

For Immediate Release

Yerba Buena Gardens Festival Announces 2023 Programming

Free Performances from May 6 to August 19 in downtown San Francisco

Festival Kick-Off Concert Saturday, May 6 with
John Santos Sextet + The Afro-Peruvian Coalition

Fall Series Starts September 23 with YBG ChoreoFest

Festival Highlights Include:

CO-LLAB Choir directed by Cava Menzies May 13

CAAMFest: Directions in Sound presents Fanny May 20

Theatre Rhino's *Pericles* May 26 & 27

Melissa Cruz Flamenco June 3

SF Uke Jam's Summer Uke-Splosion June 10

La Mezcla + Laura Reboloso June 17

25th Annual Native Contemporary Arts Festival June 18

Circus Bella's *Bananas* June 23 & 24

Yosvany Terry Quintet & Gema Corredera + Arun Ramamurthy Trio July 1

Embodiment Project's Get Free Festival July 8

Joe Bataan + La Doña July 15

Fiestas Fridas July 22

AfroSolo Arts Festival presents Martin Luther McCoy August 5

PISTAHAN 30th Anniversary August 12 & 13

YBG Dance Day August 19

Thursday Lunchtime Concert Series

Children's Garden Series

Salsa at Jessie Square Series

Poetic Tuesdays Series with Litquake and MoAD

(San Francisco, CA, April 6, 2023) - The 2023 Yerba Buena Gardens Festival announces its lineup of free outdoor music, theater, circus, dance, poetry, and children's programs at Yerba Buena Gardens. The 23rd edition of the Festival opens with the **John Santos Sextet + The Afro-Peruvian Coalition on Saturday, May 6, 2023** at 1:00pm and will run through August 2023. Yerba Buena Gardens is located in downtown San Francisco between 3rd and 4th Streets and Mission and Howard Streets.

Yerba Buena Gardens Festival highlights include **CO-LLAB Choir** directed by Cava Menzies on May 13, **CAAMFest: Directions in Sounds** presents Fanny on May 20, **Theatre Rhino's *Pericles*** on May 26 and 27, **Melissa Cruz Flamenco** on June 3, **SF Uke Jam's Summer Uke-Splasion** on June 10, **La Mezcla + Laura Reboloso** on June 17, **Circus Bella's *Bananas*** on June 23 and 24, **Yosvany Terry Quintet & Gema Corredera + Arun Ramamurthy Trio** on July 1, **Get Free Festival** on July 8, **Joe Bataan + La Doña** on July 15, **AfroSolo Arts Festival presents Martin Luther McCoy** on August 5, **Pistahan's 30th Anniversary** on August 12 and 13, and more.

"I am thrilled that we can once again gather in the Gardens to experience so many of our local Bay Area artists and international artists right in the heart of San Francisco," said Yerba Buena Gardens Festival Executive/Artistic Director Linda Lucero. "This year, the Festival is launching an exciting new Fall Series and we are so grateful we can also continue our very important commissioning programs in order to further support artists. We look forward to seeing everyone in the Gardens!"

For over two decades, the Yerba Buena Gardens Festival has awarded commissions to actively support the creation and presentation of original works by the Bay Area's most innovative and influential artists. In 2020, the Festival celebrated its 20th Anniversary by creating the Endurance, Hope, and Community Commissioning program that awarded unrestricted "mini-commissions" to 20 Bay Area artists. In 2022, the Festival awarded SEED Commissions of \$2,500 to an additional 20 artists to act as "seeds" for the creative process. This year, the Festival continues the SEED program by awarding commissions to an additional 20 artists with many of them performing at this year's Festival.

This year's Festival season introduces a new Fall Series in September and October that will begin with YBG ChoreoFest presented over two weekends - Saturday, September 23 and Saturday, September 30. The full Fall Series lineup will be announced this summer. YBG ChoreoFest is a two-weekend festival of site-specific work that showcases the creativity, diversity, and vibrancy of the Bay Area dance scene. Programmed by RAWdance for its first five years, YBG ChoreoFest opens a new chapter with ChoreoFest now co-curated by David Herrera Performance Company and PUSH Dance Company. RAWdance Co-Artistic Directors Wendy Rein and Ryan Smith say, "When we first started curating YBG ChoreoFest in 2017, we had no idea it would turn into such a wonderful long-lasting relationship. We are proud of being a part of bringing nearly 30 dance companies to the pathways and plazas of the Gardens. The Bay Area is home to a wonderfully diverse array of dance makers and we are excited to see who David and PUSH bring into the space."

Yerba Buena Gardens Festival Programs & Series

Salsa at 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 August from 6:00pm – 7:30pm. The series includes **Danilo y Orquesta Universal** on May 18, **Cabanijazz Project** on June 15, **Karl Perazzo & Mike Spiro y su Conjunto Karabalí** on July 20, and **Bululú** on August 17.

Yerba Buena Gardens Festival Children's Garden Series features interactive performances specially designed for kids and their adults every Friday with two performances at 11:00am and 12:15pm. The Series runs from June to August in the Yerba Buena Children's Garden at Fourth and Howard Streets. The kiddie-popular series presents **RhythmALLogy** on June 9, **Ka-Hon** on June 16, **Circus Bella's Bananas** on Friday, June 23 and Saturday, June 24 with the performances on the Esplanade in Yerba Buena Gardens, **Unique Derique** on June 30, **Chelle! & Friends** on July 7, **Circus of Smiles** on July 14, **René y Familia** on July 21, **Calvin Kai Ku** on July 28, **Caterpillar Puppets** on August 4, **Red Panda Acrobats** on August 11. The series ends with the popular **23rd Annual Halloween Hoopla** on Saturday, October 28.

Thursday Lunchtime Concert Series takes place Thursdays from 12:30pm to 1:30pm and features local and international musicians including **Ajyal Music Platform** on May 11, **Tom Rigney & Flambeau** on May 18, **CMC Older Adults Choir** on May 25, **The Howard Wiley Show** on June 1, **Anita Lofton Project** on June 8, **Bongo Sidibe & the TonTons** on June 15, **Jenny Lind Concert** on June 22, **ASTU** on June 29, **Rob Reich Swings Left** on July 6, **Big Trippin** on July 13, **KOHAKU** on July 20, **Aki Kumar** on July 27, **La Gente SF** on August 3, **Salma El Assal & the Sudan Ensemble** on August 10, and **Alessandro Penezzi & Fabiana Cozza** on August 17.

Poetic Tuesdays are the twice monthly line-up of poets and musicians at Jessie Square from 12:30pm to 1:30pm. Curated on the 2nd Tuesdays by Litquake and the 4th Tuesdays by MoAD, the Poetic Tuesdays series begins Tuesday, May 9.

The Yerba Buena Gardens Festival will host annual cultural celebrations, partner programs, and classes including **Yoga with Purusha Yoga**, **Dance Outdoors** with **Rhythm & Motion**, and salsa classes with **Rueda Con Ritmo**, **Yerba Buena Gardens Public Art Tours**, **25th Annual Native Contemporary Arts Festival** on June 18, **Embodiment Project's Get Free Festival** on July 8, **Fiestas Fridas** on July 22, **AfroSolo Arts Festival with Martin Luther McCoy** on August 5, and **Pistahan's 30th Anniversary** on August 12 and 13.

2023 Yerba Buena Gardens Festival Programming

Visit www.ybgfestival.org for further artist announcements and 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, and the Yerba Buena Children's Garden located at Howard & Fourth Streets in downtown San Francisco. The organization continues to closely follow all current and future COVID restrictions, protocols, and guidelines set by City and State public health departments.

MAY

John Santos Sextet + The Afro-Peruvian Coalition, Saturday, May 6, 1:00pm-3:30pm

Poetic Tuesdays with Litquake, Tuesday, May 9, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Ajyal Music Platform, Thursday, May 11, 12:30-1:30pm

CO-LLAB Choir directed by Cava Menzies, Saturday, May 13, 1:00pm-2:30pm

Tom Rigney & Flambeau, Thursday, May 18, 12:30-1:30pm

Salsa at Jessie with Danilo Y Orquesta Universal, Thursday, May 18, 6:00pm-7:30pm

CAAMFest: Directions in Sound presents Fanny, Saturday, May 20, 1-3:00pm

Poetic Tuesdays with MoAD, Tuesday, May 23, 12:30pm-1:30pm

CMC Older Adults Choir, Thursday, May 25, 12:30-1:30pm

Theater Rhino's *Pericles*, Friday, May 26, 6:00-8:00pm & Saturday, May 27, 1:00-3:00pm

JUNE

Howard Wiley, Thursday, June 1, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Melissa Cruz Flamenco, Saturday, June 3, 1:00pm-2:30pm

Anita Lofton Project, Thursday, June 8, 12:30pm-1:30pm

SF Uke Jam: Summer *UkeSplosion!*, Saturday, June 10, 1:00pm-3:00pm

Poetic Tuesdays with Litquake, Tuesday, June 13, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Bongo Sidibe & the TonTons, Thursday, June 15, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Salsa at Jessie with Cabanijazz Project, Thursday, June 15, 6:00pm-7:30pm

La Mezcla + Laura Reboloso, Saturday, June 17, 1:00pm-3:30pm

Native Contemporary Arts Festival, June 18, 12:00pm-3:00pm

Jenny Lind Concert, Thursday, June 22, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Circus Bella's *Bananas*, June 23, Noon and June 24, Noon and 2:15pm

Poetic Tuesdays with MoAD, Tuesday, June 27, 12:30pm-1:30pm

ASTU, Thursday, June 29, 12:30pm-1:30pm

JULY

Yosvany Terry & Gema Corredera; Arun Ramamurthy Trio, Saturday, July 1, 1:00-3:30pm
Rob Reich Swings Left, Thursday, July 6, 12:30-1:30pm
Embodiment Project's Get Free Festival, Saturday, July 8, Noon-4:00pm
Poetic Tuesdays with Litquake, Tuesday, July 11, 12:30pm-1:30pm
Big Trippin, Thursday, July 13, 12:30pm-1:30pm
Joe Bataan + La Doña, Saturday, July 15, 1:00pm-3:00pm
KOHAKU, Thursday, July 20, 12:30pm-1:30pm
Salsa at Jessie with Karl Perazzo/Mike Spiro Y Su Conjunto Karabali, Thursday, July 20, 6:00pm-7:30pm
Fiestas Fridas, Saturday, July 22, 1:00-3:00pm
Poetic Tuesdays with MoAD, Tuesday, July 25, 12:30pm-1:30pm
Aki Kumar, Thursday, July 27, 12:30pm-1:30pm
San Francisco Mime Troupe, July 29, 2:00-4:00pm

AUGUST

La Gente SF, Thursday, August 3, 12:30pm-1:30pm
AfroSolo Arts Festival presents Martin Luther McCoy, August 5, 1:00pm-2:30pm
Poetic Tuesdays with Litquake, Tuesday, August 8, 12:30pm-1:30pm
Salma El Assal & the Sudan Ensemble, Thursday, August 10, 12:30pm-1:30pm
Pistahan, Saturday, August 12 & Sunday, August 13, 11:00am-4:00pm
Alessandro Penezzi & Fabiana Cozza, Thursday, August 17, 12:30pm-1:30pm
Salsa at Jessie with Bululú, Thursday, August 17, 6-7:30pm
YBG Dance Day, Saturday, August 19, 1:00pm-2:30pm

Yerba Buena Gardens Festival Fall Series

Additional programming to be announced this summer.

SEPTEMBER

YBG ChoreoFest, Saturday, September 23 & Saturday, September 30, 1:00pm-3:00pm

Children's Garden Series

Yerba Buena Children's Garden is located at Howard & Fourth Streets.
Two performances - 11:00am-11:30am and 12:15pm-12:45pm.

RhythmALLogy, Friday, June 9

Ka-Hon, Friday, June 16

Circus Bella's *Bananas*, June 23, Noon-1:00pm and June 24, Noon-1:00pm and 2:15-3:15pm (on the Esplanade)

Unique Derique, Friday, June 30
Chelle! & Friends, Friday, July 7
Circus of Smiles, Friday, July 14
René y Familia, Friday, July 21
Calvin Kai Ku, Friday, July 28
Caterpillar Puppets, Friday, August 4
Red Panda Acrobats, August 11
23rd Annual Halloween Hoopla, Saturday, October 28, Noon-3:00pm

Media Sponsors

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