

For Immediate Release

Yerba Buena Gardens Festival Announces 24th Season Programming

Over 100 Free Performances from May 4 to November 2 in downtown San Francisco

Festival Kick-Off Concert Saturday, May 4 with Pedrito Martinez

Festival Highlights Include:

Balaklava Blues & Kitka "Songs for Ukraine," May 11

Islands By The Bay Festival, May 19

CO-LLAB Choir directed by Cava Menzies, May 25

Dyertribe: Steve & Bokani Dyer + Izithunywa, June 8

RAWdance: Drawing on a Decade, June 14 & 15

Circus Bella's "WOW!" June 21 & 22

Yerba Buena Gardens ChoreoFest, July 13 & July 20

Color Your Mind Festival, July 27

Ana Tijoux + J Noa, August 3

YBGF Seed Festival, August 17

African Arts Festival, September 7

SF Indigenous Peoples Day, October 14

Litquake Book Fair, October 19 & 20

KOKOROKO + Jada Imani, October 26

(San Francisco, CA, April 2, 2024) - Yerba Buena Gardens Festival announces the programming for its 24th Season of free outdoor music, theater, circus, dance, poetry, and children's programs at Yerba Buena Gardens. The 24th edition of the Festival opens with internationally celebrated Cuban percussionist **Pedrito Martinez** on **Saturday, May 4, 2024** at 1:00pm and will run through November 2, 2024. 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 the Festival Kick-Off Concert on Saturday, May 4 with **Pedrito Martinez**, **Balaklava Blues & Kitka "Songs for Ukraine"** on May 11, **CAAMFest: Directions in Sound** on May 18, **Islands By The Bay Festival** on May 19, **CO-LLAB Choir** directed by Cava Menzies on May 25, **Dyertribe: Steve & Bokani Dyer + Izithunywa feat Ndabo Zulu & Linda Sikhakhane** on June 8, **RAWdance: Drawing on a Decade** on June 14 & 15, **26th Annual Native Contemporary Arts Festival** on June 18, **Circus Bella's "WOW!"** on June 21 & 22, **SF Uke Jam's**

Summer Uke-Splasion on June 29, **Get Free Fest** on July 6, **YBG ChoreoFest** on July 13 & July 20, Sameer Gupta's **Color Your Mind Festival** on July 27, **PISTAHAN** on August 10 & 11, **YBGF Seed Festival** on August 17, **Meklit's Movement Immigration Orchestra** on August 31, **African Arts Festival** on September 7, **YBG Dance Day** on September 28, **SF Indigenous Peoples Day** on October 14, and **KOKOROKO + Jada Imani** on October 26.

"We are so excited about this year's Festival and we look forward to bringing so many artists from around the world to Yerba Buena Gardens," said Yerba Buena Gardens Festival Executive/Artistic Director Linda Lucero. "We are proud of the role Yerba Buena Gardens Festival plays in making downtown San Francisco a culturally vibrant place for everyone. We look forward to seeing all of you at the Gardens."

Yerba Buena Gardens Festival Seed Commissions program was launched in 2020 to celebrate the Festival's 20th Anniversary and has evolved to address the acute needs of Bay Area artists during the pandemic. Now in its 4th year, the Seed Commissions program has awarded over 60 commissions to "seed" and actively support the creation and presentation of original works by the Bay Area's most innovative and influential artists. The **YBGF Seed Festival on August 17** is a one-day celebration of these artists and the conversations that arise between them, in music, dance, spoken word, storytelling and more. Featured artists in this unique day of collaboration include local luminaires **Alleluia Panis**, **Mahealani Uchiyama**, **Vân-Ánh Võ**, **María José Montijo**, **Rocky Rivera**, **Lalin St. Juste**, **Kev Choice**, and **RyanNicole**.

Yerba Buena Gardens Festival Programs & Series

Yerba Buena Gardens Festival Children's Garden Series features interactive performances specially designed for kids and their adults with two performances at 11:00am and 12:00pm. The Series runs from June to November in the Yerba Buena Children's Garden at Fourth and Howard Streets. The kiddie-popular series presents **RhythmALlogy** on June 7, **René y Familia** on June 14, **Calvin Kai Ku** on June 28, **Chelle! & Friends** on July 5, **Ka-Hon** on July 12, **Unique Derique** on July 19, **Coventry & Kaluza** on July 26, and **Caterpillar Puppets** on August 2. The series ends with the popular **24th Annual Halloween Hoopla** on Saturday, November 2 at Noon.

Thursday Luchtime Concert Series takes place on Thursdays from 12:30pm to 1:30pm and features local and international musicians including **Neblinas del Pacífico** on May 9, **QWANQWA** on May 16, **PHER** on May 23, **Community Music Center Neighborhood Choirs** on May 30, **Darrell Grant & MJ New** on June 13, **Christelle Durandy SankTET** on June 20, **The Alaya Project** on June 27, **UZUMARU** on July 11,

Batey Tambó on July 18, **Destani Wolf** on July 25, **Charles Unger** on August 1, **Audiopharmacy** on August 8, **Brazil in the Gardens: Monica Salmaso, Guinga and Teco Cardoso** on August 15, **Mae Powell** on August 22, **Foleada** on August 29, **Quinteto Latino** on September 5, **Spirology** on September 26, **The Chris Trinidad Collective** on October 3, **Rojai & The Pocket** on October 10, **Amihan** on October 17, and **Michelle Jacques' Daughters of the Delta Project** on October 24.

Poetic Tuesdays with MoAD are held on the second Tuesdays from May to October and present a line-up of poets and musicians, curated by **Nia McAllister**, at Jessie Square from 12:30pm to 1:30pm.

Salsa at Jessie, the open-air salsa dance party in Jessie Square (near the Contemporary Jewish Museum and St. Patrick's Church), from 6:00pm – 7:30pm. The series includes **Orquesta la Moderna Tradición** on August 1, **Jesus Diaz y su QBA** on September 5, and **Agua Pura** on October 3.

Dance has always been a major part of the Yerba Buena Gardens Festival. This season, **RAWdance** will perform "Drawing on a Decade" on Friday, June 14 and Saturday, June 15 to celebrate its 20th year of performance, curation, collaboration, and creating site specific work at Yerba Buena Gardens. **YBG ChoreoFest** on Saturday, July 13 and Saturday, July 20 is the two-weekend festival of site-specific work that showcases the extravagant creativity, diversity, and vibrancy of the Bay Area dance scene. This years YBG ChoreoFest artists include **David Herrera Performance Company, Diamano Coura West African Dance Company, OYSTERKNIFE , pateldanceworks, PUSH Dance Company, Rogelio Lopez, Surabhi Bharadwaj** and **TURFFEINZ**. Enjoy dance battles at **Get Free Festival** on July 6, an open-air dance studio at **YBG Dance Day** on September 28, traditional dance forms at **Islands by the Bay** on May 19, **Native Contemporary Arts Festival** on June 16, the **African Arts Festival** on September 7, **American Bon Dancing** on September 8, and **SF Indigenous Peoples Day** on October 14.

Yerba Buena Gardens Festival will present festivals and cultural celebrations with a wide-range of partners. **Rhythm & Motion** will host outdoor dance classes every Wednesday from noon to 1:00pm, starting in April; **CAAMFest: Directions in Sound** on May 18 is a partnership with the Center for Asian American Media; **Islands By The Bay Festival** on May 19 was created by Legacies of the Pacific to promote collaboration and building cultural bridges by presenting an array of Bay Area AAPI artists; the **26th Annual Native Contemporary Arts Festival** on June 16 will have a diverse array of Native music, dance, vendors, and crafts; the **Get Free Fest** on July 6 is presented by

Embodiment Project, the annual street dance festival rooted in the artistry of freestyling, experimental battling, healing through community practices and the Bay Area street dance community; **Sameer Gupta's Color Your Mind Festival** on July 27 is curated by percussionist Gupta and will expand the boundaries of Indian classical music; the **5th Annual African Arts Festival** on September 7, co-presented by Duniya Dance and Drum Company, is a family-friendly celebration of live music and dance featuring nine Bay Area ensembles, and **American Bon Dancing** on September 8 is a joyous Japanese Buddhist celebration and **SF Indigenous Peoples Day** on October 14.

2024 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.

MAY

Pedrito Martinez, Saturday, May 4, 1:00pm-3:30pm

Neblinas del Pacifico, Thursday, May 9, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Balaklava Blues & Kitka "Songs for Ukraine," Saturday, May 11, 1:00pm-3:00pm

QWANQWA, Thursday, May 16, 12:30pm-1:30pm

CAAMFest: Directions in Sound, Saturday, May 18, 1:00pm-3:30pm

Islands By The Bay Festival, Sunday, May 19, Noon - 5:00pm

PHER, Thursday, May 23, 12:30pm-1:30pm

CO-LLAB Choir directed by Cava Menzies, Saturday, May 25, 1:00pm-2:30pm

Community Music Center Neighborhood Choirs, Thursday, May 30, 12:30pm-1:30pm

JUNE

Dyertribe: Steve & Bokani Dyer + Izithunywa feat. Ndabo Zulu & Linda Sikhakhane, Saturday, June 8, 1:00pm-3:00pm

Darrell Grant & MJ New, Thursday, June 13, 12:30pm-1:30pm

RAWdance: Drawing on a Decade, Friday, June 14, 6:30pm & Saturday, June 15, 1:00pm

26th Native Contemporary Arts Festival, Sunday, June 16, 12:00pm-3:00pm

Christelle Durandy & SankTET, Thursday, June 20, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Circus Bella's "WOW!" Friday, June 21, 12:00pm; Saturday, June 22, Noon & 2:15pm

The Alaya Project, Thursday, June 27, 12:30pm-1:30pm

SF Uke Jam's Summer Uke-Spllosion, Saturday, June 29, 1:00pm-3:00pm

JULY

Get Free Fest, Saturday, July 6, 1:00pm-3:00pm
UZUMARU, Thursday, July 11, 12:30pm-1:30pm
YBG ChoreoFest, Saturday, July 13 & Sunday, July 20, 1:00pm-2:30pm
Batey Tambó, Thursday, July 18, 12:30pm-1:30pm
Destani Wolf, Thursday, July 25, 12:30pm-1:30pm
Color Your Mind Festival, Saturday, July 27, Noon-5:00pm

August

AfroSolo Arts Festival presents Charles Unger, Thursday, August 1, 12:30pm-1:30pm
Orquesta la Moderna Tradición, Thursday, August 1, 6:00pm-7:30pm
Ana Tijoux + J Noa, Saturday, August 3, 1:00pm-3:00pm
San Francisco Mime Troupe, Sunday, August 4, 2:00pm-4:00pm
Audiopharmacy, Thursday, August 8, 12:30pm-1:30pm
Pistahan, Saturday, August 10 & Sunday, August 11, 11:00am-4:00pm
Brazil in the Gardens, Thursday, August 15, 12:30pm-1:30pm
YBGF Seed Festival, Saturday, August 17, 1:00pm-3:30pm
Mae Powell, Thursday, August 22, 12:30pm-1:30pm
Foleada, Thursday, August 29, 12:30pm-1:30pm
Meklit's Movement Immigrant Orchestra, Saturday, August 31, 1:00pm-2:30pm

September

Quinteto Latino, Thursday, September 5, 12:30pm-1:30pm
Jesús Díaz y su QBA, Thursday, September 5, 6:00pm-7:30pm
African Arts Festival, Saturday, September 7, Noon-4:00pm
American Bon Dancing, Sunday, September 8, 1:00pm-3:00pm
Spirology, Thursday, September 26, 12:30pm-1:30pm
YBG Dance Day, Saturday, September 28, 10:00am-3:00pm

October

The Chris Trinidad Collective, Thursday, October 3, 12:30pm-1:30pm
Agua Pura, Thursday, October 3, 6:00pm-7:30pm
Oiuda & Ian Santillano, Saturday, October 5, 1:00pm-3:00pm
Rojai & The Pocket, Thursday, October 10, 12:30pm-1:30pm
SF Indigenous Peoples Day, Monday, October 14, Noon-3:30pm
Amihan, Thursday, October 17, 12:30pm-1:30pm
Michelle Jacques' "Daughters of the Delta Project," Thursday, October 24,
12:30pm-1:30pm
KOKOROKO + Jada Imani, Saturday, October 26, 1:00pm-3:30pm

Children's Garden Series

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

RhythmALLogy on June 7

René y Familia on June 14

Calvin Kai Ku on June 28

Chelle! & Friends on July 5

Ka-Hon on July 12

Unique Derique on July 19

Coventry & Kaluza on July 26

Caterpillar Puppets on August 2

24th Annual Halloween Hoopla on Saturday, November 2, Noon

Yerba Buena Gardens Festival is an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit, a completely separate entity from Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA), Yerba Buena Gardens Conservancy, and Yerba Buena Community Benefit District.

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Hotel Sponsor

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