Streets, San Francisco. The organization will continue to closely follow all current and future COVID restrictions, protocols, and guidelines set by City and State public health departments.

Bobi Céspedes; DJ José Ruiz (KPOO, KPFA), Saturday, June 26, 1:00pm-2:30pm

Outdoor Dance Classes, every Tuesday, June 26-August 25, 11:00am-12:00pm

Kev Choice Ensemble, Thursday, July 1, 2021, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Rebirth Canal, Thursday, July 8, 2021, 12:30pm-1:30pm

YBG ChoreoFest, Saturday, July 10, July 31, August 14, 1:00pm

July 10: Kiandanda Dance Theater / Byb Chanel Bibene, SAMMAY, and RAWdance

July 31: FACT/SF, Margaret Jenkins Dance Company, Shinichi Iova-Koga

August 14: CALI & CO Dance / Christine Cali, Concept o4, Fog Beast

Poetic Tuesday: Two Languages/One Community - Artists Against Anti-Asian

Violence - Michael Warr, Chun Yu, Yeva Johnson, Tuesday, July 13, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Sentimiento y Manana, Thursday, July 15, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Children's Garden Series with Ka-Hon, Friday, July 16, 11:00am & 12:15pm

La Doña, Saturday, July 17, 1:00pm-2:00pm

Andre Thierry, Thursday, July 22, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Children's Garden Series with Pi Clowns, Friday, July 23, 11:00am & 12:15pm

Ensemble Mik Nawooj, Saturday, July 24, 1:00pm-2:30pm

LoCura, Thursday, July 29, 2021, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Children's Garden Series with Red Panda Acrobats, Friday, July 30, 11:00am & 12:15pm

Lavay Smith & Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers, Thursday, August 5, 12:30pm-1:30pm

AfroSolo Arts Festival in the Gardens, Saturday, August 7, 1:00pm-2:30pm

The Valerie Troutt Trio Feat. See Through Soul, Thursday, August 12, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Cabanijazz Project, Thursday, August 19, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Cláudia Villela, Saturday, August 21, 1:00pm-2:15pm

Native Contemporary Arts Festival Presents, Thursday, August 26, 12:30-1:30pm

Circus Bella's Humorous!, Saturday, August 28, Shows at 12:00pm and 2:15pm

Plus Special Events To Be Announced for September and October

Media Sponsors

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Foundation Sponsors

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