

For Immediate Release

**Yerba Buena Gardens Festival Artist Programming for its 25th Anniversary Season  
Over 100 Free Performances from May to October in downtown San Francisco**

**Festival Kick-Off Concert Saturday, May 10 with La Santa Cecilia + La Doña  
YBGFestival.org**

**Festival Highlights Include:**

**Joe Bataan + Tall Tee May 17**

**Madison McFerrin + The Seshen May 24**

**Sundown Cinema "Wicked" June 7**

**Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu: Aloha 'Aina June 14**

**Native Contemporary Arts Festival June 15**

**Circus Bella: *Hoopla* June 20 & 21**

**Pride in Yerba Buena! June 28**

**Gamelan Sekar Jaya July 5**

**San Francisco Mime Troupe July 6**

**YBG ChoreoFest July 19 & July 26**

**YBG Dance Day July 20**

**Viet Day with Vân-Ánh Võ's Blood Moon Orchestra August 2**

**SF Uke Jam's Summer Uke-splasion August 3**

**Pistahan August 9-10**

**Marcus Shelby Orchestra: *Blues and the Pursuit of Freedom* August 16**

**SAMMAY - World Premiere of YBG Festival Commission August 23 & 24**

**The Saúl Sierra Quintet August 30**

**Samora Pinderhughes + SOL Development September 20**

**Mornings In Jenin Musical: A Playlist September 21**

**Movement Immigrant Orchestra September 27**

**Litquake Out Loud + Book Fair September 28**

**Parangal Dance Company: *Adhika* October 4**

(San Francisco, CA, April 1, 2025) - Yerba Buena Gardens Festival announces the programming for its 25th Anniversary Season of free outdoor music, theater, circus, dance, poetry, and children's programs at Yerba Buena Gardens. The Festival's 25th season opens on Saturday, May 10 at 2:00pm with the return of Festival favorites - Grammy-winning **La Santa Cecilia** and an opening set from San Francisco's own **La Doña**. Yerba Buena Gardens is located in downtown San Francisco between 3rd and 4th Streets and Mission and Howard Streets. For more information, visit [YBGFestival.org](http://YBGFestival.org).

The 25th Anniversary season will honor the Festival's long history of presenting local, national, and international artists by bringing back Festival favorites and welcoming new artists. The season will celebrate the Festival's tradition of commissioning new works and collaborating with a wide-range of local arts and community partners.

Yerba Buena Gardens Festival highlights include the Festival Kick-Off Concert on Saturday, May 10 with **La Santa Cecilia + La Doña, Joe Bataan + Tall Tee** on May 17, **Madison McFerrin + The Seshen** on May 24, **Sundown Cinema "Wicked"** on June 7, **Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu's Aloha 'Aina** on June 14, **27th Annual Native Contemporary Arts Festival** on June 15, **Circus Bella's Hoopla** on June 20 and 21, **Pride in Yerba Buena!** on June 28, **Gamelan Sekar Jaya** on July 5, **SF Mime Troupe** on July 6, **YBG ChoreoFest** on July 19 and July 26, **YBG Dance Day** on July 20, **Viet Day** featuring **Van Ahn Vo's Blood Moon Orchestra** on August 2, **SF Uke Jam's Summer Uke-splasion** on August 3, **Pistahan** on August 9 and 10, **Marcus Shelby Orchestra: Blues and the Pursuit of Freedom** on August 16, the world-premiere of the YBGF commission from **SAMMAY** on August 23 and 24, **The Saúl Sierra Quintet** on August 30, **Samora Pinderhughes + SOL Development** on September 20, **Mornings In Jenin Musical: A Playlist** on September 21, **Movement Immigrant Orchestra** on September 27, **Litquake Out Loud + Book Fair** on September 28, **Parangal Dance Company: Adhika** on October 4, and more.

"We are so excited to celebrate our 25th Anniversary season," said Yerba Buena Gardens Festival Executive/Artistic Director Linda Lucero. "We are proud of the role Yerba Buena Gardens Festival has played in bringing arts and culture to the Bay Area and for our role in helping make downtown San Francisco a culturally vibrant place for everyone. We look forward to seeing all of you at the Gardens to help us celebrate this momentous milestone."

### **Yerba Buena Gardens Festival Programs & Series**

**Thursday Luchtime Concert Series** takes place on Thursdays from 12:30pm to 1:30pm and features local and international musicians including **CMC Older Adults Choirs** on May 15, **Aguidavi do Jeje x Batuki** on May 22, **VEN Trio of Vinicius Gomez, Elé Howell, Noah Garabedian** on May 29, **Sundra Manning** on June 19, **Mahsa & Marjan Vahdat** on June 26, **Shirley Kazuyo Muramoto** on July 10, **Arun Ramamurthy Trio** on July 17, **Dani Offline** on July 24, **AfroSolo Arts Festival Presents Lady Bianca & The West Coast Caravan of All-Stars** on August 7, **Brazil in the Gardens** on August 14,

**WAM Local Sirens Presents B. DeVeaux + Mare** on August 21, **Trío Guadalevín** on August 28, **Bia Ferreira** on September 25, and **Lucía** on October 2.

The Festival unveils a new First Thursday Dance Night in the Yerba Buena East Garden and will present **Lavay Smith & Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers** on July 3, **Combo Chimbita** on Thursday, August 7, and more to be announced.

Dance has always been a major part of the Yerba Buena Gardens Festival and this season is no different. **YBG ChoreoFest** returns on Saturday, July 19 and Saturday, July 26 for the two-weekend festival of site-specific work that showcases the extravagant creativity, diversity, and vibrancy of the Bay Area dance scene, curated by Ashley Gayle and David Herrera. YBG ChoreoFest choreographers and companies include **Jocelyn Reyes/REYES Dance, SNJV, In Lak'ech, Charya Burt, Kyle Limin, Erin Yen, David Herrera Performance Company** and **PUSH Dance Company**. The open-air dance studio at **YBG Dance Day** on July 20 welcomes dancers of all ages and levels. Weekly dance workout classes from **Rhythm & Motion** occur every Wednesday. The Festival will present the World Premiere of *the way home is an upwards spiral* from choreographer **SAMMAY** for two performances on Saturday, August 23 and Sunday, August 24. The experimental, site-responsive work will push the boundaries of street dance forms and challenge western notions of concert dance. The Festival welcomes back the Hawaiian dance of **Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu: Aloha 'Aina** on June 14, **Gamelan Sekar Jaya** on July 5 returns to YBG Festival to present new work of Balinese dance, and **Parangal Dance Company** on October 4 presents its first full-length outdoor program at YBG.

Yerba Buena Gardens Festival will present festivals and cultural celebrations with a wide-range of partners. On May 18, guest presenter **826 Valencia** will present its **Storytellers' Showcase** with students from across 826 Valencia's programs. The **26th Annual Native Contemporary Arts Festival** on Father's Day June 15, is a traditional event that showcases a diverse program of Native music, dance, spoken word, visual artists, vendors, and crafts. On June 28, the Festival welcomes **Pride in Yerba Buena!** celebrating queer artistic expression and honoring the LGBTQIA community of San Francisco. **San Francisco Mime Troupe** presents a new theatrical work on July 6. **Viet Day** on August 2 celebrates Vietnamese heritage in the Bay Area and will present **Vân-Ánh Võ's Blood Moon Orchestra**, a genre-bending musical collective that pushes the boundaries of Vietnamese traditional music. The **31st Annual Pistahan** on August 9 and 10 is a two-day showcase of Filipino and Filipino-American arts and culture. In partnership with MoAD & SFJAZZ, the Festival presents **Dani Offline** on July 24 and **Samora Pinderhughes + SOL Development** on September 20. San Francisco's largest

literary festival **Litquake Out Loud + Book Fair** returns to the Gardens on September 28 to celebrate the Bay Area's literary community.

New this season, the Yerba Buena Gardens Festival launches a Poet-in-Residence program and names **Nia Pearl** as the first participant. Pearl is the award-winning poet, writer, and environmental justice advocate working at the intersection of art, activism, and public engagement. This inaugural residency will organize the Poetic Tuesdays series on July 22 and August 19, curate interactive writing workshops on July 26 and August 16, and create site-specific poetry in response to the musical performances throughout the festival as well as the physical environment of the Yerba Buena Gardens.

**Yerba Buena Gardens Festival Children's Garden Series** features interactive performances specially designed for kids and their adults. The Series runs from June to August in the Yerba Buena Children's Garden at Fourth and Howard Streets. The kiddie-popular series presents **Red Panda Acrobats** on June 6, **RhythmALLogy** on June 13, **Circus Bella** on June 20 & 21, **Eddie Madril** on June 27, **Ka-Hon** on July 11, **Unique Derique** on July 18, **Manilatown Ancestral Ensemble** on July 25, and **Dholrhythms Dance Company** on August 1. The series ends with the **25th Annual Halloween Hoopla** on Saturday, November 1 at Noon.

### **2025 Yerba Buena Gardens Festival Programming**

Visit [www.ybgfestival.org](http://www.ybgfestival.org) for further artist announcements and detailed information.

### **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**

La Santa Cecilia + La Doña, Saturday, May 10, 2:00pm-4:30pm

CMC Older Adults Choirs, Thursday, May 15, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Joe Bataan + Tall Tee, Saturday, May 17, 2:00pm-4:30pm

826 Valencia Storyteller's Showcase, Sunday, May 18, 1:00pm-3:00pm

Aguidavi do Jeje x Batuki, Thursday, May 22, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Madison McFerrin + The Seshen, Saturday, May 24, 2:00pm-4:30pm

VEN Trio, Thursday, May 29, 12:30pm-1:30pm

### **JUNE**

Sundown Cinema: *Wicked*, Saturday, June 7, 4:00pm-10:30pm

Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu: *Aloha 'Aina* Saturday, June 14, 2:00pm-4:00pm

27th Native Contemporary Arts Festival, Sunday, June 15, 12:00pm-3:00pm  
Sundra Manning, Thursday, June 19, 12:30pm-1:30pm  
Circus Bella: *Hoopla* Friday, June 20, 12:00pm; Saturday, June 21, Noon & 2:15pm  
Mahsa & Marjan Vahdat, Thursday, June 26, 12:30pm-1:30pm  
Pride in Yerba Buena!, Saturday, June 28, 2:00pm-4:00pm

## **JULY**

Lavay Smith & Red Hot Skillet Lickers, Thursday, July 3, 6:00pm-7:30pm  
Gamelan Sekar Jaya, Saturday, July 5, 2:00pm-3:30pm  
San Francisco Mime Troupe, Sunday, July 6, 2:00pm-4:00pm  
Shirley Kazuyo Muramoto, Thursday, July 10, 12:30pm-1:30pm  
Hailu Mergia, Saturday, July 12, 2:00pm-4:00pm  
Arun Ramamurthy Trio, Thursday, July 17, 12:30pm-1:30pm  
YBG ChoreoFest, Saturday, July 19 & Sunday, July 26, 1:00pm-2:30pm  
YBG Dance Day, Sunday, July 20, 10:00am-3:00pm  
Poetic Tuesday, Tuesday, July 22, 12:30pm-1:30pm  
Dani Offline, Thursday, July 24, 12:30pm-1:30pm  
Poetry Workshop, Saturday, July 26, 12:00pm-1:00pm

## **August**

Viet Day feat. Vân-Ánh Võ's Blood Moon Orchestra, Saturday, August 2 12:00-3:00pm  
SF Uke Jam's Summer Uke-splasion, Sunday, August 3, 12:00pm-4:00pm  
Lady Bianca & the West Coast Caravan of Allstars, Thursday, August 7,  
12:30pm-1:30pm  
Combo Chimbita, Thursday, August 7, 6:00pm-7:30pm  
Pistahan, Saturday, August 9 & Sunday, August 10, 11:00am-5:00pm  
Brazil in the Gardens, Thursday, August 14, 12:30pm-1:30pm  
Poetry Workshop, Saturday, August 16, 12:00pm-1:00pm  
Marcus Shelby Orchestra, Saturday, August 16, 2:00pm-3:30pm  
WAM Local Sirens Presents B. DeVeaux + Mare, Thursday, August 21, 12:30pm-1:30pm  
SAMMAY: *the way home is an upwards spiral*, Saturday, August 23 & Sunday, August 24,  
2:00pm-3:30pm  
Trío Guadalevín, Thursday, August 28, 12:30pm-1:30pm  
The Saúl Sierra Quintet, Saturday, August 30, 2:00pm-3:30pm

## **September**

Orquesta Akokán, Saturday, September 6, 2:00pm-4:00pm  
Samora Pinderhughes + SOL Development, Saturday, September 20, 2:00pm-4:30pm  
Mornings in Jenin Musical: A Playlist, Sunday, September 21, 2:00pm-3:30pm

Bia Ferreira, Thursday, September 25, 12:30pm-1:30pm  
Movement Immigrant Orchestra, Saturday, September 27, 2:00pm-4:00pm  
Litquake Out Loud + Book Fair, Sunday, September 28, 11:00am-4:00pm

### **October**

Lucía, Thursday, October 2, 12:30pm-1:30pm  
Parangal Dance Company, Saturday, October 4, 2-3:30pm

### **November**

Halloween Hoopla, November 1, 12:00pm-3:00pm

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 Partnership.

### **Media Sponsors**

BART, Funcheap, SF Arts Monthly, KXSF, 48 Hills, SF Station, KALW, Red Curtain Addict, Static & Blur, 7x7.com, Mission Local, Ronnie's Awesome List, Bay Area Registry.

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