

Cécile
MCLORIN SALVANT

VOCALS

Wed, October 9, 2024 | 7:30PM



24/25 SEASON



Dear Friends,

As we welcome back friends, old and new, to this first special event of Princeton University Concerts' 2024-25 season, we are also welcoming back two extraordinary artists returning with their own new friends. It is a thrill to have Cécile McLorin Salvant and Sullivan Fortner back by popular demand.

“Book of Ayres,” an original fusion of jazz, Baroque music, vaudeville, Sappho, and folkloric material of Europe and the Americas, that you are about to hear, deepens this sense of old and new coming together—this program gets at the timelessness of storytelling through music and of the infinite possibilities inherent in music’s prolific DNA.

We are so grateful to these artists for the creativity with which they shape the evolution of this beloved art form and to you all for helping ensure its future. It is thanks to your open-minded support that we can pride ourselves on presenting artists with distinct voices who bring something truly original to the stage.

Whether it’s at tonight’s performance or any of our future programs, you can expect an artistic experience that resonates in ever new ways. Thank you for being part of this journey with us—I look forward to welcoming you back many more times this season.

Enjoy!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marna Seltzer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Marna Seltzer
Director

Wed, October 9, 2024 | 7:30PM • Richardson Auditorium, Alexander Hall

CÉCILE MCLORIN SALVANT

Vocals

“BOOK OF AYRES”

with

SULLIVAN FORTNER Piano/Harpsichord/Keyboards

EMI FERGUSON Flute

DUŠAN BALARIN Theorbo/Lute

YASUSHI NAKAMURA Bass

KEITA OGAWA Percussion

THE PROGRAM WILL BE ANNOUNCED FROM THE STAGE.

The program will last approximately 80 minutes with no intermission.

Princeton University Concerts is grateful to the Department of African American Studies at Princeton University for its generous support of tonight's program.

About *the* Book of Ayres

A Statement by Cécile McLorin Salvant

Part of my practice is imagining musical family trees and learning from the influences of my influences. Growing up, I wanted to be an opera singer. Opera led me to Baroque music, which led me to early music. I had a similar path with American music.

“What I am interested in is exploring, celebrating, and making fun of desire, divulging secrets, dredging up the past, looking under the rug.”

—Cécile McLorin Salvant

I gravitate towards forgotten songs, early or maligned instruments, and languages and performance styles on the brink of extinction. I bring this process of excavation into my own writing, blending old and new, exploring language and mythology. I have been making the unoriginal yet concerted effort to move beyond categorizing music by genre. What I am interested in is exploring, celebrating, and making fun of desire, divulging secrets, dredging up the past, looking under the rug.



Meet other music enthusiasts at *facilitated social events* prior to enjoying a concert together.

Wed, November 20, 2024 | 7PM
Sun, March 23, 2025 | 1PM
SPEED DATING

Sat, December 7, 2024 | 5:30PM
LGBTQIA+ & ALLIES MINGLE
“UGLY SWEATER PARTY”

Thu, February 13, 2025 | 7PM
SPEED FRIEND-ING

General: \$50 | Student: \$25



About the Artists

CÉCILE MCLORIN SALVANT

Cécile McLorin Salvant is a composer, singer, and visual artist. The late singer Jessye Norman described Salvant as “a unique voice supported by an intelligence and full-fledged musicality, which light up every note she sings.” Salvant has developed a passion for storytelling and finding the connections between vaudeville, blues, folk traditions from around the world, theater, jazz, and Baroque music. Salvant is an eclectic curator, unearthing rarely recorded, forgotten songs with strong narratives, interesting power dynamics, unexpected twists, and humor. Salvant won the Thelonious Monk competition in 2010. She has received Grammy Awards for Best Jazz Vocal Album for three consecutive albums, *The Window*, *Dreams and Daggers*, and *For One to Love*.

In 2020, Salvant received the MacArthur Foundation fellowship and the Doris Duke Artist Award. Salvant released her debut Nonesuch records release *Ghost Song* in 2022; the album went on to receive two Grammy nominations. *Mélusine*, an album mostly sung in French, along with Occitan, English, and Haitian Kreyòl, was released in 2023 and was also nominated for two Grammys.

Salvant made her Princeton University Concerts debut in 2023 with pianist/collaborator Sullivan Fortner on our Performances Up Close series with a program commissioned by PUC to create a brand-new work inspired by the writings of late author and Princeton University professor Toni Morrison, whose archives are housed in the Princeton University Library.

DUŠAN BALARIN

Dušan Balarin is a Peruvian, New York-based soloist and accompanist on lutes, theorbos, and early guitars. His passion for inventive artistic explorations has led him to perform with an eclectic array of leading artists and ensembles in the fields of early music, jazz, contemporary orchestral, and chamber music. Notable collaborations include organist Masaaki Suzuki, conductors Lionel Meunier and William Christie and Les Arts Florissants, violinists Rachel Podger and Tessa Lark, ARTEK, TENET, Paul Watkins and Phil Setzer of the Emerson Quartet, and singers Reginald Mobley and Nicholas Phan. In addition, he regularly performs with historically informed ensembles such as The Washington Bach Consort and Early Music New York.

Balarin attended The Juilliard School as a graduate recipient of the Historical Performance Scholarship where he rigorously performed with Juilliard415. Before settling in New York, he apprenticed with virtuoso lutenist Nigel North and received his MM in Historical Performance with the highest of honors from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University. This concert marks Balarin's Princeton University Concerts debut.

EMI FERGUSON

Emi Ferguson received a 2023 Avery Fisher Career Grant and can be heard worldwide as a soloist and with groups including the American Modern Opera Company ("AMOC"), the New York New Music Ensemble, and the Manhattan Chamber Players. She has spoken at several TEDx events and has been featured on The Discovery Channel and Amazon Prime's *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*. Her debut album *Amour Cruel* spent four weeks on the Classical, Classical Crossover, and World Music Billboard charts. Her album *Fly the Coop: Bach Sonatas and Preludes* was praised by *The New York Times*.

Ferguson was a member of WQXR's Artist Propulsion Lab, where she developed the podcast *This Composer Is Sick*, and hosts WQXR's Young Artists Showcase. She was a featured performer alongside cellist Yo-Yo Ma and singers Paul Simon and James Taylor at the 10th Anniversary Memorial Ceremony of 9/11. She has performed at festivals including Marlboro, Lucerne, Ojai, and June in Buffalo.

Ferguson is Principal Flute of the Handel and Haydn Society and a frequent guest soloist with period ensembles including Tafelmusik, Voices of Music, the American Classical

Orchestra, and Trinity Baroque Orchestra. She is on the faculty of The Juilliard School and the Bach Virtuosi Festival. This concert marks Ferguson's Princeton University Concerts debut.

SULLIVAN FORTNER

Grammy Award-winning artist Sullivan Fortner received international praise as both player and producer for his work on *The Window*, alongside Cécile McLorin Salvant. As a solo leader, he has released *Moments Preserved* and *Aria* to critical acclaim.

He has worked with trumpeter Wynton Marsalis and Ambrose Akinmusire, singers Paul Simon, Dianne Reeves, and Dee Dee Bridgewater, composers/musicians Etienne Charles and Roy Hargrove, guitarist/composer John Scofield, percussionist Stefon Harris, and pianist Fred Hersch, among others. Recent projects include Grammy-nominated releases *Dear Love* with singer/songwriter Jazzmeia Horn and *Generations* with The Baylor Project.

Fortner has performed at Snug Harbor, New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, Sweet Lorraine's Jazz Club, The Jazz Playhouse in New Orleans, Jazz at Lincoln Center, and Smalls Jazz Club in New York City. Festival appearances include Newport, Monterey, Burlington Discover, Tri-C, and Gilmore Keyboard Festival, among others. In 2019, Fortner brought his band to the Village Vanguard for a weeklong engagement he reprised virtually in 2020. Studio contributions include Etienne Charles's *Kaiso*, Donald Harrison's *Quantum Leap*, and Theo Croker's *The Fundamentals*.

Fortner earned degrees from Oberlin Conservatory and Manhattan School of Music. He has offered masterclasses at Manhattan School of Music, New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, Purdue University, and Oberlin Conservatory, where he held a faculty position.

Fortner made his Princeton University Concerts debut with Cécile McLorin Salvant on the Performances Up Close Series in 2023.

YASUSHI NAKAMURA

Yasushi Nakamura has collaborated with artists such as trumpeters Wynton Marsalis and Dave Douglas, trombonist Wycliffe Gordon, pianist Hank Jones, and musician Steve Miller. Born in Tokyo, Nakamura moved to the United States at age 9. He received a BA in Jazz

Performance from the Berklee School of Music and was awarded a scholarship to The Juilliard School for his Artist Diploma. He credits Myron Walden as an early champion and remains close to mentors saxophonist Victor Goines, trombonist Wycliffe Gordon, drummer Carl Allen, and bassist Ben Wolfe, all of whom maintain him in their bands.

Engagements include jazz festivals such as Tokyo, North Sea, Monterey, and Ravinia, and venues such as Birdland, Village Vanguard, the Blue Note, the Kennedy Center, Jazz at Lincoln Center, and Carnegie Hall. Nakamura was honored to play at the 2014 NEA Jazz Masters Concert with saxophonists Joe Lovano and Dave Liebman. He recorded *Porgy and Bess* with longtime inspiration pianist Toshiko Akiyoshi, and his performance with Akiyoshi's Jazz Orchestra was broadcast as a documentary. Recent projects include New York City Ballet's *For the Love of Duke*, and *Ellington at Christmas: Nutcracker Suite* with dancer/actor Savion Glover. Nakamura has led masterclasses and summer intensives at The Juilliard School, The New School, Koyo Conservatory, and more. Nakamura's albums include *A Lifetime Treasure* (2016) and Jazz Life Album of the Year *Hometown* (2017). This concert marks Nakamura's Princeton University Concerts debut.

KEITA OGAWA

Keita Ogawa is a five-time Grammy nominee and three-time Grammy winner who started his music career on drum set at the age of 15. After performing regularly in Tokyo for several years, Ogawa was accepted into Berklee College of Music, where he studied with legendary musicians and educators Manuel "Egü" Castrillo, Jamey Haddad, Tito De Gracia, David Rosado, and Mark Walker. Seeking full immersion into the world of Brazilian percussion, Keita relocated to Rio de Janeiro and studied with some of the country's most respected musicians including Jorginho do Pandeiro, Celsinho Silva, Kiko Freitas, and Marcio Bahia. Since his arrival in America, Ogawa has worked with some of the biggest names in music including cellist Yo-Yo Ma, the Assad Brothers, Maria Schneider Jazz Orchestra, composer Osvaldo Golijov, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

In 2016, Ogawa wrote the theme for *Hodo Station*, a national Japanese television program, and in 2017 became the Ambassador of Tourism for his hometown, Sasebo City in Nagasaki, Japan. He is currently working on projects with the bands Snarky Puppy, Bokanté, Banda Magda, Bokantè, and vocalist Cécile McLorin Salvant, among others. This concert marks Ogawa's Princeton University Concerts debut.

SUPPORT US

Supporting Princeton University Concerts is critical to our future. Ticket sales cover less than half of the cost of presenting the very best in world-class music. Remaining funds come, in part, from our generous endowment, left to PUC by the Ladies' Musical Committee in 1929. We remain eternally grateful for the support of the Philena Fobes Fine Memorial Fund and the Jesse Peabody Frothingham Fund.

Other support comes from donors like you. We are grateful to the individuals whose support at all levels ensures that musical performance remains a vital part of Princeton, the community, and the region.

If you wish to make a donation to Princeton University Concerts, please call us at 609-258-2800, visit puc.princeton.edu, or send a check payable to Princeton University Concerts to: Princeton University Concerts, Woolworth Center, Princeton, NJ 08544.

THANK YOU!

We are deeply grateful for the support we have received and thank all of our donors and volunteers. The list below acknowledges gifts of \$100 or more, received between April 1, 2024 and October 1, 2024. If you see an error or would like to make a change in your listing, please contact the Concert Office at 609-258-2800.

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In addition to the donor's above, we gratefully acknowledge Reba Orszag, Pamela Patton, and Eric White for their generous support of Admit All, our ticket access program.

PLANNED GIVING

Planned gifts made to Princeton University Concerts carry on the vision of an extraordinary group of ladies who founded the series. We are grateful to the individuals below who will continue this legacy and will help shape the series' future for years to come. To inquire about planned giving opportunities, or if you have already included Princeton University Concerts in your plans, please contact Marna Seltzer in the Princeton University Concert Office at 609-258-2800.

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Princeton University Concerts

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The first concert in what is known today as Princeton University Concerts was presented on October 29, 1894, thus establishing one of the oldest continuous series of musical events in the country. From 1894 to 1914, the “Ladies Musical Committee” presented concerts by the Kneisel Quartet. After 1914, the programs diversified. In 1929, the Ladies Committee became the Princeton University Concerts Committee—a town and gown group of interested and knowledgeable music lovers—which has guided the University Concerts to date.

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Presenting the world’s leading classical musicians at Princeton University since 1894, Princeton University Concerts aims to enrich the lives of the widest possible audience. We are grateful to **Dan Trueman**, Chair and Professor of Music, and the **Department of Music** for its partnership in and support of this vision. For more information about the Department and its vibrant student- and faculty-led programming, please visit music.princeton.edu.



Fall 24

At the Princeton Public Library

Wed, August 28, 2024 | 10:30AM & 7PM (Book Groups)

Wed, September 4, 2024 | 7PM (Keynote Deborah Amos)

“THE PIANIST FROM SYRIA”

BY AEHAM AHMAD

At the Princeton Garden Theatre

Wed, September 25, 2024 | 7PM

“THE MUSIC OF STRANGERS”

Healing with Music

Thu, September 26, 2024 | 7:30PM

KINAN AZMEH* Clarinet

KEVORK MOURAD* Live Illustration

DEBORAH AMOS Moderator

Syria: Art in a Time of Crisis

Special Event

Wed, October 9, 2024 | 7:30PM

CÉCILE MCLORIN SALVANT Vocals

At the Princeton Public Library

Thu, October 17, 2024 | 10:30AM & 7PM (Book Groups)

Thu, October 24, 2024 | 7PM (Keynote Deborah Amos)

“THE SEPTEMBERS OF SHIRAZ”

BY DALIA SOFER

All in the Family

Sat, October 19, 2024 | 1PM & 3PM

CMS KIDS Ages 3–6, Relaxed Format

Lee Rehearsal Room, Lewis Arts Complex

Special Event

Wed, October 30, 2024 | 7:30PM

IGOR LEVIT Piano

At the Princeton Garden Theatre

Sat, November 2, 2024 | 1PM

“IGOR LEVIT: NO FEAR”

Healing with Music

Sun, November 3, 2024 | 3PM

IGOR LEVIT Piano

DEBORAH AMOS Moderator

Pianist and Advocate for Change

Concert Classics Series

Thu, November 7, 2024 | 7:30PM

BENJAMIN GROSVENOR Piano

Concert Classics Series

Wed, November 13, 2024 | 7:30PM

BELCEA STRING QUARTET

ÉBÈNE STRING QUARTET

Live Music Meditation

Wed, November 20, 2024 | 12:30 PM

ISIDORE STRING QUARTET

Performances Up Close

Wed, November 20, 2024 | 6PM & 9PM

Pre-Concert: Do-Re-Meet Speed Dating | 7PM

ISIDORE STRING QUARTET*

Richardson Chamber Players

Sun, November 24, 2024 | 3PM

SONGS WITH/OUT WORDS

Special Event

Sat, December 7, 2024 | 7:30PM

Pre-Concert: Do-Re-Meet LGBTQIA+ Mingle | 5:30PM

A CHANTICLEER CHRISTMAS

Princeton University Chapel

Concert Classics Series

Wed, December 11, 2024 | 7:30PM

JANINE JANSEN* Violin

DENIS KOZHUKHIN* Piano

OUR SEASON CONTINUES
IN THE **SPRING SEMESTER**
CHECK OUT THE FULL

24/25

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*Princeton University Concerts Debut